

Final Meeting Notes
CRCIP AMT Quarterly Meeting
January 14, 2009

The CRCIP Adaptive Management Team held its quarterly meeting from 9:30 am – 12:30 pm on October 9, 2009 at the Robert Duncan Plaza, Summit Room. The following AMT members, technical support personnel, and invited guests participated in person:

Laura Hicks, COE	Dylan Davis, COE	Agnes Lut, ODEQ
Kim Larson, COE	Paula Ehlers, WDOE	Steve Bartell, E2 Inc.
Dianne Perry, Sponsor Ports	Jon Gornick, COE	Kathy Roberts, FWS*
Robert Anderson, NOAA		

*participated via telephone

The following topics were addressed by the AMT participants during the January 2009 quarterly meeting:

October 2008 AMT Meeting Notes

The notes for the October 2008 AMT quarterly meeting were approved, pending revision based on comments received prior to and during the meeting. The revised notes will be marked Final, uploaded to E2 CRCIP web site (www.e2tm.com/CRCIP), and placed in the folder for the October 2008 AMT quarterly meeting.

Project Construction Update

Laura Hicks described the status of Project construction. It is anticipated that about 99% of the Project construction will be completed by the end of FY09. Construction has been completed for CRM 0-27, CRM 37-48, and CRM 87-end of Project. The remaining work will focus mainly on rock removal. A summary of the current Project construction status was provided in the form of an excel spreadsheet that indicated progress to date and remaining work.

Laura's Project updated construction summary presentation will be posted at the E2 CRCIP web site and placed in the January 14, 2009 Meeting folder.

Rock Removal

Dylan Davis described the process for contracting the removal of rock and consolidated materials at Warrior Rock and Longview. A public meeting is planned for the week of February 9, 2009 in order for the Corps of Engineers to solicit inputs from a diverse group of stakeholders regarding issues of concern associated with rock removal (i.e., blasting). The inputs provided during this meeting will be used to help develop the contract that will go out for bid. The current intent is to combine the rock removal at

Longview and Warrior Rock into a single contract. The contract will be awarded based on an evaluation of both the technical merit and cost of proposals. The selection of a contractor will not necessarily be a least cost award.

Dylan provided several documents that describe the general process for rock removal, present the current schedule for the contractual process, and outline issues of concern that will be addressed by prospective contractors in their proposals. These documents will be posted in the folder for MA-2 in the CRCIP AEM Workbook on the E2 web site.

It was suggested that someone from the AMT attend the February public meeting to determine how the AMT might usefully engage the rock removal process in relation to the AEM Program.

Dylan will continue to update the AMT regarding progress on rock removal at upcoming AMT quarterly meetings.

AEM Workbook 3rd Quarter Review

MA-1 CORIE Analyses

Available MA-1 CORIE data for temperature, salinity, and depth were analyzed through November - December 2008. Data were not available for all stations. The cbnc3 station is biofouled. The Desdomona station (the reference station for the normalized salinity analysis) is currently not operating. The tansy station is not operating, although previously logged data might be retrievable. However, based on the available data, the monthly average temperature and salinity values are all within the MA-1 decision criteria for the months and stations that were analyzed. The results of the analysis will be posted in the MA-1 folder of the Workbook on the E2 CRCIP web site.

The CORIE data for the remainder of calendar 2008 and early 2009 will be analyzed as soon as they become available at the CORIE web site and will be presented at the April AMT meeting.

MA-2 Construction

Dylan Davis (COE) provided an updated summary of Project construction and disposal of construction materials. The summaries have been developed as updates to the MA-2 spreadsheets presented at the October 2008 meeting. Modifications have been made to sort the O&M work from total dredged volumes for several bars described in the spreadsheets. The results indicate that more dredging was required than originally forecasted for some locations. However, the overall Project construction does not exceed the total amount of dredging originally estimated for the CRCIP.

Upland disposal has not exceeded capacity for any of the disposal locations used thus far. The Northport site appeared as one possible exception. However, Dylan noted that the named location in the summary table was actually two disposal sites and accounting for the total capacity of these locations, it is not likely that this total capacity has been exceeded. Dylan has modified the upland disposal summary to include recent disposal statistics. He also separated the previous Northport facility into two separate disposal areas, one of which has been 100% utilized. The revised, updated summaries of project construction, O&M dredging, and upland disposal will be uploaded to the E2 Project web site and placed in the MA-2 folder in the AEM Workbook.

MA-3 Crossline Surveys

The revised analysis of the 2008 crossline surveys presented at the October 2008 AMT meeting have been posted to the MA-3 folder in the AEM Workbook at the E2 CRCIP web site. No new additional information concerning MA-3 monitoring was presented at the January meeting.

MA-4 Habitat Analysis

No new information was available for MA-4. This monitoring action will include post-construction surveys of selected Bottom et al. transects that were previously surveyed under the AFEP.

MA-5 Sediment Contaminants

Sediments have been sampled at multiple locations from CRM 3 – 106.5 by the ACOE. Mark Siipola presented maps that show the sample locations. Physical characteristics were obtained for sediments at all sample locations. Chemical analyses were performed for a selected subset of the samples. The results are not yet available, but it is anticipated that Mark will present the new data at the April 2009 AMT quarterly meeting.

MA-6 Fish Stranding

No new information was available for fish stranding.

Dungeness crab

See separate crab agenda item below.

Smelt

Robert Anderson, NOAA/NMFS, reminded the AMT that smelt will likely be listed sometime during the spring of 2009. The proposal for listing will appear in the Federal Register within several weeks. Robert will notify the AMT upon publication. The Corps will have approximately one year (+60 days) to make any necessary modifications to its construction practices in relation to the CRCIP. However, it is anticipated that Project construction will have been completed by that time.

Sturgeon

See separate sturgeon agenda item below.

Sediments

A regional sediment management framework is apparently being developed and the AMT requested the Doris McKillip (COE) describe this activity at the January 2009 AMT meeting. The AMT wants to ensure that the CRCIP Sediment Management Plan is noted and considered in the development of the regional framework. Doris was unable to attend the January meeting and her presentation was deferred to the April meeting. Doris will be invited to the next meeting to discuss sediments.

While not directly related to sediment management, Laura did mention that the basalt removed from the Warrior Rock area is highly valued and will be used beneficially. However, the consolidated materials at Longview are essentially accumulated debris from the eruption of Mt. St. Helen, are of lesser value, and will not likely provide much opportunity for beneficial use.

Remaining ODFW Issues with Crab Report

Dale Blanton, ODFW, outlined the remaining issues concerning the potential impacts of dredging and disposal of dredged materials on crabs. While the ODFW recognizes the value of the Phase I and Phase II studies of crab entrainment and burial, the agency remains concerned about the comparative lack of information for young-of-year and smaller sized individuals. Previously proposed Phase III studies were to extend the laboratory entrainment and burial studies to field conditions. However, the logistical challenges posed by field conditions in further studying potential impacts on crabs have thus far precluded the Phase III studies. ODFW would like to see additional studies that describe the spatial-temporal variability in the distribution and abundance of crabs in areas potentially impacted by dredging or the in-water disposal of dredged materials.

Kim Larson underscored the difficulties of studying crab burial under field conditions and indicated that, as a result, Phase III studies will not likely be performed. Kim also noted that the commercial harvests do not indicate that the crab populations are declining.

Surveys of crabs following dredging and disposal indicate that crabs inhabit and utilize the newly deposited dredged materials.

Despite the remaining issues and data gaps expressed by ODFW, Dale indicated that no additional actions seemed necessary on the part of the AMT at this time.

Final Implementation of Sturgeon Issues

Kim Larson is waiting for responses from Parsley et al. to questions and comments concerning the sturgeon habitat modeling that was presented at the July AMT meeting. Kim will follow up with the intention of reporting on the responses from Parsley et al. at the April 2009 AMT meeting

AFC Adaptive Management Project

Marci Cook and Steve Bartell described a new Army Corps project on adaptive management initiated as part of the Corps Headquarters Actions for Change (AFC) Program. The adaptive management project will produce technical guidance for adaptive management programs implemented by the Corps. The intention is to ensure the technical quality and to provide a useful degree of standardization in approaches to adaptive management conducted in support of Corps ecosystem management and restoration. The Project Delivery Team (PDT) for this activity is headed by Ken Barr, Chief of Environmental Planning, Rock Island District. The PDT includes Corps representatives from the major ecosystem restoration projects currently underway, including the Florida Everglades, coastal Louisiana, the Upper Mississippi River, and the Columbia River. Marci and Steve (as a consultant) are both members of the PDT.

The AFC adaptive management project provides an opportunity to showcase the CRCIP AEM Program and participate in the development of Corps-wide guidance on adaptive management. Marci and Steve will update the AMT regarding progress of the AFC effort.

Items for the April AMT Meeting Agenda

As a result of the January AMT meeting, several items were proposed to be discussed at the April meeting, including:

- New data and current disposition of the SEDQUAL will be addressed as part of the MA-5 Sediment Contaminants monitoring action by Mark Siipola
- Dylan Davis will provide an update concerning progress on the rock removal contracting process

- Kim Larson will report on responses to comments on the sturgeon report
- Doris McKillip will be asked to describe current efforts underway in developing a regional sediment management framework for the LCR.

The meeting adjourned at 12:30 pm.