

SUMMARY OF COMPACT IMPLEMENTATION TECHNICAL TEAM (CITT) MEETING

July 15th, 2026

1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Salish Kootenai College - D'Arcy McNickle 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)

Dan Lozar, Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA)

Call to Order [00:00:00]

Chair Brian Hogenson called the meeting to order at 1:04 p.m. Four of the five CITT members were present, and a quorum was established. Dave Lake was absent from the meeting.

Approve agenda [00:02:09]

Motion by Dan to approve agenda, seconded by Maya. All present members approved the agenda with no modifications.

Informational Updates [00:02:53]

BIA Updates (Dan Lozar)

- ITRC Cal Poly continues to advance measurement in Mission South area.
- Last week of June, BIA Division of Water & Power staffers met with FIIP and CSKT to prep for roll out of software for water orders, discussion on how to blend needs for water accounting and ordering.
- BIA worked with FIIP on Mission Valley Power contract.

FIIP Updates (Nick Belcourt)

- Conditions as of Monday (7/13/26)
 - Jocko Area: Upper Jocko Lake is sitting at ~2,700 AF, most of flow from Jocko Lakes is leakage. Big Knife/Agency Creeks are providing enough water to meet demand, consider opening Upper Jocko S Canal to subsidize the system soon. Revais Creek flows are falling off, FIIP will start pump at Lower Jocko J Canal soon.
 - Mission Area: Tabor Reservoir is at ~ 23,000 AF, water is moving to Mission area and north. Mission and McDonald reservoirs are holding steady. Mission creek above the Reservoir needed adjustment. Ninepipe Reservoir ~ 9,600 AF; Pablo Reservoir has ~19,800 AF so FIIP is pushing water down Pablo A Canal, ~90 cfs coming through Pablo Feeder at Drop. Lower Crow Reservoir stopped spilling, Moiese A Canal diversion is running ~90 cfs. Possible leakage at Crow Reservoir siphon, needs to be inspected.

- Hot Springs/Camas Area: Little Bitterroot Reservoir is at ~7,300 AF; Hubbart ~ 5,400 AF and discharging ~20cfs; Dry Forks Reservoirs are in good shape; Camas and Lonepine have a lot of demand. Water users are asking to raise the quota, FIIP will decide after 50% of stored water is delivered.
- Staffing Updates
 - FIIP has 24 employees, there has been no movement on hiring federal employees. There are several CSKT emergency hires working for FIIP.
 - FIIP has 2 machines cleaning ditches, they are having a hard time keeping up with maintenance.
 - FIIP is working on hiring a contractor in the next week to treat canals for vegetation. Concerns about Eurasian Water Milfoil out of Pablo reservoir, will get that treated first.
 - FIIP is hoping to hire a hydrologist, they have 2 candidates, trying to hire both.
- Discussion on Mission Reservoir elevations and USGS gage on Mission Creek above-high flows altered Mission Creek and inflows weren't matching elevation changes.
- There was significant erosion along Mission Creek at the Bison Range, The Mission H Canal service road failed, and Mission H Canal is very close to failing. Options are to move the canal or eliminate the canal and pump water from the river to serve those acres.

DNRC Updates (Maya Rao)

- DNRC is still working with FRWMB to support their Office of Engineer.
- Working with the RDA working group.
- Applying for Water Smart Grant.

CSKT Updates (Brian Hogenson)

- June and July had two high flow events. CSKT measurement program got high flow measurements during these times.
- Had conversation with the USGS hydrographer on how high flows affected the Mission Creek channel above the reservoir. The gage wasn't matching what the reservoir elevations were reading. USGS measured 160 cfs at Mission Creek and the gage was reading ~60 cfs.
- FIIP did a good job operating to reservoir elevations. Measurement program staked high water marks in channels they couldn't measure.
- Planning continues on "special MEFs", locations with no IMEF but do have MEF. Post Creek has measurement already and can be implemented as soon as enforcement begins.
- Had meeting with BIA about support for water accounting software.
- Irrigation infrastructure
 - Crow Pumping Plant: pipe is fused, siphon isn't tied in yet; no major damage from high flows. FIIP can plan for operational checks in October 2026.
- North Fork Jocko project is on schedule; currently working on sluiceway; getting started on fish screens next.
- Lower Jocko J Canal and phases 5 and 6 (of Jocko Pipeline) awarded to Knife River.

Water Management Coordination (Brian) [00:32:55]

- South Fork Jocko April-June volume was 12,000 AF more than last year, Mill Creek also had higher volume than last year. Mission Creek volume was lower than 2025, numbers may change slightly after data is reviewed.
- Review RDAs
 - Agency/Finley Creek RDA is close to 100%, Tabor Feeder Canal RDA looks good, Upper Jocko is at 63%, Revais, Upper Mission look good. Precipitation and soil moisture have helped lower demand for water.
 - Brian will find out if there a way WebPortal can send alert when 75% of RDA is met.
 - Upper Mission/Upper Crow RDA discussion. Sending water north past KHFC into SCFC impacts those RDA numbers.
- Discussion on reservoir management: FIIP might be able to hold reservoir elevations for a while. 1st- 2nd week of July farmers are starting to irrigate more.
- Discussion on water year determination, RDAs, MEFs and TIFs.

On Farm Efficiency (Maya) [01:16:10]

- AgriMet Station Data Control Updates
 - Dave (previously) mentioned issues with ET data on AgriMet, Maya looked into issues and talked to Jama with BoR about issues, they fixed everything, only thing left are graphs-they are forthcoming.
 - They are hiring a new person this week.
 - Jama mentioned they might be able to demo AgriMet/HydroMet calculator from WSU.
- USDA-NRCS-CIG On-farm Trials
 - Watershed coordinator-MSU and University of Idaho teamed up on projects focused on ET and are looking for on farm trials. Proposals due July 27, no cost sensors for water users. 4-year study. Ties in with open ET platform. No updates on on farm efficiency specialist job, Dan Lucas's replacement just started Monday.

Incremental Implementation of MEFs (Brian) [01:23:08]

Updates to completion percentages

- This is an action item to update completion percentages. Updated draft document, including revisions suggested by Dan in the 6/17 meeting, was sent and posted to the website. All members were able to review and there were no comments on it.
- Of note is the Sept 17th enforceability date for Post Creek below McDonald Lake and above Pablo Feeder Canal.
- Maya moved to adopt memo on incremental implementation of MEFs for Water Year 26. Second by Dan. All present members voted in favor. The document will be modified only to show that it has been approved, and it will be posted on the website.

Stock water Mitigation Grant Program Updates (Maya) [01:29:50]

- Report on the off-season stock water mitigation grant program: 80 contracts are fully executed; 74 water rights issued; \$899,000 payments to grantees; 9 projects are finished with construction, though none have closed out entirely with final report.

- Project highlight: Christopher Ranch developed spring near Barnaby Creek above Jocko K Canal - routed under the canal and gravity fed into stock tanks. Maya showed photos of this project to the CITT.

Operations Model RFQ Updates (Brian) [01:35:32]

- RFQ updates on proposals due tomorrow July 16th at 4pm. None have yet been received. RFQ had been downloaded from the website 55 times.
- Response to questions were posted to website, per the schedule detail in the RFQ.

Mission South Measurement Planning (Brian) [01:37:42]

- Alternatives analysis developed, added more detail on cost structure to the planning document.
- Considering rehabilitation of stilling well at Mission H Canal, it is the only administered location in Lower Mission RDA.
- Communicate will be needed with BIA about ITRC work and how it will tie in with CSKT water measurement. ITRC is focused on Mission B and C submerged and free flowing gate ratings for ditch riders. Two ITRC staff will be here in August training FIIP staff and finding additional locations for measurement at weirs and check structures. Mission 6C and DC2 work will overlap; Maintenance needed at headworks of DC2.
- Requested logbooks from FIIP readings of new staff plates and gate plates.
- Scope of work developed May 24, 2016 by CITT points out measurement points; plan is to refine short term plan and update document.

Discuss Next Steps and Schedule [01:51:26]

- Maya will post final IMEF document on website;
- On farm efficiency: look to FID for possible participation in on-farm trials. Additionally, continue to work with BOR Jama Hamel for ongoing Agrimet maintenance and to schedule demo of AgWeatherNet ET calculator;
- Stock water mitigation-update every two months;
- Possibility to post water management coordination power point ahead of time, data is often gathered the morning of the CITT meetings.
- Operations model update next month.
- Mission South: continue to measure and rate weirs/gates and refine document.
- The next CITT meeting is tentatively scheduled for Thursday August 13th.

Public Comment [01:58:16]

- Shane Hendrickson ran some numbers and presented an Agency-Finley RDA discussion. Upper S Canal below Agency used 1,800 AF since April 15 - FIIP didn't shut down stock water carryover use by the 15th.

End Meeting [02:00:50]

- Motion to adjourn meeting by Maya. Second by Nick. Motion carries unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 3:15 pm.