

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

November 13, 2024

8:30 am - 10:30 am

(Remote) Zoom Meeting

In Attendance (Quorum Established)

Casey Ryan, Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes (CSKT)

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

Daniel Lozar, Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA)-attended virtually

Nick Belcourt, Flathead Indian Irrigation Project (FIIP)

David Lake, Irrigator Representative

Call to Order [00:00:00]

Chair Maya Rao called the meeting to order at 8:32 am. A quorum was established.

Approve Agenda [00:03:15]

CITT members were given an opportunity to review the draft agenda for the meeting. Casey proposed to amend the agenda to include information updates. Motion to amend the agenda to include CITT team member updates by Casey. Second by David. Approved by 5 of 5 members.

Informational Updates [00:03:26]

CSKT Updates

Casey provided updates from CSKT regarding infrastructure improvement projects. The Falls Creek structure is 90% complete and will be ready for use in the 2026 irrigation season. The concrete for the raised section of the ramp flume will be poured after irrigation season next year. Prospect Construction is the contractor for the 31A Canal rehabilitation project. Construction will start this week and be completed in February.

Casey also noted that the US and the Montana both just had their second warmest October on record. 87% of the US was categorized as in a drought or unusually dry. NOAA has issued a La Niña watch for this winter, which has a 60% probability of occurrence. La Niña involves the cooling of the Pacific Ocean's surface which influences global weather patterns including colder than average temperatures and higher than average precipitation in western Montana.

DNRC Updates

Maya mentioned that DNRC has continued to work on the stock water grant program.

BIA Updates

Dan stated that Mark Simpson chaired a recent meeting with the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) and BIA to discuss Flathead River Pumping Plant including doing some slope stability work. There is a forthcoming report about the condition of the penstocks that will be issued by BOR and CSKT. Preliminary findings were that the penstocks are structurally sound but may need new coatings.

Dr. Howes from ITRC visited recently and focused on the South Mission Area, including Mission B and 22C Canals. Dan anticipates that this visit will help start conversations about the state of the Project, and areas for improved water measurement in the Charlo Area.

FIIP Updates

Nick stated that FIIP is wrapping up from the inspections mentioned by Dan. #1 Penstock has been fixed and will be operational in the 2026 season. FIIP is working with Mission Valley Power to get the substation ready for the upcoming irrigation season.

FIIP will begin reassembly of the #2 Pump for the Flathead River Pumping Plant will begin next week and will hopefully be fully assembled by the spring. FIIP will be working with HDR who will create baseline specifications for #2 Pump.

FIIP will begin layoffs this week, due to budgetary constraints. Leads and management will remain on staff to operate FIIP. The second round of layoffs will happen in mid-December. FIIP will operate the precast facility and do some field work with the remaining crew.

On November 21st at 6:00 pm, there will be a post irrigation season meeting for irrigators with FIIP.

Irrigator Updates

David Lake had no irrigator updates.

Stock Water Mitigation [00:13:40]

Maya stated that the draft Application Worksheet and Guidelines for the CITT Off-Season Stock Water Mitigation Grant Program and Task Order 12 had been posted on CITT's website for the previous two weeks, for public review. CITT did not receive comments from the public.

Maya reviewed proposed edits to the draft documents. Suggested changes were editorial in nature with a few edits made for clarification or to address discrepancies between documents.

The draft Application Worksheet and Guidelines had placeholders for links in them, for easier navigation. Because the website was not live, Casey suggested that CITT vote on the documents with placeholders that could be updated once the website went live. Other CITT members supported Casey's suggestion to approve the documents with link placeholders.

CITT reviewed Task Order 12, which was created to establish the CITT Off-Season Stock Water Mitigation Grant Program and to establish funding for the program at a not-to-exceed amount of \$4 million. Casey noted a typographical error. As a result, the phrase "fund expenditure will be dependent *of* grantee reimbursement requests" will be changed to "fund expenditure will be dependent *on* grantee reimbursement requests."

Vote on Grant Application and Guidelines [00:31:24]

Dave made a motion to approve the CITT Off-Season Stock Water Mitigation Grant Program Application Worksheet and Guidelines, with changes incorporated from the meeting and with link placeholders; second by Casey. Motion carried unanimously.

Vote on Task Order 12 [00:33:31]

Casey made a motion to approve Task Order 12 with the clerical edit mentioned earlier. Second by Dan. Motion carried unanimously.

Maya stated that task orders must be signed by the State and CSKT after approval by CITT. The funds related to Task Order 12 will not need to be available to grantees until late spring 2025.

Maya reviewed the timeline associated with the CITT Off-Season Stock Water Mitigation Grant Program. She stated that DNRC will work on launching the webpage and application online and both will get launched by Friday, November 13 and CSKT will be posting flyers around the Flathead Reservation. DNRC and CSKT will issue a joint press release about the grant program. Maya also reminded CITT members of the upcoming information sessions, help sessions, and the application closing date of January 10.

Discuss Next Steps and Schedule [00:38:28]

CITT members agreed to forgo a December meeting and meet again in January 2025.

Public Comment [00:41:19]

The CITT received public comment.

End Meeting [00:42:00]

Motion to end the meeting by David, second by Casey. Motion carries unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 9:14 am.

Next Meeting

The next CITT meeting is scheduled for January 2025.