

**Columbia River Regional Forum  
System Configuration Team Meeting  
February 16, 2024  
DRAFT Official Notes**

Representatives of Corps, ODFW, WDFW, BPA, NOAA, and others participated in today's SCT hybrid meeting facilitated by Blane Bellerud, NOAA. Ida Royer, The Corps of Engineers, hosted the WebEx to facilitate better notetaking.

Draft and final SCT notes are available on the COE's TMT website under the [FPOM link](#). For copies of documents discussed, contact Bonnie Hossack at [Bonnie.Hossack@noaa.gov](mailto:Bonnie.Hossack@noaa.gov). See the final page of these minutes for the list of attendees of today's meeting.

**1. Review and approve January 2024 Minutes**

- There was no budget update.
- The current understanding for FY24 is that they are still executing under the \$66.6M PBud amount.
- There is no talk currently needed of prioritization and there are currently no changes to the budget at this time.

**2. *Ian Chane, Corps, took lead for the meeting because Jonathan Rerecich was sick. There was not a recording for the meeting so the notetaker was only able to paraphrase the information from the meeting.***

Ian Chane, Corps, shared that there was no need for reprioritization at today's meeting but to be prepared for the March meeting just in case there was a need at that point.

There was discussion between Charles Morrill, WDFW, Trevor Conder, NOAA, Blane Bellerud, NOAA, and Ian Chane about the urgency for ranking the budget as the continuing resolution (CR) was passed. Chane said that with Rerecich there would not be a need to reprioritize at this meeting but to be prepared for the next meeting just in case.

Morrill reminded SCT that there was talk in the previous meeting that if there is need to move money that members had discussed some ideas already and those can be found in the January notes.

Chane said that the work is currently ongoing at McNary.

Erick Van Dyke, ODFW, brought up the discussion about trying to find additional funds that have not been planned. He asked Chane if Ida had shared that information.

Chane said there has been reluctance because of the uncertainty of the CR. He said that SCT should still keep things on the table and there would be more budget certainty in March. He said as full funding is dropped then we will move forward as expected.

### **3. Columbia Basin Settlement – Settlement Funds**

- Chane said they are sorting through what the settlement means.
- There are discussions going on between the government agencies and there is no update on this program.
- Chane said with the higher level regardless of where the money comes from there is visibility.

Chane said that there is a commitment for immediate funding for the acoustic study.

Chuck Barnes, Corps, said that they have received the funds for the study including the yearlings and steelhead.

The group said that SCT line items including parts like the acoustic study appear to still be in the ether still provide a nexus of uncertainty. They said that it is not clear where the money is coming from, whether it is the budgetary amount or the settlement amount.

Chane said that all the McNary studies come from \$66.6M PBud because they have the budget authority, and they would be unrelated to the \$50M settlement.

Morrill said that this fits to his understanding.

Van Dyke asked where to talk about the \$50M because that is unclear and has not been made clear.

Chane said that he is not sure.

Morrill would have to be determined.

Van Dyke would like to know where to talk about the different information and how to find what topics are appropriate.

#### ***Ongoing Topics***

- FY24 Budget
- McNary Spill

**Next Agenda Topics**

**Next meeting: March 22, 2024 (Hybrid)**

NOAA offices at 1201 NE Lloyd in Portland (11th floor)

**Today’s Attendees:**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>
<b>Ian Chane</b>	<i>Corps</i>
<b>Blane Bellerud</b>	<i>NOAA</i>
<b>Charles Barnes</b>	<i>Corps</i>
<b>Charles Morrill</b>	<i>WDFW</i>
<b>Christine Peterson</b>	<i>BPA</i>
<b>Erick Van Dyke</b>	<i>ODFW</i>
<b>Jonathan Ebel</b>	<i>IDFG</i>
<b>Kelsey Swieca</b>	<i>NOAA</i>
<b>Ben Hausmann</b>	<i>BPA</i>
<b>Scott Fielding</b>	
<b>Steven Junke</b>	<i>Corps</i>
<b>Tammy Mackey</b>	<i>BPA</i>
<b>Trevor Conder</b>	<i>NOAA</i>
<b>Kate Self</b>	<i>NW Power and Conservation Council</i>
<b>Andrea Ausmus</b>	<i>BPA Notetaker</i>

*Minutes by Andrea Ausmus, CorSource Technology Group LLC, Contractor for Bonneville, [amausmus@bpa.gov](mailto:amausmus@bpa.gov) (971-442-5931).*

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