

5-20-09 Meeting Summary – Approved 7-15-09
RESOURCE COORDINATION COMMITTEE (RCC)
NORTH UMPQUA HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT- FERC #1927-008

RCC Members or Alternates Present

Ariel Hiller (BLM)
Ed Meyer (NMFS)
Dave Harris (ODFW)
Monte Garrett (PacifiCorp Energy)
Rob Burns (USFWS)
Craig Kohanek (OWRD)
Pam Sighting (USDA-FS)

Also Present

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

Absent

Chris Stine (ODEQ) – Proxy given to Dave Harris
Jim Thraikill (USFWS)
Bill Gamble (USDA-FS)

INTRODUCTIONS, AGENDA, OLD BUSINESS

Member Updates

PacifiCorp – Michael Kahut is the new Project Manager for the Soda Springs Fish Passage project. Tom Hickey will assist Michael in an engineering support role. Angie Peace will be leaving the team for New York; she may be able to continue some work for the company from her new home.

BLM – Marci Todd is going to Washington office and Max Yager will fill her position, at least temporarily.

ODFW – The new hydropower engineer (Suzanne Pollen’s replacement) is Jean Castillo.

USDA-FS –Gordon Hanek will be leaving by the end of year.

USFWS – Jim Thraikill will remain as the RCC member until the position is permanently filled. Rob Burns expects this should happen later in the summer. John Johnson’s (hydraulic engineer) last day is Friday. Monte Knudson is the new permanent Policy Group member.

Monte suggested adding a USDA-FS Notice-to-Proceed status item to these monthly meetings. Pam Sighting agreed to this.

RCC Action: Review and approve 4/15/09 draft meeting summary. *The RCC tentatively finalized it pending Pam's approval.*

Public Information Opportunities – *none at this time.*

CURRENT PROJECT UPDATES

Policy Group Mtg Update – A PG meeting was held in PacifiCorp's Portland office on May 12. It was a good meeting and members seemed satisfied with the progress of implementation. Much of the meeting was focused on budget issues, for both PacifiCorp and other agency SA members. This is underscored by Chris Stine's (ODEQ) recent absence from RCC meetings. Chris will again be attending RCC meetings in July.

Fish Creek (Screens and Canal Shutoff & Drainage System)

PacifiCorp still hopes to have a performance test sometime in June while there are still good flows. Radio firmware and programming problems persist. The company may utilize different (directional) antennas to reduce signal interference within Fish Creek canyon.

Rich Grost said the biological evaluation for the Fish Creek screen has begun. "We're getting good information due in part to underwater video and the use of ODFW local-strain hatchery fish. Our consultant, R2 Resources, will prepare a final report after the next round of tests in August."

Clearwater 2 Canal Shut-off & Drainage System

The April 30 performance test went very well. Parties in attendance to this test included USDA-FS and ODFW.

Lemolo 2 Canal Shut-off & Drainage System

Construction is scheduled to start on June 1 and will require fish salvage (see below). An archeologist will confirm cultural site delineation next week, but Gate 4 is no longer expected to be an issue. The design of this facility will be similar to the CSD at Clearwater 2.

Lemolo 2 Forebay Dredging/Lemolo 2 Plant Overhaul

The fish salvage is planned for May 27 through the first few days of June. Rich and ODFW are currently planning three nights of electrofishing on the Lemolo 2 forebay (May 27-29) prior to any shutdowns. On May 30, the water will be gradually ramped out of the canal. The canal will then be shutdown on May 31 and the salvage will commence on the canal system and then continue that night on the forebay. Starting in the morning of June 1, the forebay will be drawn down. At 10:00 AM, the penstock headgate will be shut down in order to begin the Lemolo 2 plant upgrade project. The remaining forebay water will be pumped out with a portable diesel pump, while any remaining fish are salvaged.

Pam said that the timber sale necessary to provide for the dredge spoils location is still awaiting resource clearances, but the ESA consultation process is completed.

Lemolo 1 Forebay

This project awaits a 1200-C permit and approval from FERC PRO to proceed. In addition, USDA-FS clearances are needed for the expanded portion of the wetland (the NTP has been issued for the forebay only).

Wildlife Crossings

The wildlife crossings are all in place and nearly completed. Two of crossings are combo bridges, which also provide aquatic site reconnections.

Soda Springs Tailrace Barrier

The prototype baffle evaluation will be conducted on two tailrace barrier bays to address flow criteria issues. A consultant has been contracted and the evaluation is tentatively scheduled to begin on June 17.

Soda Springs Fish Passage

All permits are in hand. Pam inquired about the timing for road closure. Monte said August is the month we need the closure to start in 2009, but the closure will be necessary throughout 2010 and 2011. Steve Albertelli will coordinate mapping needs with Pam for this and other needed road closures (i.e., Lemolo 1 forebay and Lemolo 2 CSD/forebay dredging).

Watson Ridge

A June 8 start date should be good for planning purposes.

Rock Creek Projects

Phase 3 of the EFRC habitat enhancement and effectiveness monitoring study has commenced, with Stillwater Sciences doing most of the work. Dave said the ODFW Rock Creek Fishway is moving forward and is close to a final design. They're currently working on bid package preparation for this 3-part project. He hopes to break ground in a few months.

Heads-up on the water management conditions in the Lemolo 2 bypass reach. Rich reported that with various implementation projects causing outages of the Lemolo 2 development, PacifiCorp's ability to manage water in Lemolo Reservoir without ramping the Lemolo 2 bypass will be challenged. To manage this water there may be times when the Lemolo 2 bypass reach will exceed the 0.2 ft/hour limit. This is primarily due to operational requirements of the Lemolo 1 powerhouse; the plant has only a high/low generation setting. We may have to transition between flows, which may cause a ramp of as much as 0.32 ft. The company will do its best to minimize such occurrences during these

unusual circumstances this year, including multiple implementation projects and aggressive tui chub trapping program at Lemolo Reservoir.

TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP UPDATES

Wetland TWG

Wetlands

Lemolo 1 Forebay & Ranawapiti – designs approved and constructions scheduled for mid to late summer. No problems are anticipated in completing these projects on schedule.

Aquatic Connectivity

The Aquatic Connectivity Plan will include near-final site-specific designs for reconnection of aquatic sites and a schedule for completion over the next seven years (2010-2016). This plan should be done at end of year. Consultation is ongoing with the USDA-FS, ODFW and PacifiCorp's consultant.

L2R (Lemolo 2 Reroute)

The project, originally routed through the Stinkhole wetland, has been changed to the upper end of Toketee Lake. The design consultant will be contracted soon and the L2R TWG will probably convene its first meeting in July.

FHS (Fish Habitat Studies)

Rich reported on the SA 8.3 annual monitoring trip (May 11; rescheduled from April 24). The SA 8.3 habitat project appeared in good condition, with the typical number of steelhead redds observed. Several steelhead redds were also observed in front of Soda Springs Tailrace Barrier. Gravel in most of the SA 7.2 augmentation sites has dwindled from previous years, so we might want to consider a near-term gravel augmentation. The SA 19.2 monitoring from Soda Springs powerhouse to Calf creek indicated similar number of steelhead redds as in the previous year. Dave Harris reported that the smolt traps are operating well despite a few days missed due to high water. He said, the Soda Springs trap was removed due to high flows, but said that it may go back in the water today as the forecast is for clear weather for next five days. They are getting 400-500 fish per trap per day in the Copeland and Calf creeks. The trap is operating at 7 to 11 revolutions per minute. There is a record number of chinook fry being captured in the Soda Springs bypass (since the beginning of the program, four years ago).

FPD (Fish Passage Design)

Slide Creek Tailrace Barrier Design – PacifiCorp hopes to convene the first design meeting in July in order to complete the conceptual design by the end of the year. Ed Meyer said several tentative dates should be set as soon as possible, as summer vacations are coming up.

Toketee Lake Trash Rack – The Settlement Agreement requires a modification to minimize the entrainment of fish from Toketee Lake, suggesting a bar spacing of one-half inch and approach velocity of 0.8 ft/sec. A consultant will develop a draft design, which would then be shared for review. Rob Burns suggested that discussion of the Toketee trashrack modification be combined with the Slide Creek TWG, which everyone agreed would work. It will be designed this year and permitted/constructed in 2010.

Lemolo Reservoir

The RCC agreed via email since the last meeting to modify the experimental operations of Lemolo Reservoir such that the target range of 4142+/- 2 ft would not need to be achieved until May 23, and the trapnetting would not be expected to begin until May 27. This was a response to cool weather and snowmelt timing, and gives PacifiCorp more flexibility to manage snowmelt flows. Since that modification reservoir levels have slowly risen to over 4,145 ft.

Current plans are to manage the reservoir on the high side of the range thru June, then lower it a bit in July. Electrofishing for tui chub will begin in early June after the Lemolo 2 forebay fish salvage no longer needs the electrofishing boat. Joe Eilers began monitoring Lemolo Reservoir on Sunday, May 17. He did a zooplankton tow and said there was no large zooplankton observed. He's not sure why this is, but it might be due to tui chub grazing. It raises concerns about possible blue green algae blooms, but future monitoring will put this single observation into better perspective.

Rich found another possible tui chub liberation zone at the French Creek Ranch. He'll let Scott Lamb know.

Public Comments – *none at this time.*

The next RCC Conference Call is scheduled for June 17, 10:00 AM.

Meeting adjourned.