

Columbia River Regional Forum
SYSTEM CONFIGURATION TEAM
July 20, 2017
Meeting Notes

1. Introduction

Representatives of NOAA, NPCC, the COE, BPA, Idaho, Umatilla, Warm Springs and others participated in today's SCT meeting chaired by Bill Hevlin, NOAA. The June 15 meeting notes were distributed and will be finalized at the next SCT meeting.

The main focus of today's discussion was to comb through the FY 2018 CRFM spreadsheet line item by line item and begin scoring where people are ready.

2. Previous Information Requests at June SCT Meeting

The agenda for today's meeting listed four questions culled from the June meeting notes to be addressed today (the projects are numbered according to today's spreadsheet listing). These questions were addressed in the discussion captured in section 3 of these notes.

1. What does the \$2.5 million cover for #15. MCN TSW leaf closure?
2. What's the status of the COE contract for RSW maintenance re: #26. Surface passage modifications at Lower Granite?
3. What are the options for adult ladder cooling at LMN and ICR re: #31. Snake River adult sockeye passage initiatives?
4. Update on development of a paper justifying improvements to the trap diversion gate at LGR.

3. Review FY 2018 CRFM Project List and Begin Scoring

Ian Chane distributed two versions of the spreadsheet, vertical and horizontal, but the order of projects was identical because SCT has not yet ranked any FY18 projects.

3a. What needs to be included in the FY18 budget? Ian Chane, COE, went over additions to the spreadsheet since SCT last met. Most of these items will require FY18 funding, thereby depleting funds available for projects already on the spreadsheet. It was noted several times today that demands on the FY18 budget can be expected to increase.

Lines #37-41 on the spreadsheet were shifted to FY18 from FY17 because they won't get completed. These placeholders all currently have zero dollars allocated for FY18:

- #37. Smolt Susceptibility to Avian Predation Post-Bonneville
- #38. Evaluate Turbine Blade Blocking Alternatives

- #39. The Dalles Sluiceway PIT Tag Detection Feasibility
- #40. Sheepy Island Reconstruction
- #41. Spillway and Turbine PIT Tag Detection Feasibility Study

In addition, two new items were added to the FY18 spreadsheet since SCT last met:

- #42. Adult/Juvenile Spill to Gas Cap Studies, \$0 – This has no cost estimate because the scope is being refined. It will ultimately be combined with lines #8. Adult Salmon Migration Studies, and #36. FCRPS Court Ordered Spill Evaluations, \$5.9 million because they are all interrelated.
- #6. John Day Adult PIT Detection, \$0 – This closeout work is not included in the President’s budget for 2018, but SCT members agreed it should be designated as mandatory.

3b. Review and ranking of individual FY18 line items. It was noted that many items on the FY18 spreadsheet are mandatory. SCT focused on items that those to be prioritized, ranking the ones people were ready to rank, knowing they could change their scores later:

#4. Avian Predation – Cormorant Management, \$6.63 million – This extends the cormorant EIS implementation, with much of the funds going toward terrain modification of East Sand Island and continued monitoring. Scores were:

- NOAA – 5
- CRITFC/Umatilla – 5
- COE – 5
- BPA – 4
- Idaho – 3
- Warm Springs – Defer

#7. The Dalles Adult Fishways, \$3 million – SCT agreed this item is mandatory.

#8. Adult Salmon Migration Studies (placeholder), \$200,000 – This will actually cost more, and will ultimately be combined with lines #36, Court Ordered Spill Evaluations, and #42. Adult/Juvenile Spill to Gas Cap Studies, as noted earlier. SRWG will review the studies soon and the COE will refine the scope.

#9. Lower River BiOp Performance Testing, \$1.6 million – This covers ongoing PIT trawl work. Scores were:

- NOAA – 5
- BPA – 5
- Idaho – 4
- COE – 5
- Umatilla – 4

- Warm Springs – Defer

#10. Avian Island PIT Detection, \$200,000 – The value of this item was questioned but has been affirmed by the SRWG study group. It's considered mandatory because it supports the EIS management plan. Scores were:

- NOAA – 5
- COE – 4
- BPA – 4
- Umatilla – 4
- Idaho – 4

#11. Turbine Survival Program, \$250,000 – This closeout work is considered mandatory. FY18 is the last year it will be funded by CRFM. In subsequent years it will shift to another funding source, with more discussion to come on that. SCT agreed to defer voting until more is known about what the TSP includes, with follow up at the September SCT meeting.

#12. BON/TDA/JDA Forebay Temperature Monitoring, \$0 – This is not included in the FY18 President's budget. It looks like the equipment can't be deployed until August, which FPOM decided is too late to be of value this year. So SCT decided to defer ranking this until there's more clarity on what the monitoring capability will be in FY18.

#14. MCN Bird Cannon Deficiency Correction, \$750, 00 – The design for this still needs development. Scores for now were:

- NOAA – 4
- Umatilla – 3 – until the design is available
- Idaho – 3
- COE – 4
- BPA – 4 – This could be considered a mandatory repair

#15. McNary TSW Leaf Closure, \$2.5 million – At the last meeting there was a question about what this item covers. The district has work plans that will be sent out soon, Derek Fryer reported. The estimate has been internally reviewed but might be low. A new leaf closure is needed to make the emergency gates available in an emergency. There are no direct fish benefits from this, but it compensates for the fact that RSW installation made the leaf closure incapable of performing its intended function. Scores for this item were:

- NOAA – 4
- BPA – 5
- Umatilla – 3 (because it could be postponed)
- COE – 4
- Idaho – 3

#16. Ice Harbor Turbine Passage Survival, \$215,000 – This covers closeout costs in FY18. SCT agreed it is mandatory.

#17. Lower Monumental Outfall Primary Bypass Pipe, \$500,000 – Because this item addresses a design deficiency, there was agreement it is mandatory. The estimate might change.

#19. Little Goose Adult Ladder Temperature Mitigation, \$700,000 – The contract has already been awarded. Because the funds are for post-construction evaluation, SCT agreed the work is mandatory – but the method of doing it remains to be decided. If funding gets tight in FY18, post-construction evaluation might be accomplished as part of the Little Goose adult PIT tagging effort (the cheaper option, preferred by BPA), or as an adult radio telemetry study in FY18. SRWG needs to address this at its August 30-31 meeting, which means a decision won't be made until September. Monitoring equipment would need to be installed in October/November before the ladder is dewatered for winter. There was general consensus an evaluation is needed, but because the method hasn't been determined yet, SCT deferred scoring this item.

#20. LGS Spillway Weir, \$150,000 – This item is mandatory.

#21. LGR Spillway PIT Detection, \$250,000; and

#22. LGR Spillway PIT Post Construction Monitoring, \$650,000 – Items #21 and #22 are both mandatory. Trevor Conder wondered how a post-construction evaluation of the LGR spillway PIT installation can be funded in 2018 if it's not installed until 2019. The COE is trying to get post-construction contracts awarded in the same year because there might not be much funding available after 2018, Chane replied. To include all construction costs, the estimate on line 21 will have to increase by about \$5.6 million. There was agreement not to score these two items until the next SCT meeting, when the shift from FY17 to FY18 funds will be reviewed in more detail.

#26. Lower Granite Surface Passage Modifications, \$2 million – At the last SCT meeting, a question arose about the status of the COE contract for RSW maintenance. Since then, the COE has learned that the estimate for a 30% design review of plans for storing the RSW will probably need to be revised. Scott Bettin debated the wisdom of spending \$2 million on review of a design that might not materialize because saving the RSW could cost \$5-6 million and repainting another \$10 million. The COE is planning to award the 30% design review contract in order to gain an understanding of what correcting this problem might involve, Derek Fryer said. More discussion will occur at FFDRWG. SCT decided to wait for more clarity to score this.

#28. Lower Granite Performance Verification Monitoring, \$150,000 – This estimate for oversight of the Lower Granite survival study and post construction evaluation will probably go up by a couple million dollars. If the study is funded, it will be with FY17 dollars, and the \$150,000 budgeted for FY18 would cover only closeout costs plus the deferred costs for tagging. Because this is for contract closeout and tag purchases, the COE can afford to wait for SCT's ranking until fall. Not so with other budgetary and contracting concerns. So SCT scheduled a conference call on September 7 at 1 pm shortly after SRWG weighs in.

#29. Lower Monumental and Lower Granite SOG vs. PROG, \$1.6 million – The estimate will change significantly to cover oversight and closeout costs of the Lower Monumental study. SCT deferred scoring this until September.

#31. Snake River Adult Passage Initiatives, \$800,000 – This covers development of Snake River temperature models to assess alternative operations at Granite and Goose. It also includes investigating methods to reduce maximum temperature differentials. Scores today were:

- NOAA – 5
- Umatilla – 5
- BPA – 4
- Idaho – 5
- COE – 5 (might change)

#34. Snake River Fall Chinook System Survival Study, \$100,000 – This covers closeout work of summarizing the various reports. There was agreement this work is mandatory.

#35. FCRPS Program Coordination and COP Updates, \$910,000 – This covers oversight expenses in the COE Walla Walla office.

#36. FCRPS Court Ordered Spill Evaluation, \$5.9 million – This effort will include model development at ERDC and construction of a physical model for JDA, in addition to biological studies. As noted earlier, it will be combined with lines #42. Adult/Juvenile Spill to Gas Cap Studies and #8. Adult Salmon Migration Studies. Scores for #36 were:

- NOAA – 5
- BPA – 5 – The cost is probably underestimated
- COE – 5 – Being court-ordered makes it mandatory
- Idaho – 5

#37. Smolt Susceptibility to Avian Predation, \$0 – This is a study placeholder. The study was ranked in SRWG, and the rankings were: BPA – 4, Umatilla – 4, Idaho – 5, NOAA – 5, Nez Perce – 5, COE – 2, and the rest all 5's. The COE gave it a low rank because it covers avian predation monitoring tasks that are beyond those called for in the EIS. SCT agreed to defer scoring for now.

#38. Alternatives for Turbine Blade Blocking, \$0 – SCT scores were:

- NOAA – 5 – a safe design is needed because more turbines will break in the future
- BPA – 5
- Idaho – 4
- BPA – 5
- COE – Defer
- Umatilla – Defer
- Warm Springs – Defer

#39. The Dalles Sluiceway PIT Detection Feasibility, \$0 – As noted earlier, this is related to lines #8 and #42. Scores for #39 were:

- NOAA – 4
- BPA – 1
- Idaho – 5
- COE – Defer
- Umatilla – Defer
- Warm Springs – Defer

#40. Sheepy Island Reconstruction, \$0 – This item is mandatory. Partly funded in FY17, it will required FY18 funds for SAEDC. The floating island (now coming apart) was constructed as mitigation for Caspian tern habitat that has been depleted by avian predation work in the estuary.

#41. Spillway and Turbine PIT Tag Detection Feasibility (placeholder), \$0 – Scores were:

- BPA – 1 – There might not be adequate funding to finish the work, and too few fish pass through the turbines to yield meaningful results.
- NOAA – 4 – It’s important to keep working on this because preliminary results of turbine detection show that survival is good in terms of SARs and adult returns.
- COE – Defer
- Idaho – 5

#42. Adult/Juvenile Spill to Gas Cap Studies, \$0 – As discussed earlier, this will ultimately be combined with lines #36 and #8.

#43. BON Sluiceway PIT Tag Detector – This is a new line item since the last meeting. Scores were:

- NOAA – 5
- BPA – 5
- Idaho – 5
- COE – Defer
- Umatilla – Defer
- Warm Springs – Defer

3c. Work plan one-pagers. Sean Tackley showed SCT members a template that he distributed to help project managers develop one-pagers explaining the history and current status of the projects SCT is prioritizing. The one-page summaries will include visual references such as photos and drawings. They could be attached to the spreadsheet electronically or distributed in binders.

4. ERDC Physical Hydraulic Modeling Schedules for Spill Pattern Work

SCT discussed the upcoming schedule of modeling trips to the ERDC lab in Mississippi to study court-ordered spill changes. Bonneville modeling is happening this week, followed by Little Goose modeling July 30-August 4. Lower Monumental modeling has been rescheduled for the week of September 18-22, the same week as McNary.

5. FFDRWG and SRWG Updates and Meeting Dates

- **August 3** – Portland FFDRWG (might be rescheduled due to Little Goose modeling trip)
- **August 24** – Walla Walla FFDRWG
- **August 30-31** – SRWG in Walla Walla
- **September 7** – FFDRWG in the morning, followed by SCT conference call at 1 pm

6. Next SCT Meeting

There was agreement to cancel the August SCT meeting because of summer vacations and the eclipse, but waiting until September 21 for the next scheduled meeting could be too late for SCT's scores to inform contracting decisions the COE needs to make after SRWG meets at the end of August. So SCT agreed to meet in the afternoon on September 7, at 1 pm to 4 pm, in the 1st floor conference room, downstairs from the Mt. St. Helens room. SCT will decide at that meeting whether the September 21 meeting is still needed.

These notes prepared by technical writer Pat Vivian.

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