

Final Meeting Notes
CRCIP AMT Quarterly Meeting
July 9, 2008

The CRCIP Adaptive Management Team held its quarterly meeting from 9:30 am – 2:30 pm on July 9, 2008 at the Robert Duncan Plaza, Summit Room. The following AMT members, technical support personnel, and invited guests participated in person:

Laura Hicks, COE	Doris McKillip, COE	Agnes Lut, ODEQ
Kim Larson, COE	Paula Ehlers, WDOE*	Steve Bartell, E2 Inc.
Marci Cook, COE	Dianne Perry, Sponsor Ports	Dale Blanton, DLCD
John Gornick, COE		

*participated via telephone

The following topics were addressed by the AMT participants during the July 2008 quarterly meeting:

April 2008 AMT Meeting Notes

The notes for the April 2008 AMT quarterly meeting were approved. The notes will be marked Final, uploaded to E2 CRCIP web site (www.e2tm.com/CRCIP), and placed in the folder for the April 2008 AMT quarterly meeting.

Project Construction Update

Laura Hicks described the status of Project construction. Depending on funding, Project construction in FY09 will focus on dredging in CRM 27-37 and 48-58 with optional work in CRM 58-62. Rock removal will be scheduled in the longer term along with some overwidth work. Estimates are that \$31 million will be needed to complete dredging in FY09, along with \$5 million directed towards ecosystem restoration. Future additional funds of \$25 million will be required for rock removal. However, given the federal election year, it is likely that FY09 funding will be under a continuing resolution which authorizes expenditures not to exceed FY08 spending.

Cottonwood Island is currently being used for upland disposal of dredged materials. Optional work will use Crims Island, the first Oregon site used in the CRCIP.

Laura's Project construction summary presentation will be uploaded to the E2 CRCIP web site and placed in the July 9 Meeting folder.

AEM Workbook 3rd Quarter Review

MA-1 CORIE Analyses

Available MA-1 CORIE data for temperature, salinity, and depth were analyzed through May 2008. Daily and monthly values for temperature were within the bounds defined by the AEM decision criteria. Similar results were obtained for salinity, although salinity values near zero were commonly observed for cbnc3 during the April – May monitoring period. The June and July CORIE data will be analyzed as soon as they become available.

MA-2 Construction

The disposal of Project dredged materials will be updated and summarized for the October AMT meeting. Dale Blanton (DLCD) expressed interest in comparing the actual disposal of dredged materials with the pre-Project forecasts.

MA-3 Crossline Surveys

Crossline surveys are typically done during the January – February construction timeframe. Available 2008 survey results for the river mile locations included in MA-3 will be summarized and presented at the October AMT meeting. Kim Larson reminded the AMT that the survey data focus on possible side slope adjustments in upriver locations where such adjustments might be expected. The MA-3 surveys do not address larger scale physical or habitat changes in the estuary.

MA-4 Habitat Analysis

No new information was available for MA-4, which will focus on post-construction surveys of selected Bottom et al. transects, which were previously surveyed under the AFEP.

MA-5 Sediment Contaminants

The SEDQUAL, which is the primary repository for sediment contaminant data relevant to the CRCIP, has been largely incorporated into the Environmental Information Management (EIM) system that is operated by the state of Washington. The Portland District will be involved in identifying relevant sediment contaminant data for CRCIP; however, most of the data of interest will be maintained in the SEDQUAL.

MA-6 Fish Stranding

No new information was available for fish stranding.

Dungeness crab

Dale Blanton indicated there were some remaining ODFW issues to be discussed in relation to crab. Dale will try to collate and summarize these issues at the October AMT meeting. Kim Larson reminded the AMT that the Phase I studies addressed the physical forces associated with dredging on crabs, while Phase II studies focused on the response of crabs to burial in experimental tanks. Phase III studies are intended to examine crab burial under field conditions. However, it is logistically very difficult to perform the necessary experiments under field conditions.

In addition, there was discussion concerning possible dredging conflicts between the time period for juvenile salmon (Sep – Oct) out-migration and the movement of age 1+ crab (Nov – Feb). Scheduling of Project construction might have to weigh between the impacts on crab vs juvenile salmon.

Smelt

No new information was available for smelt. However, it was noted that smelt are under review for possible ESA listing.

Sturgeon

Michael Parsley and James Hatten attended the AMT meeting and Parsley presented the results of the sturgeon habitat modeling in the Lower Columbia River. The empirical model is based on depth, slope, and roughness; the model appears capable of forecasting habitat quality for sturgeon in relation to these three structural attributes in the Lower Columbia River.

The sturgeon habitat modeling presentation will be posted at the E2 CRCIP web site in the Sturgeon Reporting folder in the AEM_Workbook.

Sediments

Initial consideration of the draft sediment management workshop report (see below) stimulated some follow-on discussion from the April sediment workshop. Dale Blanton stated that potential Oregon disposal sites should remain open for consideration, despite current impediments in terms of state approval. Potential disposal sites identified at the

April workshop are primarily under private ownership. There is some sensitivity and uncertainty whether the Corps should financially assist private property owners with the permitting process, when other publicly-owned lands (e.g., Puget Island) have previously requested dredged material disposal and incurred permitting expenses. With only 20 miles of Project construction remaining, there is some discomfort in approaching private land owners late in the planning stage, while not fulfilling the longtime standing requests for disposal on public lands.

Given the current stage of Project completion, it is likely that sediment management activities will occur mainly under LCR channel operation and maintenance. The consensus was that the AMT might look more broadly across Corps projects to participate in regional sediment management. The original list of proposed disposal sites might be revisited in relation to this broader activity. The AMT should also explore opportunities to coordinate interests in sediment management with the Lower Columbia Solutions Group, while recognizing the focus of the LCSG on habitat enhancement in contrast to the Corps emphasis on beach nourishment. Dale Blanton indicated Oregon's support for this more generalized sediment management activity.

In addition, AMT participants recognize the need to balance the technical determination of beneficial uses of Project construction materials in relation to feasibility and regulations affecting sediment management. The future of sediment management in relation to the CRCIP AEM Program and the AMT will be addressed at the October AMT meeting.

Draft Sediment Management Workshop Report

The draft report for the Sediment Management Workshop held during the April 29, 2008 AMT is available for review and comment. The report is located in the Read-ahead folder at the E2 CRCIP web site. Comments are anticipated 30 days following the July 9 AMT meeting.

Draft 2007 Annual Report

The draft annual CRCIP AEM report for 2007 is available for review and comment. The report is located in the Read-ahead folder at the E2 CRCIP web site. Comments are anticipated 30 days following the July 9 AMT meeting.

Items for October Agenda

AMT participants at the July meeting desired that several items be discussed at the October meeting, including:

- The frequency of face-to-face AMT meetings. Currently the 401 certification requires quarterly meetings, but attendance has been waning.
- Questions were raised concerning the duration of the MA-1 analyses, given the results obtained during the past years of Project construction.
- Newly available data for the MA-3 Crossline Surveys should be presented.
- New data and current disposition of the SEDQUAL should be addressed as part of the MA-5 Sediment Contaminants monitoring.
- A final implementation plan for the sturgeon issues related to the CRCIP and AEM should be addressed.
- The future of the AMT involvement in sediment management should be discussed.

The meeting adjourned at 1:30 pm.