

**Columbia River Regional Forum  
System Configuration Team Meeting  
March 21, 2019  
DRAFT**

**\*\*Comments due by June 1, 2019**

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

## **1. Approval of Official Minutes**

Minutes for December and January will be approved by Friday. All edits should be sent to Blane by Friday so NOAA can finalize and distribute them.

## **2. FY 19 Update:**

Margie McGill, Corps, provided an update for FY19 projects. Lately there has been a push to get CRSO done faster and cheaper, which will increase the number this year but decrease the overall project budget in the long-term. Past budgets have had CSRO going into 2021 and 2022, now the Corps is trying to get all that work done by the end of 2020.

**Line 15 – McNary Top Spill Weir (TSW) Permanence** – Because of CRSO, Line 15 is being deferred and its funds are being reallocated to CRSO. Some of the funds have already been spent and cannot be recovered, which is why there is still a small budget for this item in the FY19 budget. Line 15 is also talked about often in relation to **Line 51, the McNary Steelhead Overshoot**. McGill noted that while 15 is being defunded, the Corps has found a way to move forward with Line 51 (see update below). No members expressed concern about deferring this project.

**Line 43 – Bonneville Powerhouse 2 Fish Guidance Efficiency** – This item has also been deferred to create money for CRSO. Scott Bettin, BPA, asked if the entire project would be deferred and if that means the turbines will be out of service next year as well. Margie said she was not sure and not familiar enough with the project to know what would be done this year and what would be done next year. Trevor Conder, NOAA, mentioned that this year the plan is to do the single unit modification with the study. The remaining funding should cover that, he said. The rest of the budget was shifted to 2020, which means that if the fix works then there will be money to make modifications in 2020. Scott Bettin, BPA, commented that he is worried there will not be funds in 2020 for this project.

### **Line 22 – Lower Granite Spillway PIT Tag Detection - Post Construction**

**Monitoring** – Post-construction has been deferred until 2021. The 30k left in the 2019 budget for this project is money that was already spent as the COE has moved to award the contract. These funds have already been spent and cannot be recovered.

### **3. FY 20 Initial Budget Review (President's Budget)**

Margie said that discussion on the FY20 budget would be delayed until the next SCT meeting. She said the Corps has been given the President's budget and is working hard to create what the capability is in FY20. The COE is asking SCT to help identify important projects so that the COE can address capability correctly.

Not a lot that can be ranked. A lot of the projects are mandatory. However, the COE is looking for group to help with the items that can be ranked.

Blane wondered what would happen to the President's budget if there are continuing resolutions but no passed budget. Margie said the COE will be held to the President's budget. She is hoping that a budget is passed and that there are capability changes.

### **4. McNary Overshoot**

Margie reported on the McNary Overshoot Project, Line 51. The COE has been able to come up with some money to start the project this year. They would like to begin in fall. Their hope is that funding from FY20 could cover spring operations.

The current plan is to leave the existing equipment in place, which will cut down on cost, especially start-up costs.

Some of the start-up cost includes putting the hydrophones in place, which could possibly be left in place over winter as long as damage will not occur.

Trevor Conder, NOAA, said that he recently received information that spring operations would be decided at a policy level. He asked if the information being shared today was the most updated. The answer is that it will be a Margie/Ian Chane/Derek Fryer task to try to figure out how to get spring funded. The COE is hoping if they leave the equipment in place it will be easier to fund the spring portion.

Trevor noted that it is likely that spring monitoring is more important than fall monitoring. Scott agreed that the priority would be spring over fall, though doing both would be the most favorable option. Blane commented that he does not think the spring is more important.

Data shows there is a big movement in fall so both are important, he says. Charles Morrill, WA, said that the fall is also an opportunity to learn and address anything that would need to be adapted for during the spring study. Derek says he has a proposal that he is almost ready to send SRWG. His proposal would allow for adaptive management so that the Corps could apply what it learns in fall to the spring. He will send it out this week. He said members should pay specific attention to the block designs when reviewing it because that will be important during the technical discussion.

The Corps and NOAA agree that the best path forward is to get the equipment in and get the project going, which will hopefully make it easier to keep the project going. The first priority would be to find funding in FY19 but the fallback is to find funding in FY20.

Leah Sullivan, BPA, wondered how much funding would be needed for spring. So far, there is \$375k allotted in FY19 and \$50k in FY20. Blane said he does not know the exact internal labor costs but the study alone would require \$90k more (this figure included analysis but not labor).

## **5. Project Updates**

### ***5a. East Sand Island Terrain Modification***

This project is complete. The contractor should be demobilized from the site today.

Scott asked when the next dredging cycle is. Derek and Margie reported that there was dredging last year to address an erosion hot spot but that no addition dredging is currently planned. That said, the did mention that there is some scholling in the Chinook channel. This could possibly mean more dredging at East Sand Island.

### ***5b. The Dalles AWS***

There has been an issue with metric bolts being jammed on standard nuts. However, this was a fairly simple fix and the AWS should be back up and running today. This is different information than what was presented at the last FPOM but Margie and Derek believe they have the correct, updated information.

Scott asked if the Corps was done funding contractor. Margie reported that last she had heard, Ian was expecting that the costs would increase, however she does not think that is the case anymore.

Scott asked for breaker updates, Margie did not have any.

### ***5c. Lower Granite Juvenile Facility***

This work is ongoing and the COE is completing as much work as possible with the contractor on-site. Right now, the Corps is putting together list of needs such as safety needs and design deficiencies for a completion contract that would be budgeted in out years. There will be some minor closeout work next fiscal year.

The Corps has not obligated the entire \$3 million set aside for this year. However, it is still negotiating on-site stabilization so the final cost will depend on that. Margie thinks this is somewhere near \$103 million.

### ***5d. Lower Granite Spillway PIT***

The Corps has shifted construction out a year due to design issues with the contractor where the contractor had to burn through a lot of labor right off the bat. Extending the contract by a year has allowed the contractor to lay conduit during the work window and get in excellent shape for the next construction window, which will be next season. The final design for the Spillway PIT should be submitted April 15. After that, it should take about a month to resolve any comments and concerns. Work should begin mid-May.

The May work window should allow for adequate testing time. However, it is weather-dependent. The Corps is hoping it will be able to test the antenna in both dry and wet weather. It noted that this is one test that should not be rushed. The Corps will not know if the antennas work until testing starts.

Scott Bettin, BPA, noted that this project is a priority for BPA. It is not a project that should be pushed, he said.

Tom Lorz, Umatilla/CRTIFC, asked how the Corps plans to test antenna efficiency. Margie says she keeps bringing it up. Typically, the Corps completes a post-construction analysis and study. However, the funding for that portion has been pushed out. Margie said she will keep advocating for testing and for that cost to be added back into funding. WA agreed that it is important to test.

As it stands right now, the antenna will be installed but not tested.

Trevor Condor, NOAA, stressed that it is not good to get in cycle of building something and then not checking to see if fish are harmed.

Derek Fryer, Corps, noted that the Corps has a 1-pager out with all of the options for testing efficiency, including balloon tagging. Another option would be running a study for pit-tags over the RSW versus the bypass and looking at survival at downstream sites. The 1-pager lists all of these options, though some are ranked low, like the balloon testing. Leaving all of the options in will allow for technical discussion. Some members agreed that both sensors and balloon tags were unreasonable and could be removed to pare down the cost, however Derek mentioned they are just safety placeholders. Comments on the 1-pager are due March 29.

### ***5e. Little goose***

Margie reminded members that the Corps is trying to put in a permanent power supply for the water system. The Corps awarded a contract last year and then cancelled that contract because the contractor was not able to do the work. Tom mentioned that maybe in the future the Corps should look at overall value instead of accepting the lowest contract. Margie noted that the contract was part of the small business mandate passed down by congress. Once congress delegates how that money has to be spent, the Corps gets no say in if they can use a small business contractor or not.

The Corps did secure a new contract. The bid came in significantly higher, pushing up the need. The need increased from \$165k to \$465k. The Corps is trying to scrape money together because this is a critical project. It is important that the cooling system at Little Goose works during summer.

Scott asked if there are any functioning pumps to attach live wire to. Margie said it is her understanding that the pumps will work this year even though the both failed last year.

### **6. Future Agenda Items:**

FY20 will be at the front and center of next month's SCT meeting, which will occur on April 18.

***Today's Attendees:***

Scott Bettin, BPA

Tom Lorz, Umatilla/CRTIFC

Jake Macdonald, Corps

Blane Bellerud, NOAA

Leah Sullivan, BPA

Christine Petersen

Melissa Haskin, BPA (CONTR)

Trevor Conder, NOAA

**Phone:**

Charles Morrill, WA

Derek Fryer, Walla Walla

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