

FINAL Meeting Notes
Lewis River License Implementation
Aquatic Coordination Committee (ACC) Meeting
January 13, 2011
Ariel, WA

ACC Participants Present (12)

Adam Haspiel, USDA Forest Service
David Hu, USDA Forest Service (teleconference)
Eli Asher, Fish Recovery Board (teleconference)
Diana Gritten-MacDonald, Cowlitz PUD (teleconference)
Michelle Day, NMFS (teleconference)
Eric Kinne, WDFW
Jim Malinowski, Fish First (teleconference)
Todd Olson, PacifiCorp Energy
Frank Shrier, PacifiCorp Energy
Arianne Poindexter, PacifiCorp Energy
Jeremiah Doyle, PacifiCorp Energy
Erik Lesko, PacifiCorp Energy

Calendar:

February 10, 2011	ACC Meeting	Merwin Hydro
March 10, 2011	ACC Meeting	Merwin Hydro

Assignments from December 9, 2010 Meeting:	Status:
Aquatic Fund 2010/2011 Proposals - The modified matrix will be sent to the ACC members	Complete
Aquatic Fund 2010/2011 Proposals - A request for full proposals will be sent to the applicants no later than December 15, 2010	Complete
Aquatic Fund 2010/2011 Proposals – Get comments from the Yakama Nation, Cowlitz Indian Tribe and Fish First	ACC decided to move forward.
Acclimation Pond Plan - Shannon Wills will convey the importance of the Yakama Nation weighing in on this issue to Bob Rose this afternoon.	Pending
Acclimation Pond Plan - PacifiCorp will identify 1-2 alternatives with pros and cons and will send via email.	Complete

Assignments from November 18, 2010 Meeting:	Status:
New Information Regarding Fish Transport into Lake Merwin and Yale Lake - Todd Olson/Frank Shrier will follow-up with Michelle Day, NOAA Fisheries, to discuss the diversion at Speelyai and need for fish passage.	Complete
New Information Regarding Fish Transport into Lake Merwin and Yale Lake – PacifiCorp to provide information collected as part of relicensing.	Complete

Merwin Upstream Trap and Transport - Frank Shrier will rewrite the October 13, 2010, email directly to the services describing the project delay and requesting approval	Complete
Aquatic Fund 2010/2011 Proposals - ACC comments on pre-proposals due	Complete
Aquatic Fund 2010/2011 Proposals – Utilities will notify recipients that full proposals will be due in January 2011.	Complete
Speelyai Diversion Design – The project engineer will discuss the design with the ACC at the December 9, 2010 meeting	Complete

Assignments from October 14, 2010 Meeting:	Status:
Adam Haspiel will follow-up with John Weinheimer about any regulation changes regarding adding Rush Creek to law enforcement routes. Adam will also discuss regulation changes for Rush Creek and Pine Creek with John to better protect bull trout.	Complete
PacifiCorp Energy will send those Aquatic Fund pre-proposals selected for consideration to the ACC group by early November	Complete
Eric Kinne will follow-up with Aaron Roberts regarding the <i>Swift Net Pens</i> and when the last possible date would be required for their use.	Complete

Assignments from April 8, 2010 Meeting:	Status:
Haspiel: Present more detailed design of the Pine Creek Instream aquatic fund project to the ACC when available.	Complete

Opening, Review of Agenda and Meeting Notes

Frank Shrier (PacifiCorp Energy) called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m., reviewed the agenda for the day and requested any changes/additions. No changes or additions were recommended.

Shrier requested comments and/or changes to the ACC Draft 12/09/10 meeting notes. No changes were requested. The meeting notes were approved.

ACC Decisions Needed

Merwin In-Water Work Extension

- USFWS – OK
- NMFS – will get back to Frank Shrier this afternoon
- WDFW – has not responded

Swift In-Water Work Extension

- USFWS – OK
- NMFS – will get back to Frank Shrier this afternoon

Crab Creek

- USFWS – Neutral
- NMFS – OK with the alternatives laid out during the meeting
- Cowlitz Tribe - has not responded
- Yakama Nation - has not responded

Acclimation Pond Plan

The group discussed Crab Creek site and the following are overall notes:

- Access the Crab Creek site is challenging
- Taking more than 50% of the flow from Crab Creek, at any given time, is objectionable to USDA Forest Service
- Fall flows in Crab Creek are minimal
- WDFW is concerned that if Crab Creek is abandoned there will be no site in the mainstem Lewis River.

The group discussed alternatives as follows:

- Fall release on the mainstem North Fork Lewis River near Crab Creek via net pen structure with 33,000 fish
 - USDA Forest Service is OK with this idea as long as the aesthetics are not affected
 - What size?
 - How to anchor?
 - How to prevent debris loading?
- Direct Planting into the mainstem North Fork Lewis River in Spring
 - Monitoring would be required
 - This is not the preferred option for WDFW
- Original Crab Creek design for Fall release with 15,000 fish
- Original Crab Creek design for Spring release with 15,000 fish

All four options will be included in the Environmental Assessment (EA) for review. PacifiCorp Energy, NMFS, USDA Forest Service, WDFW, Fish First and Fish Recovery Board all voted in favor of including all four options in the EA. Prior to today's meeting, USFWS informed PacifiCorp by email that they would go with whatever the ACC group decides. Cowlitz PUD defers to PacifiCorp Energy.

Speelyai Intake Engineering Design

PacifiCorp Energy needs to move forward with the design work. NMFS has expressed that passage is required, not necessarily now, but in the future. NMFS wonders about any effects to the hatchery. Eric Kinne reported the following issues for the hatchery:

- Passage requirement may trigger a rebuild of the intake which currently may not meet NMFS criteria for screening.
- Passage would require bypass flow which would reduce available water to the hatchery thereby reducing production.
- Passage would introduce fish diseases into the source water requiring water treatment.

The first opportunity for HPP fish to be introduced in Merwin Reservoir is June 2020. The first opportunity for fish to pass over Speelyai dam is June 2024.

The current work proposed (upgrade to wing wall) would make allowances in the design for future fish passage facilities.

PacifiCorp Energy, NMFS, WDFW and USDA Forest Service all voted to move forward with current work as proposed with the inclusion that current design and construction will not limit or preclude upstream and downstream fish passage at some later date. Prior to today's meeting, USFWS informed PacifiCorp Energy by email that they were neutral on the issue.

Nutrient Enhancement

Update provided regarding the meeting with PacifiCorp Energy, WDFW and Fish First. The existing state contract with the Fish Buyer expires this summer. New contracts will be out for bid in the next couple of months and will allow for more competition and for more ingenuity.

Merwin Upstream Trap and Transport Status

The HPA has been received. Preliminary work is schedule to start this summer. PacifiCorp Energy will verify the shut down schedule.

Study Updates

Erik Lesko and Frank Shrier (PacifiCorp Energy) provided the following study updates:

Hatchery Upgrades –

Lewis River Hatchery

Lewis River Hatchery Ponds 13, 14 Pond 13 and 14 are complete and watered up.

Pond 16 – Work is scheduled to start in April but likely not until May.

Intake Pipe Testing and Repair – This project should move forward in May 2011 as scheduled.

Merwin Hatchery

Rearing Ponds – The last two of the four ponds will be completed by September of this year.

Ozone Upgrades and Switching: The ozone PLC is scheduled for completion this year as is the evaluation of emergency switching for the ozone plant to improve reliability.

Speelyai Hatchery

Kokanee Trap – Project is scheduled to start in May of 2011. Construction should be completed by August 30.

Hatchery & Supplementation Plan – Erik Lesko submitted a final 2011 AOP to the ACC in early January. Lesko is working on submitting a draft 2010 Annual Report to the ACC for review and comments (60 days) by January 31. PacifiCorp Energy will begin wild winter steelhead collection during the week of January 24. FERC approval of the H&S plan has been received.

Swift Downstream Collector – Work is scheduled to begin in March 2011. Activities planned for 2011 include: mobilization to project area, construct barge shell and move to dam in the summer of 2012, and construct trestle. Project is on schedule.

Cougar Creek – Erik Lesko has received video from 2009 which shows coho entering the creek. These coho are from natural production (from hatchery plants – HPP fish) upstream of Swift dam. The video data will also be evaluated for 2010. After this, Lesko will consolidate the results and present a report for the ACC. The primary purpose of this work is to validate an adult-per-redd ratio for bull trout during the fall.

Release Ponds Status

FERC has extended the deadline for final design to the end of March 2011. PacifiCorp located a new potential piece of property for this project near the junior high school and is working with the realtor to secure an option with the landowner. The option should carry through the summer. Once the option is secured the designs will be finalized and submitted to FERC. Upon FERC's approval, the property will be purchased assuming that price is comparable to assessed value.

New Topics

- None

Agenda items for February 10, 2011

- Review January 13, 2011 Meeting Notes
- Aquatic Fund Presentations
- Crab Creek Update discussion
- Study/Work Product Updates

Public Comment

None

Next Scheduled Meetings

February 10, 2011	March 10, 2011
Merwin Hydro Control Center	Merwin Hydro Control Center
Ariel, WA	Ariel, WA
9:00am – Noon	9:00am – Noon

Meeting Adjourned at 10:56 a.m.

Handouts/Summary Attachments

- Final Agenda
- Draft ACC Meeting Notes 12/9/2010
- Email from LouEllyn-USFWS to PacifiCorp

-----Original Message-----

From: LouEllyn_Jones@fws.gov [mailto:LouEllyn_Jones@fws.gov]

Sent: Wednesday, January 05, 2011 3:28 PM

To: Shrier, Frank

Subject: My input for the ACC meeting next week

FRank - I went back to your notes about Crab Creek (the email), the evaluation on flows, and the notes from the meeting. From what I'm seeing, it looks like I'd be okay with your suggestion of focusing the acclimation pond efforts at Clear Creek. That said, I don't have a clear preference. Others at the meeting may have very good alternate ideas. I have no strong preferences and would go along with what the ACC members come up with.

I do not have a comment about the Speelyai issue, and will go along with whatever the ACC decides.

"Dreams are answers to questions
we haven't yet figured out how to ask."

-X-Files