

**FINAL Meeting Notes  
Lewis River License Implementation  
Aquatic Coordination Committee (ACC) Meeting  
August 9, 2012  
Merwin Hydro Control Center**

**ACC Participants Present (9)**

Kimberly McCune, PacifiCorp Energy  
Frank Shrier, PacifiCorp Energy  
Pat Frazier, WDFW  
Peggy Miller, WDFW (via conference)  
Shannon Wills, Cowlitz Indian Tribe (via conference)  
LouEllyn Jones, USFWS (via conference)  
Diana Gritten-MacDonald, Cowlitz PUD (via conference)  
Bob Rose, Yakama Nation (via conference)  
Greg Halseth, Interested Party

**Calendar:**

September 13, 2012	ACC Meeting	Merwin Hydro
October 11, 2012	ACC Meeting	Merwin Hydro

<b>Assignments from August 9, 2012 meeting</b>	
Shrier: Contact Diana Perez (US Forest Service) to see what the consensus is regarding use of the Lower Falls campground site for acclimation.	<b>USFS said that the Lower Falls campground site is a go. Complete 9/13/12</b>
Frazier: Follow up with the H&S Subgroup and report back to the ACC regarding if natural origin fish are captured at Merwin trap what is to be done with them.	<b>Complete - 9/13/12</b>
Shrier: Look at the gage table for August 1, 2012 and report his findings to Halseth.	<b>Complete – 8/9/12</b>
Shrier: Ask PacifiCorp management about adding flow information to the Lewis River website and report back to Halseth.	<b>Complete – 9/13/12</b>

<b>Assignments from July 12, 2012 meeting</b>	
McCune: Email last version of Project Delay Schedule to the ACC.	<b>Complete – 7/12/12</b>
Kinne: PacifiCorp needs a budget for coho and fall Chinook from WDFW, sooner than later.	<b>Complete</b>
Lesko: Contact Kinne to set up a date and time to discuss the use of Ponds 15 as a temporary release pond site.	<b>Complete – Meeting held on 9/7/12</b>

Shrier: Lewis River Hatchery Ladder Dredging – Obtain written approval from WDFW, NMFS and USFWS for reducing flows to 600cfs for one day during the work period.	<b>Complete</b>
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<b>Assignments from June 14, 2012 meeting</b>	
Shrier: Confirm if modifications to FSC screens have been completed yet and report results to Eric Kinne (WDFW).	<b>100%</b>
Rose: Schedule an Acclimation Pond Subgroup meeting to include appropriate Forest Service staff to discuss FS concerns, timing, etc. for the Crab Creek Alternative site.	<b>Complete – Meeting took place on 8/3/12</b>

<b>Assignments from January 12, 2012 meeting</b>	
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>June 2012: Frank Shrier added that it might be easier, and better for access, to wait until the trestle has been floated down.</i>	<b>Pending as of 9/13/12– Shrier will update Wills on the best timing for the tour.</b>

<b>Assignments from March 8, 2012 meeting</b>	<b>Status</b>
Murdock - indicated that she will email literature to Shrier regarding Yakama Nation acclimation reports. <i>September 2012: Shrier is still awaiting information.</i>	<b>Pending as of 9/13/12</b>
Kinne - will get some information for the ACC on the White River acclimation and any other information his agency might have.	<b>Pending as of 9/13/12</b>

### Opening, Review of Agenda and Meeting Notes

Frank Shrier (PacifiCorp) called the meeting to order @ 9:10 a.m. Shrier requested all attendees identify themselves for the benefit of all attendees on the conference call. The ACC reviewed the agenda and no new topics were added. The pending assignments and July 12, 2012 meeting notes were reviewed and accepted without change at 9:20am. Shrier informed the ACC that we were expecting public attendees at today's meeting to discuss the low flow reduction which took place on August 1, 2012.

Kim McCune (PacifiCorp) will finalize the July 12, 2012 meeting notes for posting to the Lewis River website.

### Acclimation Pond/Crab Creek Alternate Site Discussion

Shrier informed the ACC attendees that PacifiCorp still did not have a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) from the Forest Service (FS). The FS indicated that it needed a concurrence letter from USFWS addressed to FS. PacifiCorp received a letter of concurrence from USFWS and NMFS but this letter needs to be addressed to the FS since they are the lead agency. Shrier committed to contacting Diana Perez (US Forest Service) to see who the contact is for addressing the letter.

Shrier informed the ACC attendees that the Yakama Nation scheduled an Acclimation Pond meeting on August 3, 2012 with FS management and staff. The two entities discussed the two possible Crab Creek alternative sites. The attendees looked at the abandoned road site downstream of Crab Creek and the Lower Falls Campground site. Concern was expressed about the Lower Falls campground site and fish having to negotiate the falls but it was determined that survival is not a concern since the falls were no more of a hazard than spillways on the Columbia River. Issues remain relating to timing and recreation use relative to the Lower Falls site. At that meeting Perez expressed FS concern and thought there might be strong opposition from the FS regarding the lower falls site because of recreational use. Bob Rose (Yakama Nation) thought it would be an educational opportunity if this site is used. Shannon Wills (Cowlitz Indian Tribe) expressed that they prefer the lower falls site. Rose mentioned that he would like to create a document listing the pros and cons of each alternate site. He further stated that this project is stuck in process right now.

## **Other**

Shrier introduced the arrival of Greg Halseth, an interested party, and asked all attendees to introduce themselves and their affiliation.

## **Acclimation Pond/Crab Creek Alternate Site Discussion (cont'd)**

Shrier reminded the ACC that construction for the Acclimation Pond project will not take place in 2012. Until a site is determined the project will not take place until 2013.

## **PIT Tag Acclimation Fish – Direct Release Discussion**

Shrier also reminded the ACC that directly planting fish at each site was an option in the meantime and that it is feasible to PIT tag a sample from each site to track timing and performance. He suggested placing some fish above the falls and below the falls and asked the ACC what is best.

Pat Frazier (WDFW) expressed that he did not see the value of splitting the Crab Creek fish. Shrier mentioned that a NEPA documents tells us to release at the Crab Creek site. Frazier responded that it can't hurt to PIT tag and have more information available to us. Wills too thought that PIT tags were a good idea; more information is always good.

Peggy Miller (WDFW) asked if a PIT tag reader is on the downstream collector. Shrier confirmed there was a reader and said that the fish will all be planted in the spring 2013. The upper river screw trap will also be functioning come spring 2013 so acclimation fish could be scanned for PIT tags.

**The ACC agreed to PIT tag 10% of fish at each site and to direct release the fish during the spring 2013.**

## **Study Updates**

### **Hatchery & Supplementation Program**

Erik Lesko (PacifiCorp) provided the following written communication in his absence for use at the meeting, which was presented by Shrier. There was an H&S Subgroup meeting on July 18,

2012 in Woodland, WA. Main topics included the methodology for Genetic Mark Recapture studies and installation of a lower river screw trap(s) in the North Fork Lewis River in 2013 as a pilot program to assess feasibility. Other topics that were discussed included: (1) the need to mark acclimation fish that are direct released and (2) the use of small tanks to transport or putting fish back into the tailrace that are of wild origin and (3) the use of circular tanks for rearing a portion of the wild winter steelhead program smolts. The group agreed that it may be beneficial to do this. Starting in September early coho adults will be transported upstream. Our goal is 9,000 this year. Upper river surveys will start a week after the first load of coho are moved upstream.

Shrier said that if we capture natural origin fish at Merwin trap he would like direction from the H&S Subgroup on what to do with them. Frazier will follow up with the Subgroup and report back.

#### *Hatchery Upgrades -*

##### **Lewis River Hatchery Upstream Intake (USI)**

Work will be completed by the end of August 2012 on the repairs to the upstream intake. NW Underwater construction is coordinating with hatchery staff and PacifiCorp on this project.

##### **Merwin Rearing Ponds**

Remaining two ponds will be completed by mid-September

**Lewis River Hatchery Dredging** – The river was lowered to 600 cfs on August 1, 2012. Two hundred cubic yards of sediment material was removed around the ladder outfall. Crews were not able to reach as far into the river due to inundation of the area even at 600 cfs. The crew did a great job of isolating the dredge area while staying within the permit requirements. Hatchery staff were on site during the work.

##### **Hatchery projects expected to be completed in 2013**

- Lewis River Hatchery – Modifications and structural support for the downstream intake
- Merwin Hatchery – Upgrades to the PLC, metering and alarming at the ozone facility
- Speelyai Hatchery – Modifications to the intake structure
- Speelyai Hatchery – Conversion of Pond 14 to raceways

##### **Woodland Release Ponds**

This project currently on hold pending the outcome of a consultation between the FERC and NMFS relating to Eulachon smelt, a listed species. PacifiCorp is listed as a non-federal representative. PacifiCorp submitted a batched biological assessment to the FERC on 8/8/12.

##### **M&E Plan Implementation**

Coho, fall Chinook and Chum monitoring occurring this Fall 2012. No upper river monitoring will begin once we transport coho in the Fall of 2012.

##### **Merwin Upstream Construction Status**

Moving along well; and at a good pace. Construction completion is expected December 2013. The old trap will operate until June 2013.

### **Swift Downstream Collector Construction Status**

This project is on schedule. The screen inspection last week with Bryan Nordlund (NMFS) went well and screens were approved. PacifiCorp hired two fish techs; in about two weeks the Floating Surface Collector will be attached to mooring. A lot of electrical equipment is being hooked up and tested. The pumps will be tested in the dry.

### **Future Fish Passage Facilities New Information Status**

Waiting for Procurement to complete negotiations with the contractor.

### **ACC Approval of the Yale Spillway Entrainment Net Final Design**

PacifiCorp received concurrence from USFWS and NMFS for this project. Design engineering finalized the drawings. PacifiCorp received approval from the FERC/PRO but the final drawings must be submitted to the FERC/DC with ACC approval. PacifiCorp would like written record or ACC approval at this meeting.

PacifiCorp has as an entrainment reduction net in place at the Yale tailrace for two years now. The spillway net will function in a similar manner but will be able to sink and collapse during high flows exceeding 6,000 cfs. The net is expected to be preventing entrainment most of the time. The present schedule is to install the net this Fall. The deadline for completion is December 26, 2012. (see [Attachment A](#) for further detail).

The ACC and the Services decided that each will email its written approval within two weeks.

Shrier indicated that there is no appreciable change from the draft to the final design. He will email details to the ACC for review and approval and for each to **provide written approval no later than August 24, 2012.**

*<10:30 a.m. meeting adjourned >*

### **Agenda items for August 9, 2012**

- Review August 9, 2012 Meeting Notes
- Study/Work Product Updates
- Acclimation Pond/Crab Creek Updates
- Aquatic Fund Announcement

### **Public Comment**

Greg Halseth, an interested party and Woodland resident joined the meeting today to discuss Lewis River flows, how it fluctuates and the more recent flow reduction on August 1, 2012. Halseth commented that often he sees that the flow reduction does not mock nature. He mentioned that PacifiCorp does a wonderful job providing historical data on its website but would like to see a web page added to include more flow data (up and down) for those living on the Lewis River. Although, he is not certain if this flow data is proprietary. Shrier responded that data after the fact is not proprietary but real time is because of competitors in the power market. Shrier also indicated that the fall Chinook surveys will start in mid-September and the flows will drop down to 2,500 cfs unless the river is already lower. In the past the flow used to be 1,200 cfs but there was concern about hurting the fish in the long run.

Halseth expressed concern about the state law for not allowing in-water work and lowering flow where the fish are harmed more than the potential turbidity would cause.

Frazier said that in order to perform the dredging work which took place on August 1, 2012, permits were required from the Corp of Engineers, Department of Ecology, and the Department of Natural Resources in addition to a County shoreline permit.

Halseth asked PacifiCorp if it every considered doing other needed work at boat launches at the same time to limit the number of draw downs. Shrier stated that although that a good idea it was not considered. Individual permits would have been required for each project if that path were taken.

Shrier indicated that the August 1<sup>st</sup> flow reduction was performed in accordance with the FERC requirements at 2” per hour as a maximum rate. PacifiCorp determines this rate by the Ariel gage. Shrier recommended Halseth make use of the gage table to see real time flow. Shrier will look at the gage for August 1, 2012 and report his findings to Halseth and the ACC. The FERC licenses and the Lewis River Settlement Agreement concur that 2” per hour is a permitted rate.

Halseth mentioned that he did not take pictures of the flow reduction and stranded fish in front of his home on August 1, 2012 but what he saw was mostly fry. Shrier will ask PacifiCorp management about adding flow information to the Lewis River website and report back to Halseth.

#### **Next Scheduled Meetings**

September 13, 2012	October 11, 2012
Merwin Hydro Control Center	Merwin Hydro Control Center
Ariel, WA	Ariel, WA
9:00 a.m. – Noon	9:00 a.m. – Noon

#### **Meeting Handouts & Attachments (sent via e-mail)**

- Notes from 7/12/12
- Agenda for 8/09/12
- **Attachment A** – Final Yale Spillway Design Drawings for ACC Review (CEII)