

SUMMARY OF COMPACT IMPLEMENTATION TECHNICAL TEAM (CITT) MEETING

January 14, 2026

1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Mission Valley Power Conference Room

Flathead Indian Reservation, Pablo, MT

In Attendance

Brian Hogenson, Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes (CSKT)
Maya Rao, MT Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC)
Nick Belcourt, Flathead Indian Irrigation Project (FIIP)
Daniel Lozar, Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA)
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 [00:02:16]

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

Informational Updates [00:02:51]

DNRC Updates (Maya Rao)

- DNRC is continuing with administration of the stock water grant. Some finished projects were inspected in November, and a handful of other projects will be breaking ground soon.
- The new Compact Coordinator, Patrick Lauridson, will be starting January 27th.

BIA Updates (Dan Lozar)

- Dan attended the December 18th water user meeting in a supporting capacity for FIIP. He commented that it was a very productive meeting.
- Cal Poly ITRC is hosting the 2026 BIA irrigation meeting from February 3-5th.
- The following week, February 9th-13th, is the FIIP ISO/staff training.
- Bear Hughes, the acting FIIP Project Manager will be transitioning to more supporting role.

CSKT Updates (Brian Hogenson)

- The Jocko K Canal Pipeline Project is still ongoing, the contractors are starting to install farm turnouts, the mainline is laid. Work on the Crow Pumping Plant Project is also ongoing, contractors are working on excavation for the pipeline, they have removed the old pipeline. This project has an October 2026 completion target.
- Shane Hendrickson has been hired as the new Water Management and Planning Program Manager starting on January 5.
- The Water Measurement Program did a site visit to Post Creek above McDonald Reservoir on Monday, January 12th to replace the batteries. The site is back online.

- The program is currently transitioning to continuous record workflow, and the first draft of their annual review is complete.

FIIP Updates (Nick Belcourt)

- Nick Belcourt will be acting FIIP Project Manager for the next 120 days, Bear Hughes will be supporting.
- Currently working on FIIP water accounting program to match tract numbers to delivery points. This will assist ISOs with water delivery/accounting.
- They have a small crew working on fleet maintenance, DOT inspections, and other small projects. More employees will be back on January 26th to send to Cal Poly training. Furlough will end March 1st.
- At the FIIP fall meeting they reviewed the 2025 season, including a proposed budget and increased rates from \$39 to \$46 per acre.
- There was a runoff event before Christmas that enabled the Hot Springs area to divert water into storage.
- Flathead Pumping Plant update- FIIP may need someone to come in and finish putting pump 2 back together, it's currently about 70% done. Nick has been working on this project, but he has to allocate his time to other things as active Project Manager.

Irrigator Updates (David Lake)

- Rate increases for irrigation are going to be challenging for irrigators.

Water Management Coordination [00:20:50]

- Amanda Courville, Hydrologist with CSKT Division of Engineering and Water Resources gave an update on long term water supply outlook. We are still experiencing La Niña conditions, this will be transitioning to ENSO neutral conditions in early 2026. High elevation snowpack is at or above 30-year normals, but low elevation snowpack is below average for this time of year. Lower elevations (below 5,500 ft) have experienced above average rainfall due to temperatures.

On Farm Efficiency Specialist Recruitment Update [00:30:55]

- Brian gave an update: MSU-Extension currently has two candidates moving through their HR processing; one was phone screened by the team and is awaiting an in-person interview. The 2nd candidate is moving toward a phone screening. Brian can follow up. Maya mentioned that timeliness in hiring for the position is important, and if CITT can offer support to speed up the process they should. Brian can set up a Zoom meeting with Dan Lucas for questions and input on the position and hiring process.

RDA Working Session Update [00:41:12]

- Dan gave an update: The team met prior to today's meeting, they are starting to look through the Mission South division. They will have more meetings focused on this area.
- Jocko River above K Canal location on CSKT webportal is an indirect measurement point backed out using existing gages. It may be possible to add an additional value legend for indirect measurement points to differentiate between others.

CITT Website Discussion [00:47:02]

- Maya gave an update: The CITT website is currently hosted by the DNRC, and Maya posed whether the team wants to explore moving to a stand-alone website. The team posed a few questions as to whether the website gets a lot of traffic. Maya will get statistics on site usage and will report back.

Compact Appendix 5 Quick Reference Guide Review [00:54:53]

- Heather McAdams gave an overview of diversion types and locations. She showed the team the DNRC Water Mapper Website, which links points of diversion to water rights. She explained the difference between primary and secondary diversions described in the Water Rights Abstracts.
- CITT members had productive dialogue on the elements of the Water Right Abstracts, and suggestions included color coding and universal POD naming. It was mentioned that it would be beneficial to meet with FIIP division managers to go over water rights, PODs, etc.
- Regarding the RDA dashboards, Maya re-iterated that the individual breakdown of RDA sources should be denoted that they are not enforceable.

Operations Model Discussion [01:51:57]

- Brian started a discussion on how to organize an operations model, and what members of the team think would be beneficial to include. Maya suggested focusing on the main guiding principles. FIIP wants to see transfers of water through the whole system to the laterals/subs.
- A request for qualifications would allow the team to see how an engineering firm would work through the problem, and if they can tailor it to the team's needs.
- It is important to stress the model's simplicity and purpose as a decision support tool for FIIP while also keeping it flexible for future functions like farm delivery accounting.
- FIIP has no current employees with knowledge of previous operational tools. It was suggested that Seth Makepeace join a future session focused on operations modeling in order to discuss the scale and scope of a potential model.

Discuss Next Steps and Schedule [02:46:13]

- Amanda will include more data on off-season reservoir trends in next month's water supply forecast. The team requested a copy of the slideshows from this month and last month.
- Brian will follow up with Dan Lucas at MSU-Extension.
- Maya will look up statistics from the CITT website.
- Continue building on guiding principles for operations model and keeping it moving forward.
- Next meeting scheduled for February 11th 1:00 pm at MVP boardroom.

Public Comment [02:50:44]

- The CITT received no public comment.

End Meeting [02:51:14]

- Motion to end the meeting by Maya, seconded by Dave. Motion carries unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 4:07 p.m.