DRAGAN PLOT SEQUENCE

Sara Comment:

Dear Dragan, you have a clear progression in mind. The story is linear and self explanatory, I added a few notes on your excel file, but in general these are points on how to show your idea using a  visual hook.

Tip: Every time you write “he figures out” means you need  to explain HOW to the reader.

ie: “He realizes that at the end of each stream there could be one power plant, each with the pipeline. “

How do you explain the idea forming in the engineer's mind?

let the element of the surrounding inspire him to have the idea. In this case he could observe  the veins of a leaf and visualize the connection into the central vein as a metaphor of the  main river.

Besides your great work, I feel something is missing in this story. I don’t feel empathy for the character nor his cruciade, therefore I don’t care if he has hunted with nightmare. I can understand that harnessing the river could be disruptive for the environment, but… how can a scientist not know?

Also the inner motivation of the character is not enough. Why is he so committed to this project?

I suggest to build an emotive subplot, here a basic idea, just to suggest you how introduce an emphatic tone without disrupt your structure:

*the engineer lost his wife years ago, she was a committed biologist who worked for the national XXXX departement ( need to be connected to the service for the country for the preservation of the river XXXXX. Since her death the engineer has become a bit peculiar, always dressing in a ridiculous hat which he calls Betta – maybe the hat could have a pennant or a little crest of the country ( we understand later that the hat is a gift from her). This subplot could be introduced during the first act, thanks to the jokes of the colleagues who refer to the hat, mock his idea and gossip about the dead wife. Few sentences are more than enough.
i.e:  The engineer stormed out of the conference grabbing the hat and saying, c’mon, Betta, we will show them how I am right!*

*Through the second act we see photos on the desk of the engineer, in his house, whenever: his wife working, his wife in uniform, his wife with Betta in her hands. These photos must be positioned as clues along the panels.*

*Also in this act we could avoid totally the voice off: we can use the hat as a pretext.*

*ie: the engineer is talking to the hat explaining things or asking questions, reasoning about tools - meanwhile showing his personality and how committed he is. Maybe in the dialogues we can insert a sentence about a specific connection toward the wife and the country that justify the stubbornness and the attachment of the engineer to this project.*

*When he came home from the award ceremony he caressed the photo of his wife saying “we did it, my dear”. If we zoom in on the wife's face we can enter her eyes, and then show her running trying to save the dead fish, listening to the herd of sheep standing by the water,  crying together with the desperate shepherd who is cursing . She is crying: it’s not my fault, it’s not my fault!*

*and then the engineer woke up screaming. He takes a breath, we see him in a close up, realizing the reality with eyes wide open.*

*oh my god… IT IS MY FAULT.*

*we close with him in his bed, hand covering his face.*