

**WATER Steering Team Meeting
Tuesday, February 4, 2020
Suite 140 NOAA Office, Portland, Oregon**

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

**Final Facilitator's Summary
[Edits provided by: ODFW]**

| ACTION | BY WHOM? | BY WHEN? |
|---|---------------------|----------|
| Review April and October 2019 Managers Forum meeting summaries with Managers. | Dan, Ian, Anne/Marc | 2/21/20 |
| Calendar the Federal Family meetings. | Ian | 2/21/20 |

Participants in the room or on the phone (for all or part of the meeting): Ian Chane (USACE), Brad Eppard (USACE), Nancy Gramlich (ODEQ), Mike Hudson (USFWS), Anne Mullen (NMFS), Kelly Reis (ODFW), Dan Spear (BPA), Karl Weist (NPCC), Trish Wilson (WNF).

Facilitator & Notetaker: Donna Silverberg & Emily Stranz, DS Consulting.

Welcome, Introductions, & Housekeeping

Facilitator, Donna Silverberg, welcomed the group to the meeting and conducted a round of introductions. Steering Team members approved the January 2020 Steering Team meeting summary.

Regarding the April and October 2019 Managers Forum meeting summaries, USFWS, NPCC, ODEQ, and ODFW reviewed the summaries with their Managers and were okay with the summaries pending their suggested revisions. BPA, the Corps, and NOAA needed additional time to review and clarify edits with their managers.

- **ACTION:** Dan, Ian, and Anne/Marc will review the April and October 2019 summaries with their managers and provide any edits to DSC by 2/21. The group will seek final approval of the summaries at the March 3rd Steering Team meeting.

FY20 and FY21 Budget Updates

Ian provided an update on the FY20 budget, noting that the final is expected the week of February 10th, at which point they will also know the final FY20 RM&E funding. Additionally, the FY21 President's budget is expected on February 11th.

As reported in January, the Columbia River System Operation EIS (CRSO) needs additional funds, which will come from CRFM Willamette and Columbia River projects. Corps' Division office is in the process of deciding from which CRFM projects the funds will come. Ian will have an update at the March meeting and will also provide an update at the March SCT meeting.

WATER Process Planning

The Steering Team reviewed and provided additional input on the 2020 WATER Workplan (see revised 2020 Workplan provided with meeting summary). As part of their conversation, they clarified the following:

- A joint Steering and RM&E Team meeting will be scheduled for April. This will allow time for the Steering Team to review the sub-basin planning tables at their March meeting and for the RM&E Team to update the tables prior to the joint conversation.

- The next Managers Forum meeting should be scheduled for May, following the Middle Fork structured decision-making workshops to allow for a ripe conversation around progress on the Middle Fork plan. Other potential agenda items include updates on the FY21 budget and litigation on the Willamette BiOp.
- Also, NOAA requested that the Federal Family group will be reconvened on a regular basis in 2020.

Regional Updates

- BPA – Nothing to report.
- Corps – Ian reported that the Corps is working on details for interim operations of the Foster fish weir and adult facility for 2020. This is a temporary operation until a permanent fix can be made. Additionally, they are coordinating to implement the spring spill SOR at Lookout Point and Hills Creek, if hydrology allows for implementation of the operation this year. This SOR was originally submitted by NMFS and ODFW in 2019 and was implemented last year by default due to high flows.

On the RM&E front, there are currently four projects in the works for funding in 2020, including two copepod studies, Falls Creek post-construction evaluation, and a modelling exercise looking at mortality in Lookout Point reservoir. Additionally, the Corps is moving forward with funding two SWIFT studies and is working on funding the surrogate fish program.

Finally, the Corps has named Jeff Amit as the new Deputy District Project Manager.

- USFWS - Mike reported that FWS is establishing guidelines to be considered in bull trout and Pacific lamprey passage projects. Currently, there are no specifications for these species. The first step is a literature review that will move into development of guidelines. Mike noted this is not guidance and will not be regulatory in nature. Mike will keep the group apprised of progress. Ian offered to share data on lamprey and bull trout if needed.
- NMFS – Anne reported that the hearing on the Willamette BiOp was postponed until April 2020 (previously scheduled for February). As part of the re-initiation efforts, Marc is interested in conversation at the Steering Team around WATER process improvements, specifically the issue elevation process. Additionally, NMFS is in the process of 5-year status reviews on salmon and steelhead and will have a draft in April 2020.
- NPCC – Karl reported that the HTT is expected to release a solicitation for 2021 projects after their meeting this coming Thursday.
- ODEQ – Nancy reported that ODEQ produces a statewide water quality status and trends report each year, it can be found at <https://www.oregon.gov/deq/wq/programs/Pages/wqstatustrends.aspx>.
- ODFW – Kelly reported that the Willamette Wildlife Mitigation Program opened the 2022 solicitation on February 3rd. Including this solicitation, there are only four solicitations remaining until the program ends in 2025.
- Willamette Forest – Nothing to report.

In closing, it was noted that the Willamette National Forest’s Stage Zero work on the McKenzie has been very beneficial so far. It was suggested that the Steering Team should be briefed on the effort sometime in the future. Trish noted that Brett Blunden would be a good contact for a presentation. Additionally, Kate Meyer will be providing an overview at the Upper Willamette Bull Trout working group meeting on 3/11 in Springfield.

Closing and Next Steps

At the March meeting, the Steering Team will review the sub-basin planning tables in preparation for the joint Steering and RM&E teams meeting in April, debrief lessons learned from the Willamette Basin Fisheries Science Review, hear updates on the FY20/FY21 budgets and from WFDWG, and identify topics for the May Managers Forum meeting.

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

The next Steering Team meeting is scheduled for March 3, 2020.

This summary is respectfully submitted by the impartial facilitation team at DS Consulting. Suggested edits are welcome and can be sent to emily@dsconsult.co