

MEETING NOTES

CRCIP AMT Meeting October 11, 2006

The CRCIP Adaptive Management Team held its quarterly meeting from 9:30 am – 1:30 pm on October 11, 2006. The following AMT members and technical support personnel participated:

Laura Hicks, COE	Dale Blanton, DLCD	Alex Cyril , ODEQ
Kim Larson, COE	Loree` Randall, WDOE	Agnes Lut, ODEQ
Marci Cook, COE	Dianne Perry, Sponsor Ports	Paula Ehlers, WDOE
Steve Bartell, E2 Inc.	Cathy Tortorici, NMFS	

The following topics were addressed by the AMT participants at the meeting:

Crab Study Report

Kim Larson provided CD copies of the Pearson et al. report on crab distribution in the lower Columbia estuary (Desdemona shoal). Distribution of the report at the October 11 meeting commenced the 30-day period for review and comment on this document. The report underscores previous variability in the distribution and abundance of crab in the estuary. There were no 1+ crabs in this recent sampling. A small number of 2+ and 3+ individuals were collected. The previously developed crab distribution model, which is largely based on salinity (i.e., 16 psu threshold), appears to remain valid according to the report. It is not likely that additional data will be collected from the Desdemona area in the near future, because additional dredging at this location is not currently anticipated.

Kim also mentioned that studies were underway to assess potential impacts of crab burial by disposal of dredged materials. Similar studies are also underway for the razor clam. Reports that describe these studies are anticipated to be available in January 2007.

The Pearson et al. report will be uploaded to the E2 CRCIP Project FTP site and placed in a separate folder that clearly identifies this report.

Purple Loosestrife Monitoring

Dr. Ralph Garono, President of Earth Design Consultants, Inc. described his monitoring of insects intentionally released to control the growth and distribution of the invasive purple loosestrife. The key results of his monitoring studies include the observation that (1) the insects appear capable of successfully overwintering and completing their life cycle on purple loosestrife plants in the region, and (2) the insects assist in the eradication of this invasive plant species. Based on additional observations, eradication of purple loosestrife using these insects takes about five years in this region.

Dr. Garono's presentation was uploaded to the E2 FTP site and placed in a separate and clearly identifiable folder.

August 2006 AMT Meeting Notes

The AMT discussed the draft notes from the August 2006 meeting. Agnes provided several comments that will be addressed in a revised version of the meeting notes. The revised notes will be uploaded to the E2 FTP site and placed in the folder that identifies the August 2006 AMT Meeting.

The revised notes will be offered for finalization at the January 2007 AMT Meeting.

Channel Improvement Project Update

Laura Hicks reviewed the status of current CRCIP dredging contracts and schedules (Table 1). The current contract continues through April 2007. Thus far, 691,000 cubic yards of Project dredged materials have been disposed of at the Deep Water Site.

Table 1. List of current CRCIP construction contracts and schedule. (DWS – deep water site for disposal. FL – flowlane)	
CRCIP Projects	Date
RM 21+20-22+20 (DWS)	13 September 2006
RM 22+20-23+20 (DWS)	11 October 2006
RM 23+20-24+17 (DWS)	16 October 2006
RM 29+00-30+00 (FL)	17 November 2006
Dry Dock	24 November – 22 December 2006

Washington Department of Ecology requested a written plan for the Puget Island dredging. The Puget Island work will be delayed until early 2007 during desired conditions of lower current velocities.

Laura reported that approximately 15,000 cubic yards of CRCIP dredged materials were mistakenly disposed into the MCR DWS. This event is of particular concern because the location of the MCR DWS is also an area where greater abundances of crab have been reported. The appropriate agencies and authorities have been notified by the Corps of this event. The Corps sent a letter of notification to the EPA on October 25, 2006. Letters were sent to ODEQ and WDOE on October 30, 2006.

AEM 2006 Final Report

The meeting participants discussed the nature and format of the final report for the 2006 AEM activities. The consensus is that the final report should be developed as a stand-alone product. However, the final report will largely reference the AEM Workbook. The

Workbook continues to evolve and remains as a key working document in support of the AMT. At the same time, it is recognized that the large size and dynamic nature of the Workbook limit its usefulness as an annual reporting mechanism for general dissemination.

The AMT also expressed a desire to include relevant 2005 activities in the 2006 final report. Final AEM reports developed for subsequent years shall also provide a brief summary of the preceding year activities to demonstrate continuity in the Project AEM Process.

E2 will develop an outline of the final report and submit to the AMT for review and comment. Per request from the AMT, the report will clearly identify Project AEM issues where the AMT has reached consensus, as well as those issues for which consensus has not yet been reached.

Review and Evaluate 2006 AEM Process

This meeting provided the opportunity for the Team to review and evaluate the AEM Plan and Process. The consensus opinion is that the process seems to be working productively. In addition, Team members offered the following requests and comments:

- There was a request that the AMT meeting notes be provided sooner following the meeting in order that Team members have sufficient time for review and comment.
- Analysis and presentation of the MA-1 data needs to be made in a timely manner.
- The turbidity issue needs to be revisited at the January 2007 AMT meeting. A meeting will be scheduled ...or water quality certs...?
- The AMT will continue to meet in Portland on the 2nd Wednesday of each quarter (i.e., Jan, April, July, October)

Sediment Management

Loree` Randall provided the WDOE revision of an earlier sediment management draft document for review and comment by the AMT. There is consensus that the CRCIP cannot, by itself, develop and implement a comprehensive sediment management plan for the Lower Columbia River and estuary. However, several Team members expressed the desire that Project dredging actions and disposal of dredge materials should be done in a manner that would contribute to comprehensive sediment management.

The outcomes of a November meeting that will address sediment management issues in the LCR will be followed-up at the January 10, 2007 AMT meeting.

Define “post-construction”...reach or entire CRCIP. After the AMT meeting, Agnes provided the following definitions for the Team’s review:

Project = channel deepening, not including O&M

Project Construction = entire project from RM 3 to 106 as defined by the 401 and BiOp

Project Reach Construction = specified project reach construction, this text should specify the reach river miles

These definitions will be discussed at the next AMT meeting.