

**North Umpqua Hydroelectric Project
(FERC No. P-1927)****Resource Coordination Committee (RCC)
January 17, 2018 Meeting Summary****FINAL (2/23/18)**RCC Members or Alternates Present

Steve Albertelli (PacifiCorp)
Rich Grost (PacifiCorp)
Dave Harris (ODFW)
Chris Stine (ODEQ)
Craig Kohanek (OWRD)
Pam Sighting (USDA-FS)
Amy Stevenson (USDI-BLM)
Paul Bridges (USFWS)

Other Attendees

Beth Bendickson (PacifiCorp)
Mike Blum (PacifiCorp)
Scott Schevenius (PacifiCorp)
Pete Sukraw (PacifiCorp)
Kelly Coates (Cow Creek)
Travis Mackie (Cow Creek)

RCC Members or Alternates Absent

Jim B. Muck (NOAA Fisheries)
Ed Meyer (NOAA Fisheries)

INTRODUCTIONS, AGENDA, OLD BUSINESSMember Updates/Organization News

USDA-FS: Pam will be on a new work detail starting January 22, 2018 but her RCC status should remain the same. Jessica Brewen is working on the initial permit application process with potential new owners of the Lemolo Resort, but an agreement has not been made yet. Justin Hadwen is the new Forest wildlife biologist replacing Tiffany Young. Pam said they finally received approval to fill 17 USDA-FS positions.

USDI-BLM: Barb Machado is the new Swiftwater Field Manager now that Max Yager has retired.

USFWS: Pauly reported that the eagle carcass discovered at Lemolo 1 forebay on December 25, 2017 is on its way to the National Eagle Repository in Denver. Rich provided additional detail on the eagle mortality to the group. The eagle and a duck were found dead on the trashrack. A subsequent review of security camera footage revealed the eagle attempting to predate on the duck. The eagle died after not being able to get out of water following the initial strike on the duck. Rich made a series of agency contacts following discovery of the carcasses and then froze the eagle for delivery to USFWS. The eagle was delivered to USFWS for shipping to the repository on January 16, 2018.

Pauly noted that the FWS offices will be moving into the BLM Roseburg District office.

PacifiCorp: Jordan Atkinson is the new JOM operator at Lemolo 1.

Cow Creek: Kelly will be out on maternity leave for twelve weeks starting in April through August. Travis will continue to attend the RCC meetings in her absence.

PUBLIC OUTREACH

Umpqua Community College: The Water Resource Science class professor requested a tour, tentatively scheduled for February 27, 2018 with a possibly classroom presentation in advance of that.

Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing: This is a veterans' group similar to Source One Serenity. They expressed interest in a tour, but not until the fall when salmon are spawning. Steve suggested proposing the public tour to the group.

Rotary and other local groups: Sam Carter, Pacific Power's new Regional Business Manager for Douglas and Coos counties, is interested in offering presentations similar to the RCC public presentation, and possibly tours, to interested groups. Nothing has been scheduled as of yet.

FACILITY AND PROJECT UPDATES

Fish Protection and Passage Facilities

Tailrace Barriers: Everything is fine at the Soda Springs tailrace barrier, but there is a challenge at Slide Creek. The weekend before Christmas (December 23-24, 2017), operators noticed salmon inside the tailrace barrier. Rich responded, notified ODFW, and was able to salvage seven Coho on that weekend, but it appeared there were several more which evaded capture. Five more attempts were made to get them out. There are two or three left at this point. Sam Moyers and Chris Sheeley (ODFW) will bring some new technology with them tomorrow to try to salvage the fish. Review of flow and operation conditions revealed that there was a high flow/high generation event on November 23-24, 2017 (Thanksgiving weekend), which allowed the panels to open for about 20 hours, during which we suspect the salmon swam in. Rich said he looked back at three years of previous outage data to analyze potential operational corrections for these types of panel-opening events. PacifiCorp has implemented new hardware and procedures, including installing additional pressure to the panels so they won't open as frequently or for as long. These changes should allow the panels to return to the closed position quickly and completely. Pam asked if there is any type of monitoring system in place. Rich said monitoring is currently via daily on-site observation, but that the addition of remote indications and alarms is being planned.

Ladders/Screens: The Soda Springs Fish Passage Annual O&M Report was filed with FERC on January 12, 2018. Finishing touches are still being made to the finishing screen cleaning system after the major rebuild last summer. Rich said he doesn't anticipate any substantial outages this year, but there will be some electrical system tracing that will require power to be shut off on the facility for several weeks. At this point, it doesn't look like there will be a need to dewater the facility.

Projects Requiring NTPs or Other Coordination

Project	Status
<i>T&D Vegetation Management in Restriction Zone</i>	Awaiting USDA-FS NTP
<i>BLM Programmatic ROW Management</i>	Awaiting revisions to HPMP and additional coordination
<i>Lemolo 2 Canal Maintenance</i>	To be sent to USDA-FS soon

Other/Upcoming Projects

Toketee Dam Rehabilitation: PacifiCorp recently submitted the quarry investigation reports and is hoping to submit the quarry development plans, which will include a total volume of rock production, to the USDA-FS by March. Construction is projected to occur in 2020 and 2021. We are still awaiting FERC approval and standards for seismic analysis.

TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP (TWG) UPDATES AND ISSUES

Fish Habitat Studies (FHS): Monitoring and Maintenance Schedules

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

SA 7.2 Gravel Augmentation: Rich distributed the Implementation and Monitoring 5-Year Report for 2012-2016. Another report will be issued in the future for the monitoring period from 2017 to 2021. The report documents the eight ‘targeted placement sites’ and several other substantial gravel patches that have been consistently identified and used by spawning salmon and steelhead. Report recommendations include continued monitoring and continued augmentation of gravel with the most ideal delivery method and location being pulses installed as far as upstream as possible so as to have least impact and greatest benefit.

SA 8.2 Habitat Monitoring: Monitoring has been occurring in this reach since 2001. Stillwater recently produced another 5-year report, which Rich sent yesterday to the TWG agencies with comments requested by February 10, 2018. He will forward it to the RCC after the TWG review. This program anticipates maintaining a target of 6,000 sq. ft. of sustainable spawning habitat within the reach. Stillwater’s report indicates that the target is still achieved but that sustaining spawning habitat requires continued recruitment of gravel to the reach. Gravel recruitment has been observed, and the program has been successful.

SA 8.3 Soda Springs Habitat Modification: The annual report documents habitat modifications this year, including boulder treatments and a couple hundred cubic yards of gravel for access and spawning habitat.

SA 19.2 Long-term Monitoring/Predator Control Study: ODFW and Stillwater Sciences are crunching the data for the annual reports. Planning is underway for 2018 sampling and Rich recently sent out the proposed 2018 budget for RCC approval. The proposed spending is similar to last year. The proposal is for \$294,000 out of the 19.2 fund. Based on the current estimated balance, this would leave a balance of about \$156,000 at the end of 2018. Most of the budget is for expenses and the

ODFW proposed EBA costs (one permanent and one temporary for eight months) of \$133,786. Rich and Dave don't expect that the program in future years will be as high as 2017/2018. Pam requested having a bit more time to review future proposed budgets ahead of the RCC meetings and spending decisions.

ACTION: Approve the proposed 2018 spending from the 19.2 fund. **The RCC approved the proposed budget on January 17, 2018 (NMFS approved by email 1-18-18).**

*Budget update as of 1/23/18: Per Rich, ODFW headquarters recently updated their indirect rates for 2018, so the previously estimated ODFW personnel cost of \$133,000 is now revised to be \$139,248. This is about a 3% increase to the total program budget request. Other options were considered, but both Rich and Dave feel that the amount of staff time and effort needs to remain as planned. **ACTION:** Approve updated budget. **The RCC approved this budget update via e-mail on 1/23-24/18.***

Flows & Ramping (F&R): Flows, Ramping, Gaging, Monitoring, Plan & Reports

PacifiCorp is still awaiting data from USGS to complete the WY 2015-2017 flow and ramping reports.

OPERATIONAL UPDATES

Powerhouse/Canal Outages

Rich distributed a list of planned outages for 2018, including canal outages for Lemolo 2 in July and Clearwater 2 in June. There will be a Clearwater 1 canal outage for one day on January 24, 2018. PacifiCorp will ramp most water to the Clearwater 1 bypassed reach so they can inspect the canal. One of the Toketee generating units will be down for maintenance in February, which may affect the bypass reach during high flows.

Reservoir Management

Lemolo Lake (Report): Rich distributed the report describing that the drawdown followed the plans and limits very closely.

Pam forwarded the plan to Jessica for sharing with the potential new Lemolo resort owners. She said she made it very clear that Lemolo is a reservoir and not a lake. Rich asked if Pam could speculate on any changes that may occur with the resort, but she said no offer has been accepted yet. She is anticipating that the deal will be closed and new owners will be in place by March 2018. With respect to Lemolo Lake, Pam's only interface is working on the garbage pit coverage project. Steve asked about an ETA for recommendations from the USDA-FS on the required mitigation (i.e., coverage), but she didn't know yet. Internally, USDA-FS is developing a plan, and she thinks it's in good shape. She said they are looking at covering the debris with geotextile fabric and capping it with riprap. Steve acknowledged that plan was consistent with what was talked about at the Rolling Action Plan (RAP) meeting. Pam has been coordinating the mitigation prescription with Mike Carr, USDA-FS equipment/road manager.

Other

Steve said the RAPs will be ready to sign at the May RCC meeting.

SA 19.1 TRIBUTARY ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM UPDATE

Dave reported that Kirk Haskett is busy in the Rock Creek basin. Kirk is finishing up some Coho spawning surveys (adult) and waiting for summer and winter steelhead to get busy. He is also prepping for the summer work period. He will concentrate on fish passage this year, including culverts in Rock Creek that are in dire need of improvement via boulders to create jump pools for improved access. Sam and Chris Sheely are monitoring the upper river, conducting adult Coho spawning surveys, and looking to see if steelhead are kicking up gravel. They floated the mainstem Umpqua River and found some live Coho. As time permits, they will survey Boulder, Copeland, and Calf creeks. Sam is gearing up for smolt trap sampling. The smolt traps need repairs including the drum-screen gears and more pulleys and cables are needed. They are aiming for a March deployment of the traps, but it will depend on flows. They are updating the annual report for the RCC and doing a lot of work to correct spreadsheet tables that seem to be out of whack.

SA 19.3 FEDERAL MITIGATION FUND PROGRAM UPDATE

Pam reported that the FY18 funding was received in September and October. Some projects have funding approved and some still need collection agreements. The PacifiCorp 19.3 project will come out of the annual funding amount. For FY 2019 projects, a call letter already went out, and proposals are due on February 23, 2018. They will be reviewed and rated at a meeting on February 28, 2018. Pam hopes the end of February will become the norm for 19.3 proposal deadlines.

Work on the Strategic Plan has not moved since 2015, and it has dropped to the bottom of the priority list. There has been no movement in actual plan development, and USDA-FS is continuing to use the 2015 draft criteria and project categories.

Soda Springs Gravel Augmentation (Plans, Schedule): Pam said the USDA-FS placed 100 cubic yards last year, and there is currently 900 cubic yards of gravel in the stockpile at Soda Springs. She is hoping for placement this winter and has been working with Sam Moyers on it. It sounds like more permitting may be needed.

Dave said they are working with Jeff Bohler who is trying to get money to ODFW for the placement. They want to get it into an account between the two agencies that will have zero direct costs associated with it. Sam provided an update yesterday and said that they are getting closer to getting the money funded. It's awaiting the final signatures (from Jeff).

Rich asked about the use of the existing sluice pipe. Dave confirmed that his understanding was the pipe would be used. He said the RCC previously approved use of the sluice pipe. He later spoke to Sam Moyers, who gave this further update: "ODFW will use the conveyor truck for gravel and the USFS will use their front end loader. Both ODFW and USFS have decided that the pipe is a last resort for gravel placement as it is slow and not very cost effective."

Slide Creek/Fish Creek Bypass Reach Spawning Habitat Monitoring: Stillwater Sciences is drafting a report which should be out by mid-February.

SA 19.4 FUNDING REVIEW

The Settlement Agreement requires ODFW and PacifiCorp, in consultation with the RCC, to discuss in Year 15 of the New License the need for and level of on-going 19.4 funding. Steve and Dave will work to schedule a meeting. Dave said hopefully their fiscal department will finish up their spending pattern report on “ten years of where we are at with the rollover monies, how much we have, and how much we need for the future.” They have been working on it for a few weeks. Once it’s completed, he will approach Steve about a meeting to discuss funding needs for future years.

NEXT RCC MEETING: May 16, 2018 (Conference call followed by a project tour.)

PUBLIC COMMENTS: *None at this time.*

Lastly, with regards to wildfires and the use of the Fish Creek diversion for firewater, at the last RCC meeting Jim Muck asked that USDA-FS provide criteria and justification of need for Fish Creek flows in fire-fighting efforts in advance of the next fire season. His request is made in an effort to avoid additional last-minute, emergency requests for use of the Project to divert flows for firefighting, which he feels were becoming more the norm than an exception. Steve reiterated this standing issue for Pam today. She said it depends on the fire season and also that there has been no discussion on it yet. Steve asked her to provide some sort of write-up that defines the criteria so it’s less of a last minute request, which she agreed to do. She mentioned that when it comes to emergency situations, any available source for water is made available for firefighting. Craig agreed that OWRD considers any state water source to be available for emergency fire use. Steve clarified that Jim’s concern was not with respect to general use of water for fire-fighting but only use of Project facilities to divert and hold water, and the commensurate impact of reducing the summer flow in Fish Creek.

The meeting adjourned at 11:07 a.m.