

FINAL Meeting Notes
Lewis River License Implementation
Aquatic Coordination Committee (ACC) Meeting
January 12, 2012
Meeting at Merwin

ACC Participants Present (13)

Frank Shrier, PacifiCorp Energy
 Jeremiah Doyle, PacifiCorp Energy
 Beth Bendickson, PacifiCorp Energy
 Jim Malinowski, Fish First (via teleconference)
 Adam Haspiel, USDA Forest Service
 Peggy Miller, WDFW
 Jim Byrne, WDFW
 David Hu, USDA-FS
 Eli Asher, Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board
 Eric Kinne, WDFW (via teleconference)
 Shannon Wills, Cowlitz Indian Tribe
 Michelle Day, NMFS (via teleconference)
 John Weinheimer, WDFW

Calendar:

February 9, 2012	ACC Meeting	Merwin Hydro
March 8, 2012	ACC Meeting	Merwin Hydro

Assignments from November 10, 2011 meeting	Status
Aquatic Fund 2012 Proposals – ACC comments on pre-proposals due <i>(Use Excel spreadsheet that Frank Shrier sent out)</i>	Complete
Assignments from December 8, 2011 meeting	
Bull Trout Annual Planning meeting scheduled for February 17, 2012.	Ongoing
Set up meeting to discuss Ozone system at Merwin.	Ongoing
Assignments from January 12, 2012 meeting	
Get clarification from LouEllyn Jones (USFWS) regarding page 6 of 12/8/11 meeting notes, with respect to September 23 Snorkel (Bypass Reach) discussion.	Complete

Opening, Review of Agenda and Meeting Notes

Frank Shrier called the meeting to order @ 9:15 a.m. The team reviewed the agenda. The Habitat Preparation Plan was removed as it has been completed. The agenda was then accepted at 9:19 a.m.

The meeting notes from last month were reviewed and edited at 9:20 a.m. and accepted pending clarification from LouEllyn Jones regarding September 23 Snorkel (Bypass Reach) discussion.

Study Updates

Woodland Release Ponds – PacifiCorp is working on Biological Assessment documents now that eulachon are ESA listed and the Lewis River in this area is Critical Habitat for this species (designated as such on October 2011). Project consultation with NMFS will likely extend the permitting period putting the construction of the ponds in 2012 at risk.

Acclimation Ponds – There is a plan to evaluate the Acclimation Pond effectiveness by site using PIT-tags. Originally, Clifford (Yakama Nation) requested that the acclimation fish have a unique tag (M&E Plan suggests a blank wire tag) so that those fish would not be subject to additional tagging at the Swift Collector for the Ocean Recruit metric. Clifford was mostly concerned with handling fish as little as possible. By not putting unique tags in the Chinook and allowing them to be randomly tagged at the Swift Collector (up to 10%) actually results in less marking so PacifiCorp recommended to Shannon that she discuss that concept with Bob Rose. Shannon said that Bob was okay with not uniquely tagging the acclimation fish. In addition, WDFW intends to continue double-indexing for harvest impacts to natural fish which could potentially direct all uniquely-marked acclimation fish into the hatchery. PacifiCorp also needs to tag steelhead entering the Swift Collector. Frank wanted the ACC to know that PacifiCorp is talking about these kinds of issues and that they will be further discussed at the Hatchery Subgroup.

Hatchery and Supplementation Program – There is an HS subgroup meeting scheduled for January 30.

Speelyai Pond 16 – This pond now has fish.

Speelyai Pond 14 – 90 percent design comments have been received from WDFW.

Speelyai Intake – 60 percent design comments have been received from WDFW.

Speelyai Kokanee Weir – The kokanee weir trap box itself is in place and functioning, however, the concrete driveway pad and stairs leading down to the trap were not completed. The trap box required some blocks to be placed for foundation, and the hatchery requested some extra concrete. The county inspector then issued a stop work until the revised plans were drawn up and approved. At that time the inspector went on vacation, and some winter weather rolled in, and this fell on the backburner.

A packet has been prepared and will be sent to the county to allow completion of the concrete above the OHWM, which is most of it. The rest will be dealt with this summer.

Merwin Rearing Ponds – The remaining two ponds are scheduled for completion in 2012.

Lewis River Upstream and Downstream Intakes – Permitting is moving forward along with the Biological Assessment for Eulachon. Screen design for the lower intake (DSI) will need approval of NMFS and we will be submitting that to NMFS approval by the end of the year. Both projects are scheduled for completion in 2012 along with dredging of the LRH ladder entrance.

Merwin Upstream Construction Status – This project schedule is at risk because of an unexpected rock void discovery and because of Eulachon consultation

Swift Downstream Collector Construction Status – This project is on schedule. The trestle platform has been installed. The collector will be floated to the trestle in the spring.

Shannon asked about a tour for the tribal council in the spring. Frank said, yes, a tour could be coordinated.

Future Fish Passage Facilities

The Request for Proposal was restructured and resent to the universities. More people were added and Frank gave everyone the other bidder names in case people wanted to coordinate. The bids are due today, January 12, 2012.

Merwin Intake Collection Facility

Craig Olds Cowlitz, Shannon, and NMFS will view the tailrace today. The draft biological evaluation has been written about the velocity barrier at the bridge. NMFS needs to give their decision as to whether it will not adversely affect the project because of Eulachon. PacifiCorp believes construction and operation of the Merwin trap will not directly affect Eulachon, but NMFS needs to view the facility first-hand before they can draw an opinion.

The real problem is under the control room at Merwin, where it meets in the corner (where the trap is being rebuilt). It was accidentally discovered by divers that there is a huge rock void that could allow water to enter the work area and flood the powerhouse. So PacifiCorp has worked on a redesign to add an in-water concrete buttress wall. The project now needs to be re-permitted with this new design. Once NMFS acknowledges their findings on Eulachon effects and issues a decision, then ACOE Seattle will need to reissue a new 404 permit for the change unless they find that the new work is not a major modification. PacifiCorp can't start the in-water work until they approve. This new situation has delayed the completion schedule to our best guess of late 2013. The original schedule was shut to down June of this year and then rely on the Lewis River hatchery for fish collection. Now everything is likely delayed to June 2013. In the meantime, we'll keep the existing trap operating in its present state. WDFW is continuing to truck the Merwin trap captures to Lewis River Hatchery. The sorting and hauling, with the

reintroduction program officially underway, will occur from the Lewis River Hatchery until completion of the new Merwin trap. This problem is out of our control. We'll keep everyone posted about the schedule. We're hoping the ACOE agrees the new work is not a major modification which will help the construction schedule considerably.

2011 Bull Trout Monitoring Presentation

Jim Byrne gave a presentation on Lewis River Bull Trout Investigations. Jeremiah Doyle gave a presentation on Lewis River Bull Trout Monitoring

Both presentations will be posted on the website, along with these notes.

<12:33 p.m. meeting adjourned >

Agenda items for February 9, 2012

- Review January 12, 2012 Meeting Notes
- Study/Work Product Updates

Public Comment

None

Next Scheduled Meetings

February 9, 2012	March 8, 2012
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 & Attachments (e-mailed)

- Notes from 12/8/11
- Agenda for 1/12/12