

Steering Team & RM&E Team Meetings

October 4, 2022

Meetings Summary

http://pweb.crohms.org/tmt/documents/FPOM/2010/Willamette_Coordination/Steering_team/WST.html
https://pweb.crohms.org/tmt/documents/FPOM/2010/Willamette_Coordination/Willamette%20RME/RME.html

[Edits provided by Corps, ODFW]

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

Steering Team Meeting

Participants: Eric Andersen (BPA), Leslie Bach (NPCC), Nancy Gramlich (ODEQ), Mike Hudson (USFWS), Cathy Kellon (NPCC), Christine Peterson (BPA), Ida Royer (Corps), Lawrence Schwabe (CTGR), Dan Spear (BPA), Kelly Reis (ODFW), Kate Wells (NOAA).

8/2/22 Meeting Summary: The Steering Team approved the August meeting summary.

Budget Updates: Ida reviewed the FY22 final budget allocation and FY23 Budget status with the team. She noted that FY22 began under a continuing resolution and a President's Budget (PBUD) of \$3.5 Million. On September 1, 2021, the court issued the final injunction order for the Willamette litigation; the Corps' expressed capability at the time did not include funding for the injunction measures (due to the 2-year advance planning cycle for Corps' budgets). In December, the Infrastructure bill provided \$36 Million in funding, which included budgetary guidance to use the funds for Willamette injunction requirements. In February 2022, Congress approved a budget with \$38 Million in CRFM appropriations. The Corps' total available funding for FY22 was \$78.976 Million, which included reprogramming and carry-in funds. Most of the funding (\$72.913 Million) was allocated to the Willamette Valley Projects (see Excel spreadsheet titled CRFM FY23 WATER Spreadsheet_04Oct2022, provided separately by email).

FY23 is also under a continuing resolution through mid-December 2022. The Corps' updated FY23 capability for the Willamette is \$55 Million. The PBUD for FY23 came out in April with \$29.175 Million proposed for the Columbia and Willamette. Ida noted that the PBUD did not allocate funding for injunction requirements. Ida then reviewed the FY23 Capability for the Willamette projects, noting that some of the funding needs address secondary effects of actions. For example, the deep drawdowns at Lookout Point and Green Peter will dewater some of the dam intakes and require funds to address these effects. Ida is currently planning the proposed budget for FY25; the budget will include assumptions based on the Draft EIS proposed action, with the understanding that those estimates may change after the FEIS.

In response to a question, Ida noted that CRFM funds are 100% appropriated. BPA repays the Treasury directly for some portion of the costs when the project becomes operational. Dan reviewed power share allocations for the Willamette dams. He noted that the percentage is different for O&M and Capital funds. Only Congress can change the power share of the dams. {Note: Following the meeting, Dan provided a PowerPoint document listing the power share allocations for each dam}.

The next Steering Team Session is on December 6, 2022

Steering & RM&E Joint Session

Participants: Eric Andersen (BPA), Leslie Bach (NPCC), Nancy Gramlich (ODEQ), Mike Hudson (USFWS), Cathy Kellon (NPCC), Christine Peterson (BPA), Ida Royer (Corps), Lawrence Schwabe (CTGR), Dan Spear (BPA), Kelly Reis (ODFW), Kate Wells (NOAA).

WATER Partner Updates

- **NPCC:** Cathy noted that the Council will be meeting in-person in Corvallis on October 11-12, 2022. Curt Melcher, Director, ODFW will provide opening remarks and Tom Brumbelow, USFWS, will present on the recovery and delisting of Brashsaw's Iomatium. Council members will also tour wildlife mitigation and habitat restoration sites in the area.
- **ODFW:** Kelly noted that the "Within Our Reach" conference will take place on October 6-7, 2022. NOAA representatives will present on grant opportunities. Regarding actions on the ground, Kelly shared that ODFW has removed the Leaburg fish sorter on the McKenzie River; the sorting of wild and hatchery fish has significantly impacted the proportion of natural origin fish that are spawning. ODFW is removing the pit arrays in the South Fork McKenzie restoration area and installing new arrays below Cougar Dam.

ODFW and other cooperating agencies have provided comments to the Willamette DEIS. Kelly asked if the biannual status reports provided to the Court as part of the Willamette litigation are available to the public; Ida will check on the status. *[Update: Following the meeting, Ida provided the February 2022 and August 2022 biannual status reports to the WATER team members via email with this summary. Ida noted that the reports must be ADA compliant before posting to the public website, which is the reason for the delay in posting.]*

- **Corps:** Ida noted that negotiations regarding the Columbia River BiOp litigation are continuing, with engagement at the White House level. This could have implications for future funding allocations as the Willamette and Columbia projects are both funded through CRFM.
- There were no updates from BPA, CTGR, ODEQ, NOAA, or USFWS

WATER Team Updates

- **HTT:** Eric Andersen noted that the next HTT meeting is on October 6, 2022.
- **EIS Schedule Updates:** The public virtual room is available here: <https://gather.cdmsmith.com/v/V6zaxVGM1eZ>
- **Injunction Updates:** Public information about the Willamette Valley Injunction is available here: [https://www.nwp.usace.army.mil/Locations/Willamette-Valley/Injunction/.](https://www.nwp.usace.army.mil/Locations/Willamette-Valley/Injunction/)

RM&E Team Meeting

Participants: Leslie Bach (NPCC), Mike Hudson (USFWS), Christine Peterson (BPA), Kelly Reis (ODFW), Ida Royer (Corps), Lawrence Schwabe (CTGR).

Meeting Summaries: The RM&E Team approved the July and August summaries.

FY21/FY22 Studies, & Screwtrapping Updates: Ida provided an update from Fenton, who was working in the field and not able to attend the meeting. The Foster injunction fall nighttime spill operation began October 1 and

will end on December 15. PNNL researchers will be tagging and releasing study fish (sub-yearling Chinook salmon) beginning October 3 through early December. Screw trap monitoring is ongoing; Fenton will continue to send the bi-weekly screw trap reports to the RM&E team.

Surrogate Program: Ida noted that the OSU Surrogate program continues to rear juvenile Chinook salmon and steelhead for active tag studies at Foster and Green Peter in 2023 and 2024. OSU is coordinating with ODFW to collect Chinook salmon eggs this fall for Chinook salmon surrogates.

Lebanon Dam PIT antenna installation: The Lebanon Dam PIT antenna is in! The Corps acknowledged and thanked Elise Kelley (ODFW) and Anne Mullan (NMFS) for their concurrence of the Corps' request to lower the river flows from 1,500 cfs (BiOp minimum flows) to 1,200 cfs to facilitate the PIT antenna installation in the spillway. For context, water was overtopping the Lebanon Dam spillway at 1,500 cfs, which prevented the Contractor from installing the antennas. The Corps also acknowledged and thanked Salina Hart, the Corps Water Management Team, and the Foster Dam Operators for their diligence in managing and maintaining the flows at 1,200 cfs, all while drafting Foster reservoir to the low pool elevation to start the injunction low pool spill on Oct 1. The Lebanon Dam PIT antenna detection system is the largest PIT antenna system in the world.

Team Updates and Coordination: There were no additional updates from team members.

Deadlines for Draft Technical Reports: A draft report for the North Santiam pedigree analysis is out for review and comments are due on October 12. Please email comments to Rich Piaskowski at richard.m.piaskowski@usace.army.mil.

The next RM&E Team Session is on November 1, 2022

The DS Consulting Facilitation Team drafts Steering and RME Team meeting summaries; suggested edits are welcome. Please send suggested edits to Nancy Pionk at nancy@dsconsult.co