

1-19-11 Meeting Summary ** Approved 3-7-11 **
RESOURCE COORDINATION COMMITTEE (RCC)
NORTH UMPQUA HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT- FERC #1927-008

RCC Members or Alternates Present

Monte Garrett (PacifiCorp Energy)
Craig Kohanek (OWRD)
Rob Burns (USFWS)
Ariel Hiller (BLM)
Chris Stine (ODEQ)
Pam Sighting (USDA-FS)
Ed Meyer (NMFS)

Also Present

Beth Bendickson (PacifiCorp Energy)
Rich Grost (PacifiCorp Energy)

Absent

Dave Harris (ODFW)

INTRODUCTIONS, AGENDA, OLD BUSINESS

Member Updates

USDA-FS: Steve Haydon is the acting RELM Staff Officer, until a permanent replacement for Gina Freel comes on board.

PacifiCorp: Eric Hansen is now the project manager for the Soda Springs Fish Passage project.

RCC Action: Approve the December RCC Meeting Summary. *Tentatively approved pending NMFS and ODFW concurrence.*

Public Information Opportunities - none at this time.

The updated project video will be shown at the annual planning meeting.
The USDA-FS will soon send out a public notice about the Lemolo 2 reroute project.

2011 Annual Planning Meeting – This meeting will take place on February 3 at the ODEQ office in Eugene. Meeting materials and lodging information will be sent out soon.

Settlement Agreement - 10th Year Anniversary (June 13, 2011) – Pam Sighting said she received a call from Jim Weiman, who worked for the USDA-FS years ago during the settlement process. He mentioned it might be fun to have some sort of reception or get-together to honor the 10-year anniversary. Pam said it could include a project history, lots of photos, where we were, where we've gone, and where we're headed. We could invite all those involved in the past and present, and future as well. It could be a good public outreach opportunity. A potential date of June 15 was suggested to

allow for a face-to-face RCC meeting and then have the reception afterwards. We can discuss it more at the annual meeting.

CURRENT PROJECT UPDATES

Monte gave the following update on the January 16-17, 2011 flow event.

Soda Springs Fish Passage

It was a significant water event. Peak inflow of about 11,000 CFS at Soda Springs required use of both spillways and the log chute gate. The water has since decreased to approximately 3,000 cfs, but spill is expected to continue until later this week. Monte reported that spillway #2 was mostly open as part of ongoing construction. At peak inflow, the reservoir level came to within one foot of dam crest. Rising reservoir level overtopped the sheet piles in the fish ladder exit area, and inundated the fish screen construction area. Ed Meyer inquired if fish salvage was done in the upper area. Rich responded that few fish went over the coffer dam; only two brown trout were salvaged. The fish ladder exit area has now been drained and the construction crews are currently back to work. There is lots of debris that has collected at the base of the dam and downstream into the Wild and Scenic reach. The good news is that there does not currently appear to be much damage to the new construction. Rich also noted that the area downstream of bridge did not sustain any damage. The area of the fish evaluation facility did not trap water or fish and is now dry for work to continue. As for the work at the base of the dam, per Rich Grost's recent e-mail to the permitting agencies, PacifiCorp's proposal for when flows decrease is to dewater, de-fish, and continue working as in December for as long as possible. This is considered beneficial to the project to speed completion, and beneficial to the resource to remove adult fish before they can spawn in an area that will be dewatered next summer. This salvage may also provide Sierra Lewis with a few wild steelhead for her telemetry study. We will need to maintain the large logs within the river downstream of the work area per SA 7.3. The small logs/debris will be disposed of on site. Both Rich and Pam noted a jam of large logs the Panther Bridge (near Apple Creek). Pam requested that PacifiCorp not send more large logs downriver until the USDA-FS can get that jam cleared. Monte requested that PacifiCorp be notified when this work is completed, so that clean-up at Soda Springs may proceed.

Slide Creek

There was significant flow in Slide Creek which clogged the new culvert grate with debris and overtopped the new parking area (access for Slide Crk TRB/overhaul), washed out the gabion baskets, and eroded the parking area and other work completed last summer. Rich sent out notification of an erosive event and remediation, as is required by SA 14.3. At the time of the event, no known spill of oil to water was known to have occurred. It was later determined that approximately 25 gallons of turbine bearing oil had washed out of the powerhouse. Follow-up notifications of this spill were made to the agencies.

Pam asked whether the new Slide Creek culvert is too small, and what will prevent clogging from happening again? Monte thinks the 8-foot culvert wasn't the problem, but rather the grizzly grate in front of it that prevented the passage of debris. This gate has been removed and will not be replaced. The damage is already being repaired. Lots of water and debris went through the powerhouse and caused the unit to trip Sunday afternoon.

Rich said that based on records from the Copeland gage, the peak flow from Sunday looked like it was about an eight-year event. That gage got a peak flow of roughly 14,000 cfs. PacifiCorp engineers estimated a 5-10 year event. Overall it was a substantial event.

Unrelated to this event, Pam sent an FYI e-mail regarding review the spill hazmat plan. There is a meeting scheduled for February 1. She will be coordinating with Diane Barr, on a review of the plan which hasn't been updated in five years. If anyone is interested; they are welcome to attend.

Aquatic Connectivity - *no change from last month.*

Permitting for work in 2011 will be done through the USDA-FS Programmatic Nationwide Permit. Most of the 14 sites scheduled for construction this year involve baffles within existing culverts and a few more stream bridges. Designs for this work have been approved by the TWG and procurement is being planned.

Stinkhole Wetland Design

Steve Albertelli is managing this project, which is at the 60% design level. PacifiCorp expects to procure and construct the wetland this year. In addition, another wetland site will be selected and the designing process will commence.

Lemolo 2 Reroute

After a seven-year design process, construction of this project is finally getting started. Weekly Bros. was awarded the construction contract. Clearing and grubbing began on January 17. There will be some USDA-FS oversight of project, as it will be so visible to the public. The USDA-FS will put out a public announcement about recreation sites closures (Toketee Lake) and other restrictions regarding traffic constraints along the Toketee-Rigdon road; it will not be a safe area for public recreation in 2011. The schedule is to begin construction of the out-flow pipe by late February and the in-flow pipe by June. Pipe excavation will occur all throughout the year with completion expected by late October. Pam will be putting up forest closure notices at the end of the footbridge, throughout the campground, and for the North Umpqua trail. The boat ramp will be closed. The North Umpqua trail will be temporarily rerouted around the work area.

TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP (TWG) UPDATES

It was noted that the TWGs are winding down.

Aquatic Connectivity/Wetlands – *Discussed above in Current Project Updates.*

L2R (Lemolo 2 Reroute) – *Discussed above in Current Project Updates.*

FHS (Fish Habitat Studies)

19.2 – Rich said he will discuss this more at the annual meeting. The 2009 annual report is almost complete. Earlier discussion was not to do one in 2010, but to roll up the information into a baseline report, to cover years through 2010. He is wondering if this is the best way, or would a 2010 annual

report be useful to capture that year's efforts independent of the other years. He asked the RCC to think about this. He is still working with Stillwater regarding cost estimates for the complete baseline conditions report, which would be completed by the end of 2011. There are no further FHS meetings planned at this point. Going forward, the FHS TWG can continue to address Soda Springs Fish Passage evaluation and monitoring, since the FPD TWG is disbanded.

Lemolo Lake Management – The next Lemolo Lake Management Group meeting is scheduled for March 29 at the ODFW Roseburg Office. PacifiCorp is planning to continue to operate the lake according to normal SA constraints and is not currently pursuing a deeper drawdown as proposed in November. Monte added that the generation benefits of a deep draw down don't justify the cost involved in rebuilding and operating the entrainment net to meet ODFW's monitoring requirement. Craig Kohanek asked about Scott Lamb's reaction. Rich said he hasn't heard anything, but imagined he would be in favor of a deep drawdown. He added that Joe Eilers is disappointed since he is a strong proponent for a deep drawdown. Rich suggested that the 19.3 fund might be a logical source for funding the entrainment monitoring work to allow for a deeper drawdown.

FPD (Fish Passage Design) – *Nothing new to report at this time.*

F&R (Flows & Ramping) – *Nothing new to report at this time.*

19.1 Tributary Enhancement Program

Monte gave an update of this project. Baseline studies were done and structures were built in East Fork Rock Creek during 2004-2006. It was idle for a couple of years for the newly constructed habitat structures to settle in with natural flows. The post habitat construction evaluation period, which began in 2009, includes monitoring the response of overwintering juvenile Coho to this modified habitat. Study will conclude in 2013.

Public Comments – *none at this time.*

The meeting schedule was reviewed.

The next RCC meeting will be the annual planning meeting on February 3, 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM.

Meeting adjourned.