

FINAL Meeting Notes
Lewis River License Implementation
Aquatic Coordination Committee (ACC) Meeting
September 8, 2011
Teleconference

ACC Participants Present (8)

Frank Shrier, PacifiCorp Energy
 Erik Lesko, PacifiCorp Energy
 Jeremiah Doyle, PacifiCorp Energy
 Sabrina Hickerson, PacifiCorp Energy
 Eli Asher, Fish Recovery Board
 Diana Gritten-MacDonald, Cowlitz PUD
 Jim Malinowski, Fish First
 Pat Frazier, WDFW

Calendar:

Oct. 13, 2011	ACC Meeting	Merwin Hydro
Nov. 10, 2011	ACC Meeting	Merwin Hydro

Assignments from March 10, 2011 meeting:	Status:
Bull Trout Subgroup – Todd Olson (PacifiCorp) will draft a schedule and bring to September’s meeting for discussion. Waiting on response from WDFW.	Pending

< 9:07 a.m. – Meeting began >

Opening, Review of Agenda and Meeting Notes

Frank Shrier called the meeting to order 9:07 a.m. The agenda was promptly reviewed. Shrier pointed out that the discussion on large woody debris (LWD) was added and an updated agenda had been sent out on September 6, 2011. Shrier asked if there were any other additions to the agenda. Jim Malinowski (Fish First) requested an update on the BPA discussions.

Sabrina Hickerson (PacifiCorp Energy) advised that BPA did meet with the TCC last month, and requested the committee’s proposed mitigation for the various routes that BPA has proposed running through PacifiCorp’s property. The TCC had previously said that the proposed routes are unacceptable, and has not provided BPA with any mitigation.

Diana Gritten-MacDonald (Cowlitz PUD) also advised that the public has proposed the Grey Line, which is a line farther east than the previous alternatives. Congressional delegation has encouraged BPA to consider this option.

Malinowski asked if there was a river crossing proposed west of Merwin that could take the line out of project lands and Gritten-MacDonald said that she was not familiar with this option.

The agenda was accepted with no changes at 9:10 a.m.

Hickerson distributed the notes from the August meeting and they were reviewed by the committee at 9:11 a.m. No comments were made and they were accepted

Aquatic Fund Updates

Hickerson advised that the Aquatic Fund process was beginning for 2012 and before sending out the letters to interested parties she conducted an audit of previous projects to determine their statuses. Only one project was outstanding, the North Fork Lewis RM 13.5 Habitat Enhancement project conducted by the Lower Columbia Fish Enhancement Group. Hickerson has contacted the project manager and asked for a close-out report, which he said he would complete it as requested. See Attachment A to view the spreadsheet.

Study Updates

Merwin Upstream Trap – On schedule. The Merwin trap was closed 9/2/11 so the pumps could be changed out.

Swift Downstream Collector – On schedule.

Release Ponds – PacifiCorp closed on the land this week. The Utility has already submitted the final design to FERC based on the anticipation of closing on this land. Now that the deal is complete, there should be no substantial changes to the design.

Hatchery and Supplementation Plan – Subgroup meeting on August 30th to continue finalizing the 2012 AOP. Issues discussed included:

- Defining a location for screw trap in the river,
- Purchase and installing circular ponds for kelt reconditioning and broodstock holding of wild winter steelhead;
- Development of a genetic mark recapture protocol to estimate abundance;
- Development of studies to evaluate ecological interactions between hatchery and wild juveniles.

Additionally, PacifiCorp needs to coordinate the upcoming Coho monitoring with WDFW. Pat Frazier (WDFW) agreed and proposed the week of September 18th. Erik Lesko (PacifiCorp Energy) will check schedules and follow-up.

Hatchery Upgrades –

- Merwin Rearing Ponds: Completion has been delayed to 2012 because, due to some communication issues, fish have been put into the rearing ponds before the headers could be finished. Now it will be necessary to wait until the fish are released to complete the work. This will not negatively impact the fish program.

- Pond 16 at Lewis River Hatchery: Nearly complete, concrete work will be done shortly if not already complete.
- Speelyai Kokanee Weir: NOAA gave consent to extend the in-water work period to place the kokanee box. PacifiCorp needs to hear back from LouEllyn Jones (USFWS) and Lesko agreed to contact her today. The box is scheduled to be placed September 19th.
- Intake at Speelyai: PacifiCorp received comments from WDFW on the 30% design and will schedule a site visit to the Hatchery to discuss specific design changes.
- Speelyai Pond 14: WDFW commented on the 60% design. As mentioned before, PacifiCorp and WDFW will conduct a site visit at the Hatchery to discuss specific changes. Lesko will contact Eric Kinne (WDFW) to schedule this.

Habitat Preparation Plan – Not a lot of Coho in the river right now, scheduled to put some upriver as per the plan, the goal is 2000 but that number may not be feasible depending on what is available.

Bull Trout – PacifiCorp has wrapped up collection and hauling for the year. Jeremiah Doyle (PacifiCorp Energy) is currently conducting snorkel surveys on the Muddy, Pine, and Rush Creeks. PIT tag detectors are detecting fish in the streams. Lastly, seining was done in the canal and four bull trout were caught and put back into Swift reservoir. They were not recaptures.

Lewis River Hatchery Intake – This is scheduled for 2012. Shrier reported that the biological study is under way for the impact of this work on the eulachon. This project and others will require a drawdown in August to 600cfs.

Large Woody Debris Discussion

Early in the year PacifiCorp sent out an inquiry to interested parties advising that the Utility had woody debris collected from the reservoirs and if anyone was interested in using them. The Cowlitz Indian Tribe asked for them this year. However, when Rudy Salakory from the Tribe saw the logs, he said they were much larger than anticipated. Getting them out of Yale storage and to the Tribe has been a challenge and Salakory is no longer certain that the Tribe will be able or willing to take them due to the size. They are approximately four to five feet in diameter and about 50 feet long. This poses a problem for transportation.

PacifiCorp does not want to store the logs because of fire hazard and Jim Malinowski (FISH FIRST) agreed that this would not be idea. In the past, every piece of debris has been used. Kirk Naylor (PacifiCorp Energy) says that he could use the logs for terrestrial projects, but the decision is the ACC's: What would be the best plan of action for this LWD?

Malinowski says he is fine with TCC using the logs. He suggested that, in the future, PacifiCorp could get the specifications from the various interested parties of what size of LWD they would be interested in. Shrier agreed, saying that is usually how this program works and he is not sure if that happened this year or not or if there was a miscommunication at some point.

Eli Asher (LCFRB) suggested that Tony Meyer or Adam Haspiel (USFS) should be contacted to see if they could use LWD? Asher suggested that he would prefer to see the logs used in-stream if at all possible. That being said, he doesn't want to delay the TCC or miss a window of opportunity that would result in the logs not getting used at all. He just would like PacifiCorp to put out the inquiry and see where it goes. Shrier agreed and will contact the Forest Service.

< 9:33 a.m. meeting adjourned >

Agenda items for October 13, 2011

- Review August 11, 2011 Meeting Notes
- Aquatic Funding
- Study/Work Product Updates
- Site Visits to Swift Reservoir & Merwin Fish Facilities
 - Requirements for this visit:
 - *RSVP*
 - PPEs: Steel-toed shoes, safety glasses, hard hats, vests, and long pants
- Bring your own lunch!

Public Comment

None

Next Scheduled Meetings

October 13, 2011	November 10, 2011
Merwin Hydro Control Center	Merwin Hydro Control Center
Ariel, WA	Ariel, WA
9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.	9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Meeting Handouts

- Meeting Notes 8/11/11
- Agenda 9/8/11