

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

Date & Time: Thursday, October 8, 2015
9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Place: Merwin Hydro Control Center
105 Merwin Village Court
Ariel, WA 98603

Contacts: Frank Shrier: (503) 320-7423

| Time | Discussion Item |
|-------------------|--|
| 9:00 a.m. | Welcome <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Review Agenda and 9/10/12/15 Meeting Notes ➤ Comment & accept Agenda and 9/10/15 Meeting Notes |
| 9:15 a.m. | 2015 Aquatic Fund Project; LCFEG – RM 13.5 Restoration Project, Phase II – ACC DECISION NEEDED |
| 9:30 a.m. | 2016/2017 Aquatic Fund Process; Review and Discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Schedule Subgroup Meetings ➤ Updated Synthesis Matrix |
| 10:30 a.m. | Break |
| 10:45 a.m. | Annual Report: Development of New Information to Inform Fish Passage – Review and Questions |
| 11:15 a.m. | Study/Work Product Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Production Numbers for 2016 ○ Lewis River Low Flow Update ○ Smolt releases at LRH; first pass water and release options ○ Woodland Release Ponds - Status ○ Hatchery Upgrades - Status ○ Acclimation Ponds - Status ○ Merwin Upstream Passage – Status ○ Swift Floating Surface Collector – Status |
| 11:45 a.m. | Additional Habitat at Swift Discussion – low water conditions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Coho Release strategy for 2015; Update & Discussion |
| 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> |
| 12:00 p.m. | Working Lunch/Adjourn ACC Meeting |
| 12:30 p.m. | Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Subgroup <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ongoing discussion by section |
| 3:00 p.m. | Adjourn M&E Subgroup Meeting |

Join by Phone

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

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

Conference ID: 5687805

FINAL Meeting Notes
Lewis River License Implementation
Aquatic Coordination Committee (ACC) Meeting
October 8, 2015
Merwin Hydro Control Center
Ariel, WA

ACC Participants Present (13)

Chris Karchesky, PacifiCorp
 Frank Shrier, PacifiCorp
 Erik Lesko, PacifiCorp
 Baker Holden, USDA Forest Service
 Adam Haspiel, USDA Forest Service
 Bryce Glaser, WDFW
 Peggy Miller, WDFW
 Aaron Roberts, WDFW
 Kale Bentley, WDFW
 Diana MacDonald, Cowlitz PUD
 Pat Frazier, LCFRB
 Michelle Day, NMFS

Guest

Al Thomas, Columbian

Calendar:

| | | |
|-------------------|-------------|--------------|
| November 12, 2015 | ACC Meeting | Merwin Hydro |
| December 10, 2015 | ACC Meeting | Merwin Hydro |

| Assignments from September 10, 2015 meeting | Status |
|--|---------------------------|
| McCune: Contact Tammy Weisman (LCFEG) and request detail about their intentions for the RM 13.5 aquatic fund project; do they intend to resubmit for SRFB funds. | Complete – 9/14/15 |
| | |
| Assignments from July 9, 2015 meeting | Status |
| McCune: Distribute a copy of the updated Lewis River Synthesis Matrix CD to the ACC members upon completion. | Complete – 10/8/15 |
| ACC: Schedule an initial meeting in the month of October 2015 for the review of the Aquatic Fund Strategic Plan and Administrative Procedures 2016/2017 funding cycle. | Pending |

| Assignments from February 13, 2014 meeting (revised 9/10/15) | Status |
|--|-------------------------------|
| Kinne: Work on securing the 2012, 2013 and 2014 lower river coho abundance survey data for tributaries. Provide this information to Erik Lesko (PacifiCorp). | Pending as of 11/12/15 |

Opening, Review of Agenda and Meeting Notes

Frank Shrier (PacifiCorp) called the meeting to order at 9:08 a.m. and reviewed the agenda and assignments.

The September 10, 2015 meeting notes were reviewed and approved with changes suggested by Pat Frazier at 9:25 am.

Kim McCune (PacifiCorp) will finalize the September 10, 2015 meeting notes for posting to the Lewis River website.

Public Comment

None

2015/2016 Lewis River RM 13.5 Restoration Project, Phase II – Update; SRFB funding not received

The ACC engaged in much discussion over this project. Shrier read the email exchange between Kim McCune and Tony Meyer. In Meyer's response to future plans he stated he planned to *"re-scope ACC funds to design and permit objectives only, and use the design to support a future (2017) SRFB project. The scope of the design would cover all of the objectives identified in the original ACC/ SRFB grant. We are essentially flip-flopping the two funding sources. ACC covers design & permitting while SRFB covers construction."* There was some uncertainty on the ACC as to what it meant to "support a future (2017) SRFB project" and there was some concern as to how that plan meshed with the moratorium currently in place that would not allow the project to be re-submitted until 2017. The ACC discussion considered that this project had been approved for funding by the ACC in 2015 but was not funded by the SRFB. An option was discussed that considered extending the ACC approval for 2016 because the moratorium prevented the LCFEG to apply for 2016 SRFB funding. They also discussed what the appropriate process is in this instance and the desire to avoid giving preference to LCFEG. Shrier also mentioned that PacifiCorp has repeatedly asked for access and approval from each of the landowners involved in this project and has yet to receive the landowner access agreements. This item was tied to the Aquatic Fund Process Document which states:

Obtain permission of all owners of land used for access to and completion of, the project. Landowner(s) must sign PacifiCorp's consent and release form prior to finalization of a Funding Agreement with PacifiCorp.

Based on this and other concerns expressed by the ACC members, funding for this project will be withdrawn for the following reasons:

- 1) SRFB funding was not received this year and the next opportunity to apply and receive SRFB approval will not occur before late fall 2016;
- 2) Landowner permissions have not been secured;
- 3) There was not a definitive answer as to how the funds would be used and when; and,
- 4) There was concern that ACC Funds would be used for design and permitting prior to SRFB approval which could mean that the ACC funds could be spent and, if the SFRB did not fund the project, then the money would be wasted on paper rather than habitat improvements.

The ACC approved this action to withdraw funding for this project and to ask LCFEG to re-apply for 2017 funding. The ACC also agreed to send a written response to the LCFEG that presents the ACC decision and the justification for this decision.

<Break 10:45am>

<Reconvene 11:00am>

Aquatic Funding Process

Shrier mentioned that PacifiCorp would like to schedule a series of meetings to review and discuss the Aquatic Funding Process to determine any changes or additions that need to be made to the Process Document. A question was raised about whether or not we could just try to resolve any issues during the ACC meeting times because there were too many other process meetings occurring here and elsewhere. However this question was not resolved.

While members were pondering this, Shrier handed out the latest version of the Synthesis Matrix and walked the members through the changes to the matrix. He then asked members to review the matrix and let him know of any edits that should be made by next ACC meeting. Unfortunately, discussion did not return to the Process Document meeting schedule so that topic will need to be raised at the next meeting.

New Information Annual Report

There was some confusion as to the need to comment on the 2014 annual report from Dr. Al-Chokhachy. Shrier asked that ACC members submit any comments or questions to him by October 22, 2015.

Study/Work Product Updates

Production Numbers for 2016

Aaron Roberts (WDFW) reported that the spring Chinook adult numbers had increased somewhat but that the hatchery still will be short production numbers. He also said that the number of smolts available for the upstream Acclimation Ponds next year will probably be about the same as this year - (45,000).

Woodland Release Ponds

Shrier said to the best of his knowledge all the permits were not received as of yet. Michelle Day (NMFS) asked which ones and Shrier responded it was Clark County Shoreline Permit that still remains. Because this measure is part of the Settlement Agreement, Day also asked that Briana Weatherly (PacifiCorp) make an effort to contact the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to request speeding up the land lease permitting process once the other permits are in hand so it is still possible that the Release Ponds can still be constructed next summer 2016.

Hatchery Upgrades:

Two projects remain as part of Schedule 8.7 of the Settlement Agreement.

Speelyai Hatchery Intake Modifications – Water supply through the new intake will commence on Friday October 9. This project is now complete.

Lewis River Downstream Intake – Intake pumps were switched on today and will continue to operate during a 30-day evaluation period. All work is now complete.

With the completion of these two projects, all projects described in Schedule 8.7 of the Lewis River Settlement Agreement are now complete and functional.

Acclimation Pond/Crab Creek

PacifiCorp PIT tagged 2,500 of 5,000 fish that were planned. Distribution will be evenly at Clear and Crab Creek but not in the ponds due to lack of water. Once Crab Creek construction is complete the pond will be watered up for testing, then drained, dismantled and put away until next year.

Crab Creek is nearly complete and will be finished before the end of October, 2015.

Merwin Fish Collection Facility and General Operations ([Attachment A](#))

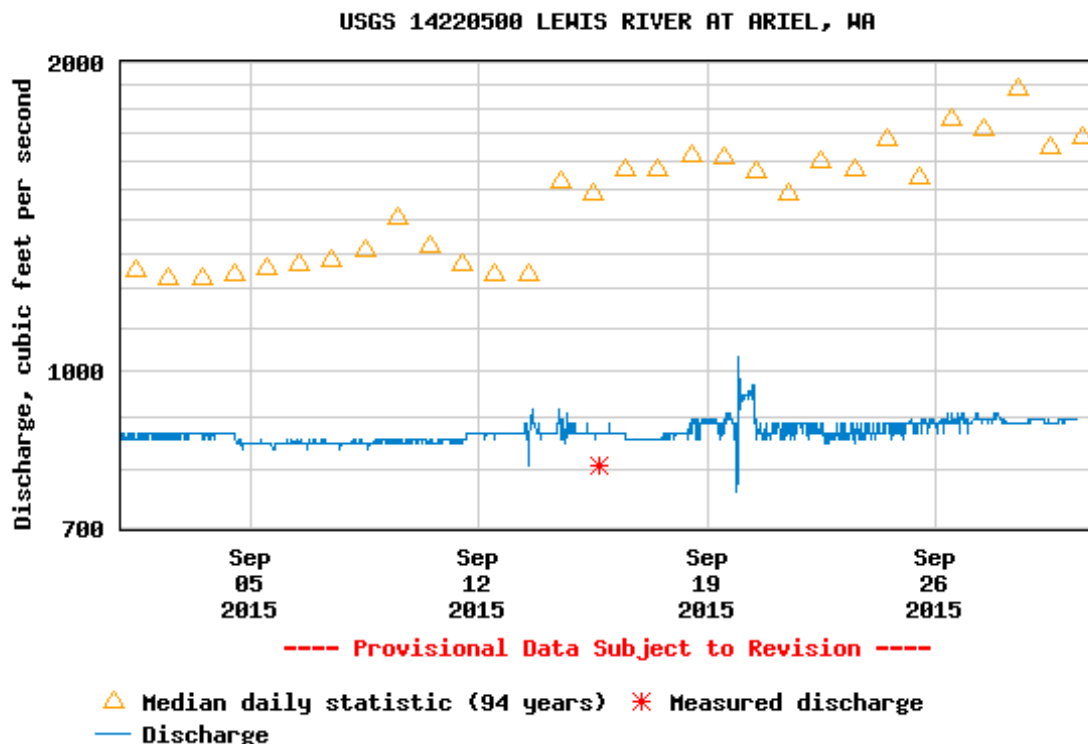
Karchesky (PacifiCorp) reported during the month of September, a total 1,549 fish were captured at the Merwin Fish Collection Facility; the majority (46%) of these fish were hatchery summer steelhead (n=719) followed by early run hatchery coho (n=535). All hatchery summer steelhead, hatchery spring Chinook, and hatchery fall Chinook were surplus by Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. WDFW also retrieved 493 of 551 hatchery coho for brood stock. One wild spring Chinook, one wild summer steelhead, 54 wild fall Chinook, two wild sockeye and one wild pink salmon were captured and returned downstream. Forty-two early coho were transported upstream of Merwin Dam. Sixteen early coho were radio tagged and returned downstream as part of the Merwin Trap Efficiency Study.

Daily operation of the Merwin trap was suspended September 6, 2015 for repairs to the hoist motor cable. The Merwin trap was put back into service Monday, September 14, 2015 following repairs. Peggy Miller (WDFW) asked if these types of repair outages were normal for upstream passage facilities. Karchesky responded that it depends on the facility, but in the case of the Merwin trap the sheer complexity and number of moving parts involved with daily operation does increase the risk for repair outages. Karchesky also indicated that PacifiCorp is continuing to make upgrades to the facility to minimize repair related outages as well as maintains a routine maintenance program.

The Auxiliary Water Supply (AWS) system, which can boost attraction flow up to 400 cfs, was operated daily in addition to the Ladder Water Supply (LWS) throughout the month of September.

River flow below Merwin Dam ranged between approximately 847 cfs to 896 cfs during September.

Discharge, cubic feet per second



Upstream Transport ([Attachment A](#))

To date, 1,218 (741 m: 477 f) BWT winter steelhead have been transported and released upstream of Swift Reservoir (27 of which were captured via tangle net in the lower river as part of the Hatchery and Supplementation Plan Monitoring). In addition, 141 (83 m: 51 f: 7 j) early coho (93 of which were captured at Lewis River Fish Hatchery) and 11 coastal cutthroat trout exceeding thirteen inches have been transported upstream of Swift Reservoir this year.

Swift Floating Surface Collector ([Attachment A](#))

Daily operation of the Swift Floating Surface Collector (FSC) was suspended July 7, 2015 in accordance to summer operations protocols as approved by the Lewis River Aquatic Coordination Committee. The FSC is currently debalasted for scheduled maintenance and annual inspections which will be performed over the next two months. Karchesky indicated that the FSC was scheduled to be put back in operation October 15, 2015.

Additional Habitat at Swift Discussion – low water conditions; Coho Release strategy for 2015; Update & Discussion

Shrier asked the status of any surveys or casual observations of the mainstem channel at the head of Swift Reservoir or the tributaries to Swift and whether or not any coho had been observed using those areas for spawning. Karchesky reported that he and James Samagaio (PacifiCorp) had made some observation of the mainstem channel but did not see any spawning occurring. No one had looked at the tributaries to date but Lesko said he might be able to fly over them to see if any redds are visible while doing his next coho radio-tracking flight.

< Meeting adjourned at 11:40 a.m. >

Agenda items for October 8, 2015

- November 12, 2015 Meeting Notes
- Presentation on Swift Lead Net by contractor
- 2016/2017 Aquatic Fund Process: Schedule Subgroup Meeting
- Updated Synthesis Matrix
- Lewis River Low Flow Update
- Additional Habitat at Swift Discussion – low water conditions; Update
- Study/Work Product Updates

Public Comment

None

Next Scheduled Meetings:

| | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| November 12, 2015 | December 10, 2015 |
| Merwin Hydro Control Center | Merwin Hydro Control Center |
| Ariel, WA | Ariel, WA |
| 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. | 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. |

Meeting Handouts & Attachments:

- Meeting Notes from 9/10/15
- Agenda from 10/8/15
- **Attachment A** - Lewis River Fish Passage Report (September, 2015)

Lewis River Fish Passage Report

September 2015

Merwin Fish Collection Facility and General Operations

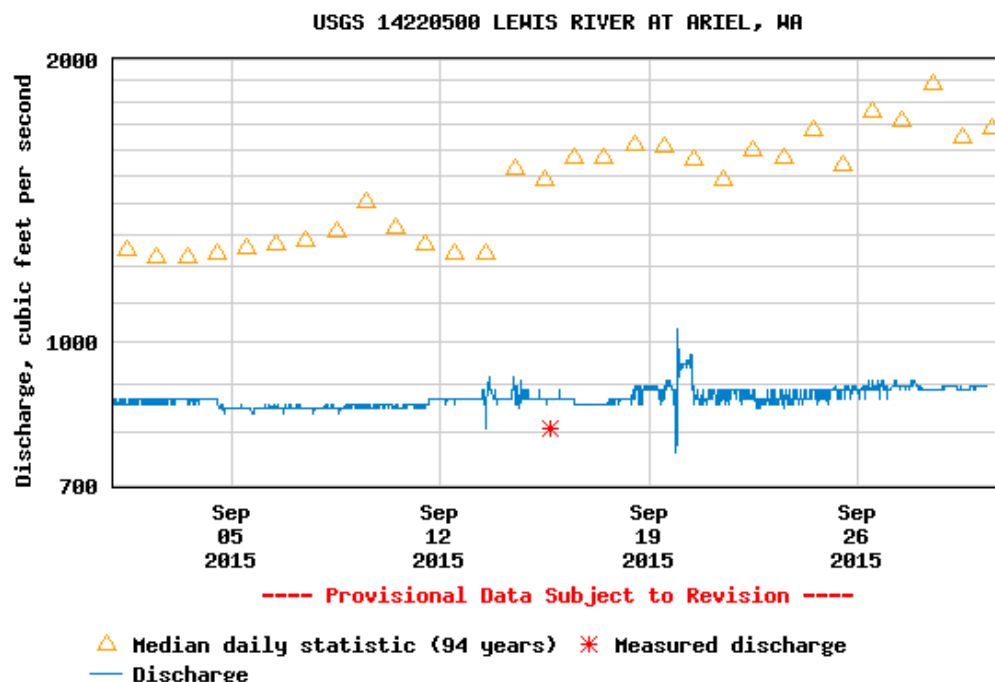
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Fish Facility Report

Merwin Adult Trap

September 2015

[illegible]¹ Only hatchery versus wild distinctions are currently being made. All hatchery fish are labeled as "AD-Clip".

²Total counts do not include recaptured salmon.