

**11-16-11 Meeting Summary * Approved 1-18-12 *
RESOURCE COORDINATION COMMITTEE (RCC)
NORTH UMPQUA HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT- FERC #1927-008**

RCC Members or Alternates Present

Also Present

Monte Garrett (PacifiCorp Energy)
Rob Burns (USFWS)
Chris Stine (ODEQ)
Craig Kohanek (OWRD)
Ed Meyer (NMFS)
Dave Harris (ODFW)

Beth Bendickson (PacifiCorp Energy)
Rich Grost

Absent

Pam Sighting (USDA-FS)
Anne Shirley (BLM)

INTRODUCTIONS, AGENDA, OLD BUSINESS

Member Updates

It was noted that Merina Christoffersen is no longer with the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers. Carol Franson is now the Douglas and Harney county representative.

Planning for Annual Meeting

Monte said while there are still big projects going on, the complexity of the program is winding down, perhaps requiring a reduced level of coordination compared with the early years. While he feels the annual planning is an important step, it could probably be done in one day, or as an expanded version of the January RCC meeting. He asked for everyone's thoughts. Everyone was agreeable to have it be a face-to-face meeting after the January 2012 RCC meeting, in Eugene at the ODEQ office.

Public Information Opportunities

Monte, Pam, and Dave went to the Douglas Timber Operators breakfast on November 10 and did a presentation on implementation. It was well received with good questions from the crowd. Monte reported that the News Review tour went well and was very positive. They will publish an article which Monte will distribute to the RCC.

RCC Action: Review and approve October 19, 2011 Meeting Summary – *Approved 11/16/11.*

CURRENT PROJECT UPDATES

Soda Springs Fish Passage

Monte reported that the project looked quite impressive last week when he was on site. Most work on the facilities (fish screen/ladder entrance and exit) is behind concrete walls, so work during “normal” spills (not extreme) could probably continue throughout the winter. The fish ladder weir steps are now being poured. The walls are up on the evaluation building, but the roof isn’t on yet. The current plan is to get the fish return pipe completed to the evaluation building this year. Rich said as far as the building goes, it’s waterproof without the roof. A dewatering period is likely in January/February, to finish the last FERC requirement – armoring the right abutment of the dam and the upper reaches of the old penstock. To get equipment into that area, we’ll need to dewater, but it shouldn’t be for an extended period.

Rich asked if there was any chance to move the equipment in now, rather than wait. Monte replied that contractually, it is not feasible at this time, but we will continue to advocate for it.

The upper pool weir design is still being “hammered” out. The question is does it make sense to build it out of concrete or still use heavy green logs? We will leave the materials up to the contractor as to how they feel would be the best way to build it to criteria (elevation, slope...). Monte asked about the log-shaped concrete. The lean is toward heavy logs with concrete footings – the best of both worlds.

Aquatic Connectivity Sites (2011 Work) - The 2011 sites are complete.

Slide Creek Tailrace Barrier

The project is starting to look like a tailrace barrier. The foundation is in and the walls are going up. The riverside face of the barrier is half-way constructed. DSL and ACOE have both given their approvals for an in-water extension so we can continue working to get the project substantially complete over next two-week period; that is, the screens will be in place and the plant can be operated. The coffer dam will be removed by the end of December. The barrier will not be totally functional until the baffle panels are installed in January and the hydraulic evaluation is completed during the first half of 2012.

Ed mentioned he would like to get to the site to see the screens, but may not have time. He may have to rely on Rich Grost taking and sending photos, especially on the removal of the coffer dam. Monte said Rich could coordinate and provide detailed photographs.

There is an ODFW tour scheduled for December 2, for the Soda Springs Fish Passage, Slide Creek tailrace, and Lemolo 2 Reroute projects. Dave Harris said the ODFW fish district staff and local ODFW wildlife staff will attend (it could be 6 to 13 people). Rich asked that Dave keep us apprised of the total number. If there are a lot of wildlife folks, we might want to have Monte and Steve Albertelli available.

Stinkhole Wetland

This project is almost complete. The features are in place, the ground and civil work is done, as well as the hydro seeding. The USDA-FS is starting to plant shrubs.

Lemolo 2 Reroute

This project is substantially complete. A few details still remain such as the small hydraulic flaps towards the in-take for the wing wall to keep the water from the river from flowing back behind the wall. It took four hours for the water to transition needed water from the full flow reach – under reduced generation scenario. Planting will soon occur along the pipe. The campground is now open. The initial opening caused minor turbidity as the new flow path worked through accumulated reservoir sediments, but it was less than two NTUs down by the Soda Springs gage station and has been clear since then. Chris asked about the date range for the minor turbidity plume, to which Rich replied was November 2, the date it was brought into service.

ADA-Accessible Fishing Pier at Toketee Lake – this project is complete. It's a nice looking pier.

Toketee Stream Gage Relocation

The construction portion of this project is complete. It still needs to be wired in and have the guts added to the cabinet. It will then be brought online and operated for several months, overlapping the old site. Rich noted that you will see two signals from the Toketee site (primary and auxiliary). It will be up to the USGS on how they wish to show it.

401 Permit Monitoring

Lemolo 2 TDG – With the Lemolo 2 Reroute project complete, the TDG monitoring will begin. Rich will follow up with Chris on study planning.

Lemolo 1 forebay pH – The 401 Certification monitoring will be worked up by end of year, and this first year of work indicates that August pH often exceeds 8.5. Joe Eilers is beginning to model the forebay hydraulics and water chemistry to help describe how vegetation interacts with pH conditions. He will then inform us regarding how much of the algae needs to be removed to get the water body within ODEQ requirements. Chris asked if Joe was looking into other circulation conditions, to which Rich replied, yes he is looking at a range of conditions. Monte added that we have been having internal discussions regarding options to address the pH issue. We are trying to get information from Joe on monitoring the pH/vegetation relationship in the winter. Then we'll look at it in the spring - at the beginning to see how much it builds up and compare it to see if we will need some sort of annual cleaning program; forebay fluctuation, or develop some special pumps that will operate on and off.

TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP (TWG) UPDATES

Fish Creek Issues

Canal Shut off & Drainage – We are installing fiber optic cable to improve communication between monitoring sites at TCC and the gates themselves, so we can improve functionality of gates and eventually demonstrate this to the RCC. The fiber will be installed in the spring.

Diversion Flexibility – We are contemplating the continued diversion of the small amount of water during the low-flow time of the year (when river flow is less than minimum flow requirement), in order to meet other needs requiring water in the forebay, such as water quality, domestic water needs, and erosion control. Rich said we contracted a consulting firm to do Heat Source modeling in that part of Fish Creek, methodology consistent with that used by DEQ.

Fish Screen Cleaning – The screens were brushed a few weeks ago to address debris clogging of the T-screens. Other ideas to improve hydraulics within the Fish Creek diversion settling pond include using ecology blocks to build a wall in screen gallery to improve sweeping velocity across the T-screens. The screens were cleaned this fall and next year we install the ecology blocks and replace the compressors that drive the air burst system. Ed asked about placement of the ecology blocks. Rich said we don't have the final design yet; we are still doing mostly sketches and brainstorming. He will keep both Ed and Dave posted via RCC calls until the finalized designs are in place. Several internal engineers are currently working on it to best place the blocks. Ed asked if we were concerned with fish getting trapped within the ecology blocked area. Monte mentioned that we can't have a modification that will entrap fish. Ed wants to be kept in the loop even before the final design and would like to be involved in the design so he can still have input, in case he sees something that can be changed. When the scope gets developed, we will keep Ed, Dave, and Rob updated on the progress.

FHS TWG – Flume 12 Remediation Plan

USDA-FS, ODFW, and ODEQ have all reviewed and commented on the plan. The next step is to sit down and have discussion to go through all comments to make sure they have all been addressed. Some are some differences of opinion. Monte would like to schedule a separate discussion with the three agencies and any others who may be interested, to reach consensus on the plan.

Monte requested that everyone e-mail their available dates for the week of November 28, and he'll talk to Pam, and then get something scheduled.

Rich gave this brief update: Some river habitat reconnaissance has been done by George Gilmore of Meridian Environmental (from the old relicensing days). He repeated the habitat mapping protocol done in 1992, from Patricia Creek to beyond the spillway site. Basically he did what was in the draft monitoring plan, before the weather closed in. The field work has not been worked up yet. Rich said he would try to get a draft report from Meridian before the next TWG call.

Operational Updates – nothing to report at this time.

Public Comments – *none at this time.*

It was decided to cancel the December meeting due to the holidays. We will resume in January. If events or dates need attention, it can be done via e-mail.

Meeting adjourned.