

10-15-08 Meeting Summary * Approved 11-19-08 *
RESOURCE COORDINATION COMMITTEE (RCC)
NORTH UMPQUA HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT- FERC #1927-008

RCC Members or Alternates Present

Ed Meyer (NMFS)
Chris Stine (ODEQ)
Pam Sighting (USDA-FS)
Monte Garrett (PacifiCorp Energy)
Ariel Hiller (BLM)
Rob Burns (USFWS)
Dave Harris (ODFW)

Also Present

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

Craig Kohanek (OWRD) – proxy given to Dave Harris

INTRODUCTIONS, AGENDA, OLD BUSINESS

Member Updates

ODFW: They're down to one mitigation biologist for 19.2 work. Dave Harris thinks they'll be okay for the rest of this year; however, they may need assistance in the future.

Public Information Opportunities – The Public Tour is scheduled for October 21. USDA-FS will provide transportation. The tour will focus on the passage facilities at Soda Springs, including the tailrace barrier, and the major projects at Fish Creek that were completed this year. A relaxed atmosphere format was agreed by all.

Action Item: The September 17 meeting summary was finalized and approved.

CURRENT PROJECT UPDATES

Fish Creek (Screens and Canal Shutoff & Drainage)

The Fish Creek settling basin was drawn down in order to complete some final work on the fish screen facility, including some gage installation within the ponded area. Rich Grost conducted a fish salvage. Ed Meyer would like a summary report on the fish salvage (how the process went, how the facility operated and does the facility need changes, is it functioning okay and/or how can we make it better).

Action Item: Rich will compile a summary report and send to the RCC.

The canal shutoff and drainage system test is still planned for November, but may be pushed to December depending on everyone's schedules following the return of higher flows and re-diversion of

Fish Creek. The radios have been replaced. Our consultant is addressing the agency comments on the “operations strategy” document, and a revision will soon be issued.

CW2 CSD

The facility is expected to be functioning by the end of November. At that time, a test will be scheduled. Rob Burns suggested combining the Fish Creek test with the Clearwater test. Monte Garrett said we’ll work on setting combined test schedule at the next RCC meeting on November 19.

LM2 CSD

The recently completed modeling test was successful and the 60% design review meeting is scheduled for October 30. The accepted design for this water control system is a five-gate design similar to CW2.

Macro-invert Ladder

This project is complete. Planting will happen this fall. Pump issue will be resolved by adding an auxiliary generator to operate pump remotely so that the ladder continues to receive pumped water in case of a power outage.

Lemolo 1 Forebay and Wetland

Pam Sighting said the timber sale is ongoing. There is public concern with cutting old growth timber within the project boundary. The environmental analysis for this project was included in the FEIS for relicensing of the North Umpqua Project. Additional notification of the public will be included on future planned timber sales that are required as part of a settlement agreement PM&E. The logging will be completed in a few weeks.

TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP UPDATES

A short discussion was had about whether or not to post the TWG meeting schedule on the website. Monte clarified that while the bylaws state that RCC meetings are public meetings, the TWG meetings are work group sessions and, therefore, not public meetings. However, the public may occasionally attend by invitation of the TWG members. The RCC agreed that this was an appropriate format for communication and decision-making.

Action Item: All RCC members agreed to this clarification.

FHS (Fish Habitat Studies)

The next FHS meeting is scheduled for October 24. The primary focus will be status reports and planning for the SA 19.2 program of work.

Dave reported on the East Fork Rock Creek project. It was partially completed years ago. A consultant was hired to write the NEPA EA for three sites located on BLM property. A total of 30 logs were pulled in from the road into East Fork Rock Creek. Stillwater Sciences and ODFW Mitigation Biologist were on site to make sure that the log placement design specifications were met. The pre-treatment baseline studies and the treatment construction are now complete. The post-treatment study will begin after there is a bank-full high flow event sufficient to create new pools, deposit gravels, and over-wintering habitat conditions at the treatment sites.

Monte asked Dave to let us know as soon as possible when Rock Creek diversion dam fish ladder work will require funding so we can plan for it.

FPD (Fish Passage Design)

Soda Springs Fish Passage Design

Ed summarized the design challenges recently addressed: There were problems designing the bypass system as a non-pressurized fish return system. Rollover of water within the fish return pipe created a potentially harmful environment for young fish, and a pressurized pipe routed over to the right bank, where an evaluation facility will be located with outfall back to the river, is now accepted as the preferred design configuration. The evaluation facility will be located road side on the right bank. The 90% design meeting is expected in the first part of December, with final designs by January or early February. Ed suggested giving out pre-90% draft(s) step-wise. Monte stated while we are still awaiting the ACoE permit, we are ahead of schedule on permitting at this stage. The SHPO will need to be consulted for potential cultural issues.

Action Item: Monte will talk to Tim Hemstreet about getting pre-90% draft(s) send to the TWG for review prior to the 90% meeting.

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

CSD (Canal Shut off & Drainage)

14.2 Lemolo 2 Canal Shutoff and Drainage System

The 60% design meeting is scheduled for October 30. It will be a five-gate system. The modeling test was successful. The 60% design review of Lemolo 1 forebay/wetland will also be held on October 30.

Lemolo Reservoir

The public use restriction triggered September 18 by the second appearance of blue-green algae scums has been lifted as of yesterday, October 14.

The fall drawdown is proceeding as planned. The next meeting is scheduled for November 4 at which Joe Eilers and ODFW will give presentations summarizing results from the summer 2008 monitoring and modeling. Joe's presentation should give a good preliminary summary of water quality

parameters, even if the modeling is not completed. We'll re-evaluate what is going on and what can be done about it.

Rob Burns said Scott Lamb asked if a private entity could apply for a Section 19.1.2 mitigation grant. Pam said that Scott asked the Forest Service as well about the public using 19.3 mitigation funds as a grant. She believes another state/federal agency would have to propose the job, and it would have to bid out via a contract. Ariel Hiller asked if BLM could get some of the 19.3 money.

Action Item: When the USDA-FS gets the 19.3 mitigation grant application criteria finished, Pam will send to the RCC.

Public Comments – *none at this time.*

Final Comment: Ed commented about the Soda Springs Tailrace hydraulics – specifically the higher velocities coming out downstream, with the eddy on the upstream side. He will work with PacifiCorp engineers to improve the velocity balance as practically as possible. He said Suzanne Pollon might like to be involved. He's hoping to do this over the winter. It would be a subtask of the FPD TWG.

The next RCC Conference Call is scheduled for November 19, 10:00 AM

Meeting adjourned.