

7-20-11 Meeting Summary * * Approved 8-17-11 * *
RESOURCE COORDINATION COMMITTEE (RCC)
NORTH UMPQUA HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT- FERC #1927-008

RCC Members or Alternates Present

Monte Garrett (PacifiCorp Energy)
Craig Kohanek (OWRD)
Stephanie Burchfield (NMFS)
Rob Burns (USFWS)
Pam Sighting (USDA-FS)

Also Present

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

Absent

Dave Harris (ODFW) – Proxy given to Craig Kohanek
Anne Shirley (BLM)
Chris Stine (ODEQ)

INTRODUCTIONS, AGENDA, OLD BUSINESS

Member Updates

BLM – Anne Shirley is now the RCC representative for the BLM. She replaced Ariel Hiller.
USDA-FS – Steve Marchi (Gina Freel’s replacement) will start on September 1, as the Recreation Engineer of Lands/Mineral Officer.

RCC Action: Approve the May 18, 2011 Meeting Summary – *Approved 7-20-11.*

Public Information Opportunities

Monte will give presentations to the Rotary Club (at Kowloon Restaurant in Roseburg) on July 21 and to the Optimists Club (at Elmer’s Restaurant) on July 22. Other RCC members are invited to participate in these presentations. Pam indicated that she would attend these meetings as well.

Rich said he was approached by the Partnership for Umpqua Rivers (PUR) to provide them a public tour of the Soda Springs fish passage site on August 16, which he agreed to do. PUR has a large school bus reserved and may have 30 or so participants. RCC members were invited, and one member each from USDA-FS and ODFW plan to attend. Rich will coordinate the itinerary with them and PUR.

Settlement Agreement - 10th Year Anniversary (June 13, 2011)

The event was successful and low-key, with no attendance from either legislators or the governor’s office. The local TV station did a nice piece, and a positive article appeared in the local newspaper.

CURRENT PROJECT UPDATES

Soda Springs Fish Passage

Rich Grost oversaw the salvaging of fish at the base of the dam as it was dewatered on July 12. The contractors are now getting back to work below the ordinary high water mark at the fish ladder entrance and the lower end of the fish screen structure. PacifiCorp received FERC Approval to remove Spillway #2 (gate and concrete ogee section) required for construction of the fish screen. The contractor has already sawed a hole through the dam for the fish ladder penetration. A lot work is going-on and PacifiCorp has readjusted the schedule for completion. The project is scheduled to be complete by November 30, 2012. PacifiCorp is awaiting FERC concurrence of our request for change of schedule filed in June. Other recent design approvals relate to extending the wing-wall on the top of the dam for flood flow control and scour protection at the toe around the fish ladder entrance. The project is moving along well and no more major surprises are anticipated that will affect the schedule.

Pam inquired whether the RCC could have access to view the Todd Construction video camera. It is primarily for Todd Construction and PacifiCorp to monitor construction conditions, and can get bogged down with too much traffic, but Monte will find out and get back to the RCC.

Soda Springs bypass reach – Rich sent out an e-mail seeking group approval to modify the agreement regarding instream flow during construction. The issue is that the RCC has targeted a minimum flow in the bypass reach of 100 CFS, rather than the license required 275 CFS. The goal is to provide adequate flow for fish while reducing attraction of fish into the construction site area while reducing the propensity of adult anadromous fish to leap at the minimum instream flow facility (MIFF). Rob asked how it was determined that 100 CFS was acceptable. Rich said that ODFW reviewed different historical flows (25, 95, 150 and up to 200s) and estimated that 100 CFS was sufficient to keep the 8.3 gravel augmentation project functional, but low enough that fewer fish would be attracted into the bypass reach. In 2010, the MIFF released 240 CFS. This created far too much turbulence at the facility and a wave that attracted fish to jump at the concrete structure. Unfortunately, this rate of flow could not be adjusted down. Several fixes were evaluated, and after extensive calculation by consulting engineers, a new orifice plate was installed on the MIFF. After we came out of spill July 12 and had some additional flow measurements made by USGS, it was apparent that the flow provided by this new orifice is about 76 CFS. This reduced flow appears successful at reducing attraction and leaping at the MIFF, but is lower than anticipated or was previously agreed to. Re-modifying the MIFF would require either re-spilling at Soda Springs dam or dewatering the Soda Springs bypass reach, neither of which are practical now.

Sam Moyers and Rich observed the reach after the fish salvage last week, and ODFW subsequently agreed to retain the existing flow condition and monitor any impacts to spawning fish. NMFS also tentatively agreed to the existing flow pending their site recon next week.

Rob inquired about what kind of influence is there in gravel spawning beds at a difference of 100 cfs versus 76 CFS. Rich said the spawning area remains submerged at the lower flow, but has less depth and velocity over it. In October, fish may be more concentrated but fewer fish will be attracted. Pam asked if adding more gravel would expand spawning areas to compensate for the lower flows? Rich said that it may, and that the high flows in January caused substantial loss of gravel as well as the loss of a portion of the 1992 log weir. Rich said some repairs could be done this year. Monte mentioned that there is a log replacement project scheduled for 2012. Rich said that as PacifiCorp completes the

in-water work for the Soda Springs fish passage project, it will rebuild the upper pool log weir with a concrete weir. In the downstream reach (lower pool tail-out), most of the needed work would be basic maintenance to re-seed with gravel and repair the log weirs.

Pam offered that adding gravel would show the public that the RCC is being responsible for the lack of minimum flow expected from the MIFF.

Rich will coordinate with Fish TWG members regarding potential habitat work this year and in 2012. Pam requested knowing when this would be happening. Ed will be at the project next Tuesday. Rich said adding gravel should be small enough to fit within the current permit. If done this year, it would need to be done in August or early September.

RCC Action: The RCC concurs with the reduced minimum instream flow, contingent upon plan for habitat maintenance and improvement. * Approved 7-20-11 *

On another note, a weather related storm earlier this week set off the Emergency Notification for high flow, but the storm passed without needing to evacuate the construction site.

Aquatic Connectivity - *no change from last month.*

Fourteen sites are being completed this year. These are the “simple” sites (stream bridges and modified culverts). Other more complex aquatic reconnections will be completed between 2012 and 2016.

Slide Creek Tailrace Barrier

The cofferdam is complete upstream to downstream in front of the tailrace, although there is a lot of water seeping into the work area. Monday’s storm kicked in a lot of extra water. There have been challenges with pumping capacity and site-specific conditions. Several fish salvages have been done, as water level varies inside the coffer dam, but PacifiCorp has been unable to pump the whole area out. When the seepage is stopped, a final fish salvage will be done. Until then, not a lot of construction can be accomplished; as there is still ten feet of water inside the coffer dam.

Monte mentioned that the Settlement Agreement completion date for the project is October 18. He said it’s unlikely to be completed by the due date and that it may take until the end of the year or possibly longer. This delay is due to the extended high flows from extreme snowpack and cool weather and made coffer dam installation, right in the middle of the river, challenging. The schedule changed once already, due to the Settlement Agreement specifying both the Soda Springs fish passage and the Slide Creek tailrace project completion in the same year (2010). To make construction more feasible, the fish passage work at Soda Springs was spread out over three years (2009, 2010, and 2011). The Slide Creek tailrace barrier was changed from 2010 to 2011. PacifiCorp prefers not to further extend the schedule for Slide Creek, but that decision may need to be made later this year. When we have the site tour this fall, we will see more of what is happening out on the ground.

Stinkhole Wetland Design

The contract proposal is being evaluated and bid award will be announced at the end of July. Trees and other materials from the Lemolo 2 Reroute project will be utilized as habitat features in the enhanced wetland.

Lemolo 2 Reroute

This project is moving right along. The outlet structure is complete and the inlet structure is at about 30% complete. The contractor is currently laying pipe along Rigdon road (1,000 feet is done; 2,000 feet to go). This project is on schedule to be complete by October 18. The USDA-FS is monitoring the work, but no cultural artifacts have been found to cause any delays.

ADA-Accessible Fishing Pier at Toketee Lake

The contract was awarded to J.R. Merit. Craig inquired about fish in the area. Monte replied that the USDA-FS worked with PacifiCorp to provide for the placement of 14 boulders, five feet in diameter to help provide for fish habitat adjacent to the new fishing pier.

Toketee Stream Gage Relocation

The work has been contracted and will occur in August/September as planned.

TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP (TWG) UPDATES

Fish Creek Modeling – Rich is working with ODEQ and ODFW to move forward with modeling the impacts of a minor low-flow diversion of water. A modification of the TMDL (and hence diverted flows) may not be possible for several years, after other higher-priority TMDLs are completed by ODEQ

Aquatic Connectivity/Wetlands

The simple sites will be finished this year. The approximately 30 other sites are fairly complex and involve cutting flumes to replacing very large culverts and more extensive modification of drainages. The designs are complete and approved, and construction will be completed from 2012 – 2016.

Three more wetlands will be completed 2014-2016. Steve Albertelli is working with USDA-FS on site selection for the next wetland.

Operational Updates

Lemolo Reservoir Management for High Snowpack

Per Rich, PacifiCorp was able to use additional storage capacity to better manage the snowmelt. It helped to reduce flows lower down in the project. For the last month or so, the reservoir has been back in the normal operation range – above 4,147 feet. Some of the storage was used to help absorb the rainstorm this week (100 CFS) into storage to help reduce risk of spilling at the Soda Springs dam.

Scott Lamb's tui chub trapping operation is progressing, with no major gatherings of tui chub this year. He is catching several hundred fish per day, a mix of small and big fish. ODFW, along with Craig Street, is monitoring the effort pretty closely. The big question is whether there will be another blue green algae bloom this year. Rich noted that with the cool weather, the water is getting clearer.

Maintenance Actions Affecting Flows

Recently the Lemolo 1 powerhouse was scheduled for maintenance August 29 to September 2. A fish salvage is not required as some flow will be retained in the canal. The bypass reach will have high, near-natural flows.

Lemolo 2 Sag Pipe Erosion Event Update

Following a maintenance activity on July 1, the canal was watered-up and debris plugged the trash rack upstream of the Lemolo 2 sagpipe. Water backed up and flowed for a long period of time, approximately eight hours, causing a flume overflow and ultimately washing out the lower section of a spillway/half-culvert. This in turn, caused a collapse of material into the river below. This event caused turbidity on Friday night and Saturday. PacifiCorp did a Significant Event Report and is currently adopting new procedures to prevent a repeat of such an event. A remediation project is also underway and will be completed by September. Monte thanked the USDA-FS for their cooperation in expediting the remediation plans to minimize the extent of erosion damage.

Pam asked about the Lemolo 2 canal shutoff and drainage gate location and why it didn't work. Monte said the event occurred after a maintenance activity and therefore the gates were not in operation. Pam was concerned that it ran for eight hours and wanted to know if PacifiCorp personnel were monitoring it. Monte replied that in the future more eyes will be on the ground when waterways are watered-up after such maintenance actions, according to new procedures. New alarms have also been installed at the control operator's station to alert the operator at the desk when canal water level differentials occur. Pam also asked about the current rainstorm vs. turbidity in river. Rich said turbidity was minor at Soda Springs (about 2 NTU) and in the W&S reach, but that he observed high turbidity in Idleyld Park which was apparently coming mostly from Rock Creek and lower-basin tributaries.

Public Comments – *none at this time.*

The next RCC meeting will be a face-to-face meeting at Toketee on August 17.

Meeting adjourned.