

**10-22-15 Meeting Summary * Approved 1-20-16 *
RESOURCE COORDINATION COMMITTEE (RCC)
North Umpqua Hydroelectric Project (FERC No. P-1927)**

RCC Members or Alternates Present

Steve Albertelli (PacifiCorp)
Rich Grost (PacifiCorp)
Jim B. Muck (NOAA)
Dave Harris (ODFW) - *via phone*
Chris Stine (ODEQ)
Mary Grainey (OWRD) - *via phone*
Pam Sichtung (USDA-FS)
Paul Bridges (USFWS)

Also Present

Beth Bendickson (PacifiCorp) – *via phone*
Scott Schevenius (PacifiCorp)
Mike Blum (PacifiCorp)

RCC Members or Alternates Absent

Anne Shirley (BLM)
Jim Thraikill (USFWS)
Ed Meyer (NFMS)

INTRODUCTIONS, AGENDA, OLD BUSINESS

Member Updates/Organization News

USDA-FS – Pam reported the following changes: Gerry Wright is the new Forest Road Manager; Angie Snyder, Cultural Resource Technician, retired; Marge Ownsby is the new Special Use Permit specialist replacing Robin Duarte; and Megan Mullholland is a new zone Cultural Resource Technician.

NMFS – The Oregon Coast Coho Draft Recovery Plan has been released and is open for comments.

ODFW – The hiring of two EBAs (one will work year around and one will work approximately eight months of the year) has begun. Chris Sheeley has accepted the long-term position beginning on October 1, 2015. The short-term position will be filled before March 2016. Evan Leonetti is the new STEP Biologist taking over for Greg Huchko, who moved to the Umpqua District Biologist position.

PacifiCorp – Barry Campbell replaced Mark Tallman as Vice President, Renewables; Stefan Bird is President and CEO of Pacific Power.

Meeting Summary Approvals

The August 2015 meeting summary was approved.

Public Outreach

Since August, Rich provided two tours as requested by semi-public groups: one to a group of local Roseburg business retirees, including former PacifiCorp employee Ron Doan, and the other to a small group of high school students from the Phoenix School.

Future Annual Public Tours Discussion: The question was asked about whether the RCC wanted to keep providing the annual public tours, as they are not officially required in the Settlement Agreement or the FERC license.

The consensus was to continue offering the tours. Members thought they were a good way for the local folks to be able to get out and see the successes and good things that are happening on the ground.

As far as promoting the tour, while a segment was aired about it on the radio yesterday, some noted that this is the second year the tour notification hasn't been published in the local newspapers. It was suggested to make a bigger effort of promoting the tour - whether via newspaper, news release, community calendar, special events on TV, etc. It was also suggested that each RCC member could do a better job at promoting it for their respective agency, and possibly using social media (Facebook, Twitter). Other stakeholder groups could be engaged to participate, such as Umpqua Watersheds which is very good at organizing tours and has been inquiring about doing one of the hydro project. Most of their tours are scheduled for weekends. More people would probably participate then, not just the retired folks who can make a weekday tour. The RCC will discuss the increased publicity effort and potential for a weekend tour at future meetings. The RCC will make a renewed effort to publicize the tour next year, and if the attendance is still sparse, the group will reassess the method and/or need for providing tours.

Another idea is to query tour attendees as to what they would like to see in future years, and consider featuring other implementation projects such as the Rock Creek fish ladder and habitat enhancements.

CURRENT PROJECT UPDATES

Soda Springs Fish Passage

Status/Update: The planned maintenance during the July-August fish screen shutdown is completed, and the fish screen was returned to service in early September and has been running well ever since. The one part of the facility that is not operational is the finishing screen cleaning system, which is currently undergoing a major upgrade expected to be completed by winter. Those and other recent upgrades and refinements to the facility should improve the overall reliability of the facility.

Hydraulic and Biological Evaluations Update: The hydraulic evaluation of the ladder and screen are complete except for a set of high flow measurements which we hope to complete this fall or next spring, pending the availability and magnitude of high flow events.

The biological evaluation of the ladder is approximately fifty percent complete. The FishTick software is extremely efficient for documenting adult steelhead and salmon, but seems to miss about 20% of smaller fish (mostly those <4 inches long). The evaluation field work will be completed in mid-March.

Biological evaluation of the fish screen is still planned for this winter and spring, but requires high flows and juvenile hatchery Chinook salmon to mark and monitor. Hatchery smolts may be difficult to get due to the loss of last year's entire brood at the Rock Creek Hatchery.

Rich asked Dave if it would be acceptable to use hatchery fish from outside of the basin. Dave said they would have to look at sizes and see how many would survive the trip. ODFW typically does not move fish from basin to basin these days, but regarding the current conditions, they would have to look at everything. They would need a request to start early. Dave suggested that Rich e-mail Tim Walters (copying Greg Huchko) to obtain support within the basin and then forward the e-mail chain to regional ODFW staff to initiate the decision-making process. Rich should mention why we're doing it (per Settlement Agreement and License) and that it was intended to use spring Chinook, but due to hatchery problems we may need to utilize Rogue basin Chinook to accomplish study goals. Rich and ODFW staff will have to look at potential for disease transmission, policies of moving fish across basins, etc.

Tailrace Barriers

Biological Evaluation Update: The evaluation of fish behavior at both tailrace barriers has concluded. A final report was recently provided documenting that over forty days of field study, including direct observations and 340 hours of indirect underwater video, fish were not observed approaching or challenging the pickets in any injurious fashion.

To keep blowout panels from opening and allowing fish to swim in during high flow events, PacifiCorp has adopted a new standard operating procedure that emphasizes more frequent monitoring and cleaning of the pickets and also specifies reducing generation any time panels are observed to be open.

RCC Action: Consider the Tailrace Barrier Biological Evaluation Report and revised operation procedures complete and satisfactory. ***Approved 1/20/16***

ODFW, NOAA, and USFWS concur; Rich will check with USDA-FS fisheries biologists.

Fish Creek Projects

Scott Schevenius reported that the fiber and power cable has been installed. The canal shut-off and drainage system can't be tested until Fish Creek flows are high enough for diversion of water. The extended IFPL 4 delayed the aquatic connectivity projects by 30 days, but PacifiCorp still expects to complete construction by the end of this year.

Lemolo 2 Aquatic Connectivity Sites

Burma Road is closed along Lemolo 2 canal during construction of the two aquatic connectivity sites on this system. A request was submitted for 800 cubic yards of riprap material from Warm Springs quarry for use on the aquatic connectivity sites and to have for remediation of potential erosion events this winter.

Fish Creek Fire Water Diversion

In June, the RCC approved a special request for PacifiCorp to divert up to one cfs from Fish Creek for the purpose of providing sufficient firefighting water in Fish Creek forebay during the 2015 fire season. PacifiCorp initiated that diversion upon RCC approval and diverted less than one cfs (generally about 1/3-1/2 cfs) during much of the fire season to keep the forebay within the target water level range. The USDA-FS Air TAC used Lemolo 1 and 2 forebays, but due to the location of fire starts, Fish Creek forebay was not needed or used for firefighting in 2015. At the conclusion of fire season, temporarily-approved diversions were ceased at Fish Creek. PacifiCorp will coordinate with the USDA-FS to report on the details of the 2015 diversion and forebay use as specified in the RCC approval.

Overall, the minimal diversion in 2015 seemed to work really well. Depending on potential fire conditions, the same program may be requested next year, but it is not expected to be standard operating procedure. The continuous, low-flow diversion is preferable to emergency high-flow diversions because if a fire broke out nearby while the forebay was low, firefighting would suffer because it would take too long to fill up the forebay to make it useful in a rapid-response; meanwhile fish and other aquatic life in Fish Creek would suffer because an emergency forebay fill might divert nearly all the water (e.g. 20-40 cfs) for a day or two.

Rich queried the USGS website for flows into Fish Creek at the Diversion Dam for the last three months (July – Sept). It showed that the average summer base flow is about 40 cfs, whereas the 2015 base flow was about 24-25 cfs. Consequently, the diversion of about 1/2 cfs was only about 2 percent of the base flow. He views this as a proactive way to minimize impacts to Fish Creek, rather than risk much larger impacts if PacifiCorp were required to do an emergency forebay fill and potentially dewater the creek.

Dave said that ODFW remains concerned about impacts in Fish Creek from diverting water, and suggested a thorough search for alternative water sources, and also better defining the criteria for initiation of diversion (e.g. forest fire potential, etc.) so that the process is less subjective. Jim suggested that conditions be reviewed in the spring rather than waiting until summer.

Fish Creek Dam and Fish Screen Sediment Removal Project

Rich described a new recent proposal to clean sediment (sand, gravel, rock) out of the Fish Creek impoundment as well as the fish ladder and screen gallery. Accumulated sediments are interfering with fish screen and ladder operation because both facilities are sensitive to water levels and the sediment build-up has changed water levels at the diversion dam. Two days ago Rich submitted a pre-construction notification/permit application including a dredging plan, with photos, to DSL and ACOE. Although the fish ladder and fish screen are cleaned every few years, the larger impoundment area has not been cleaned of sediment since 1997-98. Much of the material is suitable for spawning and the plan calls for returning it back into the creek

downstream of the dam. The RCC generally supported this proposal to maintain the functionality of fish passage facilities and enhance habitat by passing sediment downstream of the dam.

Wetlands Update

Two wetlands remain to be constructed: Fireswamp and Lake Creek.

Fire Swamp Wetland: Fireswamp Wetland construction is in progress and initial planting will be completed by November.

Lake Creek Wetland: Steve is working on the conceptual design. A technical working group meeting will be scheduled for the end of the year.

Aquatic Reconnects Update

There are two closure orders in for Lemolo 2 Canal.

Other Projects Requiring NTPs or Other Coordination

18-inch to 24-inch logs are being installed on either side of Cedar Springs along Fish Creek Flume 8 to keep the creek away from the wooden flume members.

TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP (TWG) UPDATES

Fish Habitat Studies

6.2 Slide Creek Full-Flow Reach: *nothing new to report.*

7.2 Gravel Augmentation: *nothing new to report.*

8.2 Slide Creek Bypass Reach Habitat: *nothing new to report.*

8.3 Soda Springs Habitat: Redd surveys are going on.

19.2 Long-Term Monitoring/Predator Control Study: ODFW has hired a long-term staff position (Chris Sheeley) to work on this project for the next several years.

Fish Passage Design

Modifications planned for this year are complete. There will be additional modifications to the trim screens upstream of the evaluation building.

Flows & Ramping - *Nothing new to report.*

OTHER ITEMS

Operational Updates

Powerhouse/Canal Outages: There are no canal outages planned for the rest of the year. Planned powerhouse outages are ongoing at Toketee but are staged to one turbine at a time so should not affect bypass reach flows except during high flow conditions.

Reservoir Management (Toketee Reservoir WSEs): Lemolo Lake drawdown – is progressing on schedule, at a rate of about 0.3 feet per day.

Toketee Lake continues to be operated at the lowest water level and probably will for several years. Sediment and weed growth are limiting boat access between the boat ramp and the lake. Pam said that there is ongoing analysis of potential dredging of the area, but the project is larger than first thought, and there is no funding in the budget. Jim noted that the Oregon State Marine Board can be tapped for funds if motorized boats are using the boat ramp. It was suggested that Toketee Lake may be most valuable if limited to small craft like drift boats, canoes, and kayaks, thus less need for ramp maintenance and less noise and conflict on the water.

Other:

Toketee Seismic Dam - A meeting was held two weeks ago with the engineer. Alternatives are being evaluated. Remediation may require long-term closure of Toketee-Rigdon Road. Steve proposed the potential for utilizing trail from Clearwater 2 power plant to Toketee Campground as a temporary road. Pam confirmed that USDA-FS staff did not support that option at this time.

Lemolo Reservoir Historic Dump Site - PacifiCorp is currently awaiting USDA-FS direction on what they want to do with the site. We are not certain how deep the dump may be. We will likely need to take soil samples to analyze potential for hazardous waste. Chris noted that he would talk to DEQ solid waste staff about the site for their input. There is periodic debris in an area approximately 150 long x 50 feet wide when the reservoir is drawn down (old pill jars, broken bottles, etc.). SHPO staff has confirmed that minimal consultation would be required prior to remediation.

SA 19.1 Tributary Enhancement Project Updates (Dave Harris): Sam and Kirk are planning for 2016. A design has been chosen and will be installed in the mainstem Rock Creek next summer. Kirk Haskett is busy looking for materials. Logs are set. They are in the process of getting OWEB applications for funding. It's typical now, to start in the fall and early spring to get materials stockpiled for the summer.

Jim Muck inquired if there are any thoughts of doing temperature projects. ODFW and BLM are gathering water quality monitoring data to look at the results of some of the gravel deposition projects and at flow-through from the bigger gravel bars. They continue to look for private landowners willing to participate in conservation easements and/or riparian projects.

New spawning surveys in Rock Creek, snorkel surveys for spring chinook, and coho spawning surveys will start soon. Kokenee surveys will be done above Lemolo Lake when they can. Lots of brown trout were observed in electrofishing boat sessions in Lemolo Reservoir in October. 99% of the brown trout are eating insects.

SA 19.3 Federal Mitigation Fund Project Updates (Pam Sichting): *nothing new to report.*

2015 Project Selection/Strategic Restoration Plan (Pam Sichting): Two public meetings are planned before the end of the year.

Next RCC Meeting: The annual planning conference call will be held at the end of January 2016.

2016 RAP Coordination will begin at the end of November/beginning of December.

Public Comments – *none at this time.*

Meeting Adjourned at 11:40 AM.

Project Tour followed.