

**Columbia River Regional Forum
System Configuration Team Meeting
September 16, 2021
DRAFT 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 covered one item: 2022 CRFM budget and prioritization. Charles Morrill, WA, asked to also discuss the McNary Pit Detection.

1. McNary Pit Detection

Charles Morrill, WA, asked to discuss McNary Pit Detection. SCT had been discussing using barges for detection. The POC (Dave) is out until later this month and when he gets back he will put together a presentation to bring everyone up-to-speed. Charles wondered if NOAA had a high-level discussion about it, as well. Trevor mentioned NOAA is still looking into the need. There is some data, but NOAA still has some questions to clear up before moving forward and is waiting on a finished analysis. Several SCT members would love to see the report when it is finished. SRWG may be the best forum for a presentation, they decided.

2. 2022 CRFM Budget And Prioritization

2a. Budget

Ida took SCT through budget updates, noting that right now the Corps is waiting for Congress to pass a budget. It is unclear when that will happen. The Corps will operate under the continuing resolution on October 1 if a budget isn't passed. The Corps will operate off the President's budget until a budget is passed by Congress. In a CR, money is dropped monthly. There is a request in for October, November, and December needs. The Corps asked for \$41 million for CRFM for FY22 (of that, \$34 million was for the Willamette). Tom asked how much will go to the Willamette. Ida cannot answer that for sure right now. A court order would take priority over everything else and the Willamette is in an injunction and working out what the costs would be. She does expect funds to be available outside of the Willamette.

2b. Prioritization

Ida asked if the group would like to prioritize today or wait for the final budget. Jonathan Ebel, ID, Charles Morrill, WA, and Trevor Conder, NOAA, agreed it would be best to wait. This allows for more time to review the sheet AND for the final budget to come in.

3. Project updates

Line 6 Bonneville Powerhouse 2 Fish Guidance Efficiency: The Corps finished awarding all contracts. Hydraulic testing is scheduled for spring. Early next fiscal year, the contract will need to be modified. The only need will be labor and oversight of testing.

4. Other:

There will be an AFEB annual meeting scheduled in December. Item #1 would be a good topic for the annual meeting.

Charles asked about PIT Tag detection at Bonneville. It is still on the Corps radar, said Ida. The Corps did try to get a cost estimate for installation. It is in the FY23 budget.

Erick Van Dyke, OR, asked a broader question, wondering if there was anything in the budget to expand monitoring beyond just projects and Bonneville. Ida said that the CRFM authority is tied to the project authority. Thus, SCT cannot fund anything outside the footprint of the projects, which is why it is focused on PIT detection in the sluiceway. Outside of dams, the Corps is not looking at that because it does not have the authority for that.

Today's Attendees:

Blane Bellerud, NOAA
Charles Morrill, WA
Christine Peterson, BPA
Erick Van Dyke, OR
Ida Royer, Corps
Jonathan Ebel, ID
Leah Sullivan, BPA
Melissa Haskin, BPA (CONTR)
Scott Bettin, BPA
Tom Lorz, Umatilla/CRITFC
Trevor Conder, NOAA

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.