

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Subject: FINAL minutes for the 13 May 2021 FPOM meeting.

The meeting was held via WebEx. In attendance:

Last	First	Agency	Email
Baus	Doug	NWD RCC	Douglas.m.Baus@usace.army.mil
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Cooper	Erin	Fish Passage Center	ecooper@fpc.org
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Trachtenbarg	David	NWP-PME	David.A.Trachtenbarg@usace.army.mil
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Wright	Lisa	NWD-RCC	Lisa.S.Wright@usace.army.mil

1. Final decisions or recommendations made at this meeting.

1.1. April meeting minutes were approved.

2. Action Items

2.1. NWW

2.1.1.[March 21] McNary steelhead overshoot study – waiting on results. **ACTION:** Peery will share. *Update: Will release to SRWG group.*

2.1.2.[March 21] 21 LGS 01 MOC Unit Priority Change to Facilitate Debris Removal. **ACTION:** Peery will report back to FPOM next month about path to re-design of debris boom. *Update: Scott St. John – working on new design to keep debris out of forebay, FY22 request for funding.*

2.1.3. [May 21] Ice Harbor trash rake repair. **ACTION:** Peery will report back on time-line for fixing rake.

2.2. NWP

2.2.1.[May 21] TDA ITS operation for overshoot steelhead. **Action:** Cordie will email Derrick Faber to see if he has evidence of ITS operation usefulness.

2.2.2.[February 21] CI PIT tag antennae electrical work. **ACTION:** Project Fisheries will let Warf know when that work will be completed so PITAGIS can be on-site to assist as needed. Waiting on funding to finish this job. *Update: Derugin said the UFR is in the que. He will report back next month.*

2.2.3.[August 20] TDA Turbine Dewater Sturgeon SOP (6' and greater) - ACTION: We will have a more detailed discussion once SOPs from the Project Bios for removal and/or leave fish in place are developed. *Update: Cordie provided PowerPoint showing cross section of turbine relative to tailwater levels and posted it to the FPOM website. Van Dyke will check in with new sturgeon lead for ODFW.*

2.2.4.[2019] TDA East Exit boundary. Morrill has a few more hours of work to do, WDFW regulations should be consistent with ODFW. Blaine Parker supports establishing and enforcing legal sport fishing regulations. WDFW will work with TDA to locate the fishing deadline 200' up stream of the fishway exit.



Figure 1. From Bob Cordie, “. . .here is a pic of boats trolling by our east fish ladder exit. ~50’ from exit in this pic. Caught them this AM about 15’ away. Watched 3 springers landed in ~10minutes. Good take considering we passed 50 springers that hour. More efficient than see lions. Please post this to FPOM site for all to see as well.”

2.2.5. [May 2021] TDA ITS operation for 15 Mile Creek overshoots. Action: Cordie will email Derrick Faber to see if he has evidence of ITS operation usefulness.

2.3. Completed Action Items or to be discussed later in the agenda

2.3.1.[March 21] Little Goose count station modifications to reduce entrained air. ACTION: Peery will take to FFDRWG.

2.3.2.[March 21] McNary juvenile fish facility late start. ACTION: Griffith will take request for early start in 2022 back to Project, Bobby Johnson (MCN). Project is anticipating early start next year. Corps working early start 2022 internally

3. Updates

3.1. NWW

3.1.1. Upcoming maintenance/construction/research activities.

3.1.1.1. McNary spillway crane repairs. – When cranes were designed 60 years ago they were not designed for moving gates plus the force of flowing water.

3.1.2. **20 MCN 17 MOC T1 Oil Leak Repair.** Still pending. Waiting to hear if gasket repair can occur at the same time as the Doble testing and BPA work. ~~Work to occur in August.~~ Update – Work postponed until summer 2022. CRITFC is concerned about oil spills and encourages the move to environmentally friendly lubricants.

3.1.3. Little Goose transformer replacement. Work

3.1.4. Ice Harbor trash rake replacement/repair. Planned for winter 2021/2022. Some smolt descaling was noticed. Inspection of trash rack showed debris build up so they were successfully raked this week. NOAA is concerned that much debris is allowed to build up, fish descaling should not be the trigger for raking. Action: Peery will report back on time-line for fixing rake.

3.1.5. Invasive species discussion.

3.1.5.1. Juvenile shad removal from samples (Peery) – No update

3.2. NWP

3.2.1. Invasive piscivorous fish control opportunities (Cordie)

3.2.1.1. Cordie noted the NWP index electrofishing is turning up primarily smallmouth bass. Should these be removed? Parker (CRITFC) is also working for retention of non-native fish caught during the northern pikeminnow removal program at the dams. Van Dyke and Parker discussed the appropriate points of contact to continue the conversation.

3.2.2. Upcoming maintenance/construction/research activities.

3.2.2.1. 21 BON 001 MOC Navigation Lock 1 (old navlock) Bridge Replacement (Trachtenbarg) scheduled for CY2023.

3.2.2.2. 15TDA08 MOC Transformer Installation. Work complete can be removed from agenda.

3.2.2.3. 19TDA04 MOC Crane rail Replacement winter (20/21)

3.2.2.4. 20TDA10 MOC PUD Smolt Bypass Extended Outage. Martinson reports 3 bids returned but exceeded budgeted amount. PUD's board rejected all three bids. May purchase dewatering screen, switch gate, and monitoring building then have contractor install.

3.2.2.5. 18JDA02 MOC Trash rack replacement. Awaiting award, will supply schedule when available.

3.2.2.6. 20JDA04 MOC STS crane replacement. Awaiting award, will supply schedule when available.

3.2.3. BON Cascade Island PIT tag antenna completion.

3.2.4. BON Aquí-S update. Release locations are being logged and Bonn environmental is monitoring release locations.

3.2.5. BON ITS Gate Work planned for winter 2022-23. Dewatering late August lasting two – three weeks for PDT sight visit.

3.2.6. BON PH2 gantry crane replacement. 55' deck (tailrace) PH2 winter 2022-23. Will need to install a handrail for worker safety, over fishway. Building new crane and dismantling old crane. Approximately four months of work.

3.2.7. TDA AWS debris management, formerly TDA AWS trash rake. (Rerecich FC, Medhi Rashani TL, Kovalchuck temp PM). AWS is currently supplying attraction water while waiting for FU2 replacement part. After ~5 weeks AWS differential began to increase, likely due to milfoil. Stopped then started AWS to float away milfoil.

3.2.8. TDA trunnion pin. Via email from Michael S Colesar, on 1/28/2021 "Gate 9 trunnion would be part of a larger project to completely rehab Gates 1-9. SAP shows Start in 2031, Construction 2034"

3.2.9. JDA north pumps. Pump #4 OSS may require complete overhaul. Five other pumps are keeping fishway attraction water in criteria.

3.2.10. JDA spill bay 10. In manual operation, have not figured out remote operations from the control room, likely manual most of spill season

3.2.11. JDA elevator #4. Currently OSS, work around is to try to access level below lamprey trap to facilitate lamprey collection.

3.3. NWS (Seattle).

3.3.1. Albeni Falls Dam – no update. Working on budgeting. Still working on budgeting. Hoping to initiate meetings with Project Partners soon to discuss fish sorting.

3.3.2. Chief Joseph Dam – Several projects in the works. Updating the electrical system, transformer, some sump pumps. Several projects may impact TDG, will coordinate with BPA.

3.4. Research/FFDRWG updates.

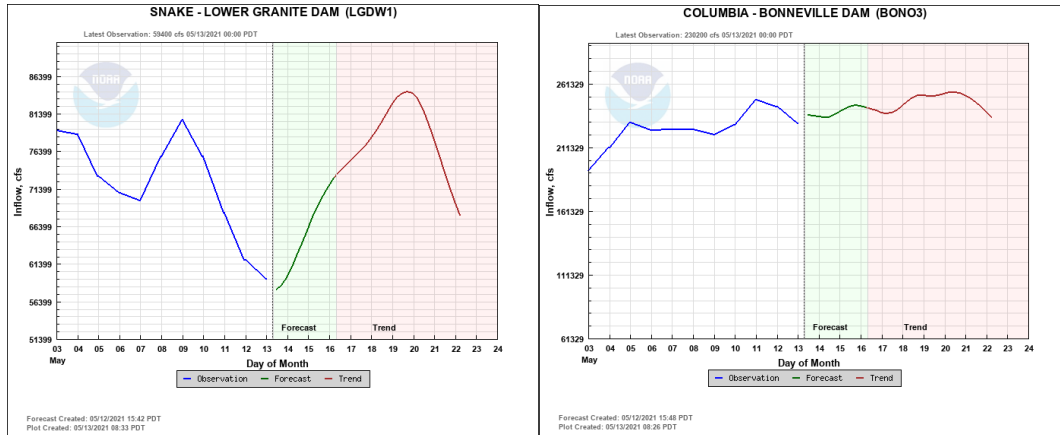
<http://pweb.crohms.org/tmt/documents/FPOM/2010/FFDRWG/FFDRWG.html>

- 3.4.1.NWP FFDRWG. In person meeting was May 6th. Notes on the way, next meeting June 3rd.
- 3.4.2.NWW FFDRWG. No update.

3.5. RCC update

Project	Previous Day (5/12) Average Outflow (kcfs)	5 Day (5/17) Forecasted Inflow (kcfs)	10 Day (5/22) Forecasted Inflow (kcfs)	Forecasted Inflow Low/High (kcfs)
LWG	59	76	68	58 (5/13) / 84 (5/19)
MCN	228	223	218	223 (5/16) / 240 (5/20)
BON	231	238	235	235 (5/14) / 255 (5/20)

Table 1. NOAA Northwest River Forecast Center inflow forecast.



- 3.6. BPA update. Outage schedule sent to NWP and will be posted to the FPOM website.
- 3.7. Fish Count Program update (Peery, Wertheimer). No updates, counts are low, about 50% of the 10 year average. Counts did dip when there was fishing at Little Goose, fishing is done there.
- 3.8. Pinniped update
 - 3.8.1.1. Bonneville Dam High of 62 animals, down to 33 this week. Some are starting to leave and the States continue to removal. WDFW – Morrill for John Edwards 12 SSL and 18 CSL have been removed to date.
 - 3.8.2. Willamette Falls ODGW has been focusing at WF and getting animals every week.
- 3.9. Lamprey update Bonn LPS in operations. Two lamprey have passed Bonneville, overwintered fish moved past John Day.
- 3.10. Avian updates (10:30)
 - 3.10.1. NWW
 - 3.10.1.1. MCN American White Pelicans roosting in forebay, double-crested cormorants (DCCO) have left, few Western Grebes, no terns, gulls numbers up and down from a few to 300. Not sure why. Working on green laser evaluation of bird hazing however gull movement may confound results. Maybe when spill stabilizes gull numbers will too.
 - 3.10.1.2. Snake River, mostly gulls from single digits to 44, one count of 183 AWPE’s (Ice Harbor) that left when hazing began. LoMo has a group of about 60 AWPE, Lower Granite has a group of AWPE loafing downstream of the tailrace. Later Johnson responded to Parker’s question about Western Grebe behavior . . . at MCN they have

watched grebes foraging near the powerhouse and seen them with smolts in their mouths when trying to net them from juvenile collection channel. McDowell commented that Western Grebe #'s have declined in the recent decades. May be linked to changes in nesting habitat, fluctuating water levels, boat wakes. Lawonn has conducted surveys on the Oregon Coast where Western Grebe #'s have also declined. They overwinter on the coast.

3.10.2. JDA DCCO have dispersed, steady # of Grebes in the forebay, gulls up and down. About 30 AWPE's on islands below with two or three working the TSW jet. Parker asked about Grebes in the forebay. How many, are they foregoing? Between 10-50, too far out to determine if they are foraging.

3.10.3. TDA Primarily gulls, a few working under the wires. DCCO have 20 or so nest in the forebay transition towers on the norther shore. Collected 6 hours of video from the 180 degree bend in the ladder documenting one DCCO. McDowell & Parker asked about

3.10.4. BON Around 15 or 20 gulls.

3.10.5. Estuary Tidwell sent out estuary update and it has been posted to the FPOM meeting folder. Civil Air Patrol is taking pictures last few weeks. ESI's Caspian Tern (CATE) colony around 2000 individual birds (~1000 pair) steady for two weeks, egg laying has initiated. ESI south beach dissuasion is working, no eggs and very few scrapes daily. DCCO on ESI have not set up any nest, but there are a handful on the western edge (old DCCO colony site). Rice Island – CATEs have been prospecting, found first egg yesterday, filling scrapes, began walking area daily to dissuade CATEs, working hard to get green laser hazing in place. Pile dikes near Rice has several loafing DCCO, no CATEs or DCCO on Miller or Pillar Islands. Vegetation is growing around the edges of ESI's CATE colony despite disking & weed burning. Due to COVID-19 herbicide application did not happen this spring. Krasnow asked about a density estimate, not yet available but lower than typical. Parker asked about the total number of CATEs in the estuary. Kyle remarked that there are CATE near Tongue point and very few on Rice, Miller, or Pillar. Lawonn asked about bald eagles flushing the CATE colony. McCanna (Corps) responded they have observed 4-7 bald eagles flushing the CATEs when they are on site. Krasnow & Lawonn are concerned that frequent bald eagle flushing and gull attacks could lead to CATEs nesting elsewhere, estuary and Columbia plateau. Later, Macdonald asked if the Corps was still meeting the requirement to prepare 1 acre of CATE suitable habitat given veg growth or is adaptive management needed. NOAA's point of view is that the birds don't seem to be crowded, more birds could still join in. Wouldn't want it to happen every year, defer to USFWS. McDowell stated there was an acre of bare sand habitat at the beginning of the season, what we see now is not ideal. Should work toward a persistent acre of bare sand for next year. Krasnow doesn't think the veg will cause the colony to fail. McDowell was more concerned about disturbance by eagles and gulls and food available to terns. Parker mentioned there might not be enough birds on colony to keep veg down via defecation. Wondering where the rest of the birds might be nesting, Gray's Harbor or maybe the Columbia Plateau. Krasnow brought up Greg Smith's report and wanted to know where birds were moving too. Trachtenbarg responded (see Inland Avian).

3.10.5.1. Astoria-Megler Bridge Lawonn (ODFW) expects a peak of ~6,000 breeding pairs in 3 weeks compared to ~5,000 last year. Parker (CRITFC) asked about nesting success last year. Lawonn responded anecdotally have seen two to three chicks per nest, chicks in most nests, expects high productivity similar to last year. Parker is concerned about the DCCO population increasing. Lawonn reports some non-breeding individuals also using the bridge about 10-30% unassociated with nests.

3.10.6. Inland Avian - Trachtenbarg reported on CAP flights. Small number of CATE nesting on Badger Island's interior (odd behavior, given lack of sight line to the water), on May 4th CAP flight David saw ~ 80 nesting pairs. RTR recorded 187 nesting CATE on their May

5th flight – Trachtenbarg will check back with RTR about the difference. *Update 5/14/21: RTR recorded 187 individuals not pairs.* Crescent – only one CATE pair nesting in historic nesting area and several gulls. McDowell asked about how much Blalock area was exposed. Trachtenbarg responded maybe 10-20% of low-lying habitat potentially inundated riverside habitat including areas that could be wave inundated. Baus asked if operation was meeting Trachtenbarg expectation. With the exception of very low flow year – it appears they are achieving objectives as laid out right now. Parker asked to be put on distribution list for results. There was general discussion about CATE movement around the plateau and the report circulated by Greg Smith (BPA). Lawonn thinks it is important to monitor the Badger Island tern colony. Trachtenbarg shared photos from overflights showing CATE and gull nesting areas and extent of vegetation that in some cases prevents ground nesters. Krasnow asked about Badger ownership. It is part of the Umatilla/McNary Wildlife Refuge, but the Corps retained the ability to conduct management actions as part of the land transfer under the 2007 WRDA. Trachtenbarg believes some non-soil disturbing actions were covered in the IAPMP for potential incipient colonies at Badger Island (e.g., could carry in some large logs to cover the bare sand). Action would need to be verified and coordinated with the Refuge. At Crescent woody debris (Russian Olive cut down previously) could be spread over the area of bare ground where a few CATEs have started to nest.

4. Coordination/Notification forms (need concurrence/discussion)

- 4.1. 21BON007 MFR AFF Steelhead Morts – no comments
- 4.2. 21TDA05 MFR East ladder fish unit outage – no comments
- 4.3. 21JDA04 MFR South Fish Ladder Out of Service for Debris Removal – no comments
- 4.4. 21 MCN 04 MFR Gate in Bay 6 Found in Split Leaf – no comments
- 4.5. 21 LWG 06 MOC AWS PUMP #1 RTS – completed last week of April.
- 4.6. 21 LGS 05 MFR Tailrace juvenile mortalities – Peery shared photos of habitat where fish were found. North shore at Little Goose – volleyball sized cobbles with whom woody debris up higher. A little bit of a shelf that drops quickly to about 20' deep. No obvious signs of mortality on salmonids or crawfish. Looks like they might be stranded from high spill, salmonids are scanned for PIT tags. Morrill asked if they knew of crawfish are native or invasive. Parker suggested Julian Odden (UW) as resource and crawfish ID key.
- 4.7. 21 LWG 07 MFR RSW Log Removal – no comment

5. Fish Passage Plan: The 2021 FPP went into effect March 1 and is available online at:

<http://pweb.crohms.org/tmt/documents/fpp/2021/>

5.1. New Change Forms:

- 5.1.1. **21AppB001 – LMN Condition Sampling (Conder)** If SMP no longer operates at LMN, what level or sampling would be needed to protect fish. Suggestion from task group with no negative comments received. Morrill – Washington is ok with this. *Pending approval by CRITFC and ODFW.*
- 5.1.2. **21TDA002 – Unit 8-2 Sluiceway (Cordie)** – Six open sluiceway gates, uncertain why 8-2 is one of them but it is difficult to get to, covered by intake rake. Would like to swap for 8-1. Washington differed to CRITFC, however Lorz is not present. *Pending until next FPOM in June.*

6. Task Group Updates.

- 6.1. Avian Task Group meeting (Cordie) – Meetings postponed until there is need.
 - 6.1.1. <http://pweb.crohms.org/tmt/documents/FPOM/2010/Task%20Groups/Task%20Group%20Avian%20Hazing/>
- 6.2. Task Group Condition Monitoring (Lorz & Sullivan) – Co-chairs not present

6.2.1.<http://pweb.crohms.org/tmt/documents/FPOM/2010/Task%20Groups/Task%20Group%20Condition%20Monitoring/>

6.2.1.1. Condor requested a LMN condition monitoring meeting, scheduled for 4/15.

6.3. Task Group 15 Mile Steelhead Overshoots, TDA ITS operation dates. (Bellerud) – **Action:** Cordie will email Derrick Faber to see if he has evidence of ITS operation usefulness.

6.3.1.<http://pweb.crohms.org/tmt/documents/FPOM/2010/Task%20Groups/Task%20Group%20TDA%20ITS%20operations/>

Meeting ended at 12:01