

**Columbia River Regional Forum
System Configuration Team Meeting
February 21, 2019
DRAFT**

****Comments due by May 1, 2019**

Today's SCT meeting chaired by Blane Bellerud, NOAA. See the last page of these minutes for a list of attendees at today's meeting.

1. December and January Minutes

Approval of December and January minutes was deferred to the next SCT so edits could be incorporated. Blane will send out the notes before the next SCT meeting.

2. Updates and Review of CRFM FY19 Workplan

Ian Chane started with project updates, which are as follows:

CRSO – CSRO now has a website, www.crsoc.info much of the information regarding CSRO is available on that website.

Bonneville Powerhouse 2 Fish Guidance Efficiency – Scott Bettin, BPA, had requested information on the project total for B2FGE at the last SCT. Chane looked into this and is able to provide the amount spent on existing projects through the end of this fiscal year – \$8.5 million.

The Dalles AWS – There is a cracked valve cover on the 10-foot valve. The Corps is looking into the cause. The AWS has to be operated manually until the cover is fixed. As of March 1, if the AWS is needed, it can be used manually. The Corps believes there should be no impact from running it manually. Once the root cause has been identified, the Corps can look into funding sources such as CRFM. The valve cover is made of cast aluminum, which is typically a less expensive metal.  Charles Morrill, WA, asked if it could be welded. Ian said based on the photos it looked like the crack was next to where the bolts go in.

As far as the AWS breakers, everything is still on schedule.

East Sand Island Terrain Modifications – Work is progressing at East Sand Island, however there is a site issue. On a part of the island called “the spine,” the contractors has been exposing rock, which helps prevent erosion. However, at a certain point, the contractor has not been able to find rock. The contractor is inspecting today to see if maybe the rock sunk in the island. If not, more rock may need to be brought onto the island. This may result in the project cost going up.

Line 21 Lower Granite Spillway PIT Detection – Work on this project is going well. The contractor is testing the concrete to make sure it will work as they cover the spillway back up. Margie is not sure if the seal is done. FPOM had information that it was done but Margie says what she understood was that one seal was fixed and it did not do what they wanted it to so a second is being fixed.

Line 23 Lower Granite Juvenile Bypass Facility - Phase 1a (Gatewell to Separator), Phase 1b (Outfall) and Follow-On – This project is slightly behind schedule for closeout but all construction will be completed during the construction season. The contractor issued modifications, for which the Corps is still doing cost estimates on. There is a need for a completion contract, which is needed mostly for safety and site stabilization. The contractor has also identified a few O&M issues.

Lower Monumental and Little Goose 10-minute Emergency Gate Closure Devices Margie said it was her understanding that there should be a write-up but that no construction is necessary. Derek chimed in saying that there is a study going on at Lower Monumental for FTE. They are prepping for that now.

Avian Water Deterrent at McNary – The Corps has awarded a contract to remove sections of the walkway along with the failed avian deterrent system that is currently in place. The contract “came in within reason” and the contractor is completing work.

A question on the Corp’s mind is *“What is a reasonable solution for avian deterrent at McNary Dam?”*

One option would be green lasers, which can work from a long distance. Since it is low risk and low cost, the Corps did purchase lasers, which they will install on the dam itself.

The Corps is still planning to do an analysis of alternatives and look for long-term solutions. That analysis should occur this year. Margie says one thing they know is that it would probably be best to avoid doing anything on the pipe itself. Every time the Corps attaches something to the pipe, water comes along and destroys or damages it. If they are going to put anything on the pipe, Margie wants to make sure it will last long-term.

Tom asked if there was still an intent to continue with bird wires for the spillway. Margie said it is still a big part.

McNary Permanence – The McNary Top Spill Weir (TSW) Permanence project (Line 15) and McNary Steelhead Overshoot study (line 51), took up much of today’s conversation at SCT.

The Corps is going out with a contract this year for the TSW but was delayed by about a month. As the plans were being worked out, it came to light that the fabrication time would be longer than anticipated. This has caused about a month's delay to the contract award and will push on-site delivery to October or November. Unfortunately, that would be past the time period for a fall analysis or evaluation.

Margie reported that once the TSW is on-site it should only take a few days to install.

Question: *Could the Corps start the trial and install during the in-water work period when there will be no RSW spill?*

Answer: Margie does not think that timing will work.

There was some confusion about the plan for this year. Ian and Scott Bettin, BPA, were under the impression that the idea was the permanence project would be taken care of first and then the study would be completed. Other members of SCT seemed to think both would be done concurrently this year. If this is the case, money will have to be shifted from other projects to create funding. Additionally, this far into the budgeting process, timing can be an issue, especially if funding is pulled from other projects and then the study falls through. That could result in unallocated funds and other projects not being completed this year when they could have been. There is risk associated with moving money this late in the process. The bottom line is that if the study needs to be funded this year, there is not money in the budget. It will have to be funded by defunding another project or by shifting money from another project. Some projects have already been funded and funds have been obligated. Once funds have been obligated it is very difficult to get them back.

Ian asked if was critical to get the data this fall. Trevor Conder, NOAA, said "yes." If that is the case, the Corps will need direction from its policy team. And the Corps and BPA will need to work out details of the study.

Action → Scott Bettin, BPA will touch base with the BPA policy team for additional direction. The Corps/NOAA will take this to SRWG and ask for a series of three options for the study designs. Ian will look for places there is money left over that could be shifted. All members of SCT will re-rank their priorities. B2FGE was discussed as a project where money could possibly be pulled from.

3. Next SCT

The next SCT is scheduled for March 21, 2019.

Today's Attendees

Scott Bettin, BPA

Ian Chane, COE

Brad Eppard, COE

Blane Bellerud, NOAA

Tom Lorz, CRTIFC

Russ Kiefer, ID

Christine Peterson, BPA

Margie McGill, Corps Walla Walla

Derek Fryer, Walla Walla

Erick Van Dyke, OR

Minutes by Melissa Haskin, Flux Resources LLC, Contractor for BPA, mahaskin@bpa.gov