

11-19-08 Meeting Summary * Approved 12-17-08 *
RESOURCE COORDINATION COMMITTEE (RCC)
NORTH UMPQUA HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT- FERC #1927-008

RCC Members or Alternates Present

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

Also Present

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

Absent

Chris Stine (ODEQ) – proxy given to Dave Harris

INTRODUCTIONS, AGENDA, OLD BUSINESS

Member Updates

USFS – Add Bill Gamble to RCC Distribution list.

USFWS – Craig Tuss will retire in January. Rob Burns will be the acting RCC representative. At this time, they're not sure who will become the permanent RCC representative.

Public Information Opportunities

RCC Action: Finalize and approve October 15 meeting summary. (Approved 11/19/08)

2009 RCC Planning Workshop

It was decided to keep the two-day format. Tentative dates of January 27-28 were chosen. Beth Bendickson will finalize after checking with the Village Green Inn in Cottage Grove. It was suggested to invite Lois Schwennesen as facilitator, along with a representative from both the ACoE and DSL. The regularly scheduled January 21 RCC meeting will be cancelled.

CURRENT PROJECT UPDATES

Fish Creek (Screens and Canal Shutoff & Drainage)

A dry run test on the CSD will take place today. Another test for the RCC will be scheduled for January 2009.

CW2 Canal Shut-off & Drainage

Civil work completed. Currently laying fiber optic cable and finishing work on power facilities. At the next meeting, discussion will take place about setting up a functionality test, although this is highly dependent on weather conditions allowing for completion of the communication system and programming of the facility.

LM2 Canal Shut-off & Drainage

The October 30 meeting was a good one. Everything on this project will be about one-third larger than CW2 CSD. Joint permit applications will be completed and submitted to the agencies in the near future.

Soda Springs Tailrace Barrier

Hydraulics site visit scheduled for December 16. ENSR has been contracted to consult on maintenance issues.

TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP UPDATES

Wetland TWG

Lemolo 1 Forebay Wetland – Completion scheduled for 2009. It will create a forebay along the flowline just before the penstock intake and incorporate a wetland development adjacent to the facility. Hydraulics from the forebay will be used for the wetland. Pam Sighting was impressed with Weekly Bros' work. Seventeen acres of raw soil have been exposed. Now need to figure out how to protect from erosion through the winter. Rob Burns wasn't able to attend the October 30 meeting. He requested he be added to the TWG member list.

RCC Action - Monte Garrett will send the TWG member list to RCC to update. It will then be finalized at the 2009 work planning session.

Fallen Mountain Wetland – The TWG recommended that Ranawapiti wetland replace the Fallen Mountain wetland for 2009.

***RCC Action: Approve Ranawapiti wetland will replace the Fallen Mountain wetland.
(Approved 11/19/08)***

FHS (Fish Habitat Studies)

19.2 Long Term Monitoring Report – Final comments are due on November 24, and report will then be revised by ODFW and submitted to the RCC.

2009 19.2 Monitoring Program – The desired approach is to continue using two ODFW technicians (9 months on SA 19.2 fund), plus one PUR technician (7 months on 19.2 fund). This can only be accomplished if PacifiCorp can fund the program at \$150k instead of \$100k.

Rob Burns commented that in the past we've used EBAs for 12 months. He wanted to know if we will lose people or data for less of a timeframe (9 months). Rich Grost mentioned that the other three months will be funded by other programs (MOU Tributary Fund for Brook Trout, plus Rock Creek). The idea is to keep the personnel employed the entire two years for consistent data collection but not have all of the time being charged to 19.2, hence they will be working on MOU projects as well as 19.2 monitoring. The 19.2 fund cannot afford to employ 2 ODFW personnel for any longer than 9 months/yr. The budget also includes a \$25k line item for tentatively using Stillwater Sciences for consistent support in the predator study part of the program, and \$20k contingency.

2009 Breakdown

\$120,000 (ODFW personnel, including indirect costs)
\$ 30,000 (PUR technician)
\$ 5,000 (Repairs, equipment)
\$ 25,000 (Stillwater predator study work - tentative, may or may not be spent)
\$ 20,000 (Contingency)
\$200,000 TOTAL

Ed Meyer said he doesn't have a problem with this, but would like to see what the Stillwater budget and scope would be prior to contracting them.

RCC Action: Approve expenditures of up to \$200K for 2009 for 19.2 Long Term Monitoring Program. This includes an advance of funds from 2011. The RCC agreed that funds can be advanced from future years to accommodate more complete baseline study, understanding that in some future years (e.g. 2011) funding will be commensurately lower (zero in 2011) to compensate for these advances. (Approved 11/19/08)

FPD (Fish Passage Design)

Soda Springs Fish Passage Design

November 21 – meeting to discuss draft O&M/evaluation plans
December 18 – 90% design meeting
February 15 – 100% design; filing w/FERC by mid March

RCC Action: Monte will e-mail the RCC for their approval to request an extension of time w/FERC for final designs to be filed mid March.

F&R (Flows & Ramping)

Slide Creek Instream Test - Ramping modification originally planned for November 20 is now rescheduled to December 4. Rich will send e-mail out to TWG group.

CSD (Canal Shut off & Drainage)

14.2 Lemolo 2 Canal Shutoff and Drainage

The 60% meeting resulted in an advanced design for the facility that is very similar (but about 30% larger) than the recently completed CW2 CSD. The 90% meeting is scheduled for January 7, 2009, and the permitting process will begin soon with the development of the JPA.

Lemolo Reservoir

TWG meeting update: Joe Eilers' preliminary presentation summarized comprehensive water quality monitoring from the summer. This new information, compared with past years, indicates that climate, hydrology and nutrients are not the main driver of algae blooms. The most likely hypothesis is that the large biomass of tui chub is driving the blooms. Joe will complete his analysis and provide a written report to the funding agencies (PacifiCorp and USFS) who will share it with the TWG. Actions contemplated to combat blooms now focus more heavily on removal of tui chub, and include entrainment, reducing habitat suitability, increasing predation, and/or continued or increased mechanical removal by trapnetting. The value of entrainment, habitat, and predation actions is difficult to gauge compared to direct mechanical removal. The TWG drafted a tentative budget for a removal program using six trap nets to saturate the reservoir with round-the-clock netting during the spawning season (June-August). Using Lemolo Resort staff with no allowances for per diem or lodging, the cost for this program is about \$80,000 for nets/boat modification/supplies/mileage/fuel and four people working at \$13/hr, 10-hr days, for 90 days. The TWG discussed funding options, and agreed to attempt to acquire partial funding from several programs including the SA 19.3 fund (Mikael Jones has submitted a \$40,000 request for fish removal and a \$15,000 request for water quality monitoring from the 19.3 fund) and direct and/or in-kind assistance from PacifiCorp. The DEQ 319 program was investigated but the prospects did not appear good and the deadline is unattainable at this time. County RAC funding may also be appropriate. The TWG is open to anyone else offering to help provide funding.

Craig Tuss inquired about perhaps getting state support through the 319 program. Rich said yesterday was the deadline for filing 319 applications; a fairly arduous process. They can't come through a private company or federal agency. PacifiCorp/ODFW would not be able to apply. Craig was surprised we didn't get ahead of curve back in July/August. Last year we had joint application for Lemolo/Diamond which didn't get accepted. Rob Burns asked who the major proponent was in 2007. Rich said it was submitted by the Watershed Council (Partnership for Umpqua Rivers) with support from USFS and the Roseburg DEQ office. Looking at out years, Burns suggested getting an application in for 2010. Craig inquired about money from ODFW, and said that things seem to be getting done in a "piece meal" sort of way. We need an overall strategy with regards to Lemolo Reservoir. Regarding the fish stocking issue, he's heard that, in the past, there hasn't been any money to produce fish for Lemolo that could be used as a potential way to deal with issues up there. Dave Harris said that rainbow trout stocking has ample funding but that they'll manage Lemolo as a brown trout fishery. They helped Scott Lamb last year with boats, traps & nets, but chose not to do it next year due to budget constraints. They may help with manpower though. Craig reiterated a need for an overall strategy rather than random acts of kindness. Rich agreed with him on this, and suggested

looking to the same entities that funded the Diamond Lake treatment to provide more solid funding for actions on Lemolo Lake.

Public Comments – *none at this time.*

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

Meeting adjourned.