

Columbia River Regional Forum
System Configuration Team Meeting
September 20, 2018
Final Notes

1. Introduction

Representatives of NOAA, Corps, OR, ID, BPA, USFWS, PPC and others participated in today's SCT meeting chaired by Blane Bellerud, NOAA, and facilitated by Ian Chane, COE. See the last page of these minutes for a list of attendees at today's meeting. Today's meeting covered the FY18 and FY19 budgets, focusing on items in FY19 that have or will experience changes in capability.

2. FY 18 Update:

Ian Chane, COE, reported that all funds have been fully obligated to CRFM. Chane is working to secure additional funding for the Lower Granite juvenile fish facility. He noted that some contracts are still outstanding and if they do not go through, there will still be money that will need to be obligated. He will share the FY18 sheet with SCT at the October meeting.

Scott Bettin, BPA, asked for the total for **The Dalles AWS project**. Chane, said he would work on getting that.

- Ian Chane, COE, will provide SCT with a total cost-to-date for The Dalles AWS project.
- Ian Chane, COE, will provide SCT with a total cost-to-date for Lower Granite.

Chane also fielded questions about the **McNary hoist project**. Chane said it was his understanding they were waiting for another project to go through first but said he would update SCT members at the next meeting.

Tom Lorz, Umatilla/CRTIFC, talked about possible solutions to keeping the orifice gates at Bonneville dam Power house II clean. The orifice jets have experienced a change in diameter due to improvement work. Due to this, the jets no longer stay clean and there is some concern that fish will come into contact with the sides of the jets. The impact of this is unknown. A full study was completed on how to clean the jets and it was concluded substantive, multi-million dollar work would be necessary. This is not justifiable, said Lorz. However, there may be another solution: improving the air burst system. Lorz asked the Corps to look into this. It may be an O&M issue and thus there may be a funding issue. If that is the case, CRFM funding may be necessary. Lorz said the next step would be to discuss at FFDRWG.

Chane also noted that the Corps would be carrying over 750k for **lamprey** from FY18 to FY19.

3. FY 19 Update:

During the FY19 Update, given by Ian Chane, items with increasing needs were highlighted.

Currently, there is a \$46 million Presidential Budget (pbud), which may not be adequate. This includes \$19.8 million for Willamette projects. Lamprey funds for FY19 were dropped to 0 due to a rollover from FY18, freeing up \$750k for FY19, to be reallocated. However, with the fish accords in negotiation, there will be additional items that will need to be funded.

Line Item Updates from the FY19 Ranking Spreadsheet, distributed by COE and available _____:

Line 3 Estuary Habitat Studies – Need increased from \$625k → \$875k. There may be an additional need. Chane will provide an update at the next meeting.

Line 4 Avian Predation Cormorant Management and Monitoring – Project is in closeout. Without a contract issued this year, need has been shifted to FY19. Work will be done in fall of 2018 and the project is still on schedule. Bidding for the project opened yesterday (September 19) and the Corps should have a better idea of need once bids come in. Chane expects the number will go up significantly.

Line 11 John Day Mitigation – More to come.

Line 7 The Dalles East Fish Ladder Emergency Auxiliary Water Supply – Need was adjusted to \$750k, however, Chane is not convinced that is enough. The Corps is waiting to hear back from a contractor about a modification. This will affect the budget

Line 9 Avian Island PIT Detection – The agencies have decided to move forward with this in FY19. The need for the project may go up.

Line 12 Reservoir Temperature Monitoring at Lower Columbia River Dams – Chane does not anticipate an increasing need. The project estimate includes funds for deployment of equipment and then a letter report at end of the monitoring period.

Line 13 FCRPS CRFM Program Management (NWP) – This is one item that has been reduced over time. The reduction is due to more accurate billing of Corps employees to CRFM projects. Each employee is asked to bill to the project s/he is working on, which spreads the costs to the projects.

Line 14 McNary Avian Water Cannon Deficiency Correction and Avian Wire Design Feasibility Report – No update.

Line 15 McNary Top Spill Weir (TSW) Permanence – This project must be completed before the McNary overshoot study can be started. The TSW Permanence project is on track and moving forward.

- Action item: Chane will update SCT on the schedule for the McNary permanence project and provide SCT with information on when it should be in service?

Line 16 Ice Harbor Turbine Passage Survival Program – Steve Junkie reported some delays. The project is working on a commission schedule with equipment installation tentatively scheduled for the week of October 17 or the week of October 24.

Line 17 Lower Monumental Outfall Primary Bypass Pipe Expansion Joint Deficiency Correction – No report.

Line 19 Little Goose Adult Ladder Temperature Mitigation – No update.

Line 21 Lower Granite Spillway PIT Detection – This number will be revised. There were problems with design/constructability and concern about reader location and the thickness of the concrete over the readers. The concrete over the top of the reader may be too thin.

Line 22 Lower Granite Spillway PIT Tag Detection, Post Construction Monitoring – Funds will be awarded in 18, meanwhile the project will be executed in 19. Tom Lorz, Umatilla/CRTIFC, requested better coordination between Umatilla and the Corps on this project.

Line 23 Lower Granite Juvenile Bypass Facility - Phase 1a (Gatewell to Separator), Phase 1b (Outfall) and Follow-On – Additional funding will be required. There will be an update at the October meeting.

Line 28 Lower Granite Juvenile Passage Performance Verification Monitoring – This is a mandatory item currently in closeout.

Line 30 Snake River Intake Gate Closure – This is a mandatory item currently in closeout.

Line 31 Snake River Adult Sockeye Passage Initiatives – No increasing need expected.

Line 32 Inland Avian Predation – This project is in its final year and FY19 funding covers final report close out.

Line 33 Columbia River System Operations (CRSO) – this will likely expand but provide some funding back.

Line 42 – FCRPS Spill to Gas Cap - Hydro surveys / physical model / Adult and Juvenile Studies – Work on this project is wrapping up. The number has dropped because the studies will not be completed. The 700k in the budget covers close out, hydro surveys, and the final wrap up of the calibration of the John Day model. Some of the budget for FY19 was shifted to FY18. The number could go down.

Line 43 Bonneville Powerhouse 2 Fish Guidance Efficiency:

Chane updated SCT on the B2fge project sharing that the Corps will look at prototyping unit 15. After modifications, it will work on a concrete fix and testing. The project is estimated to cost several million dollars, though final estimates are not in place. Funding has not been secured for the project and may require some juggling. Chane hopes to have the refined cost estimate to supply at the next SCT meeting. The budget for this project is woefully inadequate.

Line 44 Bonneville Powerhouse 2 Floating Orifice Gates/Bulkheads – At this point, the project is fully funded and the Corps is working to get a project in place this year. The \$250k in the budget may be too much, said Chane.

Line 45 Caspian Tern Management Plan (Avian Predation Monitoring) – Since this project wrapped up in FY18, there will be no additional need in FY19.

Line 49 Bonneville PIT Detection – A new project manager is coming on board and at that point there will be an update.

Line 50 Little Goose Adult Ladder PIT Feasibility – Initial findings are in from the report and _____ is waiting for the final results. SCT will wait to rank this project until the results have been distributed.

Line 51 McNary Steelhead Overshoot – This project cannot be completed until line 15 is completed. However, it is still on track with its schedule.

4. Other items:

An additional item was discussed amount SCT members about a pit detection study at Lower Granite. Members wondered when forebays get so warm that it makes more sense to switch from surface weir usage to traditional spill for subyearling passage. Russ Kiefer, ID, asked for a hydro study at Lower Granite and Little Goose to compare subyearling size. This will be added as item #52 to the ranking spreadsheet.

5. Future Agenda Items:

Blane Bellerud, NOAA, asked SCT members to think about if they would like a charter and report back at the next SCT meeting.

Today's Attendees:

Scott Bettin, BPA

Ian Chane, COE

Brad Eppard, COE

Leslie Bach, NPCC

Blane Bellerud, NOAA

Tom Lorz, CRTIFC

Leah Sullivan, BPA

Phone:

Russ Kiefer, ID

Erick Van Dyke, OR

Shane Scott, PPC

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Steve Junkie, COE Walla Walla

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