

Willamette Action Team for Ecosystem Restoration (WATER)

WATER Steering Team Meeting

http://pweb.crohms.org/tmt/documents/FPOM/2010/Willamette_Coordination/Steering_team/WST.html

October 27, 2021

Final Meeting Summary

[Edit/Review by Corps, ODFW]

Participants: Eric Anderson (BPA), Mike Hudson (USFWS), Cathy Kellon (NPCC), Anne Mullan (NOAA), Kelly Reis (ODFW), Ida Royer (Corps), Lawrence Schwabe (CTGR), Dan Spear (BPA), Kate Wells (NOAA); **DSC Facilitation Team:** Nancy Pionk, Emily Stranz, DS Consulting.

Welcome, introductions, housekeeping – Facilitator, Nancy Pionk, welcomed the group and solicited edits on the 8/3/21 and 9/15/21 Steering meeting summaries; no additional edits were suggested, and the summaries were approved.

Managers Forum Report Back – The WATER Managers met on September 30th to discuss the WATER process, areas for improvements and next steps in clarifying WATER forum needs in the short and long-term. Following the session, it was decided that the Federal managers would meet to clarify:

1. What can WATER teams discuss, given the litigation?
2. How can WATER partners assist the current situation?
3. What are the implementation barriers partners might be able to help overcome?

The Federal Managers meeting is scheduled for November 2nd and DS Consulting will report to the WATER groups the results of that conversation and convene teams as appropriate.

Current and future Corps budget updates

Ida Royer, Corps, reported that the Corps is operating in a continuing resolution and under the current President's Budget of \$3.575M. They have worked internally to re-program, or move funds between programs, to address program needs through the 1st quarter. There is still the possibility of additional funds be appropriated through the final congressional budget and if not, then the Corps may look to congressional re-programming funds (funding from other programs within the Corps that could be shifted to CRFM).

Interim Measures Implementation Updates

Ida continued with a report regarding the Interim Measures (IM), noting that measures 5, 6, 7 and 20 were included directly in the injunction, other measures were incorporated as well, and the remaining Interim measures are superseded by the injunction. Consequently, there are no updates on the IMs. Kate Wells, NOAA, suggested that a table that compares the interim and injunction measures would be helpful to illustrate which are being implemented under what category. Ida shared that the Corps developed a public-facing website that will provide all publicly-available information regarding the injunction; it includes information on which IM or injunction measure an action is addressing. The webpage can be accessed here:

<https://www.nwp.usace.army.mil/Locations/Willamette-Valley/Injunction/>

Regional Information Sharing

Habitat Tech Team: Eric Anderson, BPA, reported that the HTT is meeting on Friday to review and rank 9 projects. They will provide recommendations for funding. Not all the proposed projects are requesting BPA funds (\$800,000, minus \$40,000 for OWEB administration and \$50,000 for USFS fish sampling), there are OWEB and Meyer Memorial Trust (\$330,000) funds available as well. There is just over \$1M of funds available, with 976,000 in total requests. Eric reminded the group that this is the last year of Meyer Memorial Trust funding. After the tech team ranking, Eric will let the project sponsors know the ranking and recommendations, and then provide an update at the next monthly Steering Team meeting.

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Additionally, Eric noted that they are working with OWEB to make some changes to the project solicitation timeline to allow project sponsors to apply for OWEB general funding and BPA funds, as different aspects of the projects are better funded by the different programs. They are also working on minor fine-tuning for improvements moving forward.

WATER Member Updates:

- ODFW – Kelly reported that ODFW is keeping a close watch on water temperatures coming out of Detroit and into Minto.
- NOAA – Kate reported that NOAA has been focused on litigation and injunction measure planning; as well as the EIS process (document reviews, etc.).
- USFWS – Mike reported that USFWS is working on the Coordination Act Report, which will be an appendix to the Willamette DEIS when it comes out next year. They are planning to compile a draft by the end of the calendar year and are discussing internally how best to get input on the draft from partner agencies.
Also, for the past year USFWS has been developing a climate change action program, which is now available publicly (Mike will send the document to the team). The program will serve as guidance for all USFWS programs and is intended to be a living framework. Over the next few months, USFWS will be stepping it down within the region to identify actions for this FY and there may be some that are relevant to the Willamette and partners.
- BPA, CTGR, NPCC, and ODEQ did not have additional updates to report.

Willamette EIS Update: The Corps is expecting to hold a public hearing in December; Ida will provide the date of the hearing once it is available.

Basin-wide Ad-Hoc Group: The Federal Family is planning to meet again next week to continue refining the “ask” to partners; and then will expand the conversation to beyond the Federal family. The group recently presented progress at the Managers’ September meeting and will continue to report out to the Steering and Managers’ teams as progress is made. Anne noted that the some of the work being done via the injunction and other efforts will be informative to the basin-wide team as they continue to think about the approach to monitoring. For example, there are PIT tagged fish moving through the McKenzie now that will be detectable in the system and lessons learned that can be helpful.

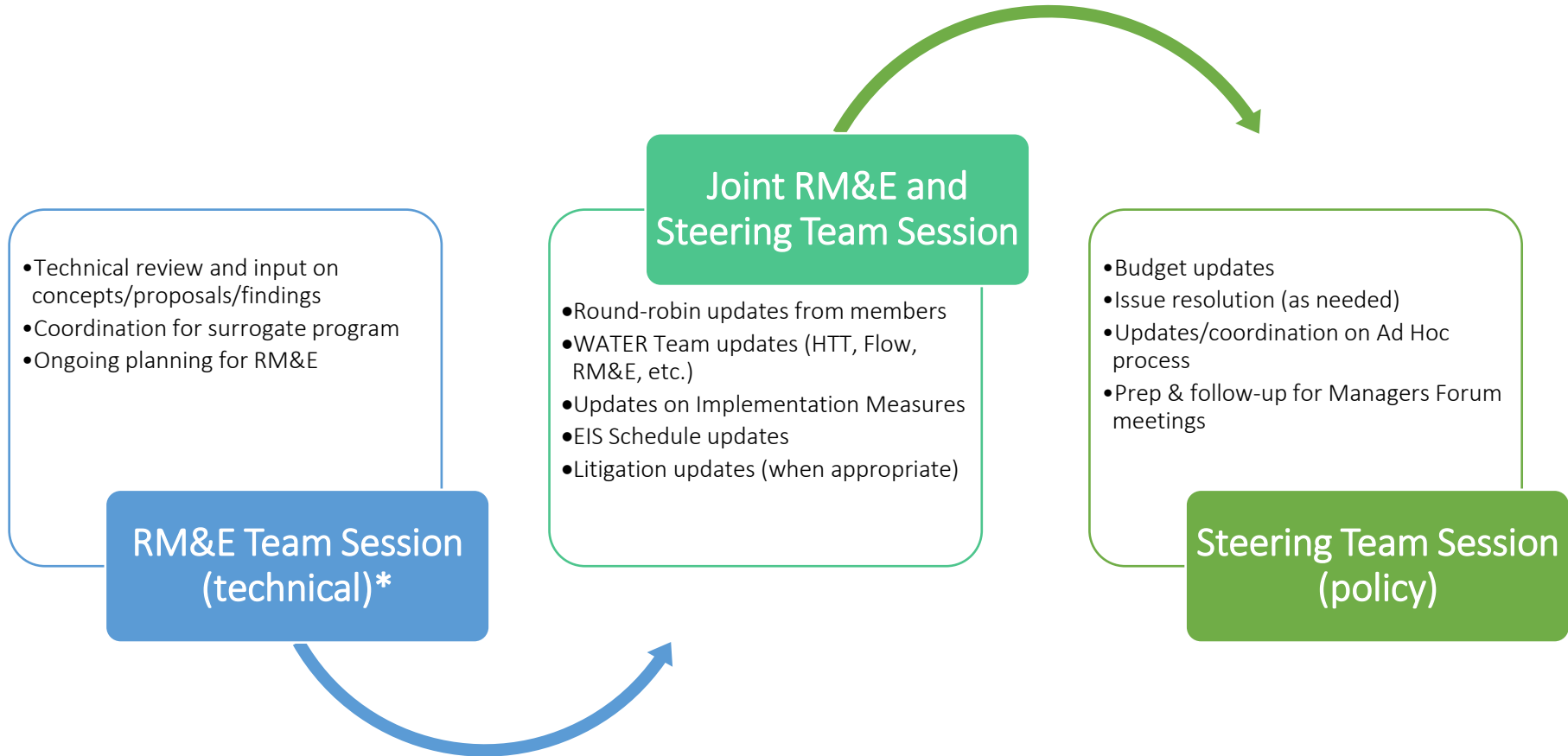
Suggested Meeting Approach – In response to the request to streamline the WATER meetings, DS Consulting suggested holding the Steering and RM&E meetings on the same day and having a “joint session” between the meetings to share information that pertains to both teams. (See diagram below.) Both the RM&E and Steering Teams were amenable to the idea. The Steering Team suggest that the meetings are still held on the 1st Tuesday of the month. They also suggested keeping the monthly cadence on the calendar, but canceling meetings if there are no agenda items to discuss.

- **Action: DS Consulting will work with the teams to find a time that works for the sessions, with the priority being the 1st Tuesday of the month.**

Next Steps - The DS Consulting Team will work with Steering and RM&E Team members to try and find a time that works for everyone for the new meeting sequence. Additionally, DS Consulting will send a link to the team for the annual facilitation services survey. Nancy noted that the facilitation team utilizes the input to improve services and greatly appreciates the input. And with that, Nancy thanked the group, and the meeting was adjourned.

The next Steering Team meeting will be December 7th, unless otherwise coordinated.

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***Note: Due to scheduling conflicts, the RM&E Team will meet following the Joint sessions.**