

**Columbia River Regional Forum
System Configuration Team Meeting
July 1, 2021
Official Notes**

Representatives of Corps, OR, WA, BPA, NOAA, and others participated in today's SCT meeting facilitated by Blane Bellerud, NOAA. Draft and final SCT notes are available on the COE's TMT website under the FPOM link. For copies of documents discussed in the meeting, contact kathy.ceballos@noaa.gov. See the last page of these minutes for a list of attendees at today's meeting. Today's meeting mostly covered the 2022 President's budget.

1. 2022 President's Budget

Ida Royer, Corps, took the SCT through the FY22 budget. As noted at the last meeting, this budget came in substantially lower than the Corps' FY22 capability. She started by taking the SCT through each line item and describing each item. SCT members asked questions and added comments, including:

- Line 5 The Dalles East Fish Ladder Emergency Auxiliary Water Supply: Tom Lorz, Umatilla/CRITFC commented that John sent out a report this morning that folks might want to read.
- Line 15-16 Bonneville Powerhouse 2 Fish Guidance Efficiency/Bonneville PIT Detection**: Line 15 is mandatory but has no funds allocated. Ida clarified that the Corps is planning to fund all of the contracts in FY21. Funding next year will be for oversight of work. Work will start next winter. Tom noted that to get funding for this project, the only project that the funding could come from is the Pit Trawl. He asked if the Corps was planning to take funding from that. Ida said it is possible.
- While discussing Line 15-16, Tom Iverson had a question about funding. He wondered if some of the funding would be for Corps employees to oversee CRFM projects. Ida replied that was correct. Any Corps labor to help the contractor uses the project's funding. This is separate than O&M funding. Moving O&M funding to a CG project would be a violation of fiscal law. Thus, project funding covers everything that is needed to execute the project, from contract administration to any meetings the Corps needs to attend to share information with a contractor.
- Line 17 BON Serpentine Weir Modifications – This item is new and the Corps is still refining the cost estimate.
- Tom Lorz wondered about the Lamprey project. The FY22 money is for design efforts. If the project does not get additional funding, the group will have to decide to move forward with other funding or pick a less expensive modification. Construction is scheduled for 2024-2025. Tom mentioned he is concerned that the money will be spent to design this and then the project may never receive additional funding and then may never be built (meaning the

funding spent on design could have been spent on something else). He commented that the tribes would have a problem with this.

- Line 25 Columbia River System Operations (CRSO) EIS is in closeout. The comments mention additional funding may be needed for litigation. If that is the case, the funding will be found elsewhere and the project will not move out of closeout at SCT.

There was additional discussion on how rankings should occur today. Three options were thrown out:

1. Pretend funding is unlimited
2. Use what is currently in the budget
3. Assume the budget will be slightly higher than what it currently is

The group decided it was not ready to score today, especially due to the absence of representatives. Some reps had to drop off the call and some were absent. In the meantime, members should contact Ida with any items they believe are missing from the sheet. Ida mentioned people should score based on 1: score as if we have the funding.

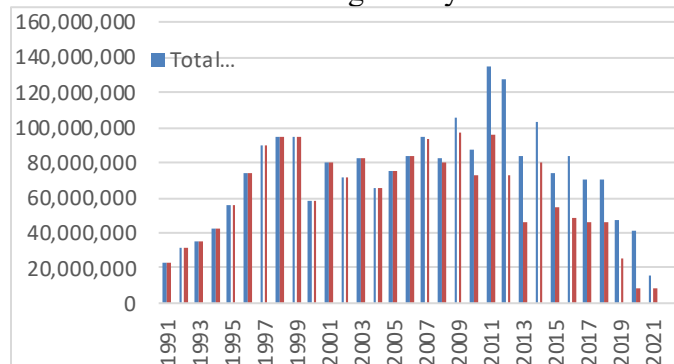
2. Budget Discussion

Ida shared a presentation on the budget process. Here is an excerpt:

The annual appropriations process generally involves three major milestones: President’s budget request, congressional deliberation and enactment of appropriations, and Administration development of a USACE work plan. **The process begins with the release of the President’s budget request, typically in early February** (i.e., roughly eight months before the start of the fiscal year addressed by the request), although it is sometimes delayed. **Congress may consider the President’s budget request**, stakeholder interests, and other factors when creating an annual Energy and Water Development appropriations bill that includes USACE civil works activities. **The length of the congressional appropriations process varies from year to year.** Following enactment of the Energy and Water Development bill, **the Administration develops a USACE work plan**, which identifies the amount of additional funding provided to specific studies and projects.

She remarked that it is a slow process.

Ida also shared the funding history for CRFM via email. See below:



3. Other:

After today's meeting, SCT meetings will be moved back to the third Thursday of each month.

Today's Attendees:

Blane Bellerud, NOAA

Brad Eppard, Corps

Charles Morrill, WA

Ida Royer, Corps

Jonathan Ebel, ID

Marvin Shutters, Corps

Melissa Haskin, BPA (CONTR)

Scott Bettin, BPA

Tom Lorz, Umatilla/CRITFC

Trevor Conder, NOAA

Tom Iverson, Yakama Nation Fisheries

Minutes by Melissa Haskin, Flux Resources LLC, Contractor for Bonneville, mahaskin@bpa.gov (971-373-1288). Please send any requested edits to Kathy Ceballos, NOAA, kathy.ceballos@noaa.gov.