

SUMMARY OF COMPACT IMPLEMENTATION TECHNICAL TEAM (CITT) MEETING

December 10, 2025

1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Mission Valley Power Conference Room

Flathead Indian Reservation, Pablo, MT

In Attendance

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

Daniel Lozar, Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA)

Brian Hogenson, Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes (CSKT)

Nick Belcourt, Flathead Indian Irrigation Project (FIIP)

David Lake, Irrigator Representative

Call to Order [00:00:00]

Chair Brian Hogenson called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m. Five of the five CITT members were present, and a quorum was established.

Approve agenda [00:02:24]

No agenda modifications. Motion by David to approve agenda, seconded by Dan, approved by all 5 members present.

Informational Updates [00:03:19]

DNRC updates

- DNRC is nearing the end of the hiring process for CSKT Compact Coordinator position.
- DNRC is continuing to work with FRWMB on developing the permit and change process as well as their database.

BIA updates

- Dan Lozar gave an update on the database they are working on that will link laterals/sub laterals to parcels. They are updating the NIMS software and are hoping for this to be finalized in December or January.
- Dan spent time at the Camas A Canal doing a condition assessment with an engineer from the Division of Water and Power; improvements may include reestablishing the canal prism and channel compaction.
- The 22C Canal structure, including the first flap gate install, is almost finished.
- The Irrigation Training and Research Center (ITRC) came out and installed 20 staff gages on Mission B Canal, 18 on Mission C Canal, and are working to finalize measurement design on Mission A Canal.

CSKT updates

- CSKT Division of Engineering and Water Resources has two positions currently open: a GIS Analyst and Information and Education Program Manager.
- The Bureau of Reclamation is coming out to relocate the old AgriMet station from Round Butte to a site on Mud Lake Trail Road on Wednesday 12/17. Brian will send information out to any CITT members that want to attend.
- There is a flash runoff event occurring and the Measurement Program is working on getting high winter streamflow measurements.

FIIP updates

- Most seasonal employees go on furlough by Dec 12th, with the exception of CSKT employees who will work an additional week; due to recent high flows they might adjust furlough schedule. Layoffs will end the 3rd week of February, 2026.
- They are currently working on rock placement at the 22C Canal project, there is some landscaping left to do.
- FIIP is currently working on off-season equipment and canal maintenance.
- Flathead River Pumping Plant update: the #2 pump is free of obstructions; Bureau of Reclamation still has testing to do at site.
- FIIP is preparing for fall irrigator meeting next week, December 18 at 5pm at Red Lion Polson.
- Regarding recent high flows: there are 11cfs being diverted into Camas A Canal.
- FIIP conveyed water from Tabor to Kicking Horse after November 15. Had to shut down because fish screens were freezing.

Irrigator updates

- David mentioned that the moisture is providing a recharge cycle.
- The FID met the previous day as a combination of their November and December meetings.

Water Management Coordination [00:25:38]

- Amanda Courville with CSKT gave an update on long term water supply outlook. We are still in La Niña conditions, this will likely transition to ENSO neutral conditions in early 2026.

CITT Attendance at Irrigation District Meetings [00:31:26]

- CITT presence at district meetings is always appreciated, but isn't necessary at every meeting. Rotated CITT member presence quarterly to provide updates is sufficient, likely starting in March before irrigation season. FIIP is always at meetings, and DNRC likes to attend for informational purposes. Mission and Jocko divisions might like quarterly CITT attendance, Nick will inquire at the next district meetings.

On Farm Efficiency Specialist Recruitment Update [00:45:00]

- Brian gave an update: Patrick Mangan will be invited to speak about the position at the January meeting. MSU extension office is handling the processing of applications. The job ad has been circulated to a larger audience. A number of questions were asked by CITT members that will be directed to the MSU Extension Office, including whether the recruitment process can be revised

to appeal to a larger audience, whether there any room for flexibility in the pay scale, and whether there a possibility for part time remote work? Brian will follow up with Dan Lucas.

- David asked if Stockwater was going to be discussed at today's meeting. Maya gave a quick update: she and Samantha have inspected 5 projects that are complete; overall, feedback has been positive.

RDA Working Session Update [01:00:37]

- Dan gave an update: the sessions are meant to increase understanding of how things will function once RDA enforcement occurs, starting in Irrigation Season 2027 (Mission South Division). The team examines each RDA, where the water originates, how it moves through the system, and how it affects other areas. The group will meet again in January.

Compact Appendix 5 Quick Reference Guide Review [01:04:26]

- Brian distributed copies of a draft reference guide. The purpose is to make it easier to get information without having to go through all of the abstracts in the Compact. The data in the guide should be essential and accurate. The guide will be helpful, but too much information can be a source of confusion. The terms should be specific, descriptive, and match the abstracts. It was mentioned that maps would be beneficial. Maya can follow up with water rights personnel about clarifying some information in abstracts.

Discuss Next Steps and Schedule [02:27:18]

- CITT will convey the intent to attend district irrigation meetings on a quarterly basis.
- Brian will follow up with Dan Lucas at MSU Extension office on questions about the On-Farm Efficiency Specialist position.
- Maya will follow up with questions on Appendix 5 abstracts.
- Brian suggested January 14, 2026 at 1:00 pm for the next meeting. There are no scheduling conflicts.

Public Comment [02:30:30]

The CITT received no public comment.

End Meeting [02:31:00]

Motion to end the meeting by Maya, second by Dave. Motion carries unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 3:32 p.m.