

**Columbia River Regional Forum
System Configuration Team Meeting
December 20, 2018
DRAFT Notes**

****Comments due by February 28, 2019**

1. Introduction

Representatives of NOAA, Corps, OR, BPA, and others participated in today's SCT meeting chaired by Blane Bellerud, NOAA, and facilitated by Ian Chane, COE. See the last page of these minutes for a list of attendees at today's meeting. Today's meeting covered the FY19 mostly.

2. FY 19 Update:

During the FY19 Update, given by Ian Chane, items with increasing needs were highlighted.

Currently, there is a \$46.681 million pbud, which may not be adequate. There was a total carry in of \$680k from FY18 (not associated with lamprey). This number is much lower than the carry in last year -- \$1.8 million.

The Willamette's budget has been reduced from \$22.4 million to ~ \$21.22 million – a small reduction. This is due to cost increases at Walla Walla projects and other things that have come up. The new budget reflects the priorities of the Corps division office and is the results of talks between Ian Chane, Corps and division leaders.

Of note, Lamprey has not been allotted FY19 funds, however, there is a \$1.125 million carry in.

Line 3 Estuary Habitat Studies – This project was reduced to \$600k. The report was put on hold in a prior year due to budget constraints. The project had asked for more funding to wrap up the report this year and it hoping to complete it. Chane is not sure what can be done with a reduced budget and will continue to work with the project manager to see what can be done. This item may experience budget adjustments throughout the year as unused funding from other projects becomes available.

Line 4 Avian Predation Cormorant Management and Monitoring – This project was supposed to be in closeout. However, the BiOp was pushed up. Due to this, the project will be delayed. The money allocated to this project is partly money related to the contract. When contracts are issued, there are costs associated with that. Work on Sand Island should be completed by next spring prior to nesting season.

Line 11 John Day Mitigation – This project saw a minor decrease.

Line 7 The Dalles East Fish Ladder Emergency Auxiliary Water Supply – This project has been allocated \$2 million for FY 19. Chane thought the project would be completed by now. Modifications have been made and the project should be wrapped up this year. Some AWS testing has already been completed. Some issues that were identified last year are still being resolved.

Line 9 Avian Island PIT Detection – The need has increased slightly from \$200k to \$270k.

Line 12 Reservoir Temperature Monitoring at Lower Columbia River Dams – This project is in close out. The report should be completed this summer following wrap-up of monitoring.

Line 13 FCRPS CRFM Program Management (NWP) – This line saw a minor increase in budget/need.

Line 15 McNary Top Spill Weir (TSW) Permanence – This project must be initiated before the McNary overshoot study can be started. The TSW Permanence project is on track and moving forward. The contract should be awarded in early February.

Line 16 Ice Harbor Turbine Passage Survival Program – The item has been delayed due to flooding. It looks like it will be pushed and work will begin in fall 2020.

Line 16 has already been delayed several times due to contract issues. It was paid for a long time ago and the contracts are about to expire. If the contracts can NOT be extended, then funding will have to be de-obligated and reallocated to other projects. That said, there will be additional costs to extend funding. Likewise, if the project is de-obligated, the Corps will have to settle out existing costs, so some of the money would be a lost cost. De-obligating is a long process that could take several months to complete. The Corps' preference is to figure out way to extend the contract.

Line 19 Little Goose Adult Ladder Temperature Mitigation – This item has increased in need from \$100k to \$165k. The contract was already awarded but the contractor forgot to bid on significant equipment costs so the contract had to be cancelled and reissued.

Line 21 Lower Granite Spillway PIT Detection – This line has seen a huge increase in need from 500k to 997k. Chane is confident the project can be completed with this.

Line 22 Lower Granite Spillway PIT Tag Detection, Post Construction Monitoring – This project was delayed and the construction window has been pushed to FY20. There are about 30k in sunk costs from awarding the contract.

Line 23 Lower Granite Juvenile Bypass Facility - Phase 1a (Gatewell to Separator), Phase 1b (Outfall) and Follow-On – The current number is up \$1k from the last SCT meeting. This is due to construction modifications and oversight. The Corps is working on a final estimate and the project could require up to \$3 million more in funding.

Line 29 LMO and LWG SOG vs PROG (SR 10-min intake gate closure) – The project will happen and the budget is still 100k.

Line 30 Snake River Intake Gate Closure – This is a mandatory item in closeout.

Line 31 Snake River Adult Sockeye Passage Initiatives – As expected, the need is the same. The report should be available in spring or early summer.

Trevor Condor, NOAA, mentioned this project is low-priority for NOAA and that it could be cut or shifted. Chane mentioned, however, that there would be a lot of sunk costs since some of the contract has been awarded.

Line 32 Inland Avian Predation – This project is in its final year and FY19 funding covers final report close out. The need dropped to \$110k from \$150k.

Line 33 Columbia River System Operations (CRSO) – The need for this project was reduced from \$7.8 million to \$4.347 million. Because it is labor driven and expense driven, it is hard to project what the cost will be.

Ian will circle back with Amy Gibbons to talk about the costs here and there is some risk of this project losing funding.

Line 34 Snake River Fall Chinook System Survival Study – Derek Fryer, Corps, will check for updates on this project and get back to SCT.

It looks like the funding is for wrapping up a synthesis report, which is in draft form. Jay Hesse, Nez Perce, is working on the final review of the report.

Finishing up synthesis report that helps explain difference in studies. In draft form. Jay Hesse, provide final review and efforts.

Line 42 – FCRPS Spill to Gas Cap - Hydro surveys / physical model / Adult and Juvenile Studies – This project is in closeout with a need of \$250k.

Line 43 Bonneville Powerhouse 2 Fish Guidance Efficiency: The need for this project has increased slightly. What is in the budget now should account for all project closeout. There was a major design deficiency and the new project will have to go down to the original concrete. The \$3 million in the budget should cover testing of all units.

Trevor Condor, NOAA, pushed back, saying “Why would we pay for this all now when we can not do the work for several more years....we do not even know what the solution is yet.”

Chane replied that it is under one contract so adding another could increase the price.

Line 44 Bonneville Powerhouse 2 Floating Orifice Gates/Bulkheads – At this point, the project is fully funded and on track. Installation is underway.

Line 45 Caspian Tern Management Plan (Avian Predation Monitoring) – This item is in closeout and remaining funding covers land transfers. The Corps is returning the islands to their respective land owners.

Line 49 Bonneville PIT Detection – The 300k placeholder while the new Project Manager gets situated. This project was ranked high in the SCT rankings.

Line 50 Little Goose Adult Ladder PIT Feasibility – NOAA suggested removing this item as it is not important. Oregon expressed interest in still moving forward with the project. Chane noted that there is no funding allocated to this project currently and if there is interest he will keep it on the budget. However, he noted, it did not sound like there was much support and the overall budget is limited already.

Line 51 McNary Steelhead Overshoot – This project cannot be completed until line 15 is completed and hence has been shifted out.

Line 52 Deep Spill versus Spill Weir – No update.

Line 53 McNary Outfall Pipe Deficiency Correction – This is a new, mandatory item that includes a \$650k budget. Margie McGill reported that the walkway and other infrastructure for avian deterrent at McNary is broken and causing concern to the outfall pipe and its functionality. The walkway is partially attached and as flows go by, especially higher flows like those seen in spring, they could rip or tear sections of the outfall pipe.

The funding will cover removal of a section of the walkway. This will require a barge. The work is considered emergency work and was raised last month before SERG.

Margie is being hard on her team as they think about how to fix the issue. She is pushing them to re-think how do deterrent out there. More infrastructure on the outfall pipe is not a solution, she says.

Solution will be solved/discussed outside of SCT.

Lines 54-58 are closeouts that have been added.

3. Juvenile Survival Study

The decision to fund or not fund this item needs to be made quickly. Permits for will need to be underway in January, noted Leah Sullivan, BPA. However, details for this project still need to be worked out as well as a budget.

Leah shared that a base bones study covering just survival of one species would run about \$2 million. The cost could go up depending on how many dams are included, how many species are included and other variables.

Flex spill will be implemented during the 2019 spill season. Flex spill may also impact this study.

Overall, there is interest in funding the project. Funding could come from CRSO or B2FGE, McNary Permanence, Bonneville Pit and Snake River Adult Passage or Estuary Work. Timing is tight.

Moving forward, Ian Chane will talk to higher ups (division). He will mention the flex spill agreement. After this, he will update SCT members via email.

4. Meeting Minutes:

July, August, September notes were approved with no additional edits.

Today's Attendees:

Scott Bettin, BPA

Ian Chane, COE

Blane Bellerud, NOAA

Tom Lorz, Umatilla/CRTIFC

Brad Eppard, COE

Phone:

Leslie Bach, NPCC

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Minutes by Melissa Haskin, Flux Resources LLC, Contractor for BPA, mahaskin@bpa.gov