

SUMMARY OF COMPACT IMPLEMENTATION TECHNICAL TEAM (CITT) MEETING

May 13th, 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)

Call to Order [00:00:00]

Chair Brian Hogenson called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m. Three of the five CITT members were present, and a quorum was established.

Approve agenda [00:02:20]

Motion by Maya to modify agenda to indicate that Dan Lozar would be unable to report out on the Operations Model. Additionally, Brian indicated that he would be providing the water supply outlook instead of Amanda Courville. Also, it was mentioned that Dave and Dan would be removed from the Informational Updates Section due to their absence. All present members approved the agenda with these modifications.

Informational Updates [00:04:39]

CSKT Updates (Brian Hogenson)

- Acknowledges Montana Water Court Judge Brown's court ruling approving the CSKT-Montana Water Compact and dismissing all remaining objections.
- Project Updates
 - Jocko K Pipeline Phases 1-4 have been activated.
 - NF Jocko construction is weather dependent, currently crews are mobilizing and preparing for the upcoming season of work.
 - Phase 2 of Jocko River restoration is underway at the Bison Range Reach.
 - Crow Pumping plant continues to be under construction.
- CSKT DEWR plans to host a public open house May 19th from 4-6 PM at the Brown Building in Arlee.

DNRC Updates (Maya Rao)

- DNRC has been helping the Flathead Reservation Water Management Board (FRWMB) with issued water rights on reservation.
- FRWMB has hired Elena Evans as the new Water Engineer.
- Recently meet with CSKT Water Measurement.

FIIP Updates (Nick Belcourt)

- Staffing
 - 24 Federal Employees
 - 14 CSKT Employees
 - 38 of 61 positions are currently filled, including 1/13 positions for technical office staff
 - Recently hired a new employee to answer phone calls
- 2028 budget talks took place last week at Fort Hall Reservation in Idaho.
- Jocko K Pipeline
 - Fully charged.
 - Plastic debris has been present in the pipe
 - Despite this issue operations have been going well
- Flathead Pumping Plant, Pumps #1 and #3 will start today
- Has reached out to irrigators requesting they call for water using track numbers.

South Division

- Jocko
 - Diverting water from Placid Creek
 - Upper Jocko Lake is nearly full
 - Tabor Reservoir is currently filling at 330 cfs and is at 13,000+ acre feet
- Mission
 - Reservoir is one day away from fill restriction
 - Plan to send water from Mission to Kicking Horse Reservoir
 - Sending water from Kicking Horse to Nine Pipes to accommodate for anticipated water released from Mission Reservoir.
 - Minimal water orders off Post/Mission systems.

North Division

- Pablo Reservoir
 - Filling Reservoir with North Crow water and Flathead pumps (beginning today).
- Crow Reservoir
 - Releasing water and making room for anticipated runoff.
- Camas
 - Plan to charge canals soon using water from lower Dry Fork.
- Moiese
 - Canal has been up and running, water is currently being diverted.

Water Management Coordination (Brian) [00:25:08]

- April was largely damp and warm, with total precipitation at 114% of the 1991-2020 median for the Flathead Basin.
- Annual precipitation to date at 116% of the 1991-2020 median for the Flathead Basin.
- SWE to date is at 86% of the 1991-2020 median for the Flathead Basin.
- Snowpack in Mission Mountains indicates that NF Jocko SNOTEL melting quite rapidly (69% of 1991-2020 median SWE as of 5/12) and Moss Peak SNOTEL melting gradually (96% of 1991-2020 Median SWE as of 5/12)
- Streamflow Forecast (NRCS)

- Forecasts project normal streamflow for North Crow, South Crow, Mission, and Hellroaring
 - Forecasts project normal streamflow for SF Jocko and Agency
 - Forecasts project normal streamflow for Mill Creek
- Streamflow Forecast (DNRC)
 - Forecasts project normal streamflow to Post Creek
- Motion by Maya to categorize all geographic areas as Normal, which is consistent with the Water Year Determination made during the April CITT Meeting. Second by Nick. All present CITT members voted in favor.

Incremental Implementation of MEFs [00:49:13] (Brian)

- Continuing the discussion regarding the completion percentage of operational improvements found in Appendix 3.4 of the CSKT-Montana Water Compact.
- Completion percentages were discussed for major irrigation areas on the reservation.
- In June, a more thorough discussion will take place when all CITT members are present, along with the finalization of an Incremental MEF memo.

On Farm Efficiency Specialist (Maya) [01:26:43]

- Dan Lucas confirmed that funding is split 80/20 split between the CITT and MSU.
- One new applicant has applied for the position.

Operations Model RFQ and Work Plan Development & Finalization Plan (Brian) [01:28:05]

- Brian says an RFQ is near completion for the tool.
- Maya says the DNRC is willing to fund the current scope of the tool as discussed by the CITT, through the State contribution to the CITT under Article 6 funding.
- Brian believes a CITT special session is needed in the following weeks to launch the RFQ.
 - This event will likely be virtual and open to the public.

Jocko Canal to Pipeline Conversion Project Seepage Study [01:32:23]

- Context from April CITT Meeting
 - The CITT discussed the Jocko K Canal Seepage Study regarding phases 1-4 of the pipeline project.
 - A 3.0 ft/ day loss rate was accepted for the former earthen ditches served by the project footprint.
 - A technical memo regarding this decision was written by the CITT that would memorialize the decision and document the details of the study and decision.
- Motion by Maya to approve the CITT Jocko K Canal Pipeline Phase 1-4 Historic Seepage Rate Memo, second by Nick. Motion carries unanimously and the memo is approved. The approved memo will be posted to the CITT website.
- For next steps, the 3.0 ft/day loss rate will be used to quantify a volumetric total that will be assigned to an instream location through a water reallocation report.

Mission South Measurement Planning (Brian) [01:37:15]

- The CITT had previously identified necessary water measurement locations to account for the Mission Area RDA (Upper Mission Creek, Lower Mission Creek, portions of the Pablo Feeder Canal).
- Brian presented a draft document displaying costs and alternatives for measurement buildout.
 - Locations without measurement include: DC2 lateral, Cold Creek (Dry Creek Trib.), Mission 6C, Mission H, Mission A Canal above Mission Creek, and Pablo Feeder Canal above Post Creek.
 - Mission C Canal tailwater measurement was included in the memo because of its importance in helping FIIP understand diversions, though it is not essential in RDA administration.
- Brian displayed to the draft memo to the team as he discussed the site-specific details for each location, including flume installations, stilling well installations, Cipolletti Weir logbook read-out, rated gate logbook read-outs, and staff gages. Further refinement of the document will be forthcoming.

Discuss Next Steps and Schedule [02:07:59]

- Refinement of water supply forecast discussion, specifically clarification on the time frame when referring to a percentage of the median with streamflow.
- Finalize document on Incremental Implementation based on Operational Improvements.
- Continue the recruitment of the On-Farm Efficiency Specialist.
- RFQ for the Decision Support Tool is currently a priority; the CITT intends to hold a virtual meeting to launch the RFQ.
- Continue discussing measurement upgrades to meet the Mission South RDA.
- The next CITT meeting is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday June 10th at 1:00 PM.

Public Comment [02:11:20]

- No public Comment

End Meeting [02:11:34]

- Motion to end the meeting by Maya. Second by Nick. Motion carries unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 3:25 p.m.