

**SUMMARY OF
COMPACT IMPLEMENTATION TECHNICAL TEAM (CITT) MEETING**

October 30, 2024

1:00pm-5:00pm

Mission Valley Power Conference Room
Flathead Indian Reservation-Pablo, MT

In Attendance (Quorum Established)

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

Call to Order [00:00:00]

Chair Maya Rao called the meeting to order at 1:16 PM. A quorum was established.

Approve Agenda [00:02:20]

CITT members were given an opportunity to review the draft agenda for the meeting. Motion to approve the agenda by Casey. Second by David. Approved by 5 of 5 members.

Informational Updates [00:03:26]

CSKT Updates

Casey provided updates from CSKT regarding infrastructure improvement projects. Recently completed project include the Jocko K Canal headworks diversion structure. The screen cleaner will be installed in November and will complete the project. The structure improves irrigation efficiency, operational control, safety, and fish migration.

31A canal project contractor will mobilize in November and be completed in February.

Falls Creek Diversion is about 90% complete and is safely diverting water. The ramp flume installation will begin as weather permits this winter. The tunnel above the diversion structure needs improvements so an analysis will be completed to determine how to address the tunnel.

Jocko pipeline project is fully designed and final easements are being secured. The project includes converting 18 miles of open channel into pressurized pipeline. Phases 1-4 will be bid out next year and construction will begin next fall.

The Crow pumping plant is at 60% design. The facility will be rebuilt and include 4 pumps and penstocks diverting 40 cfs. Construction is scheduled to begin next fall, pending permitting.

CSKT restoration program is restoring a stretch of the Jocko River that was artificially straightened. The project will put the river back into the historic floodplain channel.

DNRC Updates

Maya discussed that she has worked with the various compacting entities and Samantha Kemp, grant administrator at DNRC, to finalize the stock water grant application and guidelines. Maya has also been coordinating with DNRC's and CSKT's communications team on launching the program. Other DNRC Compact Implementation Program staff have been working with the FRWMB on database development, with some enhancements set to be released next month.

BIA Updates

The CITT supervisor civil engineer position closes November 8. Dr. Howes from ITRC has been in town looking at laterals in Charlo area to get a better understanding of existing FIIP infrastructure to help FIIP develop a water measurement plan. Dan has been assisting FIIP on water management and the 2026 proposed budget while assisting CITT with stock water grant administration and on-farm efficiency.

FIIP Updates

FIIP is cleaning laterals in Jocko Division and finishing dam inspections throughout the Project area. A crew is installing structures in Mission South Division installing structures and catching up on deferred maintenance. There is one crew cleaning and shaping ditch in the Mission North Division and a crew working behind the Flathead River Pumping Plant. Polson B canal also undergoing maintenance.

The Flathead Pumping Plant is currently shutdown while maintenance occurs behind the substation. Crews have also been winterizing by draining pipelines and siphons.

Dr. Howes from ITRC is helping FIIP develop a water measurement plan. The plan will help FIIP distribute water throughout the Project and help FIIP adapt to the Compact.

FIIP will begin layoffs November 14 due to budget constraints. The remaining crew will maintain stock water obligations and run the precast facility at Ninepipes. FIIP staff will also be identifying areas of focus for the water measurement plan.

The Flathead River Pumping Plant #2 Pump assembly will begin soon, and the Bureau of Reclamation will assist with alignment. Nick will be leading the pump assembly project.

Dan Lozar mentioned that HDR engineering will be assisting with developing specifications for Pump Station 1 and 3 as these pumps will be refurbished in the future in a similar manner as Pump Station 2.

The Bureau of Reclamation will be doing a full inspection of the pen stocks for the Pumping Plant on November 4. FIIP will assist the inspection.

On November 21st there will be a post irrigation season meeting for irrigators with FIIP.

Irrigator Updates

David Lake provided irrigator updates. The Flathead Irrigation District wrote a letter requesting clarification of Appendix 3.2 regarding delivery dates if RDAs have been met. The irrigators also want to sit down with FIIP regarding budget and rate. David also attended a meeting hosted by Mission Jocko Irrigation District discussing the possibility of a community well to provide stock water.

Stock Water Mitigation [00:22:30]

Maya provided updates on timelines for the Off-Season Stock Water Mitigation Grant Program. Per CITT operating rules, the documents should be posted for at least two weeks to allow for public comment. To accommodate this, Maya proposes a CITT meeting on November 13 CITT to finalize grant application materials and incorporate any public comment. The grant program will open on November 15, two days later than initially anticipated, and will close on January 10.

CSKT, BIA, and DNRC legal teams reviewed the grant program documents and their edits have been incorporated. The CITT reviewed drafts of the guidelines and application worksheets, provided edits, and agreed to them as a group.

Maya will post draft to CITT website for 2-week public comment period.

On-Farm Efficiency [03:33:30]

Brian provided update on On-Farm Efficiency regarding partnering with MSU Extension on an irrigation efficiency specialist position. Position description language is being developed currently by MSU.

Public Comment [03:35:05]

The CITT received public comment.

End Meeting [03:37:20]

Motion to end the meeting by David, second by Casey. Motion carries unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 5:13 pm.

Next Meeting

The next CITT meeting is scheduled for November 13, 2024.