FINAL
CRCIP AMT Quarterly Meeting Notes
April 11, 2012

The CRCIP Adaptive Management Team held its quarterly scheduled meeting from 9:30 am – 1:30 pm on April 11, 2012 at the Robert Duncan Plaza. The following AMT members, technical support personnel, and invited guests participated in person:

Jessica Stokke, USACE
Greg Smith, USACE
Agnes Lut, ODEQ
Kathy Roberts, FWS
Shyam Nair, E2 Consulting Engineers
Steve Bartell, Cardno ENTRIX

According to the specifications of the CRCIP AEM Plan, the April 2012 AMT quarterly meeting attendance did not constitute a quorum. Therefore, the following topics were discussed informally by the April participants:

January and April 2012 AMT Meeting Notes

Review of the January 2012 draft AMT Meeting Notes was postponed until the July 2012 quarterly meeting. The draft April 2012 AMT Meeting Notes will also be reviewed at the July meeting.

O&M and Project Mitigation Update

Jessica Stokke provided an update concerning navigation restrictions that had been in place on the Columbia River. Dredging originally planned to address the restrictions have been completed. The main areas of shoaling were near the mouth of the Cowlitz, West Port Bar, and near the end of Puget Island. However, concerns remain that several areas will require additional dredging as the result of sediment movements due to high flows following the previous O&M work to remove the navigation restrictions.

Mitigation activities continue at Webb. One outstanding issue concerns the possible implications of mitigation activities on nesting ground birds. An internal USACE meeting is planned to address this issue.

Mitigation on Cottonwood Island has progressed with planting completed in December 2011. The contract is being revised to include O&M mowing. The scope of the mowing activity was in the planning process at the time of the April 2012 AMT meeting.

AEM Workbook 4th Quarter Review for 2011

The relevant components of the CRCIP AEM Workbook were discussed at the April 2012 quarterly meeting.

MA-1 CORIE Analyses

CORIE data were only available for January and February 2012 for the grays sampling station.

Temperature

Daily median temperature values reported for the tansy station were largely between the 20^{th} and 80^{th} percentile values in January and February.

Data were available for the woody station. Therefore, a normalized temperature plot was not developed for the grays station.

The monthly summary of the 2012 temperature data confirmed that monthly values were within the 20^{th} – 80^{th} percentile decision criteria for the grays station.

The available post-Project construction CORIE data available through 2012 continue to suggest that the channel improvements did not have any measurable impact on water temperatures recorded at the MA-1 stations.

Salinity

Salinity data for the 1^{st} quarter assessment of 2012 were similarly limited to January and February for the grays station. The daily median values through January and February for grays indicated somewhat lower salinities with values mainly between the 5^{th} and 20^{th} percentile.

The monthly average salinity values for grays for January (0.2 psu) and February (0.2 psu) 2011 are equal to the 5^{th} percentile decision criteria.

The absence of data for the dsdma station did not permit the construction of normalized salinity plots for the grays station.

The available post-Project construction CORIE data available through 2012 continue to suggest that the channel improvements did not result in any significant saltwater intrusions at the MA-1 stations.

Depth

Depth data were available for the grays station for January and February 2012. Daily median depths were well within the previously established AMT decision criteria. The monthly average values calculated for these two months were within the corresponding 20^{th} and 80^{th} percentile decision values.

The results of the April 2012 MA-1 analysis have been posted in the MA-1 folder of the AEM Workbook on the E2 CRCIP web site.

MA-2 Construction and Disposal of Dredged Materials

No new information concerning MA-2 was presented at the April 2012 AMT meeting. Future reporting of volumes and placement of dredged materials will be in accordance with regular annual O&M procedures.

MA-3 Crossline Surveys

MA-3 activities were not scheduled for the April 2012 AMT meeting. No new information concerning MA-3 was presented.

MA-4 Habitat Analyses

As an action item from the January 2012 quarterly meeting, the AMT had requested a proposal from Dr. Antonio Baptista to repeat the physical modeling of salmonid habitat capacity using updated information (e.g., comprehensive bathymetry survey results, juvenile salmonids habitat requirements). Baptista provided a draft proposal that was briefly discussed at the April meeting. It was noted that the Baptista draft proposal did not address the literature surveys and data analysis described in the draft strawman proposal outlined in at the January meeting. In addition, there were several concerns expressed in relation to (1) how the proposed activities address the objectives of MA-4, (2) how the model results would be used to draw inferences concerning salmonids habitat, (3) capabilities to verify the model results using field measurements, and (4) sensitivity of model results to different flow regimes and other habitat quality parameters. It was suggested that the draft proposal be revised to address these concerns.

MA-5 Sediment Contaminants

No new information for MA-5 was presented at the April 2012 AMT meeting. Testing of navigation channel sediments for contaminants is next scheduled for 2018.

MA-6 Fish Stranding

The April quarterly meeting continued discussions of fish stranding addressed at the January 2012 AMT meeting. Jessica Stokke presented some initial analysis of river segments which might be locations where the potential for fish stranding could be reduced through shoreline or in-water placement of ongoing (i.e., navigation funded) O&M dredged materials.

Concerns remained that actions undertaken to reduce fish stranding might create habitat for piscivorous terns or the streaked horned lark. A report describing the horned lark will be provided to E2 for posting at the E2 CRCIP web site.

The MA-6 discussions of fish stranding in April further addressed obtaining external peer review of the statistical model and analysis provided by Dr. Pearson. Bartell had previously incorporated changes and modifications suggested at the January AMT meeting and produced a revised RFP for discussion at the April meeting. Lacking a quorum, the AMT was given additional time to provide comments on the revised proposal request. Noah Adams and colleagues at the USGS lab in Seattle will be providing a peer review of Dr. Pearson's fish stranding analysis. In addition, Dr. Pearson will provide comments to questions raised by the AMT concerning his analysis of fish stranding. The AMT will evaluate the acceptability of Dr. Pearson's reply to the AMT prior to implementing the review by the USGS. As discussed previously by the AMT, the results of the external review will help guide the completion of MA-6 activities in relation to the CRCIP AEM Program.

July 2012 Agenda Items

The following were identified as items for the July 11, 2012 AMT meeting:

- Continued discussion of post-construction MA-4 activities
- Status of external review of Dr. Pearson's stranding analysis for MA-6

The April 2012 AMT meeting adjourned at 1:30 pm