

FINAL - Approved 2/14/14
1-15-14 Meeting Summary
RESOURCE COORDINATION COMMITTEE (RCC)
North Umpqua Hydroelectric Project (FERC No. P-1927)

RCC Members or Alternates Present

Monte Garrett (PacifiCorp Energy)
Viva Worthington (USDA-FS)
Craig Kohanek (OWRD)
Rob Burns (USFWS)
Dave Harris (ODFW)
Chris Stine (ODEQ)
Ed Meyer (NMFS)
Jim B. Muck (NOAA)
Anne Shirley (BLM)

Also Present

Beth Bendickson (PacifiCorp Energy)
Steve Albertelli (PacifiCorp Energy)
Kelly Coates (Cow Creek Tribe)

Absent

Pam Sighting (USDA-FS)

INTRODUCTIONS, AGENDA, OLD BUSINESS

Introductions, Member/Organizational Updates, Upcoming Meetings/Presentations

Member Updates (staff changes, organization news):

PacifiCorp – Monte Garrett is retiring on April 1, 2014.

USDA-FS – Craig Street has retired. They are trying to bring on Steve Burns as the Diamond Lake Ranger District fish biologist. Tedd Huffman (Forest Hydrologist) is the acting North Umpqua District Ranger.

NOAA – The Portland and California offices have merged and are now called the West Coast Region. Jim B. Muck will be the RCC representative in the future. Ed Meyer will continue to oversee fish passage and screen projects from the Portland office. Stephanie Burchfield will no longer be involved with RCC activities.

2014 Projects Requiring Coordination:

The Rolling Action Plans (RAPs) are done. Monte will send the final versions out for review/signatures, and asked that each agency sign and send on to the next agency, and then send back to Monte, who will distribute fully-signed final PDF versions to each agency.

The Historical Properties Management Plan RAP will be sent out by Russ Howison later.

Public Outreach: Mark Brown's "Continuum" video is almost finished. Monte reviewed it and asked him to add some coverage on the canal shut-off & drainage facilities. It is an accurate presentation of the North Umpqua Protection, Mitigation and Enhancement Measures, and will be great to use for public outreach. Once Mark finishes the video, CD copies will be distributed to each RCC member.

CURRENT PROJECT UPDATES

Soda Springs Fish Passage

Screen Repair Status/Schedule: PacifiCorp is in the process of training operations staff on operation of the newly completed fish passage facilities. The repaired screen is expected to be back in operation by the end of January. It is close to being able to be operated now with the new screens modified to include pressure relief panels. If the hydraulic conditions of December 2012 are ever repeated (high flow/high water differential across the screens), then the panels will swing open, thus equalizing pressure and minimizing any screen damage. The panels are a fail/safe and should only open during rare non-routine high flow events. The modified facilities have necessitated some revision to the operating procedures.

The fish ladder has been in operation throughout 2013. More than two hundred salmon and steelhead redds were documented above Soda Springs and Fish Creek in 2013.

It was noted that as bad as the damage was to the fish screen, there was very little impact on the short term goals of fish passage.

Viva Worthington asked about road closure. Is the end of January still in alignment with the end of the work? Monte is 90% sure it is and will confirm this with Rich Grost and project manager Scott Schevenius [confirmation received after the meeting]. Viva said they also want to have contractors access the river immediately downstream of the powerhouse to inspect the log across the river, which has created concern for river recreation. Monte suggested she coordinate that with Scott.

Hydraulic and Biological Evaluations Update: The hydraulic evaluation is scheduled to take place during the 2014 spring high flows. The biological evaluation will be conducted in 2015.

Because of the damage to the screen and the time needed to complete the evaluations, replacement of the ladder viewing window will now occur in 2015.

Minor changes/improvements are needed for the interior of the evaluation building. The scope is being determined now, and the changes will be completed either this year or next year.

Ed Meyer reminded the RCC that the evaluation building has not been used for capturing and handling fish, which will need to be addressed soon. There are still unknowns until that happens.

Slide Creek Tailrace Barrier

Hydraulic Evaluation Update (Prototype Testing): This year the contractor plans to install the newly developed prototype baffling on two to three of the Slide Creek tailrace barrier bays. They will be hydraulically assessed. If it proves practical and useful, baffle installation on all the bays, to improve hydraulic balancing, is planned for 2015.

Fish Creek

Fiber and Power Upgrade: This project is planned to occur by fall 2014. Once the cable arrives, it will be installed underground and will provide power and communication control for the dump gates, similar to the smooth operation at Clearwater and Lemolo facilities. PacifiCorp should then be able to present a successful demonstration of the Fish Creek dump gate facility operation.

Wetlands

There are three remaining wetlands to be constructed.

Fireswamp Wetland: More discussion is needed on this wetland project. The cultural surveys will be completed later this year, following opening of the winter range closure gates.

Stump Lake Pothole Wetland: A TWG meeting is scheduled for January 30, 2014. The subject of the meeting is the 30% design.

Aquatic Reconnects

There are 24 aquatic reconnects left to do, with many of them being major and complicated (either under or over canals). Seven will be completed this year: four at Clearwater 2 and three at Lemolo 2. An outage will be required sometime in October or November for the Clearwater 2 projects.

Transmission/Distribution – More under-clearance projects will happen this year, per NERC requirements. Some will need clearances between lines and ground. Several will need new pole structures and phase raisers (to lift poles up). Transmission right-of-ways will require vegetation management, along with remediation of buried pole anchors. Per the TMP RAP meeting, there will be some gate installations. Quite a few places will require Notice-to-Proceed authorizations.

TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP (TWG) UPDATES

Fish Habitat and Studies TWG:

19.2 – While there have been two people for this program in the past, and originally Dave and Rich thought that we could start with one position in March, it was later decided to hold off until 2015, when the biological evaluation begins on the screens.

OTHER ITEMS

Operational Updates

Powerhouse/Canal Outages: nothing planned in near future. Rich sent out an updated outage schedule. Monte will check to see if there are any additional changes.

SA 19.1 Tributary Enhancement Project Updates

Dave reported that Stillwater Sciences has completed their 9-year study. The final report is out for review. Rich added some comments and forwarded to ODFW, who is currently reviewing it. Their comments will be completed in the next week or two and then the report will officially get finalized and distributed.

He also said the Rock Creek ladder facility is working (passing fish) but that ODFW might be working this year on some changes to the ladder, suggested by ODFW engineering and screens staff. They have funding to improve the juvenile bypass facility and have added a crane to haul fish up and out to the sorting facility. Fish are moving through it, and ODFW staff is reading tapes at the hatchery.

Kirk Haskett and Sam Moyers have sites picked out and are slowly going through getting materials and coordinating time to do the work. They will be working in the mainstem Rock Creek and will be going back into Harrington Creek next year. They also have some fish passage projects lined up for the future. They are reviewing the Soda Springs fish passage viewing window tapes.

SA 19.3 Federal Mitigation Fund Project Updates

5-Year Strategic Plan Status: Viva said there is a meeting scheduled for January 23 to review the plan. After that internal planning meeting, the USDA-FS will hold a public meeting on February 5. The 2014 project proposals are due February 21.

Public Comments – *none at this time.*

The next RCC meeting will be a face-to-face meeting on May 21, 2014 at Toketee.

It was decided that going forward there will be four RCC meetings per year, as follows:

- January planning conference call.
- May face-to-face meeting onsite at Toketee, with project tour following.
- August face-to-face meeting onsite at Toketee, with project tour following.
- October or November face-to-face meeting, coinciding with the annual public tour.

If there is a need for other project discussion or collaboration, additional conference calls can be scheduled.

Other

The next North Umpqua Lake Management Group (formerly the Lemolo Lake Management Group) meeting is scheduled for March 11.

Meeting adjourned.