

**Weber Hydroelectric Project Relicensing  
Recreation Work Group  
Online Meeting Notes  
February 23, 2016**

**Meeting Participants**

Eve Davies, PacifiCorp  
Ben Gaddis, Gaddis Consulting (Facilitator)  
Lindsey Kester, SWCA  
Russ Howison, PacifiCorp  
Adam Beeco, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission  
Matt Westover, Cirrus  
Neal Artz, Cirrus  
Nate Hawkes, Cirrus  
John Gangemi, Environmental Resources Management  
Charles Rossier, U.S. Forest Service  
Paul Thompson, Utah Division of Wildlife Resources  
Charles Vincent, American Whitewater

**Purpose of This Meeting**

- To introduce the consultant team preparing the recreation studies to the Recreation Working Group (RWG).
- To outline the recreation studies to be completed including timelines and input needed from the stakeholder group.

<b>Action Items from the February 23, 2016 Recreation Work Group Meeting</b>	
All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Interested RWG members are invited to attend the site visit with recreation study contractors March 1, 12:30 – 2 p.m.</li></ul>

**Decisions Made at This Meeting**

None.

**Welcome and Review of the Agenda**

Gaddis opened the meeting with introductions and review of the day's agenda. This meeting was held via web conferencing.

**Updates – Davies**

Davies told work group members that a contractor has been chosen to design the fish passage structure. The contractor is starting tomorrow, she said, and site surveys will start tomorrow. SWCA is doing the

water quality work and sampling has started. She said the Weber plant is coming back online soon. A fish passage work group meeting is scheduled for March 7.

Thompson asked where we stand on getting a better trail for access. Davies said this will be discussed as mitigation during the implementation process.

## **Recreation Studies**

The consultant team who will conduct the studies was introduced to the RWG.

- Neal Artz of Cirrus will serve as project director
- Matt Westover of Cirrus will serve as project manager
- Nathan Hawkes of Cirrus will conduct online recreation surveys
- John Gangemi, Environmental Resources Management will conduct whitewater boater studies

A recreation needs analysis will be conducted for the study. Hawkes said this will be a collaborative process. Data will be gathered from FERC Form 80 and a series of user intercept surveys. A counter may also be used to gather data. Hawkes gave a Powerpoint presentation outlining the study.

Objectives of the study are:

1. Characterize existing recreation opportunities and use levels in the project vicinity
2. Identify both existing and future recreation needs related to the project over the term of the new license

Tasks include:

- Recreation Supply Analysis – inventory recreation facilities and use areas in the Project Area and their condition
- Recreation Use and Demand Analysis – identify existing recreational demand in the Project Area and estimate future demand for various activities of interest
- Whitewater Boating Feasibility Study – evaluate whitewater boating use on the Weber River and possible enhancement measures for whitewater boating opportunities within the Project's bypassed reach
- Recreation Needs Analysis – compile, analyze, and synthesize the results of all of the above analyses into one study report. This analysis will identify existing and future recreation needs over the potential term of the new license (30 to 50 years).

Milestones and dates include:

- Recreation Supply Analysis:
  - Data obtained from stakeholders and other sources: May 23
- Recreation Use & Demand Analysis
  - Visitor survey questionnaire finalized: March 11
  - Visitor intercept surveys: March-September
- Whitewater Boating Feasibility Study
  - Dates to be discussed by Gangemi (see below)
- Recreation Needs Analysis
  - First draft: September 16
  - Final document submitted: October 24

### **Whitewater Boating Feasibility Study - Gangemi**

Gangemi stressed the importance of engaging the whitewater community for this study. Whitewater boaters who use the project area will be asked to complete an online survey and to take part in a focus group. Gangemi invited RWG members to take part in the March 1 site visit. The site visit will inform survey questions, he said.

Whitewater (WW) study milestones and dates are as follows:

- Weber River Site Visit: March 1, 12:30 – 2:00 PM
  - Observe WW reach, receive input from stakeholders regarding WW opportunities specific to reach, solicit input on additional information sources
- Survey Questionnaire
  - Update survey with site-specific information
  - Beta test survey
  - Launch online version week of March 15
  - Distribute survey link
  - Assume survey will run through July 1
- Whitewater Focus Groups
  - Planning week of April 25
  - Coordinate with WW groups to solidify list of participants
  - Location TBD
  - Focus Group size 15 – 20 individuals representing cross-section of WW community

- WW Report
  - Section within the overall Recreation Needs Analysis
  - First draft: September 16
  - Final document submitted: October 24

Gaddis asked if Davies would still serve as point person for questions on the Recreation Study Plan. Davies said yes, direct any questions to her with a copy to Hugentobler. Westover noted that Hawkes will be contacting stakeholders for input on the surveys, so they should expect to see correspondence from him. Hugentobler will provide RWG contact information to Hawkes. Gaddis reminded consultants to document all project correspondence, including phone calls and emails.

Davies reminded call participants of the March 1 site visit, thanked everyone for their time, and closed the call.