

SUMMARY OF COMPACT IMPLEMENTATION TECHNICAL TEAM (CITT) MEETING

August 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)
Daniel Lozar, Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA)
Dave Lake, Irrigator Representative
Nick Belcourt, Flathead Indian Irrigation Project (FIIP)

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 [00:01:59]

Motion by Dave to approve the agenda. Second by Dan. All in favor and the agenda was approved without revisions or modifications.

Informational Updates [00:02:24]

CSKT Updates (Brian Hogenson)

- High water mark surveys are being conducted near established CSKT stream gages.
 - Hydrographers placed stakes at observed water levels during June/July events.
 - Surveys have been conducted to back out discharge from spring events.
 - These values will be used to help refine rating curves and assist with future water management.
- Crow Pump and NF Jocko diversion are coming along.
- Jocko K pipeline phases 5,6 have been awarded; work to begin this fall
- Lower Jocko J diversion has been awarded, work to begin this fall
- USGS went to the Mission Creek gage above the Reservoir following June/July events to update the site rating curve.
- CSKT bubbler orifice line and galvanized conduit has once again been vandalized at Little Bitterroot Lake.

BIA Updates (Dan Lozar)

- New electronic system for water ordering is in the final stages of implementation
 - This will be deployed via tablet
 - Hoping to launch during the end of irrigation system.
 - Aims to help track and keep record of FIIP water orders and diversions.
- WIIN Act Allocation in Mission South
 - Mission A/Feeder Canal

- Metered gravity inlets in collaboration with Cal Poly ITRC
- ITRC was out in the Mission Valley surveying canals
- Collaborating with CSKT irrigation infrastructure on Flathead Pumping Plant
 - Re-assembly of Flathead pump unit 2
 - Advance contract to stabilize penstocks affected by erosion.

DNRC Updates (Maya Rao)

- Stock Water grant program has a few projects nearing close-out
- DNRC is continuing to work with FRWMB on two efforts:
 - Interfacing of the two systems for water rights database
 - Permits and Change working group

Irrigator Updates (Dave Lake)

- FID voted to send the bill to county assessor for O&M fee increase, which Dave noted was the only function FID had in the fee increase process. Dave noted this increase will be heavy for irrigators to absorb.
- Update for interview process for on-farm efficiency specialist, Dave is encouraged by the three potential candidates
- Harvest is picking up and farmers are busy this time of year

FIIP Updates (Nick Belcourt)

- Reservoir stages as of Monday 8/10
 - Upper Jocko- 1,693 AF
 - Lower Jocko- 2,096 AF
 - Tabor- 9,054 AF
 - Plan to stage up to meet Bull Trout water addressed in BIOP
 - Eventually plan to send water up north
 - McDonald- 5,617 AF
 - Kicking Horse – 3,423 AF
 - Nine Pipes-6,492 AF
 - Hubbard- 3,951 AF
 - Upper Dry Fork- 831 AF
 - Lower Dry Fork- 1,993 AF
 - Pablo- 11,159 AF
 - Both Flathead Pumps are running
 - Water is being transferred to the North Division from the south.
- Overall water storage is in good shape, plan to make deliveries available until September 1st, perhaps September 15th
- Canal maintenance is lacking
 - Limited maintenance and no chemical contract to treat canals
 - Sites Camas C as an example; struggling to deliver water to the end
- Failures at Flathead River Pumping plant
 - Pumps 1 & 3, penstock

- Positive news with hiring within the federal government
 - Potential irrigation positions will be flown in the next month
- WIIN Act funding will be allocated to improve water measurement in Mission South

AgWeatherNet Virtual Demonstration (Troy Peters, Washington State University) [00:28:00]

- Demonstration of Irrigation Scheduler tool via AgWeatherNET
 - Can connect a personal farm field to vast network of weather stations in the Western United States and Canada.
 - Features 6 AgriMet stations in the Mission Valley
 - User can adjust settings for crops, soil types, and a date range.
 - Produces a site-specific model
 - water use projection (inches/day)
 - soil water chart
 - daily budget of water availability and deficit.
- Tool is available to the public.
- Tool is a decade old however has released a brand-new user-friendly interface.
- Troy broadly estimates tool is 80% accurate with projections.

Water Supply Update (Brian Hogenson) [01:16:17]

- All 6 natural stream gages used for WY classification have recorded more runoff to date in WY26 compared to WY25
- RDA Update
 - Jocko (wet year)
 - Agency/Finley and Upper Jocko have exceeded RDA
 - Revais is nearing RDA
 - Tabor Feeder Canal did not exceed RDA
 - Mission South (normal year)
 - Upper Crow has exceeded RDA (primarily due to indirect water movement from Post Crk to Kicking Horse Reservoir via South Crow Feeder diversion)
 - Upper Mission, Lower Crow, and Pablo A are all at 53% of RDA.
 - Missin North (normal year)
 - Hellroaring/Centipede/Bisson has exceeded RDA
 - Placid, LBR, and Alder RDAs have not been exceeded

Operations Model RFQ Status (Brian Hogenson) [01:44:22]

- A firm was selected to develop the FIIP operations model/decision support tool
- The contract is being finalized before any public announcement

CITT Website Update (Maya Rao) [01:56:10]

- Discusses methods to more conveniently organize documents and information from past CITT meetings
 - Possibility of providing drop-down menu for each type of document and meeting

- There was group consensus that a repository should be created for all of the approved documents

Discuss Next Steps and Schedule [02:00:14]

- Next Steps
 - Ensure Mission Valley AgriMet stations are efficiently tied in with AgWeatherNet
 - Compare recorded WY runoff totals against the 2026 forecast.
- CSKT will continue to finalize the Mission South measurement planning document
- On September 17th a new MEF will be enforced at Post Creek above Pablo Feeder Canal, some education on this MEF should be included in the next meeting with an agenda item
- Discuss a rotation of the CITT Chair position; next month will be Brian Hogenson's last meeting in his term as Chairman
- Next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday September 9th at 1:00 p.m.

Public Comment [02:09:43]

- No public comment

End Meeting [02:10:06]

- Motion to end the meeting by Maya. Second by Dave. Motion carries unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 3:12 p.m.