

System Configuration Team (SCT)

Reasonable & Prudent Measure #26 Meeting Notes July 31, 2002

1. Greetings and Introductions.

The July 31 meeting of the System Configuration Team was held at the National Marine Fisheries Service offices in Portland, Oregon. The meeting was chaired by Bill Hevlin of NMFS and facilitated by Richard Forester. The agenda and a list of attendees for the meeting are attached as Enclosures A and B. Hevlin led a round of introductions and a review of the agenda; he distributed the notes from the June SCT meeting, and asked that any comments be furnished to him prior to the SCT's August meeting.

The following is a distillation (not a verbatim transcript) of items discussed at the meeting, together with actions taken on those items. Please note that some enclosures referenced may be too lengthy to routinely include with the meeting notes; copies of all enclosures referred to in the minutes are available upon request from Kathy Ceballos of NMFS at 503/230-5420.

2. FY-02 CRFM Funding Update.

John Kranda reported that the last of the FY-02 money is trickling in; the Corps received \$1.8 million in mid-July, and a further \$920,000 is expected to arrive any day. We're estimating that we need approximately \$2 million more for contractor payments, and it now looks as though that money will be made available by the end of the fiscal year, Kranda said; at this point, it does not appear that we will have any FY-02 costs that will carry over into FY-03.

What about the need to PIT-tag 120,000 Upper Columbia steelhead? Hevlin asked. We're not anticipating a funding problem there, replied Mike Mason; there is some debate about whether a portion of those funds should come from the Corps' O&M budget, or whether the tagging should be paid for out of the Construction General budget, but either way, we think it's covered.

3. FY-03 CRFM Program Prioritization and Eight-Year Plan Spreadsheet.

With respect to the FY-03 CRFM budget, Kranda said the news is not all that good; the full Senate Committee has now requested \$87 million for the FY-03 program. They have also included language earmarking \$300,000 of that total for the flood control study, he said. Anything to report on Chief Joseph? Hevlin asked. Nothing yet, Kranda replied, adding that he has heard that the House will likely recommend \$85 million in FY-03 CRFM funding. He noted that Congress is on recess for the entire month of August, so it will be some time before the final amount is known.

Hevlin distributed a handout summarizing the results of the July 16 meeting between NMFS, the states and the tribes; what this is, he said, is essentially the recommendations of this subcommittee to the full SCT regarding FY-03 priorities. Those recommendations are completely open to change, he said; our intent was simply to provide a starting-point for the discussion at today's meeting. The subcommittee's recommendations are attached as Enclosure C.

Basically what we did was try to sort the FY-03 line-items into five categories, said Hevlin B high-high, high-medium, high-low, medium, and low. There is also a list of six line-items on which we were unable to agree on a priority level, he said. Hevlin went briefly through the remainder of Enclosure C, which included a more detailed summary of the comments on many of the prioritized line-items, as well as a list of the Priority I, II and III categorization criteria used at the July 16 subcommittee meeting.

A lengthy discussion of FY-03 CRFM program priorities ensued, with the goal of trimming the list to fit within the expected \$85 million-\$87 million Congressional appropriation (minus 13% savings and slippage), and of reaching SCT agreement on the lists of high-high, high-medium and high-low priorities. The group went through the current version of the FY-03 CRFM measures worksheet (Enclosure D) item by item, designating each item as OK as prioritized, OK with some modification to cost, in need of further scrubbing (more accurate cost estimate) or further discussion. The results of this discussion were as follows:

1. B2 surface bypass: OK as prioritized
2. Bonn juvenile fish passage studies: OK as prioritized; further scrubbing needed
3. B2 DSM, monitoring and outfall: OK as prioritized
4. Bonn PH2 FGE: OK as prioritized
5. Bonn PH2 fish units intake debris: set aside for further discussion by FFDRWG
6. Bonn flat plate PIT detector: OK as prioritized
7. Ice Harbor aux. water supply: OK as prioritized

8. Ice Harbor adult PIT detectors: OK as prioritized
9. John Day mitigation evaluation (Ringgold): OK as prioritized

10. John Day ladder jumping and holding: OK as prioritized
11. Lower Granite adult PIT detectors: OK as prioritized, FY=03 cost reduced to \$150,000
12. LoMo outfall relocation (modeling and design): OK as prioritized
13. LoMo gas fasttrack: OK as prioritized; FY=03 cost will come down
14. LoMo spillway efficiency/survival studies: OK as prioritized; FY=03 cost will increase to \$2.5 million
15. LoMo barge loading improvements: set aside for further scrubbing and discussion by FFDRWG
16. The Dalles adult channel dewatering: OK as prioritized; FY=03 costs will come down to \$200,000-\$300,000
17. The Dalles spillway and sluiceway survival study: OK as prioritized, but could use further scrubbing
18. The dalles gas fasttrack: OK as prioritized; FY=03 cost will be reduced to \$1.5 million
19. Less-intrusive PIT-tag monitoring: set aside for further discussion by FFDRWG
20. Delayed mortality evaluation: set aside for further discussion at FFDRWG and possibly IT
21. Estuary PIT recovery: more discussion needed; FY=03 cost will likely be reduced to \$800,000
22. High-flow PIT: OK as prioritized; cost may change
23. Investigate headburn: OK as prioritized
24. Estuary studies: this item is under further discussion; Rock Peters to keep the SCT informed
25. Bonn PH2 AWS: OK as prioritized
26. John Day biological studies:
27. John Day north shore AWS: needs further scrubbing
28. Lower Granite surface bypass program: needs further scrubbing and discussion to determine when bypass apparatus should be removed
29. Lower Granite AWS: OK as prioritized
30. LoMo AWS: OK as prioritized; FY=03 cost could come down
31. McNary gas fasttrack: OK as prioritized
32. McNary extended-length screens: OK as prioritized
33. McNary spillway efficiency/survival: OK as prioritized; FY=03 cost may increase to \$2.5 million
34. Adult passage AFEP: OK as prioritized
35. Ice Harbor flow deflectors (spill/survival studies): further scrubbing and discussion needed
36. John Day ladder temperature: further scrubbing and discussion needed pending study report
37. Little Goose gas fasttrack: more discussion needed
38. Little Goose extended-length screens: OK as prioritized
39. Lower Granite juvenile bypass facility: OK as prioritized

40. Lower Granite extended-length screens: OK as prioritized

41. Fish ladder temperature control: OK as prioritized
42. Turbine passage survival, PH1: OK as prioritized
43. Lamprey passage studies: OK as prioritized
44. Bonn adult PIT (inc. The Dalles and John Day): OK as prioritized; more design work needed
45. John Day gas fasttrack: decision deferred; more discussion needed
46. John Day surface bypass: decision deferred; needs further discussion
47. McNary temperature control: needs further scrubbing
48. McNary forebay debris control: needs further study
49. The Dalles sluiceway outfall/emergency AWS: needs further scrubbing
50. Estuary avian predation: OK as prioritized
51. Bonn adult fallback: OK as prioritized
52. Bonn implement gas fasttrack: needs further scrubbing
53. John Day extended-length screens: needs further scrubbing
54. LoMo ESBS evaluations: needs further scrubbing
55. The Dalles surface bypass: needs further scrubbing
56. Turbine passage survival (PH2): needs further discussion
57. Multiple bypass evaluation (AFEP): needs further discussion.

It was noted that, if the FY-03 CRFM appropriations come in as expected at \$85 million-\$87 million, the funding cutoff point will be after line-item 43, the system lamprey passage studies.

The SCT's deliberations yielded the following list of line-items to be scrubbed, with their current cost estimates:

- #2 (\$3.1 million)
- #13 (\$1.62 million)
- #20 (\$4.85 million)
- #26 (\$3.4 million)
- #27 (\$500,000)
- #28 (\$5.658 million)
- #33 (\$2.5 million)
- #35 (\$1.2 million)
- #36 (\$400,000)
- #47 (\$900,000)
- #49 (\$1.1 million)
- #50 (\$983,000)
- #53 (\$890,000)
- \$55 (\$5.6 million)

With that, the meeting was adjourned.

4. Next SCT Meeting Date.

The next meeting of the System Configuration Team was set for 9 a.m. Thursday, August 22 at NMFS-Portland offices. Meeting summary prepared by Jeff Kuechle, BPA contractor.