

**11-18-09 Meeting Summary * Approved 12/16/09 *
RESOURCE COORDINATION COMMITTEE (RCC)
NORTH UMPQUA HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT- FERC #1927-008**

RCC Members or Alternates Present

Monte Garrett (PacifiCorp Energy)
Pam Sighting (USDA-FS)
Craig Kohanek (OWRD)
Dave Harris (ODFW)
Ed Meyer (NOAA)

Also Present

Beth Bendickson (PacifiCorp Energy)
Rich Grost (PacifiCorp Energy)
Stan Vejtasa (Umpqua Valley Audubon)

RCC Members Absent

Ariel Hiller (BLM)
Chris Stine (ODEQ) – Proxy given to Dave Harris
Rob Burns (USFWS) – Proxy give to Dave Harris

INTRODUCTIONS, AGENDA, OLD BUSINESS

Member Updates

NMFS - Stephanie Burchfield's contract ended and she has taken the rest of the year off. NMFS is trying to get her hired permanently. The RCC will still consider her an alternate.

USDA-FS – Gordon Hanek is retiring on January 2, 2010.

RCC Action: Review and approve 10/21/09 draft meeting summary. *Tentatively approved 11/18/09; if no comments received, the summary will be considered officially approved on 11/25/09.*

Public Information Opportunities

Public Tour Debrief – The tour was considered very successful by all the RCC parties. A little over 20 people were in attendance, including RCC folks. Roseburg's own Channel 9 was there and we received good media coverage. Everyone seemed to be interested and positive. Mark Brown (Intermountain Digital) tagged along and got some good video interviews with some of the RCC folks. Pam Sighting suggested for future tours to perhaps contact others to get the word out as some people hadn't heard about it. Perhaps use e-mail to repeat folks and organized conservation groups. Stan Vejtasa suggested contacting the Umpqua Watershed and having them put information about it on their listserve. Rich Grost added that the Steamboaters would be a good resource for email outreach as well.

Annual Planning Meeting – Scheduled for January 14-15, 2010. The location is still “to be determined.” It's the lodging that's in question. We could do a meal at the PacifiCorp guesthouse. Pam will check on alternate housing opportunities.

Topics will include: 2009 lessons learned; 2009 projects that carry over to 2010; rolling out the draft work plans for 2010 projects; collaboration roles to get them done; ongoing needs per RCP; and other tasks.

Everyone feels these planning sessions continue to be a positive, valuable experience.

CURRENT PROJECT UPDATES

Notice-to-Proceed (NTP) Status

The USDA-FS recently issued the following NTPs:

All projects scheduled for work on the ground in 2009 have received NTPs.

Fish Creek (Screens and Canal Shutoff & Drainage System) – There is no water for Fish Creek. Lemolo 2 is finished, but is not fully functional. Radio and programming work are still to be done. While Watson Ridge will provide the communication for both of these projects, it's not yet completed either. The performance tests will be pushed to early 2010 when water is available and communications are operable.

Lemolo 2 Canal Shut-off & Drainage System – When Lemolo 2 is fully operational, there will be enough water to run the in-canal generators, which will in turn charge the batteries that run the radios.

Lemolo 2 Forebay Dredging/Lemolo 2 Plant Overhaul – Project is complete; planting is happening on the dredge spoil site.

Lemolo 1 Forebay – Completion delayed due to FERC PRO approvals and design changes. The project will be completed next year. The canal wall has not yet been breached to connect the waterway to the new forebay. The forebay berms are complete and the liner will be installed next summer. The wetland project will be completed next year along with the rest of the forebay. Transformer replacement at Lemolo 1 will be completed today or tomorrow. The plant will then go back on-line.

Soda Springs Fish Passage – The minimum in-stream flow facility is in place, with pipe laid from the dissipation structure to near the penstock and ready to be connected to the flow-line on December 10. The road is back-filled and open. The project is on schedule and looking good.

2010 schedule – Open the temporary minimum in-stream flow facility to provide 100-125 cfs while construction at base of dam is completed, approximately May-October. During the time that the area below the dam is dewatered, the plan is to complete as much of the work below the OHWL as possible in 2010. The higher portions of the ladder and screen will be constructed in 2011-12. Everything is on schedule.

Watson Ridge – Project is constructed. Most of the antennas have been installed or are in the last stages of installation. Current work includes programming and security issues. Pam stressed concerns

regarding waiver issuance to complete construction within this area as it is normally closed to protect winter big game habitat. As much of the work as possible will be completed by December 1st. Monte will contact Pam regarding this.

Aquatic Connectivity – Three sites are in the process of being built and are scheduled to be completed this year.

Slide Creek Tailrace Barrier - Received FERC PRO approval on geotechnical borings at five locations in the vicinity of the tailrace footprint. Boring is scheduled to begin about December 4.

TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP UPDATES

Aquatic Connectivity – The sites being completed this year is the first step in a process of completing the remaining 54 sites. The 2010 goal is to develop design plans and schedule for completing the rest of the sites (some are complex; some are simple) all by the 2016 deadline. A few sites will be completed in 2010.

L2R (Lemolo 2 Reroute) – 25-30% design was agreed to in the latter part of September. There was discussion about test pits needed for planning water management during the pipe installation. This test pits project is planned for January and Monte reminded Pam of the urgency for approving this action as soon as possible. The 60% design meeting is scheduled for December 9 on site. The plan is to review and move forward to the permitting stage in early 2010. Construction is scheduled for 2011. In the afternoon of December 9, we'll take a look at the site being proposed for wetland enhancement at Stinkhole pond; a separate project related to the reroute project.

FHS (Fish Habitat Studies) – The meeting scheduled for tomorrow has been relocated to the USDA-FS supervisor's office in Roseburg (Diamond Lake/Wolf Creek conference room). The main topic is the Fish Creek Fish Screen Post Construction Evaluation Report which will be getting signed for forwarding to FERC. The rest of the day will be spent discussing the 19.2 long term monitoring / predator control study – status of 2008 report, debrief from 2009; and planning for 2010.

FPD (Fish Passage Design) –

Slide Creek tailrace barrier – The second conceptual design meeting was held on November 4. Our consultant, McMillen, presented options for the conceptual designs for both the tailrace barrier and the emergency water release system. The TWG agreed on Option 7 for the tailrace barrier conceptual design. It is anticipated that the 30% design meeting will be held in March 2010. We are moving forward with the geotechnical evaluations. Associated with this project is the emergency spill release project, which will reduce the potential for fish stranding during unscheduled plant trips. This automated system will engage if plant trips occur, thereby reducing lag time in ramping in the river.

Toketee trash rack – The consultant is on board to design/construct the facility. The draft design is due after the first of the year to ODFW and the USDA-FS, with final designs due in February for construction in 2010.

Lemolo Reservoir – The next TWG meeting is scheduled for January 13, 2010. To Rich's knowledge, as in the past, no one has had the time to apply for DEQ 319 funding for Lemolo Lake actions. There are no special actions occurring on Lemolo Lake right now. Tui chub work is done for the year. Water levels are up due to rain and several generators being down. Rich is not aware of any monitoring going on now. We're at a point of analyzing the 2009 information for presentation at the January 13 TWG meeting. Dave Harris has information from the trapnetting and electrofishing sessions and will also have it ready for the TWG meeting.

Rich then presented the Proposed Relocation of Compliance Gage in Slide Creek Bypass Reach USGS #14315700

Both USFWS and USDA-FS have no objections. OWRD (Craig Kohanek) had a few:

1. Are there any tributaries or accretion flows between the dam and the proposed new gage site? Per Rich, there are no tributaries, but the canal spillway is within this reach so if the canal spills excess water back to the river (a rare condition), it will be counted at the new site.
2. He understands it's the best available site, but does it have a stable hydraulic control? Rich is confident it's stable, and will probably not be measurably affected by nearby USFS habitat work (gravel addition). Some gravel could accumulate but not enough to cause an extreme rating shift. This site has been reviewed and approved by the USGS.

With the above questions answered, both the ODEQ and OWRD agreed to the relocation.

Rich asked if any of the RCC folks objected to the proposed relocation and none replied, so the proposal is considered approved. Pam will get USDA-FS authorization to proceed with construction.

The next RCC meeting will be a conference call on December 16, 2009; 10AM – Noon.

Public comments – Stan Vejtasa was happy to hear of the progress on the Soda Springs fish passage project, and said to “keep up the good work.”

Meeting adjourned.

Attachments

- 1 – Proposed Relocation of Compliance Gage in Slide Creek Bypass Reach USGS #14315700
- 2 – BLM e-mail authorization of Attachment #1

Bendickson, Beth

From: Grost, Richard
Sent: Monday, November 16, 2009 6:32 PM
To: Grost, Richard; Ariel Hiller; Bendickson, Beth; Chris Stine; Craig Kohanek (ron.c.kohanek@wrд.state.or.us); Dave Harris; Ed.Meyer@noaa.gov; Garrett, Monte; Jim Thraillkill; Pam Sighting; rob_burns@fws.gov; craig_tuss@fws.gov; cstreet@fs.fed.us; dave.s.williams@wrд.state.or.us; Lightcap Scott (scott_lightcap@or.blm.gov); mejones@fs.fed.us; Owre, Rod; Reynolds, Roger; Grost, Richard; Stephanie.Burchfield@noaa.gov
Subject: RE: NUHP: proposed relocation of Slide Cr bypass gage -- approval please
Attachments: Proposed Relocation of Compliance Gage in Slide Cr Bypasspdf

TWG and RCC -- please review the attached 3-page proposal for relocating the Slide Cr bypass reach gage to a better location, as supported by the USGS and Craig Street. If you are able to respond this quickly, your approval is requested via email response this week or at Wednesday's RCC call. Let me know if you have questions. The gage would continue to transmit to the USGS public access webpage just as it does now.

Richard Grost
Aquatic Scientist
PacifiCorp, NUHP
541-498-2617

NUHP: Proposed Relocation of Compliance Gage in Slide Cr Bypass Reach
USGS # 14315700
11/16/09

Proposal: Relocate gage from the base of the dam to a smooth glide approximately 525 ft downstream of dam. The USGS supports this move and agrees the new site is preferable to the existing one (Marc Stewart, USGS, Pers. Com. 11-13-09)

Background: The existing gage site, within the dam plunge pool, is too close to the dam. Studies in 2009 confirmed that stage is substantially influenced by non-flow factors, such as which spillgate is in use. Also, the amount of turbulence at the gage during some flow and gate conditions is excessive. Attempts during past years to dampen the turbulence experienced at the gage have been unsuccessful. Finally, the new instream flow release system requires reliable, stable gage measurements for controlling the flow through the gate, and the gage at the existing location is unable to serve this function. The Flow Monitoring Plan requires agency approval for relocating a compliance gage.

Proposed New Site: The new site (Photos 1 and 2) is in a natural glide between boulder cascades, has been used in the past for flow measurements and ramping studies, and is the only acceptable site near the upstream end of this bypass reach. It is about 50 ft upstream from the nearest USFS gravel augmentation site and is not directly affected by any of the USFS habitat work. Installation of the new gage posts will not interfere with access for future USFS habitat work in this reach. Stakes have been placed for locating the two required posts, to minimize interference with road access and habitat work access (Grost and Street, 11/16/09, Photos 3 and 4).

Benefits: Studies in fall 2009 demonstrated that the proposed new location is far enough downstream that stage and flow relationships are not affected by which spillgate is in use. Turbulence is acceptable and access for electricity, piping, and personnel is reasonable. This site will provide more accurate stage and flow records in addition to being much more useful for controlling the instream flow gate.

Schedule: Construction of the proposed new gage facility is planned for January 2010 if approved by the SA agencies. Because the old gage site is inferior, there is no need for a period of overlapping records. Portions of the old gage will be dismantled and reused at this new site in such a way as to minimize the interruption of the record to less than 8 hours.

Approval: Please provide an email response documenting your agency's approval of this proposal, or requesting additional information if needed. Thank you.

Rich Grost
Aquatic Scientist
PacifiCorp Energy, NUHP



Photo 1. Proposed new gage site viewed from dirt road (note old staff plate on boulder).



Photo 2. Proposed new gage site (upper center, note old staff plate) viewed from the river atop the upstream end of the nearest USFS gravel augmentation pile.



Photo 3. Stake (center) marking proposed location of gage cabinet post near proposed new gage site, to minimize interference with old access road along left of photo.



Photo 4. Stake (center) marking proposed site of upstream post near dam, to minimize interference with vehicle and habitat work access.

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

From: Ariel_Hiller@blm.gov [mailto:Ariel_Hiller@blm.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, November 25, 2009 1:57 PM
To: Grost, Richard
Subject: RE: NUHP: proposed relocation of Slide Cr bypass gage -- approval please

BLM supports the proposed relocation.

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Ariel Hiller  
Community Planner  
Volunteer Coordinator  
Roseburg BLM District Office  
541.464.3356

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From: "Grost, Richard" [Richard.Grost@PacifiCorp.com](mailto:Richard.Grost@PacifiCorp.com)  
To: "Ariel\_Hiller@blm.gov" 11/25/2009 01:30 PM  
Subject: NUHP: proposed relocation of Slide Cr bypass gage -- approval please

Yes, but an email of support from BLM would make it unanimous!

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

From: Ariel\_Hiller@blm.gov [mailto:Ariel\_Hiller@blm.gov]  
Sent: Wednesday, November 25, 2009 9:37 AM  
To: Grost, Richard  
Subject: RE: NUHP: proposed relocation of Slide Cr bypass gage -- approval please

Rich, did you get approval at the RCC meeting? I wasn't there and want to know if I need to follow up on anything.....

From: "Grost, Richard"Richard.Grost@PacifiCorp.com>  
Sent: 11/16/2009 06:32 PM  
To: <Richard.Grost@PacifiCorp.com>, "Ariel Hiller" <Ariel\_Hiller@blm.gov>, "Bendickson, Beth" <Beth.Bendickson@PacifiCorp.com>, "Chris Stine" <stine.chris@deq.state.or.us>, "Craig Kohanek (ron.c.kohanek@wrdd.state.or.us)" <ron.c.kohanek@wrdd.state.or.us>, "Dave Harris" <Dave.A.Harris@state.or.us>, Ed.Meyer@noaa.gov <Ed.Meyer@noaa.gov>, "Garrett, Monte" <Monte.Garrett@PacifiCorp.com>, "Jim Thraikill" <Jim\_Thraikill@fws.gov>, "Pam Sichtung" <psichtung@fs.fed.us>, "rob\_burns@fws.gov" <rob\_burns@fws.gov>, "craig\_tuss@fws.gov" <craig\_tuss@fws.gov>, "cstreet@fs.fed.us" <cstreet@fs.fed.us>, "dave.s.williams@wrdd.state.or.us" <dave.s.williams@wrdd.state.or.us>, "Lightcap Scott (scott\_lightcap@or.blm.gov)" <scott\_lightcap@or.blm.gov>, "mejones@fs.fed.us" <mejones@fs.fed.us>, "Owre, Rod" <Rod.Owre@PacifiCorp.com>, "Reynolds, Roger" <Roger.Reynolds@PacifiCorp.com>, "Grost, Richard" <Richard.Grost@PacifiCorp.com>, "Stephanie.Burchfield@noaa.gov" <Stephanie.Burchfield@noaa.gov>  
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Richard Grost  
Aquatic Scientist  
PacifiCorp, NUHP  
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[attachment "Proposed Relocation of Compliance Gage in Slide Cr Bypass ....pdf" deleted by Ariel Hiller/RBFO/OR/BLM/DOI]