

**Columbia River Regional Forum**  
**System Configuration Team Meeting**  
**April 21, 2022**  
**Final Official Notes**

Representatives of Corps, OR, WA, ID, NOAA, and others participated in today's SCT meeting facilitated by Blane Bellerud, NOAA. Previous meeting notes are available on the COE's TMT website under the FPOM link. For copies of documents discussed in the meeting, contact [kathy.ceballos@noaa.gov](mailto:kathy.ceballos@noaa.gov). See the last page of these minutes for a list of attendees at today's meeting. Today's meeting covered budget updates and a presentation from Tom Lorz on funding the future of salmon in the Columbia River Basin.

### **1. Project Updates**

Ida sent out the FY22 Ranking Spreadsheet prior to today's meeting. At the end of last fiscal year, the Corps received an injunction on the Willamette regarding dam operations. The Corps is determining the budgetary requirements associated with compliance. Any of these needs were not included in the budget request. The FY22 PBud did not consider these needs. The FY22 Budget is \$75.491 M. Total available funding is \$78.976 M. FY22 Appropriations are \$38.375 M; FY22 IJA \$36.016 M; Reprogramming \$1.1 M; Carry-in funds \$3.4 M. Ida reported that the Corps received about \$36 M in infrastructure funds. These funds were earmarked for the Willamette injunction. The funds were received in March. The budget was passed mid-February. The total budget includes \$3.575 M that the Corps already received for the year under the continuing resolution. Appropriations will not hit accounts for another week or two, said Ida. Looking at the budget, most things that have been allocated funds are mandatory. There are a few exceptions. For instance, The Dalles AWS is optional; \$150k has been set aside for the Engineering Design Report.

Ida shared that there are funds this year for Line 23 Lower Granite Juvenile Bypass Facility - Phase 1a (Gatewell to Separator), Phase 1b (Outfall) Close Out. This is because the project received funds last year but those funds had to be moved to support the injunction on the Willamette. The contract was delayed because of this. Erick Van Dyke, OR, wondered about the process for deprioritizing Columbia River actions. Ida noted that a court order automatically takes precedence over everything else. If the Corps fails to comply with a court order, it can be held in contempt of court and that is not an option the Corps can take. In the Willamette, the injunction requires specific actions at specific projects.

The FY23 Capability (as of Feb 2022) is \$66.5M for the Columbia and Willamette and the FY23 PBud is \$29.175 M. The FY23 Capability does include the Corps known, estimated injunction costs, the FY23 PBud did not consider these needs.

Tom Lorz wondered if earmarks trump lawsuits if additional funding becomes available. Ida noted that if there is budgetary language, the Corps upholds it. For the Corps to do something different with the funds, there is an approval process that requires special permission to move the funds.

## 2. Tom Lorz Special Presentation

Tom presented on Funding the Future for Salmon. Two documents from his presentation, a PowerPoint and a Word document, are available on the SCT website. Overall, Tom commented that more money (about \$1.1 Billion) is needed to support salmon. CRITFC is interested in working with agencies to secure more funding for the Columbia River Basin. CRITFC identified 9 projects that could use additional funding.

<b>Adult Fish Ladder Repairs and Improvements</b>	<b>\$160.4M</b>
<b>Spillway Repairs and Improvements</b>	<b>\$201.2M</b>
<b>Lamprey Passage</b>	<b>\$165.1M</b>
<b>Fish Screen &amp; Juvenile Bypass System maintenance</b>	<b>\$132.7M</b>
<b>Survival &amp; Monitoring Studies (Spill operations, reach survivals</b>	<b>&amp; Pit Tag detection improvements)</b>
<b>River mouth Sediment and Coldwater Refugia Actions</b>	<b>\$12.0M Estuary work (Outlined in BiOp)</b>
<b>Hatcheries</b>	<b>\$240 to \$360M</b>
<b>Flood Risk Management</b>	<b>TBD</b>

Tom walked the SCT through each of these items. More information is available in the PowerPoint presentation and Word document. He noted that the above costs are estimates that are fluid and likely to increase due to rising inflation.

### **Today's Attendees:**

Brad Eppard, Corps  
Blane Bellerud, NOAA  
Charles Morrill, WA  
Cynthia Studebaker, Corps  
Erick Van Dyke, OR  
Ida Royer, Corps  
Jonathan Ebel, ID  
Melissa Haskin, BPA (CONTR)  
Shane Scott, PPC  
Steven Juhnke, Corps  
Tom Lorz, Umatilla/CRITFC  
Trevor Conder, NOAA  
Christine Petersen, BPA

*Minutes by Melissa Haskin, Flux Resources LLC, Contractor for Bonneville, [mahaskin@bpa.gov](mailto:mahaskin@bpa.gov) (971-373-1288). Please send any requested edits to Kathy Ceballos, NOAA, [kathy.ceballos@noaa.gov](mailto:kathy.ceballos@noaa.gov).*