

**WATER Steering Team Meeting**  
 Tuesday, September 3rd, 2019  
 Fireside Room, Corps Portland District

**Facilitator's Summary**

[Edited by BPA, Corps, ODFW]

[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/)

ACTION	BY WHOM?	BY WHEN?
Review meeting summaries and provide edits and/or approval.	Marc	Oct 1
Share a list of proposed FY20 studies to move to proposals.	Corps	Oct 1
Provide draft agenda for the Managers Forum meeting to Steering Team; Steering Team review agenda with Managers and provide input to DSC.	DSC/ Steering Team	Oct 1
Check availability of NPCC conference room for Oct 18 Managers Forum.	Karl	[Complete & Reserved]
If the Middle Fork workshop does not take place the week of 9/23, schedule RME meeting to discuss the Middle Fork check-in questions instead.	Brad	Week of Sept 23

**Participants in the room or on the phone:** Eric Andersen (BPA), Brad Eppard (USACE), Amy Gibbons (USACE), Nancy Gramlich (ODEQ), David Griffith (USACE), Mike Hudson (USFWS), Anne Mullan (NOAA), Kelly Reis (ODFW), Lawrence Schwabe (Grand Ronde), Dan Spear (BPA), Andy Traylor (USACE), and Karl Weist (NPCC). **Facilitator:** Donna Silverberg, **Support:** Emily Stranz, DS Consulting.

**Welcome, Introductions, & Housekeeping**

Facilitator, Donna Silverberg welcomed the group to the meeting and conducted a round of introductions. The group welcomed Eric Anderson, who joined the BPA team two weeks ago. Eric comes to BPA's Wildlife Division with a background working with the South Santiam Watershed Council, The Nature Conservancy, and other natural resource agencies.

The Steering Team approved the July meeting summary, as well as the August joint Steering and RM&E Team meeting summary, pending review and approval from Marc, who was not present at the meeting. The Joint meeting summary will also be reviewed and approved by the RM&E Team at their September meeting.

**Follow-up on FY20 Planning**

Andy Traylor provided an update on the Corps FY20 budget. The Corps is currently planning for FY20 using the President's Budget (PBUD), as both the House and the Senate have looked at the budget, however, the Corps has not been alerted to any proposed changes. The FY20 PBUD provides \$21.6 M to the CRFM program (compared to \$49M in FY19). Andy reminded the group that CRFM funds go towards all of Columbia River System (CRS, formally referred to as FCRPS), the Willamette River System, Portland and Walla Walla Districts, PDT's labor and construction, and RM&E. If the budget ends up being under a continuing resolution, the default is the lowest of the three budgets, which at this point is the PBUD.

Currently, there are a lot of projects that are in construction or design phase, and the Corps is considering how to allocate monies so that they do not lose efforts invested thus far by stopping projects mid-stream, come October 1<sup>st</sup>. Ongoing construction is priority for funding, and ongoing design is typically second.

The Corps hopes to be able to get designs to a point that they can be paused and later, when funds are available, picked back up.

The Corps is investigating shifting \$1M of FY20 funding from the CRS to the Willamette, for a total of \$13.6M available to all Willamette projects. Currently, the Corps anticipates about \$2M being available for RM&E (\$8-12M in recent years). Other FY20 projects that the Corps would like to fund and complete include finalizing Cougar downstream passage plans and specs, and design (no funds for construction in FY20); finalize the NEPA process for Detroit downstream passage and finish the above water design components; complete and construct the fix for the Foster fish weir; line the conveyance pipe at Fall Creek Adult Fish Facility, and complete the high head bypass study.

Brad shared that his team is meeting this week to develop a “ball park” idea of cost of the RM&E studies, to help get a better idea of what the Corps can afford to fund in FY20. He committed to bringing the list of cost estimates and associated studies that the Corps is considering for FY20 to the October Steering Team meeting. The Steering Team will have an opportunity to weigh in on the studies; however, Brad noted that cost will be a driving factor in FY20. Brad also noted that he would appreciate input from the Steering Team on work efforts that the Corps can undertake internally (assuming that his team has funding) to help move work efforts forward. The example he provided was developing evaluation and implementation plans.

Andy concluded that there is a lot of internal conversation happening at the Corps to make sure that everyone is okay with the shifts in monies. A trip to D.C. is scheduled to meet with the ASA and OMB, during which they will share how additional monies would be allocated if there is money from a workplan.

- **ACTION:** The Corps will share a list of proposed FY20 studies to move to proposals at the October 1 Steering Team meetings.

The Steering Team felt that given the budget uncertainties, it was not the right time to conduct a crosswalk between the planning tables and prioritized concepts. Andy suggested that team members take a look at and review the documents on their own and bring questions to the RM&E representatives. He noted that when he looked at the documents, it appeared to him that the group was on track to address the information needs with the concepts developed.

### **Follow-up on Green Peter Outplanting**

Steering Team members present had nothing to discuss regarding the Green Peter outplanting letter.

### **Agenda Input for October 18<sup>th</sup> Managers Forum**

The Team discussed the upcoming October 18<sup>th</sup> Managers Forum meeting. Karl noted that Tony Grover has retired and Patty O’Toole has stepped in as Interim Director. He was not sure if Patty would be available as the 18<sup>th</sup> is the last day of public comment on NPCC’s program amendment. Karl agreed to see if the NPCC conference room is available for the meeting; Anne agreed to see if the St. Helens room at NOAA is available as a backup.

The following agenda topics were identified:

- FY20 Budget Update and Plan
- FY19 Middle Fork Check-in, including:
  - Assumptions from COP (see April 2019 Managers Forum meeting summary)
  - What has the group learned? Level of confidence in data (include outcomes from the September 2019 Middle Fork workshop)
  - What critical uncertainties exist?
  - Should alternatives be narrowed?

- Visual representations: GAANT chart, maps of habitat available/blocked
- What if funding is not secured?
- Round-table updates

The Steering Team suggested that if the Middle Fork workshop doesn't take place in the end of September, the Corps should plan a RM&E meeting to discuss the check-in questions suggested for the Managers Forum agenda. Brad agreed and committed to taking the lead on setting up the meeting.

- **ACTION:** If the Middle Fork workshop does not take place in the end of September, Brad will work to get a RM&E meeting scheduled to discuss the Middle Fork check-in questions.

Donna noted that DS Consulting will coordinate to have lunch brought in and that Steering Team members should signal to DSC if they want to partake.

- **ACTION:** Donna will draft the Managers Forum agenda and send it out to the Steering Team for them to talk over with their Managers; Steering Team members will provide any input back to Donna.

### Regional Updates

- ODFW – Kelly shared that the Willamette Wildlife Mitigation Program has provided their FY21 recommendations to BPA. The Mitigation Program is hoping to close on two properties by end of September, one of which is in Creswell, OR and is 16,00 acres. Kelly also reported that to date, no California Sea Lions have been detected at Willamette Falls; some have already arrived at Bonneville Dam.
- Grand Ronde – Lawrence shared that they are expecting to see Coho arriving in the Upper Willamette soon and are eager to see returns.
- ODEQ – Nancy had nothing to report.
- NOAA – Anne shared that some funds were allocated to help fix the PIT detector at Willamette Falls. They are still short funds, but hope that the system will be fixed by the end of next summer.
- NPCC – Karl shared that the upcoming Council meeting will be in Corvallis, during which the Council and staff will get to tour Minto and Detroit.
- USACE – Andy shared that the Corps is working through the process of a systems operation request (SOR) to spill over the weir at Foster, in hopes that they can warm up the river and attract spring Chinook upstream into the collection facility. In the past when there have been delays, Chinook have been seen pooling up below the project; they are not seeing fish this year, however, are going to try spilling to see if can get some fish upstream. Anne added that this year the North Santiam spring Chinook numbers are looking good, however, South Santiam only has 1/5 of last year's count, which was already low.

Amy shared that there will be a new Corps Steering Team representative taking her place as she is going to Germany on an overseas assignment for 3 years. October will be Amy's last Steering Team meeting.

- BPA – Dan shared that BPA has a public factsheet on the Willamette Dams and power generation; Dan will send it around to team.
- USFWS – Mike shared that the Pacific Lamprey Regional Implementation Plan for the Willamette was drafted and distributed last week to the Conservation Team. The document is still draft, but available to the public and includes a complication of restoration activities in the Willamette.

With that, Donna thanked the Steering Team and adjourned the meeting.

**The next Steering Team meeting is scheduled for October 1, 2019**

**AGENDA Topics for October 1<sup>st</sup>:** Draft list of FY20 studies and ballpark funding

*This meeting summary is provided by the DS Consulting Facilitation Team. Suggested edits are welcome and can be sent to Emily Stranz (emily@dsconsult.co).*