**Columbia River Regional Forum**

**SYSTEM CONFIGURATION TEAM**

**May 21, 2015**

**\*Draft Meeting Notes**

**(\*edits/comments are due July 16, 2015)**

***1. Introduction***

Representatives of the COE, BPA, NOAA, Nez Perce Tribe, Oregon, Idaho and others participated in today’s SCT meeting. Bill Hevlin, NOAA, served as chair and facilitator. Draft and final SCT notes are available on the COE’s TMT website under the FPOM link. For copies of documents discussed in the meeting, contact, NOAA at 503-230-5420. Comments on the April 16 draft meeting notes are due so they can be finalized.

***2. FY16 CRFM Spreadsheet Line Item Priority Process***

The main purpose of today’s meeting was to discuss items on the FY16 CRFM spreadsheet and give preliminary scores where appropriate. Hevlin noted that all scores can be changed as more information becomes available.

Randy Chong, COE, distributed copies of the FY16 CRFM spreadsheet and gave a funding update. The FY16 President’s budget assigns CRFM $85.3 million, allocated as $58.3 million for the FCRPS, $24.5 million for the Willamette and $2.5 million for lamprey. There was discussion of the need for work plans to provide a basis for scoring line items. It was generally agreed that the work plan process has in the past been not been much help in scoring because work plans were either late or too detailed. Synopses of just a few pages – or even a few paragraphs – would be more useful. Sean, Randy, Ian and Bill will work on providing these.

Chong noted items added to the spreadsheet by request since the last meeting: PIT tag detection feasibility at BON and TDA (line items 4 and 36, respectively) and acquisition of a log bronc for debris management at MCN. Chong reported that the COE found an excess log bronc from the Navy and deployed it at MCN, so this item will be dropped from the FY16 CRFM budget.

Most of today’s discussion focused on individual line items:

#1. Willamette, 24.5 million and #2. Lamprey, 2.5 million – There was discussion at the last SCT meeting of the capacity for more lamprey funding and the necessity of having funds in years when contracts need to be awarded so the Action Agencies can meet their lamprey commitments under the fish accords by 2018. The COE will seek more than $2.5 million in FY16 for lamprey contracts. The extra funds will be needed in FY16 to place construction in FY17-18.

#3. Bonneville 2nd powerhouse fish guidance efficiency, $4.4 million – This item was previously on the FY15 spreadsheet. There are no results yet from testing FGE at the Bonneville 2nd powerhouse corner collector, Scott Bettin, BPA, said. All tests needed have been done or are in progress, with only a week to go. Hevlin noted that implementing this line item will result in improved guidance for subyearlings. The goal is to reduce turbulence in the gatewells so the 2nd powerhouse units can operate at the upper end of 1% efficiency without causing juvenile descaling and mortality. Scores were:

* NOAA – 5 (testing results could change score)
* Oregon – Waiting for test results
* Nez P – Waiting to review scores and rationale from last year
* Idaho – Waiting for more information
* COE – 5

#4. Bonneville spillway pit tag detection feasibility, no cost estimate– This was added to the spreadsheet as a placeholder in response to a request at the last SCT meeting. If it turns out to be feasible, PIT detection would probably be installed after 2018. Scores today were:

* NOAA – 5
* Oregon – Very supportive of this idea, but needs to know more. Generally supportive of feasibility studies and detection capabilities.
* Nez Perce – 4

#5. Avian predation $2.9 million – The ROD for cormorant removal and reduction of tern habitat is being signed this week. Last year this item received mostly 5s and a few 4s. Scores were:

* NOAA – 5
* Oregon – defer
* COE – 5

#6. Estuary habitat studies, $2.6 million – The COE’s funding authority limit was raised from $25 million by the 2015 omnibus bill, Chong reported. The Corps can now, once again, fund studies that monitor restoration improvements in the estuary. There will be more discussion of these studies at the SRWG study prioritization meeting on June 4. NOAA, Oregon and Idaho all deferred scoring this item until more is known.

#7. Ice Harbor Performance Verification Monitoring, $8.2 million – If the region can agree on one spill amount and pattern to test at Ice Harbor in FY16, this line item will cover it. The test could be delayed based on the upcoming BiOp court hearing scheduled for June 23-24. There were no scores on this today.

#8. Ice Harbor Turbine Runner Replacement, $500,000 – This is just the CRFM portion of biological evaluation. Units 2 and 3 will be tested in FY17 and FY18 respectively. Scores today were:

* NOAA – 4 (It’s important to estimate how well the modifications improve survival.)
* COE – 5

#9. John Day north shore ladder entrance improvements, $800,000 – This is mandatory so there was no scoring. The north shore ladder AWS has been an ongoing issue since 2010.

#10. John Day AMIP adult PIT, $600,000 – The Portland District now has support from the Division to develop adult PIT detection at JDA. BPA and the COE will share the costs, which have decreased substantially due to the recent technical advancements. Scores were:

* NOAA – 5
* OR – 5
* Nez Perce – 4
* COE – defer

#11. Little Goose ASW spillway weir, $7 million – This line item will fund a new contract to work on the ASW after terminating the first contract for $6 million in June 2014. Of that amount, $5 million was returned and used in FY14. The $7 million is new funding for FY16 to complete the project. Scores were:

* NOAA – 5
* COE – 5

#12. Little Goose evaluation of data alternatives for meeting summer operational goals, $50,000 – This would finalize what the region agrees is the best operation for low flows at Goose. It would be tested in FY 17-18. At next week’s meeting, FFDRWG will discuss this line item in relation to improving survival rates to meet the 93% BiOp performance standard for subyearlings. Scores were:

* NOAA – 5

#13. Little Goose spillway weir boat barrier, $0 – SCT agreed to defer scoring until the boat barriers at other projects are completed.

#14. Lower Granite spillway pit tag detection, $100,000 – FFDRWG will provide an update on Biomark testing, Derek Fryer, COE, said. As discussion focused on juvenile fish passage at Lower Granite Dam, Russ Kiefer mentioned that IDFG is planning to collect samples of some hatchery sockeye from the bypass system that appear to be arriving in poor condition, in an effort to determine the possible cause. Scores were:

* Nez Perce – 5
* NOAA – 5
* Oregon – 5
* Idaho – 5
* COE – 4 (consistent with last year’s score)

#15. Lower Granite performance verification monitoring, $100,000 – This project won’t get done until the outfall and bypass are completed in 2017-2018. Scoring was therefore deferred.

#16. Lower Granite juvenile bypass facility, phase 1a, $3.75 million – Scoring was deferred.

#17. Lower Granite juvenile bypass facility, phase 1b, $10.4 million – There will probably be SAEDC costs in FY17. Scores today were:

* NOAA – 5 (The site is well selected, and the current outfall is poor.)
* COE – 5

#18. Lower Granite surface passage modification, $250,000 – Because the current RSW could be stowed on the forebay bottom, but it might not come back up, this modification would allow controlled spill at Granite. It appears that the RSW is in good shape and has many more years of life. Scores were:

* NOAA – 5
* COE – 5

#19. Lower Granite adult ladder temperature interim measures, $150,000 – This covers SAEDC for a contract that will be awarded this summer. Because SAEDC on an existing contract is considered mandatory, SCT did not score this item. Improvements to the chimney extension will be made in FY16. It is hoped that the unit 1 linkage will be repaired in FY17.

#20. Lower Granite post-construction evaluation of adult ladder temperature measures, $75,000 – This will cover a post-construction evaluation of the pump extensions. It will provide valuable oversight of a multi-year contract to monitor the ladder, including installing PIT tag detection antennas. Scores were:

* NOAA – 5
* COE – 5

#21. Lower Monumental spillway weir boat barrier, $150,000 – This line item, as well as #22, will cover SAEDC on contracts awarded this year. The contract itself will probably be in the $1-1.5 million range.

#22. McNary TSW closure leaf seal, $300,000 – There were no scores because SAEDC is required.

#23. McNary performance verification monitoring, $150,000 – With 92.6% survival, MCN didn’t meet its BiOp objectives. This line item will focus on what’s needed so MCN can pass the survival test. Scores were:

* NOAA – 5
* COE – Defer

#24. McNary adult fallback passage efficiency study, $25,000 – This line item provides continued funding for ongoing study of adult passage efficiency at MCN. Scores were:

* NOAA – 5

#25. McNary spillway weir boat barrier, $2.05 million – The cost is high because MCN has a big forebay. Scores were:

* NOAA – 4
* COE – 4

#26. Lower river BiOp performance standards testing, $7.6 million – This line item covers only Bonneville because the solution at John Day isn’t clear. No dam modifications are expected. Scores were:

* COE – 5
* NOAA – defer

#27. Avian island pit detection, $300,000 – This line item, which has been on the CRFM spreadsheet for a long time, will maintain ongoing work. Last year’s average score for this item was a 5. Today’s scores were:

* NOAA – 5
* COE – 4 (was 5 last year)

#28. Turbine passage survival program, $300,000 – This line item covers all TSP work, not just at Ice Harbor. There were no scores today.

#29. Snake River intake gate closure, $1 million – The head gates on Snake River dams were raised as part of a suite of actions to enhance fish guidance efficiency, Chong recalled. Raising them sacrificed the ability to meet the 10-minute closure criteria for dam safety. The COE is examining ways to meet the closure criteria, including testing the extended screens and gates. It was noted that $1 million is not uncommon for FGE studies. This line item includes FGE studies at Little Goose. There will be more details at next week’s FFDRWG meeting.

#30. COP updates, $50,000 – There will be an update on Little Goose depending on low flow operations, and possibly on McNary as well, Chong reported. Derek Fryer will add this item to next week’s FFDRWG meeting agenda for further discussion. Scores today were:

* NOAA – 4

#32. Island avian predation, $50,000 – This represents a continuing effort to collect adult return information from the Snake River fall chinook survival study for 5 years beginning in 2012. FY17 will probably be the last year of data collection. Because this is follow-up work, it’s considered almost mandatory. Scores were:

* COE – 5
* NOAA – 5

#33. Inland avian management predation plan, $925,000 – This will fund implementation of avian management actions on Crescent Island, including relocation of birds to a San Francisco wildlife refuge. Scores today were:

* NOAA – 5
* COE – 5

#34. McNary and Snake River adult migration studies, $50,000 – Scoring was deferred until the COE determines whether this item is still needed. The McNary prototype entrance is probably fine, and another year of monitoring might be unnecessary, Trevor Conder noted.

#35. The Dalles adult fishways & AWS, $2.3 million – The contract will go out for award this year. Further discussion will take place at FPOM.

***3. Updates from Recent FFDWG and SRWG Meetings and Future Meeting Dates***

* **May 28** – Walla Walla FFDRWG meeting
* **June 4** – SRWG study prioritization meeting at The Dalles
* **June 18** –Portland FFDRWG meeting
* **August 27** – Walla Walla FFDRWG meeting

***4. Next SCT Meeting***

The next meeting will be July 16 in the Mt. St. Helens Conference Room. These notes prepared by technical writer Pat Vivian.

***Name Affiliation***

Sean Tackley COE

Scott Bettin BPA

Randy Chong COE

Bill Hevlin NOAA

Ian Chane COE

Derek Fryer COE

Agnes Lut BPA

Trevor Conder NOAA

Jen Graham CTWSRO

Dave Statler Nez Perce Tribe

Erick Van Dyke Oregon

Brad Eppard COE

Shane Scott PPC

Marvin Shutters COE

Julie Doumbia BPA

Russ Kiefer Idaho (phone)