

System Configuration Team Meeting Notes

August 18, 2005

1. Greetings and Introductions.

Today's System Configuration Team meeting was chaired by NMFS' Bill Hevlin. The following is a summary (not a verbatim transcript) of the topics discussed and decisions made at this meeting. Anyone with questions or comments about these notes should contact Kathy Ceballos at 503/2305420.

2. FFDRWG Update.

No FFDRWG update was presented at today's meeting.

3. SRWG Update.

Marvin Shutters said an SRWG review meeting is scheduled for August 29-30. He noted that the preliminary proposal package that was sent out is not complete; some of the contractors' preliminary proposals will not come in until September 19. We'll need to schedule a second meeting to discuss those later proposals, he said. It was agreed to schedule the second meeting for the afternoon of September 29 and the morning of September 30 in Portland.

One other thing, said Shutters – at a recent SCT meeting, we talked about the Lower Monumental decision path. I have developed a flow chart on this issue for discussion purposes, he said, distributing copies. He asked the other SCT participants to review this document and provide any comments or other feedback they may have as soon as possible.

4. FY'06 CRFM Program Priorities.

The bulk of today's meeting was devoted to a discussion of the FY'06 CRFM program priorities. John Kranda distributed the most recent version of the FY'06 CRFM measures worksheet, which ranked each line-item on a scale of 1-5 according to the priorities assigned by Idaho, Oregon, CRITFC, the Fish and Wildlife Service, NMFS, BPA and the Corps. Kranda has not yet received WDFW scores and the Council did not participate in the initial ranking process. Each item was then assigned a numerical ranking based on its cumulative average score from each agency.

Kranda noted that, after the deduction of savings and slippage, available funding for the FY'06 CRFM program is likely to be about \$70-\$75 million. On this iteration of the spreadsheet, he said, that would put the funding cutoff point somewhere around line-item 51, the Lower Monumental survival/efficiency study, or 52, the Bonneville flow deflectors. Funding will likely be problematic for anything that falls below that line, Kranda explained.

The group went through the spreadsheet line by line, filling in any missing agency scores and clarifying various issues of cost and scope. With respect to line-item 59, system alternative spillway weir tests, it was agreed that a special SCT/FFDRWG meeting is needed to discuss the specifics of this project in greater detail.

Ron Boyce asked the Corps to provide at least a placeholder cost for line-item 29, the system flood control study – I understand that it will take Congressional authorization in order for this study to proceed, but there's no sense in having this in there if we don't have a budget, he said. Kim Fodrea said that, to her best recollection, the estimated cost of the study is about \$7 million. The other question is whether the study would have to be funded through CRFM, or whether another funding source, such as Congressional appropriation, might be available, said Kranda.

Mark Schneider said the WQT had identified another potential line-item related to RPA 143, the Snake River water temperature model. We need to do some follow-on work where the model has been applied at the four Lower Snake reservoirs, he said; it found some interesting things. Most interesting, from my perspective, is the degree to which the reservoirs stratify in the late summer period. One question is where the fish go; that is being addressed. The other question, and this would be the target of this line-item, is what effects the RSWs have on temperature profiles in the reservoirs, Schneider said. Schneider added that the specifics of this line-item still need to be developed. Marvin Shuttles there was a one-pager related to this line-item in this year's stack, but it was rated very low by the salmon managers. After a few minutes of discussion, it was agreed that Schneider will see that a proposal to study the effect of the RSW on forebay water temperature is developed and submitted to SRWG, if the existing one-pager (#109) doesn't adequately cover this.

With respect to line-item 57 (John Day biological studies), Kranda said there has been talk within the Corps of reducing the scope and cost of this study. For one thing, we're talking about reducing the number of species we would study from three to one, he said. Tom Lorz also questioned whether line-item 15, the Little Goose survival/efficiency study, needs to be a full-blown survival study, or whether a less-costly guidance study would suffice in 2006.

Shuttles said the McNary temperature control study (line-item 64) was discussed at the last SRWG meeting; that project will likely be discussed further at a special meeting in Portland. Line-item 56 (the Lower Granite juvenile bypass facility) would be a decision document to help the Corps decide whether or not to proceed with juvenile

facility improvements, added Randy Chong. Fodrea added that it is her understanding that line-item 35 (system PIT-tag recovery, estuary and avian island) does not reflect spring costs. We'll look into that, said Shutters.

Lorz said CRITFC is interested in exploring the possibility of reducing the scope of line-item 17, Lower Granite surface bypass. We'll discuss all of these issues at our September meeting, said Hevlin. Shutters said he will set up the special surface bypass FFDRWG meeting in Portland prior to the September SCT meeting.

5. Next SCT Meeting Date.

The next System Configuration Team meeting was set for Thursday, September 29. Meeting summary prepared by Jeff Kuechle, BPA contractor.