

8-17-11 Meeting Summary ** Approved 9-21-11 **
RESOURCE COORDINATION COMMITTEE (RCC)
NORTH UMPQUA HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT- FERC #1927-008

RCC Members or Alternates Present

Monte Garrett (PacifiCorp Energy)
Craig Kohanek (OWRD)
Rob Burns (USFWS)
Pam Sichting (USDA-FS)
Anne Shirley (BLM)
Chris Stine (ODEQ)
Dave Harris (ODFW)
Ed Meyer (NMFS)

Also Present

Beth Bendickson (PacifiCorp Energy)
Rich Grost (PacifiCorp Energy)
Mike Blum (PacifiCorp Energy)
Mark Brown (videographer)
John Unger (OWRD)
Jim Thrailkill (USFWS)

INTRODUCTIONS, AGENDA, OLD BUSINESS

Member Updates - *no member updates this month.*

RCC Meeting Schedule

Considering the stage and development of the implementation program, Monte questioned whether we want to continue to have monthly meetings, and perhaps change the frequency of the meetings. Pam indicated that because so much construction is currently occurring, we are now in a critical time in the program. Therefore, monthly meetings may still be appropriate. More discussion will follow in future months.

Public Information Opportunities

The Partnership for Umpqua Rivers (PUR) tour was attended by Pam, Dave, and Rich, along with PUR, their board of directors, some Steamboaters and some members of the public. Rich showed a PowerPoint presentation summarizing the current construction projects. Everyone seemed to appreciate this presentation and asked many questions, even about the basic design, operation, and purpose of the hydro project (it would be good to start each PowerPoint presentation to public audiences with this information). The group then toured the Soda Springs fish passage project. A school bus was used for the tour transportation and for safety the only viewing stop was the bridge.

Pam asked about the flyer (fact sheet) that was handed out on the tour (same as was used for the anniversary event). She said if we are going to use it for public information, we may want to include information about the RCC collaboration as well. Such a handout may be useful for the annual public tour.

Public Tour – October 19 was chosen as the tentative date. Everyone would meet at 9AM for the RCC meeting, and then start the tour at 10:30AM after a safety brief, following by the project tour at noon.

RCC Action: Approve the July 20, 2011 Meeting Summary – *Approved 8-17-11.*

CURRENT PROJECT UPDATES

Soda Springs Fish Passage

Construction is actively continuing on a newly revised schedule. The FERC has given verbal approval of project completion date of November 30, 2012. Both the hydraulic and biological testing will occur in 2013, with the final report due in 2014.

Currently, the penstock is being extended across the river on a temporary wood trestle.

The fish habitat maintenance work will be done in 2012 after most of the in-water fish passage construction is complete, as agreed to by the agencies following a site visit on July 26.

Aquatic Connectivity Sites (2011 Work) - no change from last month.

The 14 sites planned for 2011 are going forward and are on schedule to be completed this year.

Slide Creek Tailrace Barrier

The cofferdam is complete; however, there are still some water management issues. Sheetpile is being used to control the water seeping through the cofferdam. For the most part, the contractor is working in the dewatered area. But we are behind schedule due to past high water issues. Monte will wait until September to make a decision whether or not to request an extension with FERC.

Rich completed the last and final fish salvage. The contractors are working down in the hole. The overhaul project is moving along on schedule.

Stinkhole Wetland

The contract was awarded to Weekly Bros. The project will be completed this year, with mobilization beginning in September. Materials (large rocks and trees) from the Lemolo 2 Reroute project will be used to provide necessary habitat structure for the Stinkhole wetland.

Lemolo 2 Reroute

This project is on schedule. We are well past 50% complete as far as laying the pipe. The outlet structure is 90% complete. The inlet structure is about 50% complete. Blasting is being conducted as needed to break down large boulders and remove them from the pipeline route.

ADA-Accessible Fishing Pier at Toketee Lake

Fourteen 5-foot boulders will be provided from the Lemolo 2 Reroute project for fish habitat off the new fishing pier. The contractor expects to mobilize soon. The work will happen this month and next, and be completed by October, in time for the public tour.

Toketee Stream Gage Relocation - *no change from last month.* Construction expected during September.

TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP (TWG) UPDATES

Flow and Ramping TWG – WY09 Annual Report Completed

The Flow Monitoring Plan annual report for Water Year 2009 was recently distributed to the ODEQ, OWRD, and USDA-FS.

Aquatic Connectivity/Wetlands

Design process update: *No change since last month.* Designs for all 54 sites have been completed and approved by the required parties. Nine sites were completed in 2009-2010, and 14 are being completed this year. The remaining 31 sites will be completed by 2016. Additional aquatic reconnections were completed as part of wildlife crossing construction in previous years.

Identification of future wetland sites: Steve Albertelli is working with Jeff Bohler (USDA-FS) and ODFW to identify the final three sites and set up a timetable to commence the design process.

Operational Updates

Lemolo Reservoir: In the past several years, the Lemolo Reservoir has had water quality issues due to operations. This year it has been operating at normal levels, perhaps due to the high snowpack. Rich said a simple plan can be put together to ensure there is no danger of having flows on the low side during spring Chinook season.

Actions Affecting River Flows: Besides the planned outages on the list emailed in March and updated in July, there may be a 3-day outage causing increased flows in the Lemolo 2 bypass reach during September for the Lemolo 2 Reroute project. Rich will revise the outage table if and when this is confirmed. Also, there is a small chance that flows in the Lemolo 1 reach may fluctuate tomorrow. PacifiCorp Energy just found out about the need for some substation work which may need a short powerhouse outage. Monte does not anticipate any problems or long-term effects. We normally will give a two-week notice for planned events that affect river flows. It has been difficult this year to predict these events with the implementation construction projects going on.

Lemolo 1 Forebay: Initial monitoring suggests that the pH is high. The forebay was designed to have water circulation on a daily basis so it does not get stagnant, grow algae, yield high pH, etc. However, since there is no manipulation of Soda Springs reservoir due to the fish passage construction, we cannot manipulate flows at Lemolo 1 as much as normal. As it is not fluctuating as we anticipate it will be in the future, the Lemolo 1 forebay is less dynamic than anticipated and that may be exacerbating

pH. Chris said that it is still valuable to monitor now and have information to compare to the future, more normal operational conditions. The RCC acknowledges that there are lots of things going on this year that do not represent normal conditions.

Lemolo 2 Tailrace: Initial monitoring here suggested that pH was lower than in the past, but occasionally higher than 8.5. The expected solution to past high pH events was the excavation of forebay weeds that we did two years ago. It is possible that measurements here could be affected by high pH inflows from Lemolo 1 forebay. We will continue to monitor and analyze the information.

Monte said next year we will be able to operate normally, and it may warrant a repeat of these monitoring efforts to confirm compliance with state water quality standards. Much depends on whether we need to have another dewatering at the Soda Springs fish passage project. The current construction forecast is that we will not have to do another dewatering.

On a good note, there have been no large blooms of blue green algae or Public Health Advisories on Lemolo Reservoir yet this year, despite having one on Diamond Lake. Craig asked what makes this year different from last year. Discussion included colder, wetter spring, higher snowpack, and apparently fewer tui chubs (based on Lemolo Reservoir trapnetting data). It is quite possible that, although nobody really knows, our efforts over the past four years may actually have helped improve water quality in Lemolo Reservoir. *“Of course, it’s due to everyone’s great efforts!”*

Lemolo 2 Canal Flume 12 Erosion Event Update: In a debriefing, Monte presented lessons that PacifiCorp learned during the event. Our procedures for watering up the canal after maintenance and for alarming at the operator’s desk have been modified. A lot of what happened could have been minimized by implementing more appropriate procedures. The future emphasis is to have more eyes out on the ground, and ensure that debris does not clog the intakes. Better instrumentation has been installed on our operator’s desk to determine when there is a problem in the canal or that an overflow is occurring. There was also a question about the canal shutoff & drainage system. Monte added that it was shut off/disabled as part of the maintenance activity. However, in the future it will be kept available so that operation of the facility may minimize such an overflow event.

Monte handed out a copy of the *Draft Water-Up Procedures for the Lemolo 2 Canal* for review by the RCC. It was asked if the procedures were being adopted by the whole company. Rich said it would have to be customized because each facility is different.

Mike added that the operators had done an initial flushing and cleaning prior to canal water-up, but enough small material (leaves, small twigs, etc.) remained to cause the problem. Because the re-watering began in the late afternoon, the ramping ran past midnight and the blockage occurred mostly during darkness. Chris stated that according to Settlement Agreement section 14.3.3 (Site Specific Plans for Remediation), it is a timing/performance issue. He said that the RCC is concerned about three things with regard to future events.

1. Procedures – for watering up the canal.
2. Slope stabilization.
3. Mitigation of resources.

These three elements are presented in section SA 14.3.3.

Pam handed out a report by Craig Street on the Flume 12 event causing erosion into the North Umpqua River with photos that the report provided. The RCC wants to see a finalized remediation plan (Steve Albertelli initiated this with a draft plan immediately after the event). PacifiCorp and the RCC will also need to work together complete the remediation plan (Plan).

Monte asked for time to review the report so that it could help to inform the Plan. He replied that this event was highly unusual, and he feels that the steps PacifiCorp is taking to remediate damage to the hillside are integral components of the Plan. It may be very difficult to quantify damage to the river or take action to remediate the river channel. Natural events cause such impacts to large rivers, which are able to rebound over time through natural processes. Anything we can do to expedite this “healing” process may be beneficial. However, active manipulation of the river channel may cause more harm than good.

Pam said that SA 14.3.3 mandates the Plan. Referencing photos in the report, she indicated that there are a few chunks of twisted metal down the hillside and in the riverbed below (whether debris in the river happened because of this event is not known). Perhaps a TWG group could discuss this.

It was suggested that a date be set up for a conference call to discuss further development of the Plan, including the ongoing spillway and slope restoration, as well as river clean-up and habitat monitoring in more detail. August 30 was chosen, from 2-3PM. It will be set up as an FHS TWG and will be to discuss the next steps with regard to development of the Plan.

Public Comments – *none at this time.*

The next RCC meeting will be a conference call on September 21 at 10:00AM.

Meeting adjourned.