

Willamette Action Team for Ecosystem Restoration (WATER)

**Steering Team Meeting
Tuesday, October 6, 2020**

Final Meeting Summary

[Edits received from: ODFW]

Action	Whom	By When
Provide any suggested edits to meeting summaries to Emily.	Ian	10/9
Discuss how to reconnect the Cougar and Detroit downstream passage efforts in the future	ST/ RM&E Team	Ongoing
Revisit data gathering needs and opportunities to use existing equipment at Lebanon Dam; bring recommendation to the Steering Team.	RM&E Team	Ongoing
Clarify spring flow operations at Foster for 2020 and 2021.	Anne and Fenton	Ongoing

Participants on the phone: Eric Andersen (BPA), Ian Chane (Corps), Brad Eppard (Corps), Nancy Gramlich (DEQ), Mike Hudson (USFWS), Fenton Kahn (Corps), Marc Liverman (NOAA), Anne Mullan (NOAA), Kelly Reis (ODFW), Lawrence Schwabe (CTGR), Dan Spear (BPA), Karl Weist (NPCC), Trish Wilson (USFS).

Facilitation Team: Donna Silverberg, Nancy Pionk & Emily Stranz, DS Consulting.

Welcome, Introductions and Housekeeping

Facilitator, Donna Silverberg welcomed the group to the meeting and conducted a round of introductions. She reviewed the agenda and noted that the purpose of the meeting was to discuss issues and seek consensus on process, substance, and outcomes for efforts affecting participants engaged in the Willamette system.

The group reviewed and approved meeting summaries for the August 4th and September 1st Steering Team meetings, and August 4th and August 27th Joint ST and RM&E meeting; however, the Corps needed more time to review.

→ **ACTION:** Ian will provide any suggested edits by the end of the week (Oct 9th), if no edits are received, the summaries will be considered final.

The Steering Team clarified that additional review of the October 2019 Managers Forum meeting summary is not needed. Donna noted that in the future, there will be a deadline for edits and approval of meeting summaries.

FY20 Projects and Updated Budget

Ian Chane, Corps, updated the group on final FY20 projects, noting that there were a few contracts that did not go through, and thus some FY20 funds that were not spent will be carried over into FY21.

Ian shared that, as the Corps was prepping the contract to Detroit downstream passage modelling, they found the cost of the modelling exceeded the estimate. Due to restrictions on the

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FY20 (and FY21) funds, the Corps had planned to use FY19 funds for the Detroit modelling. Unfortunately, due to the costs, the Corps will have to shelf the project at the current design level. They will note that they have capability to do design work in FY21 for budget purposes. However, it is unlikely that funds will be made available due to the restriction that funds are not to be used for ‘design leading to construction’ nor ‘new construction’.

Additionally, the plan had been to get Cougar to 90% plans and specs in FY20 and then move forward if possible, in FY21; however, Cougar did not get funded for FY21. The Corps identified additional engineering work that is needed and is working to get the project to a logical stopping point before shelving it for later.

Anne wondered whether, given the timeline and the high-head bypass and Cougar downstream passage projects being shelved, the group may be able to make progress thinking about how to eventually re-connect the two passage efforts. Ian noted that, while there is no funding, conversations could begin now regarding how to eventually reconnect the efforts.

→ **ACTION:** The Steering and RM&E Teams will discuss how to reconnect the Cougar and Detroit downstream passage efforts in the future.

Ian noted that there were some Columbia River project contract delays and an acquisition failure on one Columbia River project. Overall, there was a significant amount of FY20 funds that will be carried over into FY21, including \$19.7M of the lamprey fish accords funding. All in all, \$27.4 million of FY20 funds will be carried into FY21; \$10.7 is for the Willamette in FY21.

Updated FY21 Budget and Capabilities

Ian provided the Steering Team an early look at the FY21 work efforts that the Corps expects to move forward. He noted that he will bring a budget spreadsheet to November Steering Team meeting.

- The high-head bypass work will continue into FY21; funding is currently in place and work efforts are already underway.
- The Willamette NEPA EIS process experienced a delay in contracting in FY20 and will be carried over into FY21 using previous year funds.
- The Willamette operational measures PDT will be funded in FY21; this effort includes working with the region to implement the agreed on Interim Measures and will include some modelling and engineering.
- Corps’ program coordination will see a slight uptick in funding compared to FY20; the increase is due to cover costs of ongoing litigation.
- Cougar 2.0 will be funded in FY21 and it is expected that this effort will be completed by February.
- The Fall Creek Adult fish facility water line lining work will be funded and completed this year.
- The Foster fish weir contract did not go forward in FY20; however, this year the Corps will complete the SHIPO work needed for the crane to be removed.
- The Foster adult fish facility temperature corrections will be fully funded as design work. This is a design efficiency correction, not new construction, and thus can use FY21 funds.

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- As noted above, the Cougar downstream passage PDT was working to get to 90% plans and specs; however, there are a few items that need more attention. The Corps identified the engineering needs as additional capabilities for FY21 as a step intended to get to the 90%. Similarly, the Detroit downstream passage modelling effort will be shelved. There are some details that need to be clarified to ensure that current thinking can be communicated accurately in the future when the plans are pulled back off the shelf. Ian noted that there will be a summary drafted that details the Detroit and Cougar passage projects to date to inform those who later are charged with continuing the work. He noted the Corps will wrap up the ongoing Detroit NEPA process this year.
- The Willamette RM&E will receive \$4.6M; Ian provided an initial list of RM&E that is expected to move forward using these funds and noted that he was limited as to how much information he can share at this point given the rough estimates, contract and IGEs, etc. There are still some items that need to be closed out from last FY. As such, he noted that the Corps and Steering Team will want to track the projects throughout the year to see how things shape up and adjust in real-time, as needed. Ian expects the following RM&E to move forward in quarter 1 and 2 of FY21:
 1. Middle fork fry survival modeling for sources of mortality
 2. Pedigree work
 3. Green Peter RM&E plan
 4. Surrogate fish program
 5. Screw trapping efforts below various projects in the basin
 6. Fall creek year-2 study
 7. Radio telemetry retrieval at Lebanon Dam

Regarding the radio telemetry equipment removal: it was noted that there dysfunctional equipment that will be removed per a previous agreement. Anne noted that, if there is an opportunity to repair the equipment and gather needed data, then the RM&E team should consider data needs.

→ **ACTION:** RM&E will revisit data gathering needs and opportunities and bring any recommendations to the Steering Team.

→ Ian committed to bring updated costs to the Steering Team once they are available.

Regional Updates

- **Willamette Update** - Ian shared images and updates from the Santiam and McKenzie fires, noting that there were water quality concerns in both systems and they are waiting to see the impact on municipal systems with the first big rain event. There was damage to USGS monitoring gauges, hatcheries, and equipment will need to be replaced and repaired. Additional information on the monitoring gauge damage can be found via the Flow Team. ODFW hatcheries were also impacted and Kelly noted that the hatchery staff was phenomenal in their efforts to spawn fish in the midst of the very smoky conditions. Fish from Minto are being reared at Roaring River instead of Marion Forks due to damage. Also, fish had to be released from Leaburg. Kelly thought that McKenzie Hatchery spring Chinook broodstock collection would be sufficient this year despite the challenges. She noted that Leaburg Lake provides

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water supply for the hatchery and EWEB will have to bring the lake down again in November, which may cause a fish passage issue at Leaburg Dam. The fire also destroyed the domestic water supply at Leaburg. Until it is fixed, no staff can live onsite.

- **HTT Team:** Eric and Karl shared that BPA funding was provided for 5 HTT projects for FY21. Karl has a spreadsheet noting the project locations, if people are interested.
- Fenton updated the group that the Foster spill operation, which is one of the interim measures, calls for nighttime spill operations for juvenile passage, in lieu of using the weir. The IM states that fall spill operations begin on October 1 and spring operations on March 1. The Corps, NOAA and BPA are taking steps to coordinate a later fall start date in order to avoid high TDG during higher spawning flows, and to limit the impact on equipment from being turned on and off to provide station service. The new start date will be October 16, which is consistent with last year's operations and fits well with the peak of migration, which is typically in late October/November. Anne added that the Corps and NOAA have some homework to review past springtime operations, as there are higher flows for spring spawning as well.

→ **ACTION** - Anne and Fenton work together to clarify spring flow operations at Foster for 2020 and 2021.
- Marc reported that there is a new Willamette Executive Team that has been convened by Beth Coffey, Program Director at the Corps NW Division. The team currently includes Executives from the Corps, BPA, BOR, NMFS, and DOJ and is intended to mirror the structure of the Columbia River System Operation (CRSO) process used on the Columbia River. It is expected that there will also be a Deputies team. The goal is for federal family alignment on issues, and efficient coordination and elevation. The Executives are meeting monthly and will pull staff in as needed for briefings. Marc noted that USFWS is not yet a part of the team due to transitions in FWS leadership. He also noted that it remains to be seen how this forum will interact with the WATER process. Donna shared that the DS Consulting Team has been facilitating the Executives and Deputies teams as part of the CRSO NEPA process.
- Kelly updated the group that that the FY22 Willamette mitigation project funding was approved by BPA and the projects will move forward.
- BPA, CTGR, NPCC, ODEQ, and USFWS did not have additional updates.

Next Steps

Donna recapped the action items and noted that the next Steering Team meeting will be held on November 3rd. With that, she thanked the group and the meeting was adjourned.

This summary is respectfully submitted by DS Consulting. Suggested edits are welcome and can be emailed to Emily at emily@dsconsult.co