

**Columbia River Regional Forum  
System Configuration Team Meeting  
April 18, 2024  
DRAFT Official Notes**

Representatives of Corps, ODFW, WDFW, BPA, NOAA, and others participated in today's SCT hybrid meeting facilitated by Blane Bellerud, NOAA. Jonathan Rerecich, The Corps of Engineers, hosted the WebEx to facilitate better notetaking.

Draft and final SCT notes are available on the COE's TMT website under the [FPOM link](#). For copies of documents discussed, contact Bonnie Hossack at [Bonnie.Hossack@noaa.gov](mailto:Bonnie.Hossack@noaa.gov). See the final page of these minutes for the list of attendees of today's meeting.

## **1. Budget Update**

- SCT received the full funding for FY24 \$66.6M
- McNary work was unbudgeted and will have to take from CRS and other capabilities.
  - Chane will be looking for where it will come from, so far has not been able to locate.
  - Working with Project Managers for an EOY execution.

SCT asked Chane what he knew about the extra \$50M.

Ian Chane said that he has been working on finding out more information. He said that is now referred to as the Resilient Columbia Basin Agreement. The salmon budget backlog identified in the RCBA is being funded from multiple appropriations, with CRFM reflecting a portion of the that commitment. He said that they are seeking feedback for facilitating that. He said that the budgets ultimately come down to approval in Congress.

Chane said from what he understood they are supporting capabilities of 50M not an additional \$50M of funding.

Iverson said that he understood that it was promised as an additional \$50M. He said that they will begin to start pressing from the top and they will want to see accountability on how the additional \$50M was spent this year. He said that this was supposed to be a good

faith gesture but similar to the Rate Cases this is a number that is baked in already and is no different.

There was a discussion about pushing this topic up through RIOG, but many felt that RIOG was not nimble enough to work on regional forum issues. They asked Chane if there are other forums to use to ask about the \$50M, but he felt that they are already using the appropriate forums. Lorz likened the gift of the \$50M to Corinthian leather as they are now saying that the money is being given as capability and not additional money to spend. Conder said that he also thought that the money was in addition to CRFM and O&M. He said that the Six Sovereigns were told that they could come to the Action Agencies, and it would be packaged. It was decided because it was beginning to look like a “shell game” and it was looking cloudy that it would be better to move to the Policy level.

## 2. Review of FY2025 Budget and Rankings

- FY25 PBud: \$75.2M
- Willamette: \$50.55M
- Lamprey: \$5M

Lorz asked if this is new money for lamprey.

Chane said that is new money, it was submitted 2 years ago.

- CRS: \$19.65M
- Line 3: Lower Columbia PIT Trawl cont'd work. Field work in 2026

Conder said that Performance Standard Evaluation is a better term, the current name does not reflect the activity.

It was agreed that this information was important for reach and system survival.

- Line 4: Avian PIT detection draft in blue,
- Line 5: Adult and Juvenile spill eval. Worked the SRWG geared for active tag work for system reach

There was a discussion about how many felt that the cost for this was too high given what the result appears to be. There was also a concern that the Corps does not know who is responsible for doing the study. They felt that it would be difficult to give it a higher rating given some of the concerns that they have given it is something that the States and Tribes have not expressed interest in.

There was a lot of concern that the Corps was being naïve using Acoustic detections when putting more PIT-tag detection at McNary and Bonneville would be more efficient. They were especially concerned because this would take away from PIT-tag detections where the money is needed. They felt they needed more information about the plan in order to score it correctly. Chane said that based on the discussion, a special workgroup from SRWG for the region to look at spill studies may be helpful and proposed that to Portland and Walla Walla district as they get ready to implement the evaluation. Ebel said that as their decision already to implement is concerning so he will see where it goes. It was decided that more discussion will be saved for SRWG.

- Line 6: Estuary data transparency and estuary uncertainties
- Line 7: B2FGE FY25 complete
- Line 8: post-Construction evaluation pending year one
- Line 9: TDA east fish ladder fish rehab. Contractor for DDR Fy24/25 initiation contract for debris management at the intake

It was requested SCT receive longer descriptions or workplans of the line items, so they understand better what each references. They are supposed to be available in FFDRWG.

There was a discussion about different methodologies of doing this.

- Line 10: JDA ladder cooling led by WW district idea to fold JDA FY25 specs phase for EBR and the DDR to plan specs

There were questions of when capabilities would be going into JDA cooling. They were told that FY26 has not been submitted yet.

- Line 11: JDA mitigation to cont' study efforts
- Line 12: MCN Avian deterrence construction 5M

Barnes Karen Zelch will take over the next four projects.

- Line 13: PIT detection improvements
- Line 14: MCN Spillway modeling
- Line 15: LMN adult ladder (s) cooling structure

Rerecich said that he would follow up at the next meeting.

Morrill asked about project plans to keep FY24 moving forward. Rerecich said he plans to execute on everything that was planned and is working with PMs to move forward with those plans.

*Ongoing Topics*

**Next Agenda Topics**

**Next meeting: May 16, 2023 (Hybrid)**
















NOAA offices at 1201 NE Lloyd in Portland (11th floor)

**Today’s Attendees:**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>
<b>Jonathan Rerecich</b>	
<b>Scott Fielding</b>	
<b>Ian Chane</b>	
<b>Tom Iverson</b>	
<b>Tom Lorz</b>	<i>Umatilla (CRITFC)</i>
<b>Blane Bellerud</b>	<i>NOAA</i>
<b>Steven Sipe</b>	
<b>Jonathan Ebel</b>	
<b>Chuck Barnes</b>	
<b>Kate Self</b>	
<b>Charles Morrill</b>	
<b>Scott Bettin</b>	
<b>Christine Peterson</b>	
<b>Jay Hesse</b>	
<b>Andrea Ausmus</b>	<i>BPA Notetaker</i>

*Minutes by Andrea Ausmus, CorSource Technology Group LLC, Contractor for Bonneville, [amausmus@bpa.gov](mailto:amausmus@bpa.gov) (971-442-5931).*

*Please send any requested edits to Bonnie Hossack, NOAA, [Bonnie.Hossack@noaa.gov](mailto:Bonnie.Hossack@noaa.gov)*

- AC  Andrea Ausmus - CorSou  
Me
- JP  Jonathan Rerecich  
Host
-   9712\*\*\*\*53
- BN  Blane Bellerud NOAA
- CM  Charles Morrill
- CP Christine Petersen
- CB  Chuck Barnes
- IC  Ian Chane
- JE  Jonathan Ebel
- KN  Kate Self NPCC
- SF  Scott Fielding
- SS  Steven Sipe
- TI  Tom Iverson
- TL  tom lorz
- TC  Trevor Conder