

**Columbia River Regional Forum
System Configuration Team Meeting
January 17, 2019
DRAFT**

****Comments due by March XX, 2019**

1. Introduction

Representatives of Corps, OR, ID, WA, BPA, NPCC, Umatilla/CRTIFC, and others participated in today's SCT meeting facilitated by Ian Chane, COE. See the last page of these minutes for a list of attendees at today's meeting.

Much of today's meeting centered around impacts of the federal shutdown, which started on December 22 and is still occurring. There is some concern over the potential impact of the shutdown to projects. As of the time of these notes (post-the SCT meeting), the government has re-opened. There is concern it will close again, but for now, all federal agencies are operating as normal.

2. FY 19 Update:

FY19 projects have been minimally impacted since the last SCT meeting. Two changes to note are:

Line 3 Estuary Habitat Studies – As promised, Chane provided an update on Line 14. As expected, the project increased in need. At the last SCT, this item took a hit so that other projects could be funded. Chane worked with the project manager to see what could be done on a reduced budget. As a result, the need increased from \$600k to \$760k. This should fund work that was planned for this year.

Line 11 John Day Mitigation – This project decreased in need from \$436k to \$413k. SCT members voiced concern about how contracts will be issued and permits issued if the government continues to stay shut down. Chane said meetings will not be cancelled but some things may get delayed.

Charles Morrill, WA, asked to speak about **Line 14, McNary Avian Water Cannon Deficiency Correction and Avian Wire Design Feasibility Report**. So far the response to purchase laser green lights has been good. Testing should begin soon. Margie McGill reported that her team is looking at solutions that are out-of-the-box since what is there right now is not working. Other solutions may be more cost effective than continuing to replace failing equipment. The project has been held up due to funding issues. Once the Corps puts the replacement in, it is up to the dam to maintain it. The dam has the money lined up finally and should be able to award the

contract next week. This means things will NOT be taken down until the work window begins. Discussion about the project and proposed solutions will occur at FFDRWG.

Line 23 Lower Granite Juvenile Bypass Facility - Phase 1a (Gatewell to Separator), Phase 1b (Outfall) and Follow-On

Margie McGill, Corps, reported that the goal this year is to get contracts closed that are currently open. Whatever does not get completed this year will be brought to SCT again for ranking at which point, Margie is hoping to get a closeout contract.

There have been some issues with the drawings, which will not be complete until work begins. Margie advocated for an out-year budget on this project.

Line 7 The Dalles East Fish Ladder Emergency Auxiliary Water Supply: Ian Chane reported that the project manager said the team completed all modifications and he does not anticipate any more. The remaining funding is to close out contract this year. There may be some minor follow-up work with another contractor, for instance the sprinkler was damaged when the line was put in. Overall the project is going well and the contractor is on track with all of his obligations.

Additionally, testing went well. There is no issue so far with combined use of the fish unit and AWS.

The total cost-to-date for this project is \$40,755,593.

3. Flex Spill Operation – follow up discussion

The Flex Spill agreement has been signed by various parties (Nez Perce Tribe, Corps, State of Oregon, State of Washington, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, and BPA) and will be implemented this spring and in the following few years.

Ian confirmed that there is no CRFM money programmed for monitoring this year. The Corps will use the infrastructure that is in place and will focus on a pit tag-type analysis.

Tom Lorz, Umatilla/CRTIFC, mentioned that without a permit fish can NOT be pit tagged. With pit-tagging season starting soon, that would need to be resolved quickly.

4. Other

Ian shared that the spillway pit at Lower Granite is going well. The team is out drilling holes and should have the design complete soon. Margie noted that the design is not 100% complete but nothing has been brought to her attention as a risk to the project.

Regarding the Bonneville Pit tag project, there is a project coordinator in place. The next step is to assign a technical lead. It has been a slow start and it is unclear how furlough will impact this.

4. Future Agenda Items:

The President's budget should be released by the next meeting. Because of this or other furlough-related issues, SCT may want to meet earlier than its next scheduled meeting (2/21).

Today's Attendees:

Brad Eppard, COE

Ian Chane, COE

Leslie Bach, NPCC

Scott Bettin, BPA

Sean Tackley, COE

Tom Lorz, Umatilla/CRTIFC

Phone:

Charles Morrill, WA

Derek Fryer, Walla Walla

Erick Van Dyke, OR

Margie McGill, Corps

Melissa Haskin, BPA

Russ Kiefer, ID

Shane Scott, PPC

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