

Subject: Final minutes for the 12 January 2023 FPOM meeting. The meeting was held via WebEx from 0900 until 1120.

**In Attendance:**

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## 1. Final actions or decisions.

- 1.1. December meeting minutes approval – pending WDFW review.
- 1.2. BON will hold the facility permit and users will need to sign a LOI and report on usage and disposal.
- 1.3. The annual AFEP review will occur next Tuesday and Wednesday.

## 2. Action Items

- 2.1. NWW - no action items.
- 2.2. NWP
  - 2.2.1. [JAN 23] Spillway condition report. **ACTION:** Mackey will talk with NWD about next steps. She will also try to track down a consolidated spillway report.
  - 2.2.2. [DEC 22] Lethal Removal **Action:** Schmidt will ensure the draft EA will be sent to cooperators on Dec 16<sup>th</sup> for a 35-day review. Public review planned for January 2023.  
*STATUS: EA sent for internal review in December. Internal review ends tomorrow with the plan of releasing a public draft February 1. APHIS may not yet have their comments ready.*
- 2.3. Completed Action Items or to be discussed later in the agenda – no action items.

## 3. Updates

### 3.1. NWW Updates

- 3.1.1. Upcoming coordinated maintenance/construction/research activities.
  - 3.1.1.1. 22 LWG 04 MOC T1T2 Gasket Repair. Ricardo Walker is the PM. Completed T1A late last year. TVA will not return in the winter to do this work due to inclement weather experienced this year. New schedule is August 29 through September 18 to take advantage of nicer weather. There are three phases to each transformer – A, B, and C. T1A was the highest priority and has been complete; T1C is scheduled due to the amount of oil leaking. This will affect turbine unit priority and attraction flow. Due to temperature concerns, NOAA would prefer this work not occur during high temps. Conder recommended early October through November as an alternative timeframe. Another concern is the speed no load operation. With the wild Chinook component migrating during this time, speed no load creates unfavorable conditions in the turbine. Conder suggested spill might be able to mitigate. Peery noted that the turbine ops will still occur at night. Conder said the juveniles don't tend to wait to

pass as much as adults do. TVA's schedule doesn't allow for a lot of flexibility at this point. Conder said NWW might consider a new contractor or they work through the winter. TVA has said they will not work in the winter. Bettin said there may be other options so let's keep this on the agenda and continue to work the issue. Morrill asked about maximizing spill at dusk/dawn to sweep juveniles through before the units go off-line. Lorz asked if the MCN work could be moved about to allow more time for LWG work. Peery said he can talk with the PM to see what options might be available.

**3.1.1.2.20** LGS 16 MOC Powerhouse Roof Repair. Repair work has been done. Reconnection work pushed to 13-21 February.

**3.1.2.**MCN crane status. No update.

### **3.2. NWP Updates**

**3.2.1.**Upcoming coordinated maintenance/construction/research activities.

**3.2.1.1.21**BON001 MOC Navigation Lock 1 (old navlock) Bridge Replacement. (Trachtenbarg). No update.

**3.2.1.2.**ITS end gate replacement (updated MOC to be discussed under 4.2.4.)

**3.2.1.3.**BON B-Branch erosion repair. Cates reported that the contract has not yet been awarded. The schedule is not yet set but the work is still expected to end by 28 February. Barge entry and exit of the tailrace requires the B2CC closed. Avian lines will need to come down. Bay 1 will remain at one stop to provide attraction flow for Cascades Island.

**3.2.1.4.22**BON096 MOC involuntary spill patterns. Still in effect. Conder asked about the spill patterns to protect the bank. FPOM will have further discussions about debris spill limits and pattern changes needed for bank protection. Currently the project has changed their SOP to no longer flush debris from bays 1 and 18.

**3.2.1.5.**BON FGE – Units 11 and 18 Scheduled from 30 Nov – 28 March. Rerecich reported that the work is on schedule. After March, the work will move to the next scheduled unit. Work will occur in only one unit at a time. Rerecich addressed the previous concerns about taking units out of service during the spring freshet. Rerecich will update FPOM as units are scheduled around anticipated flow events. He also showed photos of the construction work completed in U11. Conder said that if the ITS is not operating then NOAA may have more concerns about taking units out of service. Wright asked if units 11 and 18 will still be restricted to the mid-range. Rerecich said the unit operations still need to be coordinated. Bettin noted that the FPP states that once a unit is complete then it can go back to the full operating range. Conder expressed hesitation to do so without post-construction evaluations.

**3.2.1.6.**19TDA04 MOC – East side powerhouse crane rails. Next step is to replace the crane in the spring. Work is expected to be complete in the summer. The work will occur at the east end of the powerhouse, more than 100' from the fishway exit. The center of the powerhouse still has rail that needs to be removed and then the train rail will be removed during the winter. Lorz suggested timing the rail removal when the east ladder is dewatered.

**3.2.1.7.**18JDA02 MOC Trash rack replacement. MU16 is complete. The old racks will be sandblasted and painted. A new contract will be needed for the rest of the units. This will be a long-term project. JDA will inform FPOM of any anticipated fish impacts.

**3.2.1.8.**20JDA04 MOC STS crane replacement. No update.

**3.2.1.9.**22JDA20 MFR JDA-S Temps. Still accepting comments. More data will be collected next fish season.

**3.2.2.**BON ITS PIT detection. PDT is still moving forward, no update. Conder asked if there is an expected date for installation. BON fish said it may be scheduled for next winter but no confirmation at this time. Morrill said he believed he had heard next winter.

- 3.2.3. BONAQUI-S. Comments have been submitted to EPA. Still working towards a new EPA permit. Lorz asked if CRITFC should expect any changes. **BON will hold the facility permit and users will need to sign a LOI and report on usage and disposal.** Lorz asked if BON has informed the researchers of this change. Derugin said there has been nothing in writing yet.
- 3.2.4. TDA AWS debris management. Rerecich reported that the team is working on the 60% EDR. He will send the report to FFDRWG for a 30-day review sometime next week.
- 3.2.5. TDA Bay 9 trunnion pin and Bay 10 wire ropes. Cordie confirmed the trunnion pin is still around but it doesn't matter because a contractor will just use a new pin anyway. The bulkheads have not sealed so the swap of the wire ropes has not occurred yet. Conder is concerned about the latest report on the spillway crane (expected in 2035). He noted that appearances are not favorable since the crane is used for lots of other work but when it comes to Bay 9 suddenly it isn't acceptable. Cordie clarified that the crane is not used as frequently as it should be. It should be used to conduct maintenance on bays 1-8 but the Project cannot use it. Every time it is used, some sort of interim fix has to be implemented to get it to operate. Some TDA crane operators have refused to operate the crane. Lorz asked how this has not elevated in priority since the most used gates (1-8) that are required for BiOp spill cannot be properly maintained and there is a risk of not being able to pass maximum probably flood. FPOM asked what the next steps are to elevate the priority of the spillway crane. Mackey noted that NWD has requested more detailed spillway information. Cordie stressed his concerns about bays 1-8. **ACTION: Mackey will talk with NWD about next steps. She will also try to track down a consolidated spillway report.**
- 3.2.6. TDA N Ladder Rockfall P#449517. No new update. Still trying to get funding before a rockslide occurs.
- 3.2.7. JDA north pump #4. No update. Funding requested in FY24 budget submission.
- 3.3. NWS updates. No updates.
- 3.4. Research/FFDRWG
- 3.4.1. SRWG. Juhnke reminded everyone that **the annual AFEP review will occur next Tuesday and Wednesday.** Chuck Barnes has sent the agenda and meeting invites. Researchers will have a trial run on 13 January to make sure technology works correctly. Macdonald said a meeting invite for 2024 planning will be coming soon.
- 3.4.2. NWP FFDRWG. Had a BONA WS site-visit last week. The weather held for the tour of the control section. Slides will be available to FFDRWG as soon as possible. Morrill asked if the comments from the group will be available as well. Macdonald confirmed those would be available for review as well. He also noted that the FFDRWG website has reports available for review. [FPOM/FFDRWG \(crohms.org\)](https://crohms.org)
- 3.4.3. NWW FFDRWG. 26 January 2023. Starts at 0900.

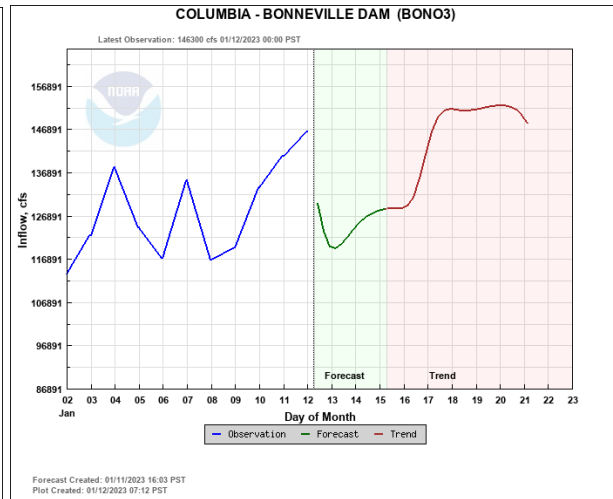
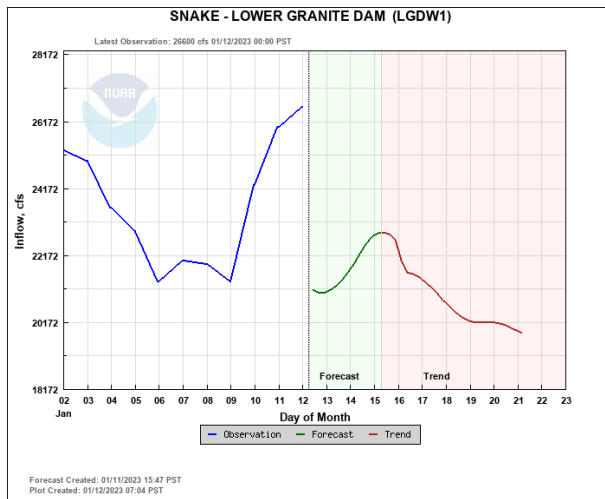
**3.5. RCC update.**

**Table 1. RCC FPOM flow forecast.**

Project	Previous Day (1/11) Average Outflow (kcfs)	5 Day (1/16) Forecasted Inflow (kcfs)	10 Day (1/21) Forecasted Inflow (kcfs)	Forecasted Inflow Low/High (kcfs)
LWG	27	22	20	20 (1/21) / 23 (1/15)
MCN	127	116	132	106 (1/12) / 139 (1/17)
BON	141	129	148	119 (1/13) / 152 (1/19)

Project Data: <https://pweb.crohms.org/report/projdata.htm>

NWRFC Inflow Forecast: <https://www.nwrfc.noaa.gov/rfc/>



**3.6. Fish Count Program update (Peery, Wertheimer).** Peery reminded FPOM that we are in the final year of the existing contract. A new scope of work may be available by the next FPOM meeting. There are no major changes anticipated with the next contract.

**3.7. Pinniped update**

**3.7.1.BON.** Tidwell reported one animal currently be tracked in the tailraces. The draft 2022 report was sent out for regional review. Comments are due by 31 January. FFU is prepping for the 2023 season. Tidwell asked WDFW and ODFW to review the report and note the sturgeon predation data. Swank asked for the report to be posted to the FPOM website. Tidwell will send a version directly to Swank and post the final report to the website.

**3.7.2. Willamette Falls.** Van Dyke said ODFW started observing around 3 January. They have seen one pinniped at Willamette Falls. ODFW has been surveying the river and have seen three Stellers in the lower river. Trapping has not started yet.

**3.8. Lamprey update**

**3.8.1.BON.** Derugin noted the optical counters are on scheduled. WS AWS lamprey ramp repair is ongoing. Waiting on funding for the CI lamprey improvements (steps and ramp mods).

**3.8.2.TDA.** TDA-E RTS today. Weirs 154 and 155 are back in service with the lamprey improvements in place. Working with the PDT for the entrance weir modifications and junction pool LPS.

- 3.8.3.JDA. Watering up JDA-S.
- 3.8.4.NWW. MCN WS rounded weir caps fabrication is completed. Top leaf of the telescoping gate is on-site. Completing the Economy Act Order for PNNL juvenile lamprey study.
- 3.8.5.LAWG. Next meeting is next week. Going through the budget and project priorities.
- 3.9. **BPA Update.** Schedule available on the FPOM website. Snake River projects will have outages. Everything is on schedule as long as the weather holds.
- 3.10. **Budget Updates.**
  - 3.10.1.NWP/NWW Critical Fish Passage O&M needs. – Updated spreadsheet available after winter maintenance.
- 3.11. **Avian updates (10:30)**
  - 3.11.1.NWW. Peery will have a meeting after the Feb FPOM to discuss falconry at MCN
  - 3.11.2.JDA. Working on a contract for avian wire replacement. Some birds hanging out on the riprap. USDA had asked about trying drones but the restrictions are pretty significant and not a likely option this year. USFWS may not allow use of drones.
  - 3.11.3.TDA. Seeing typical winter numbers – 50 gulls, 50 cormorants, and 60 eagles. Planning for USDA to start in mid-April with 8-hour days, 7 day/week boat ops. Falconry will occur for 60 days. Anticipating lethal take in place. Not looking into drones in an effort to avoid too many variables while still testing falconry. Lawonn asked if there will be a report on the efficacy of falconry. Cordie said TDA is including a write up in the annual report.
  - 3.11.4.BON. Avian lines coming down for B-Branch erosion repair work. Working on comments for the EA.
  - 3.11.5.Estuary. Draft reports are available for review and comments. Please let Tidwell know if you have not received a report and he will add you to the distribution. Lawonn said ODFW will get some surveys of DCCOs to see if over-wintering numbers are changing in the estuary. DCCOs have been using the Astoria-Megler bridge into February in previous years.
- 4. **Coordination/Notification forms (need concurrence/discussion)**
  - 4.1. NWW
    - 4.1.1.23LWG01 MFR Bird Wires repair. Working on getting funding in place to get wires replaced in February.
  - 4.2. NWP
    - 4.2.1.22JDA21 MFR oil sheen in gatewells. No additional information as to where the oil may have come from.
    - 4.2.2.23TDA01 MFR NFL mystery mort. No additional comments.
    - 4.2.3.23BON001 MFR U14 oil sheen. No additional comments.
    - 4.2.4.23BON002 MOC ITS gate install. Comments are due by 26 January. Conder was not pleased that we are running a fifth fish season without full operation of the ITS. He noted it is the only JBS at PH1 and this operation is out of FPP criteria. He said five years is too long and we need to be better at getting these types of maintenance activities completed in a shorter timeframe. Conder would like to see some form of mitigation, such as increasing flow through the automated gates would provide something. He would also like to see BON minimize the flow going through PH1, which impacts unit outage schedules. Derugin said the gate arrives at the end of March and installation could be done in April if FPOM wanted to push it. BON is also testing a potential operation that could allow more flow through the south chaingates. BON installed additional trashracks from U10, which would stop debris and any uncontrolled vessels. If this proves successful, the chain gates could be opened further until the end gate is installed in October. Derugin said he has also put in a funding request for a full log boom across the PH1 forebay. Conder said he would like to see the middle auto gates adjusted to full open. Hausmann likes the idea of using the trash racks as a safety mitigation and noted that opening the other two autos more will likely back up the

channel. Trashracks have 6 inch spacing and can be raked. Lorz asked if "legs or stilts" could be welded to the bottom of the trash rakes to give a couple inches of space below.

4.2.4.1. Not having the ITS available could impact NOAA's willingness to accept unit outages for FGE.

## 5. Fish Passage Plan

5.1. The 2022 FPP is in effect through February 28, 2023, and available online at:

[pweb.crohms.org/tmt/documents/fpp/2022/](http://pweb.crohms.org/tmt/documents/fpp/2022/)

5.2. The draft 2023 FPP (chapters, appendices, and change forms) are posted at:

[pweb.crohms.org/tmt/documents/fpp/2023/changes/](http://pweb.crohms.org/tmt/documents/fpp/2023/changes/)

5.2.1. PENDING Change Forms:

5.2.1.1. McNary Spill Patterns (revised 22MCN005). Still Pending.

5.2.1.2. 23IHR001 - IHR Unit 3 Operating Range. Conder said NOAA is good with the change form.

5.2.1.3. 23LMN001, 23LGS001, 23AppJ001 - JFF Early Start. Morrill said the current SMP budget does not include an early start at LMN so it may be a bit more of a challenge. Leaving approval until the FPP meeting but no objections have been noted at this time. CRITFC requested a delay in approval until the lamprey folks have had time to review.

5.2.1.3.1. Through extensive conversations with LMN staff, dependent on winter maintenance, weather conditions and availability of applicable staff, LMN will try and support a start date as close to March 1, 2023 as possible with priority units (1-3) and utilizing the sampling protocols similar to those outlined in the FPP App. J. for the April 1-15 timeframe.

5.2.2. NEW Change Forms:

5.2.2.1. New change forms are posted on the FPP website and will be reviewed at the annual FPP meeting on Friday 3-Feb-2023.

## 6. Task Group Updates.

6.1. Task Group Kelt Trigger (Lorz). [Documents / FPOM / 2013 / FPOM Task Groups \(crohms.org\)](http://Documents/FPOM/2013/FPOM%20Task%20Groups(crohms.org))

6.1.1. B2CC. A draft operation is in review by BPA. Starting 1 March there would be some B2CC opening and it increases until late March, when it opens 24 hours. Conder said the operation is flow neutral but would allow a better opportunity to pass early fish. Madson showed her spreadsheet of B2CC passage. Madson's spreadsheets will be posted to the FPOM website. FPOM discussed the need to know if the passage numbers are adult or juvenile fish. Both are lumped in the spreadsheet.

6.2. Task Group Hazing. [Documents / FPOM Avian Task Group \(crohms.org\)](http://Documents/FPOM/Avian%20Task%20Group(crohms.org))

6.2.1. NEPA (Schmidt). Swank reported that Michelle McDowell has received a draft copy of the EA. Preliminary reaction is that it needs some work. The table below was provided by Schmidt after the meeting.

Tasks	Timing
Letter to Cooperators	Completed
Research and add pelicans to EA	Completed
Revise gull analysis in EA	Ongoing in the process of EA development
Revise EA to comply with new NEPA Regs	Completed
Cooperating Agency Meetings (USFWS & APHIS)	Started September 2022 – ongoing as needed
Cooperating Agency Input	Ongoing as needed
Complete initial draft EA	Completed
Internal Review of draft EA	16 December 2022 to 13 January 2023
Finalize draft EA	20 January 2023 to 31 January 2023
Release draft EA to Public for 30 days	1 February to 2 March 2023
Apply for Depredation Permit	Submit after FONSI(s) signed
Complete Final EA and sign FONSI(s)	1 April 2023
Implementation	15 April 2023


 We are here

**6.2.2.2024 McNary Falconry Planning.** Task Group meeting will follow the February FPOM meeting.