**Columbia River Regional Forum**

**System Configuration Team Meeting**

**June 1, 2018**

**DRAFT**

Minutes by Melissa Haskin, Technical Writer 1, Flux Resources LLC

**\*\*Comments due by August 1, 2018**

***1. Introduction***

Representatives of NOAA, Washington, BPA, Oregon, NPCC, COE, Umatilla, and others participated in today’s SCT meeting chaired by Blane Bellerud, NOAA.

The main focus of the meeting was the McNary steelhead overshoot proposal. Items in the FY18 and FY19 budgets were also discussed.

***2. McNary steelhead overshoot proposal***

Members of SCT discussed the McNary steelhead overshoot proposal. In order for the project to make the FY18 budget, action agencies will need to move swiftly over the next few weeks.

Derek Fryer, COE Walla Walla reminded SCT that the Steelhead year runs June to June. In order to run the overshoot and pit tags, he says, SCT would need to commit to a two-year operation and follow that up with hydro-acoustic analysis.

SCT discussed the lack of clarity in the proposal: would it run 4 days on and 4 days off; every day; four days on and one day off? All of these require different logistics and would result in different contracts. Additionally, there was some discussion as to if the operation should include a hydro-acoustic study. Trever Conder, NOAA, mentioned that it may be the biggest “bang for the buck,” to simply look at doing a hydro-acoustic study and wondered if there was still time in fiscal 18 to push something like that through.

In order for the proposal to be moved forward, these details need to be sorted out. There are also cost concerns, particularly with the cost of spill and the fact that BPA cannot turn down the TSW greatly. Per Derek, a contract would need to be written up. SCT discussed using the 1-pager already in circulation since it will be nearly impossible to award a contract without a scope.

Tom Lorz, Umatilla/CRTIFC, suggested that McNary’s TSW be changed to be a vertical slot, like Rock Island.

Ian Chane, Corps, reminded SCT that the cutoff dates have passed for many projects for FY18 changes. With the need to make a decision imminent, SCT decided to use a 1 million dollar place holder in the budget. This was based off previous projects, which were more comprehensive and cost $2.5 million. SCT members estimated that the cost for the current project would be less than half of the previous project.

Derek asked if Lower Granite would be a better starting point.

Tom replied that McNary is a bigger dam and voiced it was something he would not “jump on right now.”

Trevor Conder, NOAA, took a different stance, saying that both should be done and suggested it be looked into. Chane agreed it would make gate operations easier.

With a 7 million dollar shortfall in FY19, it is important that projects are carefully selected and critical priorities receive the most funding.

**ACTION 🡪 For now, the Corps will insert placeholders into the budget for the McNary Pit-Tag Overshoot Study. The Corps will float a call for proposals and Derek will work with the COE to come up with an internal Corps estimate for the project. The project will go forward with the TSW hydro-acoustic portion and without turban monitoring.**

***3. Little Goose Adult Ladder Pit Feasibility***

Ian Chane, COE said this project will be added to the FY19 Spreadsheet with an estimated $450,000 cost. However, he noted, the budget is already in the red. The project will be discussed in FY19 discussions at the next SCT meeting.

**Action 🡪 Derek will forward the initial report on tag data to SCT members.**

***4. New Project: Scott Bettin***

Scott Bettin, BPA, requested a placeholder for FY18 and FY19 in the amount of $100,000 to explore the possible issue of high TDG in barges and what fixes for that could be. This will allow for the Corps to rank the proposal.

***5. Discuss the FY 2018 CRFM ranking spreadsheet***

The total budget for FY 2018 is $70.36 million. Projects in the Willamette will continue to rise. Right now they are at $19.8 million, up from $17 million.

There are two late fourth quarter awards:

1) FY 19 Line 22: Lower Granite Spillway PIT Tag Detection - Post Construction Monitoring. This has been deferred to 2019. It could get awarded in September or October or early FY 19.

2) FY 19 Line 14: McNary Avian Water Cannon Deficiency Correction and Avian Wire Design Feasibility Report. It is a late September award for $600,000. The Corps is considering deferring it until October for execution purposes. They will pull it into FY 18 if there is funding. If not, it will be a first quarter FY 2019 award. There is no impact to the project if it is not awarded until October.

The current plan is to take funding from FY 19 line 14 and FY 19 line 22, and use that to fund floating orifice gates this year at Bonneville.

**Action 🡪 Tom Lorz and Trevor will call FPOM and Tammy (last name?) next week to discuss if the agency is still on board with current plans or if she/they think aluminum shields may be more long-lasting and affordable.**

***5. Distribute the FY 2019 CRFM ranking spreadsheet***

Ian Chane, COE, distributed copies of the FY 2019 CRFM spreadsheet. It was distributed as information only to inform rankings, which will be discussed at the next SCT meeting on July 19, 2018.

Charles Morrill, WA, asked if the work proposals for each item could be uploaded online or distributed to SCT members. Chane said he would work on it but that he could not promise everything would be done by the next meeting. In addition to revising existing proposals, new ones need to be developed.

***6. Fish and Wildlife Plan Update, Leslie Bach NPCC***

Leslie Bach, NPCC, updated SCT on changes to the Council for Fish and Wildlife Program, which is amended every 5 years prior to the power plan. Currently, NPCC has a call out for recommendations for amendments to the 2014 fish and wildlife program. There is a120-day submittal period for recommendations and that period closes on September 14, 2018. After that, NPCC has one year to draft and adopt changes.

**Today’s Participants:**

***Name Affiliation***

Blaine Bellerud NOAA

Charles Morrill Washington

Scott Bettin BPA

Trevor Conder NOAA

Erick Van Dyke Oregon

Leslie Bach NPCC

Ian Chane COE

Melissa Haskin Flux Resources

Tom Lorz Umatilla

Leah Sullivan BPA

Derek Fryer COE Walla Walla

Jen Graham Warm Springs

Shane Scott PPC

Cynthia Studebaker COE

Margie McGill COE

Christine Peterson BPA

Josie Thompson NOAA