

**Willamette Action Team for Ecosystem Restoration (WATER)  
Steering Team Meeting**

January 8, 2019

Location: DS Consulting Office

[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/)

**Final Facilitator's Summary  
[Edits received from: NPCC]**

<b>Action</b>	<b>By Whom?</b>	<b>By When?</b>
Send Doodle poll for late February Managers Forum	DSC	ASAP
Draft two versions of the Managers Forum agenda (with Services and without Services) and send drafts to the Steering Team for awareness. Conduct a round of calls to the Managers to review the agenda and get their input.	Donna	ASAP
Re-circulate the draft language developed by the Steering Team in August regarding the regional values, as a starting point for the visioning/path forward discussion.	DSC	January 15 <sup>th</sup>
Alert the region if the WFSR is postponed.	Ian/Brad	End of January
Reschedule the Steering Team meeting and send the most recent WATER annual workplan.	Emily	End of January
Coordinate with Chris Walker for Flow Team presentation at the February Steering Team meeting	Ian	February 7th
Work with Mike and Marc to shape the Managers Forum "visioning/path forward" conversation.	Donna	Post-furlough
Help bring the Services up to speed on issues when they return from the furlough.	DSC	Post-furlough

**Participants in the Room:** Ian Chane (USACE), Dan Spear (BPA);

**Participants on the Phone (for all or part of the meeting):** Brad Eppard (USACE), Nancy Gramlich (ODEQ), Kelly Reis (ODFW), Lawrence Schwabe (Grand Ronde), Karl Weist (NWPPCC).

**Facilitator:** Donna Silverberg; **Summary:** Emily Stranz, DS Consulting

**Welcome and Housekeeping**

Donna conducted a round of introductions; the group did not review the previous meeting summary as not all Steering Team members were present due to the partial Federal government shutdown.

Representatives from NMFS and USFWS were furloughed and thus unable to attend.

**Impacts of the Partial Government Shutdown & Furlough**

The group discussed the impact of the partial shutdown noting that there are some immediate impacts, and other less obvious impacts that will arise as time goes on. For example, data collection and RM&E study implementation may be delayed or postponed until the Services are operating again. Ian shared that the Corps is fully funded and is moving forward on project timelines, including design document review. Issues that can be deferred until the Services are back will be; however, not everything can wait. For actions that must move forward now, input from other WATER partners at the table is vital.

Since it is unclear when the furlough will be lifted, and it could last “months to years”, the group agreed to continue their regular meeting cadence. Once the furlough is lifted, DS Consulting will help to bring the Services up to date when they return and are available. Donna suggested that DS Consulting can create an executive summary of the meetings to facilitate efficient communication of past conversations, and either organize a “recap” meeting for the Services, or use a Steering Team meeting to recap as a group.

If the furlough continues through January, the Corps will postpone the Willamette Fisheries Science Review (WFSR), as many of the presenters are furloughed. Brad said the Corps will let the region know if it will be postponed a week or two prior to the event, which currently is scheduled for February 5-7.

- **ACTION:** DS Consulting will help bring the Services up to speed on WATER issues when they return from the furlough.
- **ACTION:** The Corps will alert the region if the WFSR is postponed.

### **WATER Managers Preparation**

Originally the Managers Forum was intended for the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of February. However, in hopes that the Services will be able to return to work and participate in the Forum, the group decided to postpone until late February. DS Consulting will send an updated Doodle poll. Additionally, the group agreed that, if the furlough is not over by the end of February, there is still a need for the Managers to meet and discuss time sensitive issues. To support the two potential paths forward, the Steering Team drafted two separate Managers Forum agendas: one in case the furlough is over, the other if it is not. Steering Team members present were comfortable with the two agendas and tasked Donna with connecting with Managers to review the agenda for input.

- **ACTION:** Donna will draft two versions of the Managers Forum agenda (with Services and without Services) and send drafts to the Steering Team for awareness. She will also conduct a round of calls to the Managers to review the agenda and get their input.
- **ACTION:** Emily will send a Doodle poll to schedule the Managers Forum for the end of February.

If the Services are still furloughed for the end-of-February Managers Forum, it was suggested that another Managers Forum be scheduled a few weeks after the Services return.

Note: the regional WATER “visioning” conversation will be postponed until the Services are back. Donna, Mike, and Marc were tasked with developing the approach for this conversation and it is important to the Services. The group revisited the intention of the visioning. Donna noted that, from her experience, it is often very helpful for groups to have this type of conversation in order to clearly articulate value overlaps and differences in order to align their shared values. The resulting “vision” statement is a useful tool that can be used to illustrate regional alignment and support. She gave the example of being in an elevator with members of Congress and being able to easily share the agreed on WATER vision statement, with confidence that ALL WATER partners are behind it (and will say the same thing). Dan pointed out that Ian’s Gaant chart (that will be provided to the Managers at the next Forum meeting) is the “what” and the vision statement is the “why”. While there was some hesitancy from group members about having this conversation at the Managers Forum, the group was made comfortable knowing that Donna will: work with Mike and Marc to shape the conversation, actively manage (and mediate if needed) the conversation, and ensure the vision statement honors the mission and authority of all the agencies.

- **ACTION:** Donna will re-circulate the draft language regarding the regional values (developed by the Steering Team in August and included on page 4 of this summary), as a starting point for the

managers' vision/path forward conversation. When Mike and Marc return to work, Donna will work with them to shape the Managers Forum conversation.

### **Regional Updates**

Team members provided updates. An issue regarding the Lookout Point spring spill study (JPL-19-01-LOP) may be elevated from the RM&E Team once the team discusses whether elevation is needed. The next RM&E team meeting is planned for January 24<sup>th</sup>.

The HTT expended all of the FY19 funds; the remaining funds discussed at the November Steering Team meeting were allocated to ODFW for monitoring and also to cover permitting costs.

The Hatchery Team is likely delayed in getting the HGMPs finalized due to NMFS being out on furlough.

ODFW has started lethal removal of California sea lions at Willamette Falls; no issues have been noted to date. Kelly committed to providing an update to the team on salmon run forecasts once the forecasts are available.

NPCC currently has their Fish and Wildlife Program recommendations out for comment; the 60 day comment period was scheduled to end on February 4<sup>th</sup>, however, it may be extended to accommodate comments from partners on furlough. The Council will decide whether to extend at their next meeting.

The Corps FY19 budget is set and is expected to be "locked" soon; however, it always is subject to change. The FY20 PBUD is expected soon and will include the first year of Cougar construction funding. The FY21 budget request is in the works and will include Cougar and Detroit construction funding.

Dan updated the group on current litigation, noting that the Courts postponed the due date for declarations until 12 days after the government shutdown is over.

### **Next Steps**

The next Steering Team meeting was scheduled for February 5<sup>th</sup>, however, that is during the planned WFSR. The team agreed to reschedule to February 7<sup>th</sup> from 1:00-2:30. Agenda topics for the February meeting include:

- Recap of January ST meeting (if the Services are back)
- Prep for Managers Forum
- Additional furlough impacts that require coordination
- FY20 concepts/timeline (revisit the annual WATER work plan)
- Flow team presentation

In order to support this agenda, the following actions were identified:

- **ACTION:** Emily will reschedule the Steering Team meeting and send the most recent WATER annual work plan.
- **ACTION:** Ian will connect with Chris Walker regarding a Flow Team presentation for the 2/7 meeting.

With that, Donna thanked the group for their work and the meeting was adjourned.

**The next Steering Team meeting will be from 1:00-2:30 on February 7<sup>th</sup> at the WFSR**  
**[Note: The February 7, 2019 Steering Team meeting was held at DS Consulting Offices as the WFSR was re-scheduled to March 12-14, 2019]**

Excerpt from August 2018 Steering Team meeting (as a starting place for the shared vision/path forward discussion among Managers):

### “Regional Messaging

The Steering Team discussed important messages that could/should be shared with the region regarding their efforts in the Willamette Basin and implementing the RPA. They noted that there is risk associated with the passage projects and additional funding may be needed down the road. The group echoed managers’ sentiments that regional messaging is important to help illustrate the importance and value of these efforts. Collaboration and the community-wide benefits were noted as themes to highlight in messaging, as well as both the environmental and ecosystem benefits of the RPA efforts. The Steering Team developed draft language, which they will continue to refine before it is shared with the Managers at their September 25<sup>th</sup> meeting. The group brainstormed the following messages:

- The region has been working together to design, operate and maintain a river system for water quality and supply, fish, energy, wildlife, recreation, and communities living nearby.
  - We are working together to restore multiple benefits, while preserving multiple uses.
- We are committed to working together to develop an RPA that provides for dams, fish, and the systems in which they may thrive.
  - We are committed to an RPA that will ensure we can have dams and salmon together; we believe that managing one while recovering another is not mutually exclusive.
- The region has been working together, discussing, and designing AND may have found a need for add-ons that support safe passage for endangered species.
  - These add-ons may require additional funds now and will require a secure budget to maintain them.

Needs more discussion: What is the worth of a viable Chinook and steelhead population in the Willamette Valley? What is the value of all of the authorized purposes that these projects provide?

- Note: the group mentioned working with a group like EcoNorthwest to capture the broad economic impacts of a restored salmon run and healthy river system.”