

**WATER Steering Team Meeting**  
 March 9, 2018  
**Conference Call**

[http://www.nwd-wc.usace.army.mil/tmt/documents/FPOM/2010/Willamette\\_Coordination/](http://www.nwd-wc.usace.army.mil/tmt/documents/FPOM/2010/Willamette_Coordination/)

**Facilitator's Summary**

<b>ACTION</b>	<b>By Whom</b>	<b>By When</b>
Consult with attorneys regarding the RPA, COP and Green Peter and provide a status report at the next Steering Team Meeting	NMFS, BPA and Corps	April 3, 2018 Steering Team Meeting
Meet to discuss Lookout Point next steps and report back to the Steering Team at the next Steering Team Meeting	NMFS, Corps and BPA	April 3, 2018 Steering Team Meeting
Share baseline document regarding RPA Measures	Anne	ASAP
Meet to discuss the WATER Progress Tracking Report and provide draft to Steering Team members	Mike, Ian, Dan and Brad's staff	March 27, 2018
Review draft of the WATER Progress Tracking Report	Steering Team	April 3, 2018 Steering Team Meeting
Finalize WATER Progress Tracking Report	Ian, Mike, Dan and Brad's staff	May Managers Forum
Present on the Steelhead Status Updated information	Anne or Diana	April 3, 2018 Steering Team Meeting
Follow-up with Melissa Jundt and Keith Kirkendall regarding information on High Head passage projects	Dan	ASAP
Share paper regarding high head structures w/ST	Anne	ASAP

**Participants on the phone:** Ian Chane (Corps), Brad Eppard (Corps), Bernadette Graham-Hudson (ODFW), Nancy Gramlich (ODEQ), Mike Hudson (USFWS), Marc Liverman (NMFS), Anne Mullan (NMFS), Rachel Neuenhoff (Corps), Kelly Reis (ODFW), Dan Spear (BPA); Karl Weist (NPCC)

**Facilitator:** Donna Silverberg; Summary: Nancy Pionk, DS Consulting.

**Welcome, introductions, & housekeeping**

Donna welcomed the group to the WATER Steering Team conference call meeting. The group deferred approval of the 1/30/18 and 2/20/18 Steering Team Meeting Summaries until the March 22, 2018 Joint RM&E/Steering Team meeting to allow team members further time for review.

**Managers Forum Follow-up**

Steering Team members reviewed the topics discussed at the Managers Forum on March 2, 2018 and discussed issues that needed further follow-up:

**Green Peter**

Team members reported that the attorneys for BPA, Corps and NMFS met in the past week to discuss the COP as it relates to the RPA. Marc Liverman reported his understanding was that the attorneys discussed

that the RPA is a requirement and the COP is a vehicle for implementing the RPA, and they considered opportunities for re-initiation. Dan and Ian said they did not share this understanding of the discussion.

→ **Action:** NMFS, BPA and Corps will consult with their attorneys regarding the RPA, COP and Green Peter and provide a status report at the April 3, 2018 Steering Team Meeting.

### **Lookout Point**

Team members reviewed the discussion at the Managers Forum regarding authority to do a deep drawdown that goes below the power pool at Lookout Point. At the Managers Forum, the Corps reported their lawyers' interpretation that the Corps does not have the authority; however, Kevin stressed a final decision had not yet been made. The Corps is in the process of writing up the memorandum of record and will share the draft memorandum with the Services first, then receive comments on it from all partners before it is finalized for the record. Steering Team members discussed that, as a next step, the Federal Family should meet to further discuss this matter and report back to the Steering Team at the April 3, 2018 Steering Team Meeting.

→ **Action:** NMFS, Corps and BPA will meet to discuss Lookout Point next steps and report back to the Steering Team on April 3, 2018.

### **RM&E Data**

Bernadette raised a concern about the COE's handout regarding the RM&E status at the Managers Forum; her concern is that certain tables in the handout discussed the "adequacy" of the data from the Corps' perspective and did not accurately represent the views of other WATER partners, who disagree about whether some of the RM&E data is adequate. In the future, she would like to review the handouts for managers in advance. She noted that the Steering Team previously used to prepare briefing packets ahead of time for the managers. She wanted the managers to be clear that the handout Rich presented was the Corps' perspective only and that whether the data is adequate is an area of disagreement among WATER partners. Ian Chane shared that he thought it was clear this was the Corps' perspective. Donna indicated that she will add a Facilitator's Note to the Managers Forums summary, which clarifies that the data presented was the Corps' perspective and that there is disagreement among WATER partners on whether there is adequate RM&E information concerning the Sub-basins.

### **CRFM Funding**

The group discussed the Corps' guidance for CRFM funding. Ian previously provided the team with a list of items that are fundable by CRFM. Marc questioned whether the Corps had additional criteria that it used to determine whether to carry out an RPA item. Ian stated that this is the extent of the policy documentation that the Corps has for CRFM funding and there are no guiding documents from Congress that state what CRFM can be used for. He noted that CRFM funds actions that inform fish passage. He noted that disputes over whether an action should be funded using CRFM funds tend to relate to differences of interpretation about whether a particular study informs an action. Marc generally agreed and noted that the Corps' definition of what is necessary to inform an action excludes many studies that are otherwise called for in the RPA, or that are supportive of RPA objectives.

*[Facilitator's Note: At the April 3, 2018 Steering Team meeting, Marc asked that the March 9 summary include the following examples of studies that have not been funded: genetic analysis to determine origin of fish returning to dams; long-term monitoring of juvenile outmigration, adult spawning, and pre-spawning mortality; evaluation of potential revetment removal/modification; and studies to inform actions in the next BiOp.]*

→ **Action:** there will be no further action on this item at this time

## **WATER PROGRESS TRACKING**

The group discussed the managers' request for a review of the status of RPA measures at the May 2018 Managers Forum. It was noted that, at the September 29, 2017 Managers Forum, the managers directed the Steering Team to create an annual tracking system to help clarify the region's progress in the Willamette Basin. The Steering Team had also previously discussed creating an annual living progress report. A small group of Steering Team members (Mike, Ian, and Dan) agreed to work on creating a draft of the WATER Progress Tracking report for the April 3, 2018 Steering Team meeting. Brad also offered to assign a staff member to the project.

The Steering Team discussed that the WATER Progress Tracking report should include a crosswalk of the original RPA measures and review: 1) what has been done; 2) what is in progress; 3) what needs to be done; 4) how the measures were funded; and 5) which measures were not funded because funding is not available.

The group discussed starting points/models for the review, which include Ian's tracking of spending by RPA and the Annual Progress Report that Action Agencies must submit to the courts. Anne also indicated that NMFS previously created a baseline document and she will find it and forward it to DS Consulting to share with the group. Donna noted that the tracking report would be an opportunity to identify the current status, where there are agreements/disagreements, and provide a focus for moving the discussion forward.

- **Action:** Anne will share the baseline document. Mike, Ian, Dan and Brad's staff member will meet to discuss the WATER Progress Tracking report and have a draft for the Steering Team to review by March 27. The Steering Team will discuss the draft at their April 3 meeting. The small group will then finalize the WATER Progress Tracking report for May Managers' Forum.

## **April 3, 2018 Steering Team Agenda Planning**

**Steelhead Status Update:** Dan is interested in hearing more information from NMFS on how Steelhead Status Update provided at the Managers Forum was developed.

- **Action:** Anne and/or Diana will provide more information at the next Steering Team meeting. Team members should send any questions to them in advance.

**High Head Passage projects:** Dan suggested that the Steering Team agenda include discussion on High Head Passage Projects and lessons learned. He noted that it has been 10 years since the RPA became active and since then, there may be new understandings and lessons on other High Head structures from which the team can learn. He proposed having this as a standing or quarterly agenda item.

- **Action:** Dan will follow-up with Melissa Jundt and Keith Kirkendall to see if they have information on High Head passage projects that would be helpful to share with the team. Anne will share a paper she is aware of regarding high head structures with the team.

## **Joint RM&E/Steering Team Meeting Planning**

The team discussed the process for the Joint RM&E/Steering Team meeting on March 22, 2018. The purpose of the Joint Meeting is to develop FY19 information needs for each sub-basin. The Steering Team's role will be to provide guidance to the RM&E Team regarding the decisions to be made and what information for FY19 is needed to make the decisions. The RM&E team's role will be to provide technical information to inform the decisions. Because of the overlap of needs for policy guidance and technical information, the Joint Meeting was envisioned by both teams in 2017 as an efficient and productive way to determine the annual RM&E needs. Donna shared suggestions on process for the Joint

Meeting from RM&E team members. The group discussed how best to prepare for the meeting. Donna asked that each agency's Steering Team members meet with their RM&E team representatives to prepare for the meeting.

**Next Steps**

DS Consulting will provide an agenda and more information regarding preparation for the Joint RM&E/Steering Team meeting within the next week. Donna thanked the group and adjourned the meeting.

**The next meeting will be a Joint RM&E/Steering Team Meeting on March 22, 2018.**

**The next Steering Team meeting is scheduled for April 3, 2018.**

*This summary is respectfully submitted by DS Consulting. Suggested edits are welcome and can be sent to [nancy@dsconsult.co](mailto:nancy@dsconsult.co)*