

SUMMARY OF COMPACT IMPLEMENTATION TECHNICAL TEAM (CITT) MEETING

June 17th, 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)

Pela Hoyt (in place of Maya Rao), MT Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC)

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 1:00 p.m. Three CITT members with one substitute member were present, and a quorum was established.

Approve agenda [00:01:59]

Pelah and Dave suggested amending the agenda to designate the Water Year Type (Item 3b) as an action item. Motion by Dave, second by Dan. Additionally, Nick will be removed from the informational updates section for the final agenda. Motion by Pelah to approve the amended agenda, all members voted unanimously to approve the agenda.

Informational Updates [00:05:32]

Irrigator Updates (Dave Lake)

- Spring rains have presented favorable growing conditions for crops.
- Feeder canal @ Pablo Drop was almost lost during the late May/early June rain and runoff event. Infrastructure was saved with an emergency stabilization effort from FIIP.

DNRC Updates (Pelah Hoyt)

- Applying for a \$400,000 Water Smart grant application with BOR
 - Funding would be used towards the FIIP Decision Support Tool
- Working closely with FRWMB
 - Establishing communication with new engineer Elena Evans
 - Collaborating with CSKT on new permit and change process

BIA Updates (Dan Lozar)

- BIA Division of Water and Power are drafting new Operations Maintenance Guidelines (OMG) for FIIP.
- Moving along structural upgrades for Flathead Pump Plant
- Supporting FIIP as needed

CSKT Updates (Brian Hogenson)

- Crow Pump
 - Fused pipe to Johnson Rd
 - Project site received immense pulse of discharge during the first week of June but remains in good shape for continued construction
- NF Jocko
 - Three new pours recently and the project is moving along
- Currently out for bid are Phases 5 and 6 of Jocko K Pipeline & the Jocko J diversion
- A warm Memorial Day primed the snowpack before a 3" rain event over the Mission front. This initiated an Intense surge of discharge in Mission Valley. Acknowledges FIIP for doing a good job managing reservoirs and diversions during that dynamic time
- CSKT Water Measurement grabbed ample measurements during this runoff event to refine the upper end of station rating curves
- CSKT filmed the runoff event with a drone to gain real time footage of channel dynamics in Post Creek at the bank full & flood stages

Water Supply Outlook (Amanda Courville) [00:22:52]

- Wet May; Flathead Basin received 139% of the 1991-2020 median monthly precipitation during the month
- Reservoirs are in good shape and mostly favorable to last year
- Snowpack vs precipitation discrepancy is notable in the Flathead Basin for the WY to date
 - SWE: 63% of 1991-2020 median
 - Precipitation: 119% of 1991-2020 median
- Streamflow forecasting (NRCS-provided)
 - Mission Creek and the Jocko Basin (SF Jocko, Agency Creek) have 50% exceedance probabilities for "wet" runoff for the April-July period
 - Hellroaring Creek, Crow system, and Mill Creek have 50% exceedance probabilities for "normal" runoff in the April-July period.
- Following the presentation, a conversation ensued about how to designate the water year, given that much of the runoff for the year has already passed and the remainder of the season is projected to be normal
- Dave Lake motions to designate the Mission and Little Bitterroot regions as a "normal water year" with the conversation continuing to examine the hypothetical implications on changing the water year designation, including whether any group would be affected by changing the designation (i.e. irrigators/crops, tribal water rights/fisheries)?
- Motion by Dave Lake to categorize the Jocko geographical area as a wet year, and to designate the Little Bitterroot and Mission geographical areas as normal years, second by Dan. The motion carries with all members present voting in favor.

Incremental Implementation of MEFS (Brian Hogenson) [01:28:03]

- The CITT has worked on these operational improvement tables in recent meetings, and it is CITT's responsibility to document these completeness percentages from 2025 to 2026.

- With it being clear that no increase in IMEFs are being sought for this year, Dan asks if the Supplements to the document can include what the flow schedules *would* be if the incremental MEFs were to be increased this year.
- Dan makes a motion to table the approval of the memo in order to revise the memo for voting at the July meeting. Motion carries unanimously, an updated memo will be published for the July CITT meeting.

On Farm Efficiency Specialist Recruitment Update (Pelah Hoyt) [01:48:03]

- Dan Lucas has retired from MSU with his replacement beginning on July 11th.
 - They intend to overlap for a brief period and will discuss the position recruitment.

Operations Model RFQ Status (Brian Hogenson) [01:51:02]

- An RFQ for the model was released after the May 28 special session.
 - There has been follow-up interest from engineering firms, with 17 downloads directly from the website.
- A 2-week window is open for firms to respond to the CSKT with questions.

Mission South Measurement Planning (Brian Hogenson) [01:53:25]

- Continuation of the May Meeting Discussion; Measurement is still needed to fully build out the Mission South RDA.
 - Brian walked through a few developments on the build-out of the document.
- Each location is undergoing an alternatives analysis for measurement methods.

Discuss Next Steps and Schedule [02:17:12]

- The next meeting is tentatively scheduled to be held on Wednesday July 15th
- The conversation regarding the implications of the water year designation will be extended next month
- The team will keep moving forward with the On-Farm Efficiency hiring recruitment
- The team will discuss questions from firms regarding the Operational Model RFQ
- The team will continue discussing and developing alternatives for Mission South measurements.

Public Comment [02:21:00]

- No public comments

End Meeting [02:21:20]

- Motion to end the meeting by Pelah. Second by Dan. Motion carries unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 3:33 p.m.