

Columbia River Regional Forum
SYSTEM CONFIGURATION TEAM MEETING
October 20, 2016
Final Meeting Notes

1. Introduction

Representatives of NOAA, CRITFC/Umatilla, the COE, BPA and Idaho participated in today's SCT meeting chaired by Bill Hevlin, NOAA. Comments on the draft meeting notes for the September 15 meeting have been received and they will be finalized and sent out. The next meeting on November 17 will be at the COE office in Walla Walla.

2. Finish Scoring 2017 CRFM Spreadsheet

SCT spent most of today's meeting reviewing and ranking line items to provide the COE with regional recommendations on FY17 funding priorities. Special attention was paid to line items #32, Snake River adult sockeye passage initiatives and #41, System feasibility study of cooling adult ladders. Randy Chong, COE, distributed copies of the latest FY17 spreadsheet and explained the changes since the last SCT meeting.

#3. Bonneville 2nd powerhouse fish guidance efficiency construction SAEDC, \$850,000 – This line item has been clarified as specifically for SAEDC, with construction covered separately.

#5. Bonneville floating orifice gate closures, \$400,000 – SCT considered whether this effort to exclude sea lions from the fishway will be funded under CRFM or O&M (the SCT spreadsheet says O&M). The Portland District will add an estimate for installing gate closures in four bulkheads under CRFM, assuming that the remaining bulkheads will be retrofitted under the O&M budget. The cost is approximately \$40,000 apiece for 16 bulkheads so Chong will add \$400,000 to the spreadsheet as an estimate for this item. It was noted that floating orifice gate closures will aid lamprey passage through the channel. Scores today for this item were:

- Umatilla – 4
- NOAA – 4
- COE – 4
- Idaho – 4
- BPA – 4

#5.1. Bonneville 2nd powerhouse FGE post-construction evaluation, \$1.5 million – This recently added line item will be discussed at the Portland FFDRWG meeting this afternoon. The cost could be closer to \$1.8 million and will cover two years of work. The only scores until today were 4's from NOAA and Umatilla; Oregon and the Warm Springs Tribe deferred until more information is available. Scores given today were:

- COE – 5
- BPA – 3 (has concerns about the cost of the study)
- Idaho – 4

#9. Ice Harbor turbine runners, \$1.9 million – The cost covers a multi-year contract that’s already partly funded. The goal is to test survival in the new turbine runners using sensor fish and balloon tagged fish. Only one score was added today:

- Idaho – 4

Tom Lorz, Umatilla, asked whether this test will also evaluate the survival through unit 5 at Ice Harbor, which will be repaired by welding the Kaplan unit to be fixed-blade. If not, then he would reduce his previous score of 3 to a 2. Due to the number of units being retrofitted to fixed-blade at several projects, Lorz suggested that the survival evaluation of this condition be a separate line item on the spreadsheet.

#10. John Day north shore ladder entrance improvements, \$1.6 million – The estimate was increased because a modification planned for the end of FY16 didn’t get awarded in time and will be included in the FY17 budget.

#16. LGS adult ladder temperature mitigation, \$2.25 million – Scores to date for this item are all 4’s and 5’s. The COE is working on a contract for electrical power supply this summer and planning to buy pumps for permanent use. Scores today were:

- Idaho – 5

#22. LGR post construction evaluation, adult ladder temperature measures and noise impacts \$600,000 – This is a new cost estimate for the study. Scores today were:

- BPA – 5

#26. MCN avian array feasibility study, \$100,000 – SCT agreed more discussion is needed of how this relates to line #26.1. It might be possible to combine water cannon work with review of a limited avian array. Scores for this today were:

- COE – 3

#26.1. MCN avian water cannon deficiency correction, \$100,000 – This line item was added to the FY17 spreadsheet because there have been problems with the water cannon at McNary since it was installed. Scores today were:

- Umatilla – 5
- NOAA – 5
- Idaho – 4
- COE – 5 (If hazing works, bird wires won’t be necessary.)
- BPA – 4

#31. Snake River intake gate closure 10-minute criteria, \$250,000 – The Umatilla Tribe is waiting for the preliminary report before scoring this item; other scores might change once the report becomes available.

#32. Snake River adult sockeye passage initiatives, temperature modeling (placeholder), \$350,000 – The title of this line item was modified to reflect removal of an adult trapping feasibility study. There will be follow-up discussion at the next Walla Walla FFDRWG meeting. Scores today were:

- Idaho – 5
- NOAA – 5 (raised from 4)

#34.1. Snake River fall chinook retrospective depth-of-migration study, \$300,000 – This item would pay for gathering the information currently available on depth of passage for subyearlings and for monitoring forebay temperatures. The goal is to identify whether it would make sense to switch spill from surface weirs to spill gates because subyearlings are migrating deeper for temperature reasons. Vertical distribution information gleaned in a performance evaluation of subyearling passage could be used to address this question. This could be discussed at the next FFDRWG or SRWG meeting. Scores today were:

- Idaho – 5
- Idaho – 5
- NOAA – 5
- Umatilla – 4
- BPA – 4 (until the study design is available)
- COE – 4

#35. Inland avian predation management plan, \$625,000 – With co-funding from the BOR, the estimated cost of this plan will probably go up to \$1.2 million to cover two years of post-implementation monitoring. Scores today were:

- Idaho – 3

#38. Turbine PIT tag detection feasibility study (placeholder), \$100,000 – Once a tag is fully developed, PIT detection through turbines could provide important survival information on juvenile lamprey passage. Previous scores range from 5 (Oregon) to 1 (BPA and the COE). BPA is reluctant to remove fish screens after hearing strong resistance to the idea, Julie Doumbia said, although that could change. More information is needed on the latent effects of turbine passage on fish, Gary Fredricks said. The only new score today was:

- Idaho – 5

#41. System feasibility study of cooling adult ladders, \$250,000 – The title of this placeholder has been modified since the last SCT meeting. After reviewing existing data, the COE will consider installing forebay temperature string monitors at the Lower Columbia dams. Derek

Fryer will send the white paper on cooling the Little Goose ladder to SCT members. Scores for this item today were:

- NOAA – 5
- Umatilla – 5
- COE – Defer
- Idaho – 5 (doesn't expect to find much potential for accessing cooler depths)
- BPA – 4

#43. The Dalles sluiceway PIT tag detection feasibility, \$100,000 – Information from a sluiceway PIT system at The Dalles will increase juvenile detections in the McNary to Bonneville reach. Scores today were:

- Idaho – 5

3. Upcoming Meetings

- November 16 – FFDRWG meeting in Walla Walla
- November 17 – SCT meeting in Walla Walla
- November 29-30 – Annual AFEP review in Portland

Derek Fryer encouraged the fish managers to read a report sent out recently that covers assumptions about detection of dead fish below Ice Harbor, and how a new juvenile survival performance evaluation model could reduce the number of fish needed to do these performance studies. This report will be discussed at the AFEP review.

6. Next SCT Meeting

SCT will next meet at the COE office in Walla Walla on November 17, following the Walla Walla FFDRWG meeting on November 16. These notes prepared by technical writer Pat Vivian.

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