

9-15-10 Meeting Summary * Approved 10-20-10 *
RESOURCE COORDINATION COMMITTEE (RCC)
NORTH UMPQUA HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT- FERC #1927-008

RCC Members or Alternates Present

Also Present

Monte Garrett (PacifiCorp Energy)
Dave Harris (ODFW)
Craig Kohanek (OWRD)
Pam Sighting (USDA-FS)
Chris Stine (ODEQ)
Stephanie Burchfield (NMFS)
Rob Burns (USFWS)
Ariel Hiller (BLM)

Beth Bendickson (PacifiCorp Energy)
Rich Grost (PacifiCorp Energy)

INTRODUCTIONS, AGENDA, OLD BUSINESS

Member Updates

BLM: Cheyne Rossbach is the new Public Information Officer.

ODEQ: Chris Stine has been moved back to the water quality department and will have more time for 401 issues and ACOE removal fill permits.

PacifiCorp: Eric Hansen is now the project manager for the Lemolo 2 Reroute project.

RCC Action: Approve the August RCC Meeting Summary. *Approved 9-15-10.*

Public Information Opportunities – Mark Brown will be onsite in October updating the video. He will have an updated video for the January workshop.

Annual Public Tour – October 13 was set as the tentative tour date. Monte Garrett will coordinate with USDA-FS and ODFW external information officers. The tour will highlight specific projects currently underway. A suggestion was made to include a slide show on the Soda Springs project, rather than having an onsite tour, due to safety concerns with the current construction activity. Pam Sighting differed and said that having even a 5-10 minute “look over the dam” would be very beneficial. Rich Grost and/or Monte will check with the project manager on what will be happening that time and if access onto the dam would be feasible. If safety is a concern this year, then next year could be an opportunity. Rich said that if we advertise a Soda Springs visit, there might be more than the usual amount of attendees. For public information opportunities, Craig Kohanek suggested perhaps notifying PBS for an Oregon Public Field Guide topic. Discussion followed on this and Craig suggested a separate session for such a PBS presentation next year or when the project is nearly completed. Monte suggested that Craig look into it as an opportunity. Other project highlights and

tour areas include Slide Creek tailrace barrier area, activities along the Lemolo 2 road, Lemolo 1 forebay/wetland enhancement, Poole Creek boat ramp, and new Toketee intake trash intake rack. The Lemolo 2 reroute project could be “talked about” as we drive by. This should provide enough for a good tour. Craig also suggested also emphasizing touring projects completed (accomplishments).

CURRENT PROJECT UPDATES

Lemolo 1 Forebay and Wetland – The civil work is completed and the liner has been installed. PacifiCorp will start filling the forebay tomorrow (September 16); five days will be required to fill the forebay at 7 CFS. This will allow for better water system management. Currently, trees are being planted in the disturbed area on west side of the forebay. The wetland will be planted by a PacifiCorp consultant in October. This is the first wetland that PacifiCorp has created out of dry ground, tapping water out of forebay. Water will flow through the engineered wetland at 0.3 CFS year-round. Monitoring will be conducted for up to five years to ensure adequate vegetation coverage. Amphibians are expected to populate the site from other areas.

Soda Springs Fish Passage

Construction is proceeding on an accelerated schedule. Because of the late FERC approval to commence construction, and because of unexpected geotechnical conditions, which resulted in re-engineering of site foundations for fish ladder entrance and the fish screen structure itself, we will be getting less done in 2010 than anticipated. The fish ladder entrance and screen area will be walled off for continuation of work during high water season until use of Spillway No. 2 is necessary. The goal for this year is to regain the schedule to the extent possible before winter weather prevents further work. We received approval from ODFW and NMFS for working until the site is inundated. In order to minimize the potential for a turbidity event during the winter, the work site should be secure, clean, and the water flow managed by October 15, after which potential high flows are imminent. We will need to dewater and salvage fish again in 2011. The project completion schedule without acceleration is the end of 2012. With acceleration, the project could be completed by April 2012. The realistic projection is that we will not have a functional facility until mid-2012, at the earliest.

The new schedule raises some questions. The license requirement calls for increased flows in 2012. Do we need to implement higher flows if the project is not yet completed? Or do we implement them when fish will not be able to use the facility? Rich Grost stated, for clarification, that the technical start date for Table 2 flows is the 7th anniversary of new license becoming final, which is October 18, 2012. So, it may not be an issue after all. Stephanie Burchfield appreciates all that PacifiCorp is doing, despite various delays, but isn't sure she wants to support a one-year completion delay. She asked if the fish ladder could be completed before the screen. Monte said it is hard to tell what events may cause the delay (natural events, high flows, etc.) but that work will be done as rapidly and safely as possible to get project completed. He said we will know more after this winter. Safety is our biggest concern.

Aquatic Connectivity – Weekly Bros. is currently working on six sites along the lower Lemolo 2 canal.

Toketee Trash Rack – The rack has been installed and is operating. The programming for the automated trash rake will be completed this week.

Slide Creek Tailrace Barrier Design – The 90% design meeting is scheduled for October 14. This year, PacifiCorp is completing preparatory work for both the tailrace barrier and a plant overhaul. Work includes extending the parking lot in front of the powerhouse and the road behind the powerhouse for a crane pad and access to the new tailrace barrier. The parking lot will be mostly completed by October 1. A box culvert has been installed through which Slide Creek will be routed following construction of the tailrace barrier.

Poole Creek Boat Ramp at Lemolo Lake – Construction is scheduled to start on October 5. Steve Albertelli estimates the ramp site will be completely in the dry by October 12 or 13, depending on weather conditions.

Stinkhole Wetland Design

This wetland will be completed same time as the Lemolo 2 Reroute project. The wetland delineation work started yesterday upstream of the Stinkhole pond. The delineation/topography work will be done this fall. This is fifth of eight required wetlands required by the Settlement Agreement.

Rich mentioned that minor maintenance removal of accumulated sediments and woody debris from the intake to Slide Creek canal will begin early-to-mid October.

Monte mentioned that the next round of testing of the Obermeyer weir (instream flows switched from spillgate to the weir) will be conducted next week. Following performance verification, hydro operations should be able to use the weir to provide flows in the bypass reach rather than the spillgate.

TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP (TWG) UPDATES

Aquatic Connectivity/Wetlands – designs have been completed for 16 sites, scheduled for construction over the next few years. The design consultant is now completing designs on the more complex sites to be constructed in 2011 and 2017. As designs are developed, they will be sent to the USDA-FS, ODFW, and ODEQ for review.

L2R (Lemolo 2 Reroute) – The final design was approved by the TWG in June. Plans and specifications are completed and will be submitted to FERC PRO for approval. The Joint Permit Application has been completed and sent out for review by ACOE and DSL. The procurement process will be started within the next couple of months. This would bring on a contractor by the end of year or early 2011. We hope to start construction by March 2011. A nine-month construction process is anticipated, beginning with the lower area to upper area. There will be a brief inconvenience to the recreation site. Pam Sichting said the timber sale is scheduled for Wednesday, September 22. She said these are the worst timber market conditions since the 1940s, and that perhaps the timber could be decked until February.

FHS (Fish Habitat Studies)

The SA 19.2 crew just completed two grueling weeks snorkeling in Fish Creek and Slide Creek bypass and full flow reach for resident fish population monitoring. They are also starting the first spring chinook red surveys for 2010 on the North Umpqua. Brook trout eradication efforts are mostly completed for 2010.

Stillwater is analyzing the resident fish population information as planned. Rich and Dave both agree that it would make more sense in 2011 to produce a summary report of baseline conditions for all years combined, rather than do another annual report for 2010 only. This will be a fairly substantial data management, analysis, and writing effort for which they propose using Stillwater Sciences to take advantage of their technical and statistical expertise. Rich will get a cost estimate from Stillwater. After everything encumbered, there will still be \$50,000 left in the fund for next year, which should be enough to produce a solid summary report for future use. No work is planned for the next few years due to interference of construction on the Soda Springs Fish Passage and the Slide Creek tailrace barrier projects. The bulk of post passage monitoring doesn't start for another 10-15 years. Stephanie suggested managing Stillwater to limit efforts to a cost-effective report without excess glitter. Rich will get the process rolling and let the TWG know of Stillwater's cost estimate.

FPD (Fish Passage Design)

Discussed above in current projects. The 90% design meeting for the Slide Creek tailrace barrier is scheduled for October 14. Most of the issues that came out of the 60% design meeting were centered on debris management; the same issues as the Soda Springs tailrace barrier. Options for debris management and cofferdam design will be discussed at the 90% meeting. The AECOM modeling was done in June. The report has been completed and Beth Bendickson will send a DVD of both it and the modeling videos to the RCC.

Another FPD subject requiring resolution is the manner of restoring hydraulic control to the pool at the base of Soda Springs dam. As discussed in past RCC meetings, a concrete weir upstream of the Soda Springs bridge, where we use to have log weirs, would provide a more precise hydraulic control than logs would and also greater longevity. A concrete structure would be built when the riverbed is dewatered and the surface would be textured and colored to imitate large logs. All RCC members supported the use of a concrete weir, except that the USDA-FS requested follow up with technical staff prior to approving. Rich will send an email to the RCC and USDA-FS technical staff to confirm their support so that design can proceed.

F&R (Flows & Ramping)

Roger Reynolds is planning to set up a TWG meeting in the fall and/or winter per Mikeal Jones' request.

PacifiCorp has a design for the temporary relocation of the Soda Springs bypass gage developed in consultation with the USGS. The schedule is uncertain, but the relocation is likely to happen sometime this fall and be in service for about one year. Rich will keep the TWG updated.

Lemolo Reservoir

The last TWG meeting went through the standard agenda updates. Joe Eilers updated us on his monitoring efforts -- the short story is that each year has been different regarding bloom characteristics, timing, and species. There have been differences in tui chub – numbers, size and time of year they show up. Nothing is easy to nail down as far as any long term effects. There are more and more blooms occurring in other lakes as well. One of the big discussions at the last RCC meeting was whether the TWG still needed. The TWG agreed to reshape this group as a broader group treating water quality issues in the whole North Umpqua basin. Mikeal Jones has agreed to spearhead this group. The tentative date for the next meeting is November 10. This is intended as a transition meeting, basically the last meeting of the Lemolo Reservoir TWG and the first meeting of the larger group. The hope is that DHS could lead the larger group effort with their blue green algae task force personnel, but until then the leadership of the group could rotate among involved agencies. The USDA-FS agreed to manage the November 10 meeting. The RCC will consider dissolving the Lemolo Reservoir TWG after the November meeting. Monte said while regularly scheduled meetings for water quality may not be needed, meetings could be scheduled as needed, and PacifiCorp would continue to participate at the technical level.

Tui chub trap netting funding from the SA 19.3 and PacifiCorp fund for 2010 has been used up as of the end of July. Scott Lamb trapped at least through August 12. They were still getting a few hundred chub, less than three inches in size. Once they tapered off, he ended the effort. Rich will ask Scott to send any remaining data sheets to him and the ODFW.

19.3 funding - Ariel Hiller suggested to set October 1-15 as the standardized schedule. Pam said they are currently refining it. They have peer groups that usually get together in July and August. Sometimes projects can be funded through mitigation funds, leaving more money available.

Public Comments – none at this time.

The next RCC meeting will be a conference call on October 20, 10:00 AM to Noon.

Meeting adjourned.

Bendickson, Beth

Subject: RE: Soda Springs upper log weir replacement with concrete weir

From: Grost, Richard

Sent: Monday, September 20, 2010 1:12 PM

To: 'Pam Sighting'

Cc: cstreet@fs.fed.us; Garrett, Monte; Bendickson, Beth; Ariel Hiller; Bill Gamble; Chris Stine ; Craig Kohanek; Dave A Harris; Edward Meyer ; Garrett, Monte; Gina Freel; Jim Thrailkill; Rob Burns; Stephanie Burchfield; Blum, Michael

Subject: RE: Soda Springs upper log weir replacement with concrete weir

Thanks Pam, I'll get the ball rolling in that direction with the design and contract crews.

From: Pam Sighting [mailto:psighting@fs.fed.us]

Sent: Monday, September 20, 2010 12:52 PM

To: Grost, Richard

Cc: cstreet@fs.fed.us; Garrett, Monte; Bendickson, Beth; Ariel Hiller; Bill Gamble; Chris Stine ; Craig Kohanek; Dave A Harris; Edward Meyer ; Garrett, Monte; Gina Freel; Grost, Richard; Jim Thrailkill; Pam Sighting; Rob Burns; Stephanie Burchfield; Blum, Michael

Subject: Re: Soda Springs upper log weir replacement with concrete weir

Rich, I have talked to our FS staff and we are in agreement to proceed with the concrete weir as proposed below. PJS

Pam Sighting
North Umpqua Hydroelectric Program Manager
Umpqua National Forest
(541) 957-3342 Office
(541) 957-3495 Fax
(541) 670-0812 Cell

"Grost, Richard" <Richard.Grost@PacifiCorp.com>

09/17/2010 05:28 PM

To "cstreet@fs.fed.us" <cstreet@fs.fed.us>

cc Pam Sighting <psighting@fs.fed.us>, "Garrett, Monte"
<Monte.Garrett@PacifiCorp.com>

Subject Soda Springs upper log weir replacement with concrete weir

Hi Craig – I want to follow up with you to be sure that USFS supports replacing the upper log weir in Soda Springs bypass reach (the one upstream of the bridge, currently removed for construction) with a concrete weir as we've discussed. We appreciate your efforts to locate some green logs and potentially even live trees of appropriate size (e.g. 60 ft long, 4 ft dia) since the existing logs are too decayed and worn to be worth reusing. But since the water level in this pool is critical to the function of the new fish ladder, it seems the form of the weir should really be driven by the primary function of maintaining a suitable water level, and secondarily for other habitat functions like retaining gravel. In recent RCC discussions we've concluded that a concrete weir would allow for more precise control of final water level as well as greater longevity, while also holding gravel more reliably. Contractors assure me that they can build such a weir so that the concrete surface resembles a log weir (e.g. rounded top, colored concrete), which would be the plan. On the phone call last Wed the other RCC members supported the concrete option as long as it can be built in the dry and made to resemble a log feature, and as long as USFS does not disagree. Please confer with Pam to confirm that USFS supports this option, and then I can proceed to get specs engineered and contracts modified to make it happen. (Of course this work would be funded by the fish passage project, not the RCC fish habitat funds.) Thanks,

RTG