Final Meeting Notes
CRCIP AMT Quarterly Meeting
January 20, 2010

The CRCIP Adaptive Management Team held its quarterly meeting from 9:30 am – 12:00 pm on January 20, 2010 at the 10th Floor Training Room, Robert Duncan Plaza. The following AMT members, technical support personnel, and invited guests participated in person:

Laura Hicks, USACE	Marci Cook, USACE	Agnes Lut, ODEQ
Jon Gornick, USACE	Steve Bartell, E2 Inc.	Kim Larson, USACE
Perry Lund, WA Ecology*	Kathy Roberts, FWS	Robert Anderson, NMFS
Patty Snow, ODFW	Scott Fielding, USACE**	

*participated via teleconference
**on temporary assignment to FWS

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

November 2009 AMT Meeting Notes

Robert Anderson added a paragraph to the draft minutes that added to the original discussion of the post-construction fish stranding studies (MA-6). The section on the fish stranding follow-up experiments was also modified in relation to comments from Ages Lut. Patty Snow's affiliation was corrected to ODFW. The revised November Meeting Notes will be marked final and updated on the E2 web site.

Project Construction Update

Laura Hicks provided an update on Project construction. January 28 was a target date for completion of rock removal in the St. Helens area visited by the AMT in November 2009. The Oregon side of the channel is now open to navigation. McAmis, Inc. is currently ahead of schedule and might complete rock removal by September 2010, instead of December as originally planned.

Additional rock removal (blasting) may be required for an area near Longview Bridge. Test digging performed during the Feasibility Study indicated rubble deposition in this area as a result of the St. Helen's eruption. Additional studies are needed to confirm whether the materials can be dredged or if other previous rock formation will require blasting. Testing at Longview is to be completed before the current blasting teams disband from the St. Helens area. The Longview work is anticipated to begin around the end of January 2009. Regardless of the necessary work, fisherman will retain access during construction.

Laura's presentation will be posted to the E2 web site.

With regard to mitigation, Laura also stated riparian forest species will be planted on Cottonwood Island in the spring of 2010.

AEM Workbook 4th Quarter Review

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

MA-1 CORIE Analyses

Verified CORIE data for temperature and salinity were available through December 2009 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 4th quarter period of interest (October – December) with the exception of several values at the end of December for tansy and cbnc3. Data were not available for the grays station. Initial assessment of December weather data available for Astoria indicated cold weather during this time. E2 will further examine the potential daily temperature outlier values to determine a possible explanation. Columbia River flow data for December 2009 were not available at the time of the January AMT meeting. Despite 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.

The plots of daily median temperature values of all three stations versus the temperatures recorded for the woody station demonstrated that the data available through December 2009 were consistent with the relationships established using the 1996-2004 pre-Project construction data.

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 November 2009 AMT meeting. E2 will follow-up and attempt to obtain the temperature data for the grays station to include in the MA-1 assessment for the April AMT meeting and the 2009 Annual Report

Salinity

Analysis of the available salinity data for tansy and cbnc3 during the period of October – December demonstrated that the daily median values were within the decision criteria. Salinity data were not available for the grays station. Spreadsheet calculation of the monthly mean salinity values showed that the results were within the decision criteria values or zero for the tansy and cbnc3 MA-1 CORIE stations.

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.

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

The daily median values of depth calculated for the grays CORIE station were all within the decision criteria for October. Data were not available for November and December. The October values were within the 60th percentile range (narrower range of decision values). The mean monthly values were within the same 60th percentile range.

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.

Post-Project Adaptive Management

The remainder of the January AMT meeting addressed the various AEM Program monitoring actions in relation to completion of Project construction and transition to the O&M phase of channel improvement. The transition will require careful thought and actions as the current CRCIP AEM Program and its Adaptive Management Team will continue because several of the Project post-construction monitoring actions and follow-up studies are scheduled for three years after Project completion (~2013). At the same time, an adaptive management program is being proposed as part of the Biological Assessment for the O&M phase of channel improvement. To date, there has been minimal discussion about the termination of the CRCIP AEM Program and its AMT or transition of the current AEM Program into an official O&M adaptive management program, presumably with its own AEM organization, plan, and implementation. Future quarterly meetings will likely develop these discussions.

The following general conclusions regarding the remainder of the CRCIP adaptive management program resulted from discussions at the January 2010 quarterly meeting:

MA-1: continue for three years post Project construction
MA-2: transition into O&M monitoring and reporting
MA-3: continue for three years post Project construction
MA-4: to be discussed at the April quarterly meeting (see April agenda items)
MA-5: transition to O&M for compliance with SEF
MA-6: complete the post-construction follow-up experiments; March 2012-2013
Bank to Bank Survey: complete post construction survey two years after construction (WDOE) and for NMFS, five years after State of Washington's required survey.
Sediment Management: moves to Doris McKillip's program (Mike Ott)

Sturgeon: a green sturgeon program is underway as part of the O&M phase
Crab: The CRCIP completed this requirement under Oregon and Washington's 401 requirements and DLCD's Coastal Zone Consistency Determination.
Smelt: Since it is anticipated that smelt will be listed, the O&M project will need to address is inclusion into the adaptive management plan. Conditions may also be placed in the new O&M Biological Opinion due from NMFS in April or May of 2010

April Agenda Items

Information relevant to MA-4 (habitat surveys, shallow water salmonids habitat quality and quantity) will be reviewed and discussed. Summaries of AFEP studies and other reports (PNNL paper?) will be discussed as they pertain to completion of MA-4.

The January 2010 meeting adjourned at noon.