

Final Meeting Notes
CRCIP AMT Quarterly Meeting
April 14, 2010

The CRCIP Adaptive Management Team held its quarterly meeting from 9:30 am – 12:30 pm on April 14, 2010 at the 10th Summit Room, Robert Duncan Plaza. The following AMT members, technical support personnel, and invited guests participated in person:

Laura Hicks, USACE	Marci Johnson, USACE	Dianne Perry, Sponsor Ports
Jon Gornick, USACE	Steve Bartell, E2 Inc.	Kim Larson, USACE
Paula Ehlers, WA Ecology*	Kathy Roberts, FWS	Robert Anderson, NMFS
Patty Snow, ODFW	Mark Dasso, USACE	Doris McKillip, USACE
Jessica Stokke, USACE	Cindy Studebaker, USACE	Blaine Ebberts, USACE

*participated via teleconference

The following topics were addressed by the AMT participants during the April 2010 quarterly meeting:

January 2010 AMT Meeting Notes

Final approval of the January 2010 AMT meeting notes was postponed until the July meeting in order to provide time for inputs from Agnes Lut, ODEQ.

Project Construction Update

Laura Hicks provided a brief update on Project mitigation efforts underway on Cottonwood Island. Mowing and tilling will continue through the spring and summer of 2010. Planting of native species of riparian vegetation is planned for November 2010. Efforts are also underway to control invasive reed canary grass on the island. Paul Schmidt, USACE is the contact for the Cottonwood Island mitigation work.

Translocation of white-tailed deer to Cottonwood is planned for August 2010. Kathy Roberts (FWS) expressed an interest concerning involvement with this activity.

Rock Removal Update

Mark Dasso, USACE summarized progress concerning rock removal for the CRCIP and outlined a schedule for completing Project construction. McAmis, Inc. completed its blasting in the St. Helens area on February 4, 2010 and completed its removal of the rock on February 8. Approximately 460,000 cubic yards of material (rock and sand) were removed from this area. No fish kills were observed beyond the two individual sturgeons observed in the very initial stages of blasting.

Additional rock removal near the Longview Bridge began on January 27, 2010. This work was subcontracted to Dutra. The initial removal is being done on the upriver portion of the Longview area.

McAmis, Inc. disposed its dredged materials by offloading to local trucks at Diblee Point. Dutra disposed dredged materials at an approved site at Ross Island (Figure 1).

The USACE will provide a report that summarizes the rock removal and monitoring results to the National Marine Fisheries Service and the Fish and Wildlife service. The report will be developed after the contractor (PNNL) completes its analysis of the rock removal activities.

Overall CRCIP construction is anticipated to be completed by late October or early November 2010. The contractual deadline is December 31, 2010. In addition to completing the rock removal, there are ~40-45 days of dredging work to be completed by the dredge Oregon at several locations. The Project would then move into its O&M phase. It is anticipated that ~40 days of O&M work will be required each year in support of channel improvement.

AEM Workbook 1st Quarter Review for 2010

Relevant components of the AEM Workbook were discussed at the April quarterly meeting.

MA-1 CORIE Analyses

Verified CORIE data for temperature and salinity were variously available through March 2010 at the stations of interest (tansy, grays, cbnc3, dsdma, and woody) for MA-1.

Temperature

Daily median temperature values were within the decision criteria for the 1st quarter period of interest (January – March) with the exception of several values at the end of March for tansy, grays, and cbnc3. Data were not available for the grays station from January through mid-March. E2 will further examine the potential daily temperature outlier values to determine a possible explanation. Despite the few variances in the daily temperature data, the spreadsheet summaries of monthly average temperatures used in the decision-making process were all within the decision criteria for all three stations for the months with available data.

Temperature data were not available for the woody station, which serves as the reference for the normalized plots of temperature for tansy, grays, and cbnc3. Therefore, it was not possible to perform the normalized calculations or produce the plots that are routinely developed as part of MA-1 activities. If the temperature data for the woody station

become available for the January – March time period, the normalized plots will be produced and presented at a future AMT meeting.

The overall conclusion from the analysis of water temperatures was that no discernible impact of Project construction was evident for the period analyzed since the January 2010 AMT meeting. E2 will follow-up and attempt to obtain the temperature data for the grays and woody stations to include in the MA-1 assessment for the July AMT meeting.

Salinity

Salinity data were available only for March for tansy, grays, and cbnc3. All of the daily median values for tansy were within the 20th-80th percentile decision criteria. Several daily values for both grays and cbnc3 exceeded their corresponding 95th percentile decision criteria.

Plots of salinity for the tansy and cbnc3 versus the reference values reported for dsdma failed to produce any points that were inconsistent with the relationships previously demonstrated for these sites for the available data from January - March. Data for dsdma were not available for the same days of salinity reported for the grays station and the corresponding normalized salinity plot could not be generated.

The monthly average values were within the 20th-80th percentile criteria for tansy. The monthly average value for March for grays was 1.0 psu, compared to the 80th and 90th decision criteria of 0.8 and 2.0 psu. The monthly average for March for cbnc3 was ~0, despite the few days of higher than normal salinities observed at this station. The salinity results are consistent with those of the temperature data analysis and further suggest that the Project construction was producing no measurable impact on salinity.

Depth

Depth data were not available for the grays station between January and March. E2 will follow up to see if these data become available for analysis prior to the July AMT meeting.

The results of the quarterly MA-1 analysis will be posted in the MA-1 folder of the AEM Workbook on the E2 CRCIP web site.

MA-2 Construction Summary

A recent USACE upgrade in software to Microsoft Office 7 posed problems with the Access data base application previously developed to summarize Project MA-2 construction and disposal activities. The USACE has switched back to Office 2003 as necessary to complete the summarization of Project construction. When the information for calendar 2009 becomes available, the annual report for 2009 will be amended

accordingly. Until that time, the report will contain a placeholder for MA-2. Upon Project completion, the MA-2 summaries will transition into the O&M program.

MA-3 Crossline Surveys

Analysis of the 2009 crossline surveys should be completed by April or May 2010. The results will be presented at the July AMT meeting and incorporated into the 2009 annual report. The MA-3 efforts will continue for three additional years following the end of Project construction.

MA-4 Habitat Analyses

Blaine Ebberts, USACE, discussed the history of previous efforts and potential future work in relation to MA-4. The USACE contributed funds (2001-2007) to support the NOAA Anadromous Fish Environmental Program (AFEP). NOAA has continued studies primarily on the upper river with one small project in the lower river. The results of studies thus far completed suggest that the variance in the data will not likely permit the drawing of any inferences concerning the effects of channel improvements (or other potential stressors) on salmonids.

The intention is to generate new data through a proposed project to meet the requirements of MA-4. The USACE will support studies to evaluate habitat utilization by ESUs. The focus will be on which species occupy which habitats in the Lower Columbia River and estuary at different times. The intent is to evaluate the impacts of habitat changes on salmonids throughout their life cycle. The studies will be performed at selected locations from the mouth of the river to the Bonneville Dam. The proposal for the work will be provided to the AMT for discussion at the July meeting. The proposal and a report concerning the 2004-2006 work will be posted as read ahead materials for the July AMT meeting.

MA-5 Sediment Contaminants

The Project requirements for MA-5 have been completed and the assessment of sediment contaminants will transition into the Project O&M phase and is therefore completed for the CRCIP project.

MA-6 Fish Stranding

As agreed upon during the January 2010 AMT meeting, the post-construction follow-up experiments are currently scheduled to be performed in March 2012-2013. There may be some follow-up discussions concerning the likelihood that any changes in stranding could be detected and unambiguously associated with navigation changes in relation to the CRCIP. This discussion has been tentatively scheduled for the July AMT meeting, pending availability of contractors who performed the pre-Project stranding studies.

Sediment Management

No new information was presented or discussed. The sediment management activities will move to the O&M phase (Doris McKillip) and Mike Ott will be the USACE contact for this work and is therefore completed for the CRCIP project. .

Sturgeon

No new information was discussed. A green sturgeon program is included as part of the O&M phase and is therefore completed for the CRCIP project.

Crab

No new information was presented or discussed. The CRCIP completed this requirement under Oregon and Washington's 401 requirements and DLCDC's Coastal Zone Consistency Determination.

Smelt

No new information was presented or discussed. The O&M project will need to address smelt in its adaptive management plan. Conditions may also be placed on smelt in the new O&M Biological Opinion due from NMFS in April or May of 2010 and is therefore completed for the CRCIP project.

July Agenda Items

The following were identified as possible items for the July 14 AMT meeting:

- Discussion of report on CRCIP rock removal.
- MA-4 Proposal and 2004-2006 study results
- MA-6 stranding study information
- Annual Report update

The April 2010 meeting adjourned at 12:30 pm.

Figure 1. Summary illustration of rock removal and acceptance areas for work at Longview.

