

**Lewis River Hydroelectric Projects Settlement Agreement
Aquatics Coordination Committee (ACC)
Meeting Agenda**

Date & Time: Thursday, March 14, 2013
9:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

Place: **NEW LOCATION:** Woodland Council Chambers
100 Davidson Avenue, Woodland, WA

Contacts: Frank Shrier: (503) 320-7423

Time	Discussion Item
9:00 a.m.	Welcome <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Review Agenda & 2/14/13 Meeting Notes➤ Comment & accept Agenda & 2/14/13 Meeting Notes
9:30 a.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Study/Work Product Updates<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Release Ponds○ M&E Requirement (Decision needed)○ Acclimation Pond/Crab Creek Update○ Hatchery Upgrades○ Hatchery and Supplementation Plan○ Merwin Upstream Construction Status○ Swift Downstream Collector Status○ Future Fish Passage Facilities New Information – Status○ Yale Spillway Barrier Net – Status○ BPA I-5 Corridor Transmission Line Project Update
9:45 a.m.	2012 DRAFT ACC/TCC Annual Report
10:15 a.m.	Break
10:30 a.m.	2012/2013 Aquatic Fund Decision-making Meeting
12:00 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Next Meeting's Agenda➤ Public Comment Opportunity <p>Note: all meeting notes and the meeting schedule can be located at: http://www.pacificorp.com/es/hydro/hl/lr.html#</p>
12:15 p.m.	Adjourn

Join by Phone

+1 (503) 813-5252 [Portland, Ore.]

+1 (855) 499-5252 [Toll Free]

Conference ID: 1814916

FINAL Meeting Notes
Lewis River License Implementation
Aquatic Coordination Committee (ACC) Meeting
March 14, 2013
City of Woodland, Council Chambers

ACC Participants Present (13)

Kimberly McCune, PacifiCorp Energy
Frank Shrier, PacifiCorp Energy
Erik Lesko, PacifiCorp Energy
Todd Olson, PacifiCorp Energy (via conference)
Peggy Miller, WDFW
David Hu, US Forest Service
Diana Gritten-MacDonald, Cowlitz PUD
Aaron Roberts, WDFW
Eric Kinne, WDFW
Pat Frazier, LCFRB
Jim Malinowski, Fish First

Guests (2)

Eli Asher, Cowlitz Indian Tribe
Derek Lowre, Cowlitz Indian Tribe

Calendar:

April 11, 2013	ACC Meeting; Tour Floating Surface Collector	Merwin Hydro
May 9, 2013	ACC Meeting	Merwin Hydro

Assignments from March 14, 2013 meeting	
McCune: Schedule Swift Floating Surface collector tour for the ACC on April 11, 2013; request RSVP.	Complete – 3/14/13
Kinne: Talk to Mara at WDFW regarding control group clarification and get back to Shrier and/or Lesko on or before Wednesday, March 20, 2013.	Complete

Assignments from November 8, 2012 meeting	
Al-Chokhachy: Provide description and photos of the PIT tag detection site to Haspiel (US Forest Service) as soon as possible for the required Special Use Permit relative to the <i>Development of New Information to Inform Fish Passage Decisions at the Yale and Merwin Hydro Projects</i> .	Complete

Assignments from January 12, 2012 meeting	
Coordinate a summer tour of the Swift Downstream Collector Construction for the Cowlitz tribal council. (One month delay was recommended. Shannon Wills to confirm with Tribe leadership). <i>PacifiCorp working on a public rollout; April 2013 is possible.</i>	ACC Tour scheduled for 4/11/13

Opening, Review of Agenda and Meeting Notes

Frank Shrier (PacifiCorp) called the meeting to order @ 9:05 a.m. Shrier requested all attendees identify themselves for those participating via conference. The ACC reviewed the agenda and no additions/changes were requested.

The pending assignments were reviewed and updated, as appropriate.

The February 14, 2013 meeting notes were reviewed and approved without change at 9:10am.

Kim McCune (PacifiCorp) will finalize the February 14, 2013 meeting notes for posting to the Lewis River website.

Study Updates

Woodland Release Ponds

Shrier informed the ACC attendees that the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) will not make the deadline regarding ESA consultation on impacts to Eulachon and addressing coho proposed critical habitat. NMFS has told PacifiCorp that a Biological Opinion for Eulachon will not be completed by April 15, 2013. As such, this project will not happen in the summer of 2013 as originally scheduled.

Todd Olson (PacifiCorp) communicated that when we submitted the biological assessment last Fall 2012, the NMFS reply period was to end in late February 2013. PacifiCorp did not hear from NMFS by the end of February. Michelle Day (NMFS) contacted PacifiCorp last week and she said that NMFS cannot get done by mid-April.

Pat Frazier (LCFRB) asked if Eulachon is holding up the screw trap too. Shrier responded yes.

Eric Kinne (WDFW) said that he assumes PacifiCorp is requesting approval from the ACC for direct release of Swift FSC fish in 2014 also. This is doable but will require adjustments.

General discussion took place regarding the number of projects that may be affected and those that will be delayed until 2014.

Until such time NMFS responds on Eulachon and coho critical habitat the following projects will be delayed until late summer 2014:

- Acclimation Pond (Muddy and Crab Creek)
- Lewis River Hatchery Lower Intake
- Release Ponds
- Lower River Screw trap

Kinne expressed that WDFW may have ESA coverage to operate the screw trap.

Shrier indicated that he heard back from LouEllyn Jones (USFWS) and Michelle Day (NMFS) and they do not have a problem with piling driving as long as it's done with a vibratory hammer.

Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) Requirement

The M&E plan says we will use control groups relating to trap efficiencies and WDFW concurs. Erik Lesko (PacifiCorp) communicated that because this year is a pilot year and that the study only relies on and evaluates fish that enter the zone of influence that that a control group does not serve any purpose. We plan on tracking smolts during the aerial surveys or by boat that should help if we are not detecting fish in the zone. Lesko would like clarification from WDFW and suggested we discuss during a scheduled afternoon meeting that the WDFW regional research scientists will be attending. Kinne agreed to discuss further then.

Hatchery Upgrades -

The following four projects remain on schedule for completion in 2013.

- Speelyai Pond 14 – Moving forward
- Speelyai Intake Modification – Need to check if affected by NMFS consultation
- Merwin Ozone Reliability Upgrade – PLC upgrades moving forward

Hatchery & Supplementation (H&S) Program

Netting in the lower river is being done weekly. Due to the closure of the river between Merwin Dam and Johnson Creek there has been no boat traffic which has made netting easier. Low flows continue to be a challenge with the netting. Ideally, we would like to see flows in the 4-5,000 cfs range. We have been out twice and caught 5 adult steelhead (4 had blank wire tags) and 2 were wild the first week. Last week caught 5 wild males ready for spawning; 1 was summer steelhead from Kalama. We PIT tagged (dorsal sinus) and placed about 1,200 wild winter steelhead smolts into one of the circular tanks. We will be looking at morphological changes between fish reared in circulars and those in raceways and also get an indication of return rates between the two groups in 2015.

Merwin Upstream Construction Status

Under construction and on schedule; slated to close old trap on July 1, 2013.

Swift Downstream Collector Construction Status

Operating 24/7; getting an average of 12 – 36 fish per day. See [Attachment A](#) for detailed Fish Facility Report – February 2013; almost all coho smolts. Small debris is the biggest issue; floating in and damming up the fry collector. The crew is keeping fry collector clean 24/7. There is most certainly more debris than anticipated. The FSC has collected one small bull trout; but no predator issues have yet been identified. Pumps are more than adequate. Reservoir is down 90' and collector is still working fine.

Development of New Information to Inform Fish Passage

Study team coming up river in two weeks for 2 days tagging fish for study purposes.

Yale Spillway Barrier Net

Slated to be completed by the end of March, 2013.

Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) I-5 Corridor Transmission Line Project Update

PacifiCorp will submit comments to BPA on or before the deadline of March 25, 2013. Todd Olson (PacifiCorp) informed the ACC that its position is to address what is in front of them now:

- Identifying impacts to WHMP lands via the TCC

- BPA must address mitigation as it relates to WHMP lands
- Mitigation efforts are still being discussed; need to know impact of transmission line location; where towers will be, topography, etc.

Diana Gritten-MacDonald (Cowlitz PUD) informed the ACC that they have completed their comment letter submittal to the BPA

2012 Draft ACC/TCC Annual Report

Kim McCune (PacifiCorp) informed the ACC that the 2012 Draft ACC/TCC Annual Report was distributed for its 30-day review and comment period on March 5, 2013. Comments are due on April 5, 2013. In addition, she reminded the attendees to pay particular attention to the appendices as well as they include critical documents, such as but not limited to, the WHMP Annual Report and Plan, and Bull Trout Annual Report and Plan.

2012/2013 Aquatic Fund Decision-making Meeting

The table below reflects ACC consensus for the 2012/2013 Aquatic Funding projects. To accommodate those ACC participants not in attendance, the Utilities will provide an additional 7-day comment period until March 26, 2013. The tentative final Resource Project list is as follows:

Project No.	Applicant	Project Title	Funding Requested	Decision
1	USDA Forest Service	Lewis River Side Channel near Little Creek	\$60,000 (Resource Funds)	YES
3	USDA Forest Service	Little Creek Fish Habitat Restoration	\$69,000 (Resource Funds; saved \$18K by combining with Project No. 1)	YES
4	USDA Forest Service	Survey of Bull Trout Stream habitat features to develop future habitat restoration projects	\$59,226 (Bull Trout Funds)	YES
5	Lower Columbia Regional Fisheries Enhancement Group	Cedar Creek Reach 1A Restoration	\$53,000 (Resource Funds)	YES

Consensus was reached to *not* select the following project for funding:

Project No.	Applicant	Project Title	Funding Requested	Decision
2	USDA Forest Service	Muddy River Tributary near Hoo Hoo Bridge	\$39,000	NO

Detailed ACC comments for each project can be viewed in [Attachment B](#), *Lewis River Aquatics Fund Evaluation Matrix*, dated March 15, 2013

The 2013 Aquatics Fund Annual Report will be submitted to the Commission prior to April 15, 2013 and the final document will be posted to the Lewis River website. PacifiCorp will notify the ACC and interested parties once we have received Commission approval.

Other Topics

None

<12:05 p.m. meeting adjourned >

Agenda items for April 11, 2013

- Review March 14, 2013 Meeting Notes
- Study/Work Product Updates
- BPA I-5 Corridor Transmission Line Project Update
- Tour Swift Floating Surface Collector

Public Comment

None

Next Scheduled Meetings

April 11, 2013	May 9, 2013
Merwin Hydro Control Center	Merwin Hydro Control Center
Ariel, WA	Ariel, WA
9:00 a.m. – 3:00pm	9:00 a.m. – 3:00pm

Meeting Handouts & Attachments

- Notes from 3/14/13
- Agenda for 4/11/13
- [Attachment A](#) – Swift Floating Surface Collector – Fish Facility Report, February 2013
- [Attachment B](#) – Lewis River Aquatics Fund Evaluation Matrix, dated March 15, 2013

Fish Facility Report

Swift Floating Surface Collector

February 2013

Day	Coho		Chinook		Steelhead		Cutthroat		Bull Trout		Planted Rainbow
	fry	smolt	fry	smolt	fry	smolt	< 13 in	> 13 in	< 13 in	> 13 in	
01		2		3		0	2				
02		22		4		1	1				1
03		10		8		0	0				
04		10		7		0	0				
05		1		1		0	0				
06		0		0		0	0				
07		1		0		0	0				
08		5		0		0	0				
09		2		0		0	0				
10		2		0		0	0				
11		3		2		0	0				
12		5		2		0	0				
13		0		0		0	1				
14		0		1		0	1				
15		4		1		0	0				
16		5		0		0	0				
17		2		1		0	0				
18		2		1		0	1				
19		3		2		0	0				
20		0		0		0	1				
21		1		0		0	0				
22		1		0		0	0				
23		1		0		0	0				
24		3		0		0	0				
25		3		0		0	0				
26		3		1		0	0				
27		6		0		0	0				
28		3		0		0	0				

Monthly	0	100	0	34	0	1	7	0	0	0	1
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Annual	0	286	0	83	0	1	24	0	0	0	1
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In addition to presented counts: No adult coho, Chinook, or steelhead were collected at the facility.

All coho, Chinook and steelhead smolts and cutthroat were transported downstream.

All fry, bull trout, and planted rainbow were returned to Swift Reservoir.

ACC/Utilities														
Decision for Funding		Applicant	Project Title	Funding	WDFW	Fish First	LCFRB	Yakama Nation	USFS	Cowlitz Indian Tribe	USFWS	Utilities	NMFS	Next Step
YES	1	USDA Forest Service	Lewis River Side Channel near Little Creek	\$ 60,000.00	There are not fish up there yet; has concern about funding when we don't know where it is needed. Does not approve funding but will not stand in the way.	Make sure large woody debris is buried adequately in the bank; confirm bank is stable. Yes - proceed to funding.	I notice that this project is classified as yes for bull trout. I also notices that in the spending totals at the bottom of the spreadsheet all of the funds for this project are applied to the bull trout fund. When I read the proposal there was no mention of benefit to bull trout whatsoever; therefore, these funds should be charged to the Resource Fund rather than the Bull Trout Fund. This project is being built to benefit salmon and steelhead and use of Bull Trout Fund dollars for this project is not appropriate. Yes - proceed with funding using Resource Funds.	Defer to ACC via email dated March 13, 2013.	No comments - Yes, - proceed to funding.	Does this project actually benefit Bull trout? For salmon, adding complexity to any system is always beneficial. Large Wood is always good. Do select project for funding		Yes - proceed to funding		7-day process to obtain comments/decision from NMFS and USFWS.
NO	2	USDA Forest Service	Muddy River Tributary near Hoo Hoo Bridge	\$ 39,000.00	Would prefer to wait on this project until the 2013/2014 funding cycle. Not sure if fish are there. Do not proceed with funding.	Possible to take some time for this area to get re-established. The fish seem to use if a habitat is provided. Yes, proceed with funding but will not stand in the way if the ACC decide no.	Will not benefit main stem. Will benefit any fish that use that stream Do not fund but wait until next year funding cycle.	Defer to ACC via email dated March 13, 2013.	Will be more benefit to steelhead Yes - proceed with funding.	The Tribe believes main stem fish will more than likely NOT benefit from this project. Overall, the project is acceptable. Do select project for funding.		PUD is not sure if fish are there; perhaps set this project aside until next year. PacifiCorp says do no fund; wait until next year. PacifiCorp said that just because it's a tributary to the Muddy does not mean fish are going to use. No, do not proceed to funding.		7-day process to obtain comments/decision from NMFS and USFWS.
YES	3	USDA Forest Service	Little Creek Fish Habitat Restoration (A cost saving of approximately \$18,000 can be obtained if this project is combined with Lewis River Side Channel 4). Savings would be reduced NEPA and equipment move-in costs for a total of \$69,000.	\$ 87,000 (or \$69,000 if combined with project no. 1)	Yes - proceed to funding.	Yes - proceed to funding.	This is a tier 2 or 3 and not a high priority; fits and is efficient Yes - proceed to funding.	Defer to ACC via email dated March 13, 2013.	Yes - supports this project. Proceed with funding.	The Tribe has no issues with this project. Do select project for funding		Yes - proceed to funding		* Funding \$69,000 as project No. 1 was approved. 7-day process to obtain comments/decision from NMFS and USFWS.
YES	4	USDA Forest Service	Survey of Bull Trout Stream habitat features to develop future habitat restoration projects	\$ 59,226.00	Yes - proceed to funding.	Aren't agency funds available to conduct this study? Do not want to spend project funds on this project. Do not fund but will not stand in the way.	Agrees that bull trout data is available but not the full pictures. The study will identify where the data gaps are, data will be collected to fill the gaps, identify the limiting factors and what projects will benefit. We need good solid well-rounded picture which will get us to the end point on bull trout. This is a consistent message from the ACC. The end of the project will include where to focus bull trout project efforts. Yes - proceed to funding.	Defer to ACC via email dated March 13, 2013.	This project is well thought out; every major player in the arena supports this project (agency cooperation). There is benefit and value. Yes - proceed with funding.	The Tribe supports this project and very much wants it to be funded. This project needs to be completed for numerous reasons. It will be beneficial in helping the ACC determine where future Bull Trout dollars should be spent as well as help to indicate whether a salmonid project that is being proposed may affect Bull Trout in a "sensitive" area. Do select project for funding		PacifiCorp said that many agencies have been collecting bull trout data since the 1980s. What more will be learned that hasn't beendone already? What information is there that has not already been addressed? Cowlitz PUD said that the project sponsor needs to collect data and present to the ACC in a proper proposal. Cowlitz PUD would like the project proponent to clearly outline how this is different than data that already exists. Some measurable way to determine how research can be used. Demonstrate how this project is useful. PacifiCorp would like to see identification of the data gaps; define gaps in a meaningful way. No do not proceed with funding. PacifiCorp said that if the ACC proceeds with funding, would like to focus efforts on certain tributaries. Cowlitz PUD said that this is outside the discussion of the Settlement Agreement. The intent was not to use the Aquatic Funds for research and studies. The project sponsor has not completed background research. Utilities say no - do not proceed with funding.		** Bull trout funds. 7-day process to obtain comments/decision from NMFS and USFWS
YES	5	Lower Columbia Regional Fisheries Enhancement Group	Cedar Creek Reach 1A Restoration	\$ 53,000.00	Concerns about lamprey. Proceed to funding with caveat that LCFEG work closely with USFS and WDFW on this project.	Habitat good there already. Is habitat that degrade that it needs this treatment? Do not fund but will not stand in the way.	There should be a stipulation that funds from the Lower River Wood Fund be used for this project before any of the Resource Fund dollars are allocated to this project. I believe you said there is \$40,000 in the Lower River Wood Fund, which would cover most if not all of the wood expense needed to implement this project. <i>Note: ACC determined this project does not qualify for the LWD funds - see SA 7.1.1).</i> This project has been evaluated by by LCFRB (panel of appxs. 10). Initially a tier 3 or 4 (low priority); directly connected to main stem Lewis: could benefit main stem Lewis fish so it became a tier 1 because of its connection. Good coordination with USFW and WDFW to achieve protection of lamprey. Yes - proceed with funding.	Defer to ACC via email dated March 13, 2013.	Yes - proceed with funding.	The Tribe supports this project. Do select project for funding.		Cowlitz PUD defers to PacifiCorp. Lamprey is not a target species. PacifiCorp said yes - proceed with funding.		7-day process to obtain comments/decision from NMFS and USFWS.