

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

**September 9th, 2026**

1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Mission Valley Power Conference Room

Flathead Indian Reservation, Pablo, MT

### **In Attendance**

Daniel Lozar, Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA)

Maya Rao, MT Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC)

Dave Lake, Irrigator Representative

Nick Belcourt, Flathead Indian Irrigation Project (FIIP)

Brian Hogenson, Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes (CSKT)

### **Call to Order [00:00:00]**

Chair Brian Hogenson called the meeting to order at 1:06 p.m. Five of the five CITT members were present, and a quorum was established.

### **Approve agenda [00:02:08]**

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

### **Informational Updates [00:02:32]**

#### **BIA Updates (Dan Lozar)**

- Recently went through Annual Staffing Plan to put positions together for advertising job announcements. New positions are being posted on USAJOBS.com. FIIP had significant amount of jobs listed to work towards staffing.
- Finalizing FY2028 rates and proposals put together for budgets and expenditures.
- ITRC will be coming out in the next month to continue work on measurement.

#### **DNRC Updates (Maya Rao)**

- Continuing technical support with FRWMB.
- Provided input on Phase 1 negotiations for the Decision Support Tool.
- Continuing to work on the pump fund process with FIIP and BIA.
- Maya stated that her last name is now Rao Singer.

#### **Irrigator Representative (Dave Lake)**

- Irrigation season is over for most farmers in the Mission Valley. A lot of rain has recently been received.

#### **FIIP Updates (Nick Belcourt)**

- Irrigator demand has significantly dropped due to significant rain over the past weekend. Preparations are being made to shut down each of the divisions.

- Jocko
  - Demand is minimal.
- Mission
  - Sending water to Kicking Horse and Nine Pipes for winter storage.
  - Assessing repairs for the outlet gate at Mission Reservoir (valley water demands will be met via Tabor water).
- Pablo
  - Demand fell off making target reservoir elevations unattainable for Eurasian Watermilfoil treatment.
    - Reaching target elevation would be costly; Believes losing 26 days of low block power would be too costly for FIIP and irrigators.
    - Plans to acquire more funding before treatment is re-assessed next year.
- Camas
  - Shut off September 1<sup>st</sup>
  - Carry over water is being stored in Hubbart and Lower Dry Fork Reservoirs.
- FIIP recently hired a staff hydrologist who will start soon.
- FIIP has committed to at least one or two gravity feed system delivery points on the Pablo Feeder/Mission A canal this offseason.
- Has requested CSKT emergency hires to continue helping FIIP with Fall maintenance.

#### CSKT Updates (Brian Hogenson)

- Infrastructure
  - Concrete pouring has started at the NF Jocko Diversion. Plan is to work until weather pushes the crews out.
  - Crow Pump is eyeing October 1<sup>st</sup> completion date.
  - Jocko lower J Diversion project will begin on September 16<sup>th</sup>.
  - Jocko K Pipeline Phases 5 and 6 will begin shortly and pipe is ready to ship for project.
- Canal Modernization design package has been completed targeting water conservation and modernization in FIIP. Projects Include:
  - Post A/P junction below Crow Pump.
  - Five long crested weirs in Valley View.
  - Mission F conceptual planning
  - Ronan B conceptual planning.
- Contracting process is well underway with the selected design firm for the FIIP operations model/decision support tool.
- CSKT Water measurement will tie in with the USGS to discuss challenges faced at stream gaging stations with high flows/floods.

#### Water Supply Update (Brian) [00:23:14]

- April- July 2026 Observed Streamflow
  - Jocko
    - SF Jocko and Agency both validated their determinations as wet years.
  - Mission
    - North Crow qualified as wet year

- Hellroaring, South Crow, and Mission all qualified as normal years
  - Little Bitterroot
    - Mill Creek qualified as normal year; the observed runoff (3228 AF) was very close to the forecasted runoff (3200 AF).
      - This is an improvement as runoff at Mill Creek has been difficult to forecast in recent years
- River Diversion Allowance (RDA) Update
  - Jocko (wet year)
    - Agency/Finley and Upper Jocko have exceeded RDA
    - Revais is nearing RDA
    - Tabor did not exceed RDA for either a wet or normal year
  - Mission (normal year)
    - Upper Crow has exceeded RDA (primarily due to in-direct water movement from Post Crk to Kicking Horse via South Crow Feeder diversion).
    - Upper Mission, Lower Crow, and Pablo A have not exceeded RDA.
  - North (normal year)
    - Hellroaring/Centipede/Bisson has exceeded RDA.
    - Placid, LBR, and Alder sill have ample water to divert.
- Sep-Oct-Nov NWS Forecast for NW Montana
  - Above average temperatures.
  - Normal precipitation.
- Reservoirs
  - Tabor still has ample water to meet the required Bull Trout spawning elevation addressed in Biological Opinion.
    - Nick mentioned that the plan to send this water to Kicking Horse/Nine Pipes when permitted.
    - Previously had sent “Bull Trout” water to Pablo Reservoir, however too much water was lost to seepage in the Feeder Canal.

#### **Mission South Geographical Area Compact Enforceability (Brian) [01:03:22]**

- Mission Valley South Minimum Enforceable Flows (MEF), Target Instream Flows (TIFS), and RDA will be enforced on September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2026.
  - Includes stream gages in Post Creek and Mission Creek watersheds.
  - The majority of stream gages had Incremental MEFs preparing FIIP for full enforcement.
- One MEF site will be enforced which did not have interim instream flows or IMEFs.
  - Post Creek below McDonald Reservoir above the Pablo Feeder Canal.
- Mission South Measurement Planning
  - CSKT Hydrologist Amanda Courville has been earnestly measuring discharge in Mission South canals that are part of the full RDA build-out. She plans to discuss findings in a report that will be released to CITT for review in the coming months.

#### **On-farm Efficiency Position Recruitment Update (Dave) [01:22:19]**

- Two strong candidates were interviewed yesterday.

- The CITT discussed a potential early project for the successful candidate could be to add the new Mud Lake AgriMet Station to the Washington State University AgWeatherNet products.

#### **Stock Water Grant (Maya) [01:36:42]**

- 80 projects awarded, 10 projects have been completed, pending final close-out.
- Does not anticipate any additional projects completed before September 15<sup>th</sup>
- Most projects underway are believed to be 25-50% complete, one project is at 60% completion, two are at 80%.
- Grantees have until September 30, 2027 to complete projects.

#### **Jocko Pipeline Project Phases 1-4 Water Reallocation Progress Report (Brian) [01:40:08]**

- Overall, pipeline construction and operations have gone quite well.
- FIIP has experienced issues with plugged intake screen.
  - Currently the screen is cleaned with a power washer.
- Mag-Meters were installed on Jocko K Laterals converted to pipe.
  - Meters were installed by Morrison-Maierle and are currently recording discharge in metric units.
  - FIIP does not currently record readings from meters.
  - System still needs to be tested and fully handed over to FIIP by Morrison-Maierle.
- Brian has prepared a draft reallocation report assessing water savings met by the pipeline conversion.
  - Includes methods for patterning and implementing water savings met with the project.
  - These methods, the corresponding data, and a draft report will be disseminated to the full CITT and discussed in the coming months with the CITT.
- Maya stated CITT is tasked with reallocation in the Compact and that she is interested in seeing the reallocation report developed by CITT as a team.

#### **Rotation of CITT Chair (Brian) [01:56:28]**

The end of the water year marks Brian's end as the CITT Chairman.

- Nick Belcourt nominates Mayo Rao Singer to be the chair for water year 2027. Second by Dave.
- Maya accepts Nick's nomination for the chair.
  - The team voted in favor of this nomination, with four team members voting in favor and one abstention (Maya).
- For Water year 2027 Maya Rao will be the CITT Chairwoman.

#### **Next Steps and Schedule [02:00:00]**

- Discuss the NWS projection of the upcoming El Nino weather pattern.
- Continue to refine measurement methods and locations in Mission South.
- Finalize the On-Farm Efficiency Specialist hiring process.
- Jocko K Pipeline
  - Continue to discuss mag meters and intake screen issues with plugging
  - In a working group setting, discuss the re-allocation Report with all CITT members.

- Agree upon and approve the firm selected to design the FIIP Operations model/decision support tool. Included in this is the development, proper notification, and approval of prospective Task Order 14. An early draft of Task Order 14 was distributed to the team for review.
- The next CITT meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 14<sup>th</sup> at 1 pm.

**Public Comment [02:07:33]**

No Public Comment

**Adjourn Meeting [02:07:54]**

Motion to adjourn meeting by Dave. Second by Maya. Motion carries unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 3:14 pm.