

**SUMMARY OF
COMPACT IMPLEMENTATION TECHNICAL TEAM (CITT) MEETING
Swaney Conference Room, Mission Valley Power, Pablo MT
April 19, 2023, 09:30-12:30**

In Attendance (Quorum Established)

Casey Ryan, Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes (CSKT)
Daniel Lozar, Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA)
David Lake, Irrigator Representative
Lawrence Nelson, Flathead Indian Irrigation Project (FIIP)
Maya Rao, MT Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC)

Call to Order

Chair Maya Rao called the meeting to order at 9:05am.

Approve Agenda

No additions were made to the agenda. Motion by David. Second by Larry. Agenda approved by 5 of 5 members.

Rotation of CITT Chair Position per Operating Rules

Appendix 3.5 of the CSKT-MT Water Compact (the Compact) stipulates that the responsibility to schedule, chair, and record water management coordination meetings will rotate on an annual basis. Motion was made to rotate the Chair position and designate Casey Ryan as CITT Chair. Motion by Maya. Second by David. Approved by 5 of 5 members.

Informational Updates

Casey Ryan provided a review of CITT-related events that have occurred since the last CITT meeting on April 14, 2021. Mr. Ryan stated that the Compact became effective on September 17, 2021 and provided updates on CITT Task Orders and CSKT Water Measurement Program activities. The CSKT has completed the work identified under CSKT Task Order 11 to install reservoir water level monitoring equipment at all 14 major FIIP reservoir facilities. The Tribes are publishing current water level and storage volumes for all 14 major irrigation reservoirs on their water data website (<https://cskt.aquaticinformatics.net>).

Mr. Ryan also provided updates on the status of CSKT-managed FIIP facility rehabilitation projects including:

- Jocko K Canal Headworks
 - Modernization of headworks structure
 - Under construction
 - Completion anticipated late 2023
- Jocko Pipeline Project
 - Conversion of open ditch to pressurized pipeline
 - Funded using Tribal settlement dollars
 - Six phase project

- Close to 100% design
- Phase 1 and 2 estimated to bid 2023
- North Fork Jocko Bridge
 - Procurement package out for bid
 - Funded using Tribal settlement dollars
 - Anticipated fall 2023 construction
- Falls Creek Headworks
 - Full replacement of existing structure
 - 100% design
 - Construction anticipated 2024
- Jocko Lower J Canal
 - Headworks and fish passage redesign
 - Funded using Tribal settlement dollars
 - 100% design
 - Restoration component
- Charlo Planning Area Rehabilitation and Modernization Master Plan
 - Draft plan anticipated late 2023
 - Funded using Tribal settlement dollars
- Kicking Horse Reservoir Dam & Outlet Works
 - 90% design
 - Construction funded using Tribal settlement dollars
 - Construction tentatively planned for 2025
- North Fork Jocko Headworks
 - Full modernization of the headworks diversion
 - Moving towards 60% design
 - Primarily funded by Tribal settlement dollars
 - Construction tentatively planned for 2025
- Flathead Pumping Plant
 - Completed reliability and safety upgrades
- 31A Canal Rehabilitation Project
 - Chute to pipe rehabilitation of the 31A canal chute in Valley View
 - Water Infrastructure Improvement for the Nation (WIIN Act) dollars
 - Construction Contract being prepared, anticipated construction autumn 2023.
- Jocko Upper S Canal
 - 30% design for fish ladder
 - Funded using Tribal settlement dollars
- Mission Valley South Water Conveyance and Conservation Plan
 - Conceptual design phase;
- Jocko K Canal Liner
 - Conceptual evaluation phase
- Tabor Feeder Canal Liner
 - Conceptual evaluation phase
- Mission Dam

- Feasibility study
- Upper Dry Fork Reservoir
 - Feasibility study

Maya Rao was recently appointed as the State of Montana representative on the CITT. Ms. Rao provided DNRC updates on staffing in the new Water Planning, Implementation, and Communication Bureau and discussed an open agricultural engineer position. Ms. Rao discussed DNRC technical expertise and support provided to the Flathead Reservation Water Management Board. Ms. Rao detailed DNRC efforts to develop water forecast modeling that could be utilized by the CITT.

Daniel Lozar was recently appointed as the BIA representative on the CITT. Mr. Lozar will be working to coordinate on FIIP rehabilitation and betterment projects, reviewing plans, project specs and designs, and providing regional support to FIIP.

Lawrence Nelson provided additional information on FIIP facility rehabilitation projects and on coordination with CSKT Safety of Dams for water storage in Crow Reservoir. Mr. Nelson also discussed open staffing positions within FIIP including Irrigation System Operators, Project Managers, and a Civil Engineer.

David Lake provided updates from the Irrigator community, highlighting maintenance work that needs addressed, and advocated for a continued cooperative approach with a focus on communication and information sharing. Mr. Lake noted that the Irrigator community does not have an official process for selecting a representative on the CITT, but will be working to get an official process in place.

Water Management Coordination

The CITT reviewed Reservoir carryover and Reservoir storage goals for the upcoming season.

Brian Hogenson, CSKT Water Conservation and Planning Scientist, presented data on current trends in snowpack and drought conditions and a forecast summary for the upcoming water year.

After the presentation by Brian Hogenson, the CITT discussed the initial water supply projections, the hydrologic conditions forecast, and general trends before making the determination on water year type. Appendix 3.7 of the Compact outlines the process and criteria to determine the water year type (wet, normal, or dry) for the purpose of defining the River Diversion Allowances (RDA), Minimum Enforceable Instream Flows (MEF), and Target Instream Flows (TIF). The Team noted that adaptive management principles detailed in Appendix 3.5 of the Compact allow for the water year determination to be altered based on changing hydrologic conditions.

Categorization of Water Year Type for Informational Purposes

Using the criteria from Appendix 3.7, the CITT provided a mid-April 2023 water year type categorization using data from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). CITT members noted that not all gages listed in Appendix 3.7 were included in the NRCS forecast, so SNOTEL snow water equivalent (SWE) data were also reviewed for each area. For the Jocko Area, the South Fork Jocko River forecast is above the threshold defined as a **Wet Year**. Snowpack for the Jocko Area was below normal, and the CITT suggested that water managers plan for a Normal Year, despite higher streamflow. For the Mission Area, the Mission Creek and South Crow Creek

forecasts are within the range defined as a **Normal Year**. For the Little Bitterroot area, the Mill Creek forecast is within the range defined as a **Normal Year**.

Motion approved by 5 of 5 members.

**Note this categorization is currently provided for information purposes only, as the RDAs, MEFs, and TIFs are not yet in effect and because the CITT is continuing to refine its forecasting procedures.*

Next Steps and Follow-up

- CITT will advance water supply forecasting procedures.
- CSKT will conduct public outreach later this year for the the Charlo Area Master Plan.
- CITT will finalize next meeting date.

Public Comment

No public comment.

Adjournment

With no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 12:10pm.

Next Meeting

The next CITT meeting is planned for June 2023.

Copies of the CITT meeting materials and presentations are posted at <https://dnrc.mt.gov/Water-Resources/Compacts/Compact-Implementation-Technical-Team>.

Key: Underline = Action item
Normal = Discussion, comment and/or update