

Willamette Action Team for Ecosystem Restoration (WATER)

**Steering Team Meeting
Tuesday, November 3, 2020
Via WebEx Conference**

Meeting Summary

Action	Whom	By When
Connect with Managers to brief them on the Managers Forum meeting agenda.	Steering Team members	November 10th
Continue the conversation around current data and data needed to inform decisions around passage projects.	Steering Team	At December meeting

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

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 the October 6th meeting summary.

Ian noted that Andy Traylor will be filling in for him temporarily while Ian is on a 6-month detail.

Action Items from Prior Steering Team Meeting/Progress Reports

FY20 projects and updated budget: Ian shared that the Corps is in the process of standing up a PDT which will focus on implementation of the interim measures. Chris Budai, USACE, is the Project Manager, and other USACE staff, including engineers, environmental staff, and representatives in the WATER forum will be on the team. Ian noted that the interim measures implementation will be coordinated through the normal WATER process.

Updated FY21 budget and capabilities: Ian did not have any updates to the budget presented at the October meeting.

Revisit and clarify desired RM&E discussion regarding ‘how to reconnect the Cougar and Detroit downstream passage efforts in the future’: The Steering Team revisited a conversation from the October meeting around potential next steps that can be taken to further work efforts, while the Cougar and Detroit passage plans are tabled due to funding limitations. At the October meeting, it was suggested that the RM&E team consider how to reconnect the Cougar and Detroit downstream passage efforts, however, the RM&E team was unsure of what the ask was. In clarifying, Anne Mullan asked the Steering Team whether there is any thinking that the teams can do now, while the plans are shelved, to further the HHB and FFS. Kelly Reis questioned whether there are RM&E efforts that can be implemented now that could answer any questions needed to inform decisions on the tabled construction efforts. For example, she highlighted the copepod studies for passage at Green Peter and wondered if the RM&E Team could review those studies’ findings and consider whether there is enough data to move forward with HHB (once it is taken

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“off the shelf”) or determine that more information is needed. Mike Hudson echoed the approach, noting that passage plans are currently behind schedule and it would be preferable if the team were not discussing research needs when construction funds become available. Mike suggested that the Steering Team ensure that the research is in place to answer the questions necessary to act. Brad noted that there is so much uncertainty in the timing that he is not sure what can be done at this point. He encouraged the group to review the research that is available or will be available at the Willamette Science Review and consider if there are additional action items. Donna suggested that this topic be added to the agenda for the December conversation around process and planning.

- ACTION: The Steering Team will continue the conversation around existing data and additional data needed to inform decisions around passage projects, to allow for quick action once construction funds are made available.

In response to a question posed, Brad noted that the intention would be to keep the same PDT staff once the projects are reinstated; however, he noted there is also uncertainty there due to potential staff changes and resources.

Preparation for November 10th Managers Forum

Donna reviewed the draft Managers Forum agenda, noting that the meeting will be a brief call on November 10th. The agenda includes a budget update, updates on the Willamette EIS and other regional processes, as well as opportunity for all the Managers to share relevant updates.

Steering Team members reviewed the agenda and thought that it looked good and was comprehensive. There was conversation around the new Federal Executive Willamette Team and how that group will interface with the WATER teams. It was clarified that creation of the WATER forum was an RPA in the 2008 Willamette BiOp, whereas the new Executive Team is focusing on the new EIS and associated BiOps. Mike asked that the FWS be brought into the folds of the new Executive Team, as they have not yet been involved. Donna noted that there will be an update and opportunity for conversation around the new Executive Team at the Managers Forum meeting.

- ACTION: Steering Team members will connect with their Managers ahead of the November 10th meeting to brief them on the meeting agenda.

Regional Updates

Willamette EIS Update: The Corps recently finished their analysis on the No Action Alternative.

WATER Team updates: HTT, Flow Team, et al: No updates to report.

Partner updates

- **FWS:** Mike reported that the FWS has new WATER Managers to take the place of Rollie White who recently shifted to a position in California. Paul Henson and Janine Castro will step in. Paul is the State Supervisor for the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Office. And Janine is the Project Leader for the Columbia River Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office.
- **CTGR:** Lawrence reported that the tribe owns 1,000 acres of conservation land and fortunately, the land was spared from the fires.
- **ODFW:** Kelly reported that Bruce McIntosh has retired, and Bernadette Graham Hudson will attend the Managers Forum on behalf of ODFW.

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- **ODEQ:** Nancy reported that ODEQ has been focused on wildfires efforts and that the federal, state, and non-profit organizations have been working well together.
- **Corps:** Brad reported that Andy Traylor will be stepping in as the Columbia River CRFM Program Manager for the Portland District while Ian is on detail. Also, the screw-trapping contract is open for bids, and the Corps met with contractors late last week to address questions. Bids are due in a week or so and the contract will be awarded as quickly as possible. The Corps hopes to start fishing the traps in 2020.
- **NOAA** - Marc reported that the NOAA team is busy working on various restoration efforts, the Willamette Valley System EIS, litigation, a BiOp for the USFS Mt Hood Forest Program and the Federal-Aid Highway Program. Additionally, they are working with EPA on a consultation on the Portland Harbor.
- **BPA and NPCC** did not have any updates.

Next Steps

Donna recapped the action items and noted that the next Steering Team meeting will be held on December 1st. 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