

# System Configuration Team Agenda and Cfm notes Nov 17, 2022

SCT Meeting Notes

11/17/2022

Trevor started the meeting and noted he would stand in as chair since Blane was out at Hells Canyon. A note taker was not available, but Leah S. will look into confirming that BPA will provide a note take for future meetings.

Ida gave an update on the Budget and stated we are in a continuing resolution. The PBud of 29.2 million falls short of the capability of 61 million which is a critical funding shortage. Both the Columbia and Willamette are short from expressed capability. There is enough funding for into the second quarter, but the COE is hopeful that 'work plan' funding may help cover the funding shortage for the second two quarters and for some unfunded projects. Ida explained 'work plan' funding is a generic pot of funding remaining after appropriations pass, and they think they have a good shot at receiving some of that funding, however, the outcome is still uncertain. The PIT trawl for FY24 is currently unfunded and 'work plan' money would be applied to that and various other projects.

Ida has distributed funds to start projects (lines 4-18 on Oct 17 Fy 23 Spreadsheet) through first two quarters and explained which projects were currently funded and which ones were not. Erick – stated that many projects previously listed in past SCT spreadsheets were no longer shown – Ida requested Erick provide specific projects that were no longer on the list and then will take a look at them.

Tom L. expressed concern that Columbia and Snake River projects were being underprioritized relative to Willamette in terms of the COE requested capabilities. Ida stated there is an awareness, but capabilities have been lower than the Willamette capabilities. Tom said he wants to make sure the COE does not sell itself short on capabilities – Ian expressed they have to be ready to implement in order to express capability and that is something to consider in budget defense since there is a process for if funding is provided and COE can't use it .... Charlie Morrell asked why should COE be subject to criticism from OMB when funds are not made available in time?

Ida stated it could be as far out as Fy 26 or 27 before construction of Avian lines at MCN could occur. Ida stated MCN PIT detection needs further development in SRWG before they are ready to begin the design process. Tom L. expressed concern this could put us too far down the road in terms of evaluating the spill operation effectively. Jon Ebel also expressed concern on the lag time with getting the PIT infrastructure up to a satisfactory level, and stated he would provide the State's and Tribe's justification again. COE is leaning out on requesting funding for downstream juvenile flex spill evaluation tied to the SRWG white paper and if the SRWG process indicates PIT infrastructure is the next step then this line item could go towards infrastructure. Members of the COE acknowledged that the SRWG progress has been slow. Cindy Studebaker indicated they are working on it internally and will have another SRWG likely in January.

JDA Ladder Cooling Plans and Specs funding. Trevor Conder NOAA stated he is glad to see the COE is moving forward with Plans and Specs for FY25, and said NOAA would like to see construction capability requested next FY, so there is not a lag in funding. Ida stated the Walla Walla cooling structures would need to occur stepwise after JDA.

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Progress on Bonneville ITS PIT Detection funding - 40 K of the PBud funding for COE review. Erin Kovalchuk is the new PM restarting Project Team – review of design provided by PSMFC Kennewick staff. Should be ready to install next year if funding comes from ‘work plan’.

B2 FGE – evaluation and funding - Trevor C. asked if the COE is planning to express capability for a post construction evaluation of the corbels. Ida stated B2FGE biological evaluation have not provided clear results in the past and she was not ready to include that in the request. Trevor stated this is problematic for NOAA since we agreed to the construction of the corbels with the understanding that a post construction evaluation would occur prior to going to the upper 1%. Brad – acknowledges the agreement with NOAA and the need for a post construction evaluation. He said there was still a concern over how to do the study and some concern over cost but stated clearly the COE would not go back on its decision for a biological evaluation after corbels were installed.

There we no additional topics.