

WATER Steering Team Meeting
Tuesday, October 1, 2019
St. Helens Room, NOAA, Portland, OR

http://www.nwd-wc.usace.army.mil/tmt/documents/FPOM/2010/Willamette_Coordination/

Facilitator's Summary
[Edited by: BPA]

ACTION	BY WHOM?	BY WHEN?
Send out the edited September Steering Team meeting summary	DS Consulting	ASAP
Review September meeting summary and send any edits/comments by	Steering Team	10/11/ 2019.
Review and send feedback on revised agenda for the Managers' Forum	Steering Team	10/10/2019
Prepare materials for Managers Forum	Corps and NMFS	ASAP
Meet with Managers to prep for Managers Forum	Steering Team	ASAP

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), Marc Liverman (NMFS), Anne Mullan (NMFS), Kelly Reis (ODFW), Lawrence Schwabe (Grand Ronde), Dan Spear (BPA), Andy Traylor (USACE),

Facilitator: Donna Silverberg, **Support:** Nancy Pionk, DS Consulting.

Welcome, Introductions, & Housekeeping

Facilitator, Donna Silverberg welcomed the group to the meeting and conducted a round of introductions. She reviewed the agenda with the group. The group reviewed and approved the September 3, 2019 Steering Team meeting summary with edits from BPA and the ODFW. As some Steering Team members had not yet joined the meeting when the summary was approved, Donna noted that DS Consulting will send out the edited summary to the team for final approval by October 11, 2019; if no further edits or comments are received, the summary will be considered final.

→ **Action:** DS Consulting will send out the edited September meeting summary to the team for final approval; team members will send any edits/comments by October 11, 2019.

Update on FY20 Planning

Andy Traylor reported that, as of October 1, Congress had not approved the COE's budget. The government is operating on a Continuing Resolution through November 21, 2019. Kevin Brice is currently in Washington, DC and is seeking to clarify funding for FY 2020/2021. The Corps has received direction to "continue work" and is moving forward with projects; however, it is unclear how long they will be able to do this. Steering Team members encouraged the Corps to share any information they receive on the budget prior to the Managers Forum, if possible.

Given the current budget situation, the Corps also was unable to confirm the proposed studies for FY20. Brad noted it was likely that surrogate fish would be a high priority (unless there is absolutely no funding for RM&E). He also noted that the copepod studies could be a possibility as they are relatively less expensive than other studies. Additionally, it appears there may not be enough fish to do some of the studies that were ranked higher. Mike suggested it might be helpful for budget decision-makers to have information regarding the consequences of no funding (i.e. how many fish may die).

Mike noted that USFWS received a Congressional update that stated the Corps had submitted capabilities of \$2.6 Million for lamprey passage studies for FY2020, which seemed unusual. Andy noted that the numbers for the Corps' budget in that update may be inaccurate and likely much of the budget in the update actually is related to the Columbia River, not the Willamette.

Report on the Middle Fork Workshop

Steering Team members (Brad, Mike, Kelly, Anne) reported on the first Middle Fork workshop which was held on September 24, 2019, later than initially planned last April. The workshop was led by Dr. Murdoch McAllister, University of British Columbia, and was designed around the structured decision-making process model. It was designed to facilitate dialogue and an iterative process, rather than to answer or inform questions. This time focused on short and long term options for fish passage, and is the first of several planned workshops.

Mike and Kelly reviewed the RM&E Team's discussion at 9/26/19 RM&E meeting regarding what information could be conveyed at the October 18 Managers Forum. Originally, it was hoped that the Middle Fork workshops would take place earlier this summer and provide a basis to inform the FY19 Check-in this fall. Because contracting delays meant the first workshop was last week and it wasn't designed to provide answers, the RM&E team believes it is premature to conduct the FY19 Check-in at the October 18 Managers Forum. Instead, the RM&E team suggests providing the managers with an update that focuses on:

1. What information do we have (i.e. what studies have been done)?
2. What have we learned and what are the potential data gaps? (This would include a summary of the Middle Fork workshop).
3. What is the fish status?
4. What are the next steps?

Steering team members concurred with this approach and moved on to discuss the refined agenda for the Managers Forum meeting.

Agenda Input for October 18th Managers Forum

Steering Team members discussed revisions to the Agenda for the October 18th Managers Forum. They agreed that the agenda should be changed to reflect the RM&E update rather than the FY19 Check-in; however, the Check-in questions could be included in a footnote. Steering Team members proposed that the managers then have a policy discussion to consider how the 2021 decision point might be impacted by this information. They also suggested refining the policy discussion regarding funding to have the managers consider the following questions: 1) How might the 5-Year Plan be impacted by funding? and 2) What can the region do to stay unified?

The group discussed information needed for the session to be useful. Fenton, Rachel and Anne were tasked with preparing the information for Middle Fork update and sending it to the RM&E Team for review. Brad noted that Rich would be taking on the tasks originally assigned to Fenton (What information do we have/What are the next steps?). Anne will be providing information on what has been learned and potential data gaps. Rachel will be providing a summary last week's workshop. Anne and Marc will also provide information regarding fish status. DS Consulting will help the team consolidate the information and send it out prior to the Managers' Forum. For presentations, Kevin will provide information on the 5 Year plan, NEPA, Section 7 and other updates. Rich will present the information from RM&E; Marc and Anne will present information on fish status. Donna asked Steering Team members to let her know asap if their managers would like to have discussions with her prior to the Managers Forum.

Next Steps: Donna will send out a revised agenda and requested Steering Team Members to provide feedback to her before she sends it to managers. She also asked Steering Team members to meet with their managers to discuss the agenda and its focus ahead of the session.

- **Action:** Donna will send out a revised agenda and Steering Team Members will provide feedback to her. Steering Team members will review the agenda and its focus with their managers prior to the Managers Forum on Oct 18.

Regional Updates

- **Corps:** Staff Updates: This was Amy's last Steering Team meeting as she will be leaving for her detail in Germany. Amy's successor is Chris Page, who will be working a 120-day detail. This was also Andy's last meeting; Ian Chane is returning from his Washington DC detail today and will resume his role on the Steering Team next month. Dave Griffith, is playing a lead role in the Willamette Valley EIS and will be participating in the Steering Team to maintain awareness of the WATER efforts.

Project Updates: The PDT is still planning design work for Foster Fish Weir in FY 20; the construction contract is expected to be awarded in the 4th quarter of FY20 with construction to begin in FY21. Also, the water intake pipe lining project at the Fall Creek Adult Fish Facility is expected to be completed this month. The Corps expects that the genetic studies by Kathleen O'Malley should be awarded soon for FY20. Finally, the Corps has contracted to have the portable floating fish collector removed.

- **ODFW:** Kelly shared that the Willamette Wildlife Mitigation Program closed on two properties, one for 1600 acres and another for 178 acres near Baskett Slough; these properties will provide oak habitat and protection for birds and butterflies. She also noted the success of pinniped removal efforts at Willamette Falls. In past years, four pinnipeds would be seen during this time of year- this year, zero have been seen.
- **DEQ:** Nancy had nothing to report. Her manager will provide a mercury update at the Managers Forum.
- **BPA:** Eric shared that the Willamette Mainstem Anchor Habitat Working Group, which funds habitat projects on the mainstem, recently awarded funding for habitat projects. Projects are funded through a combination of BPA, Meyer Memorial Trust's Willamette River Initiative (MMT WRI) and OWEB Willamette Focused Investment Partnership (WFIP) funding.
- **USFWS:** Mike shared that the Pacific Lamprey exhibit opened at the Oregon Zoo on World Rivers Day, September 29, 2019. USFWS collaborated on the exhibit with the Zoo, CRITFC and other Tribes.
- **NMFS:** Marc shared that a BiOp will likely be written around the time the draft EIS is released. Marc also noted that the plaintiffs in the litigation have filed their motion for summary judgment.

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

The next Steering Team meeting is scheduled for November 5, 2019. *This summary is respectfully submitted by the impartial facilitation team at DS Consulting. Suggested edits are welcome and can be sent to Nancy at nancy@dsconsult.co.*