

SUMMARY OF COMPACT IMPLEMENTATION TECHNICAL TEAM (CITT) MEETING

July 9, 2025

1:00pm-5:00pm

Mission Valley Power Conference Room, Pablo, MT

In Attendance

Maya Rao, MT Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC)

Nick Belcourt, Flathead Indian Irrigation Project (FIIP)

David Lake, Irrigator Representative

Brian Hogenson, Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes (CSKT)

Daniel Lozar, Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA)

Call to Order [00:00:00]

Chair Maya Rao called the meeting to order at 1:02 PM. Five of five CITT members were present, and a quorum was established.

Approve Agenda [00:01:55]

CITT members were given an opportunity to review the draft agenda for the meeting. Dave made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Seconded by Brian. Approved unanimously.

Informational Updates [00:02:45]

BIA Updates [00:02:50]

- Next week, ITRC will help install water measurement devices at sites, and help train FIIP operators. They'll also take the pilot project into Phase 2, which will consider other areas for water measurement devices. CITT members were invited to participate in the training for FIIP.

FIIP Updates [00:05:59]

- The Jocko Reservoirs are dropping rapidly in order to maintain deliveries off of Upper S and the diversions off of the Jocko River. Nick expects 24 to 30 more days of water for the Jocko Division.
- The Mission Reservoir is discharging and delivering water.
- McDonald Reservoir is being cut back to 50 CFS. Nick hopes this will last until the end of August or early September.
- Kicking Horse is starting to fill again after adding some water to Ninepipes Reservoir – which is currently at 9400 AF.
- Lower Crow is at 1900 AF, and will gain water as the season goes on.
- FIIP set quota at 0.54 with a 55% reservoir loss estimate.
- Hot Springs has only a small number of irrigation remaining – season will end very soon.
- Positive outlook for the South Division, and Nick expects they will fill the quota this season.

Irrigator Updates [00:11:47]

- Dave explained briefly that the irrigation season was ending.

CSKT Updates [00:12:35]

- Brian introduced Brendan O'Rielly, a new hydrologist with CSKT.
- Mark Simpson from CSKT gave the following project overviews:
- The 31 A Canal Drop at Valley View is complete and functional. They will return after the irrigation season to work on weed control and excavation near the outlet structure.

- The Jocko Pipeline Phases 1 and 2 bid was awarded to Prospect Construction, which includes intake structures at Jocko K and approximately ½ of the 60-mile pipeline. Phases 3 and 4 were awarded to Knife River and they will begin working soon.
- The Crow Pumping Plant was awarded to Prospect Construction, with a 14 month projected timeline.
- North Fork Jocko Diversion was awarded to Dick Anderson Construction, with a 4 year projected timeline. They have started constructing a bypass channel already.
- The Falls Creek project's contractor is planning on a September start-up for the rehabilitation work that will address the issues with the diversion structure.

DNRC Updates [00:21:05]

- Maya discussed office hours and reimbursement training for the stock water grant program, which will begin at Mission West next week. Environmental Assessments are completed. Approximately 30 agreements have been signed. 4 projects are ready to break ground.
- Four grant office hour sessions have been scheduled so far.

Water Management Coordination [00:22:28]

- Brian compared water supply projections to actual levels.
- Two rainfall events helped to extend runoff in the Mission Valley, but they didn't affect the Jocko basin as much.
- Stream flow volumes were presented for May and June. Brian explained that this information will help build an operations model.
- Nick expressed concern over achieving an RDA prior to infrastructure improvements, resulting in an inability to meet irrigation needs. CITT members discussed different adaptive management approaches to address this issue.
- Discussion then turned to how CITT can or can't adjust an RDA. Brian explained that Article IV may explain this process and that he would return to CITT with more information at the next meeting.
- Brian said that the on-farm efficiency specialist could focus on drought and climate work, which would improve the seasonal temperature and precipitation outlooks.
- Streamflow discharge values continue to support a normal year determination for Mission and Jocko Valleys.
- Mill Creek streamflow data supports the dry year determination.
- RDA status shows improvement needed at Upper Crow/Hellroaring, while other areas have substantial remaining RDA.

On-Farm Efficiency [01:11:20]

- Brian and Patrick Mangan worked on an MOA between CSKT and MSU for Task Order 13. Maya stated that CITT needs more information from Patrick on the timeline for job posting.
- Brian will ask Patrick to come present the next steps to CITT.
- Maya explained an overview of the process so far: after a Task Order goes out, a funding request is submitted to the state. Then the state sends that money to CSKT. CSKT then will pay MSU extension.

Discuss Next Steps and Schedule [01:21:00]

The next meeting will be August 13, 2025. Maya gave an overview of the CITT's work to accomplish before the next meeting.

Public comment [01:22:16]

The CITT received no public comment.

End Meeting [01:22:40]

Motion to end the meeting by Dan, second by Dave. Motion carries unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 2:25pm.