

4-20-11 Meeting Summary *Approved 5-20-11 *
RESOURCE COORDINATION COMMITTEE (RCC)
NORTH UMPQUA HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT- FERC #1927-008

RCC Members or Alternates Present

Also Present

Monte Garrett (PacifiCorp Energy)
Craig Kohanek (OWRD)
Chris Stine (ODEQ)
Ed Meyer (NMFS)
Dave Harris (ODFW)
Rob Burns (USFWS)
Ariel Hiller (BLM)

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

Absent

Pam Sighting (USDA-FS)

INTRODUCTIONS, AGENDA, OLD BUSINESS

Member Updates

BLM: Anne Shirley will be filling in for Ariel Hiller during the May and June RCC meetings while Ariel is on detail in Portland. Anne has a realty/rights-of-way background. Max Yager will try to attend the June 24 anniversary event.

RCC Action: Approve the March 16, 2011 Meeting Summary **Approved 4-20-11**

Public Information Opportunities - none at this time.

PacifiCorp External Communications group set up a presentation of the implementation program with the Optimists Rotary Club, to be held on July 21 in Roseburg. Monte will show the implementation program video and field questions with the group. Any other RCC representatives are invited to participate in this presentation.

Craig mentioned that he mailed the North Umpqua implementation program video to OPB's Oregon Field Guide, in hopes they would consider doing a segment on the NU implementation program.

Ariel said she is helping to coordinate a large clean-up event on the Umpqua River. So far, the BLM, USDA-FS, Partnership for Umpqua Rivers, and the Boy Scouts are involved. It will be held sometime in September. If PacifiCorp or other agencies want to participate, she requested they be directed to her.

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

The event is scheduled at the Steamboat Inn on June 24 at 2:00 p.m. A letter on behalf of the RCC was sent out to Richard Whitman, the Natural Resources Advisor in the Governor's office. PacifiCorp is awaiting his response. PacifiCorp will provide a project poster board display and the North Umpqua video will be shown. Monte asked for a rough headcount from each agency to better coordinate space requirements and food logistics.

CURRENT PROJECT UPDATES

Soda Springs Fish Passage

The project is progressing quite successfully. The dam is still spilling, but only several hundred cubic feet per second (cfs) recently. Over the weekend, flows spiked a bit, but all contractors are working above the ordinary high water (OHW) mark or inside coffer-dammed areas. Unless flows are extremely high, there should be no delays in the work moving forward. PacifiCorp expects that because of the large snowpack there may be a high and prolonged runoff, which may delay dewatering and getting into the river channel below the OHW mark. There are no issues to report; overall everything is looking good.

As far as schedule goes, PacifiCorp hopes to have the project completed by April/May 2012. If things don't go well, it may be late-2012. The schedule at FERC still calls for this project to be done October 2011, so this expectation will eventually need to be corrected. As soon as we get a more accurate estimate of project completion, Monte will send out an e-mail requesting support from USDA-FS, ODFW, NMFS, and USFWS for this change of schedule, as they are the key agencies for approving this project. However, support will be requested from the whole RCC.

Aquatic Connectivity - *no change from last month.*

The pre-bid meeting took place for completion of up to 14 sites this year. Construction is expected to move forward this summer, with no issues.

Slide Creek

Project construction has kicked off. The cofferdam is under construction and water quality is being monitored to document appropriate conditions during in-water work. The cofferdam is similar to the one used for the Soda Springs tailrace barrier project. It's a narrow area to work in at Slide Creek. The plant overhaul will happen concurrently with the tailrace barrier construction. For the tailrace barrier work, access to the south side will be via a construction bridge to the cofferdam. For the plant overhaul, the contractor will be working on the north side. The tailrace will be dewatered in early May. Thus, there is lots of activity going on in that area as well as in close proximity with the Soda Springs fish passage work. There will be congestion, but we will try to get through it the best we can. This is the biggest, most dramatic construction year of the whole North Umpqua Implementation program. Because of all this and for safety reasons, PacifiCorp decided not to include a site meeting as part of the upcoming 10th anniversary event.

Fish Creek CSD Performance Test and Slide Creek Testing

The Obermeyer weir was successfully tested on April 18-19. However, the facility will be retested during the low flow period this summer to confirm its functionality.

Monte indicated that PacifiCorp would be pre-testing the Fish Creek CSD today in preparation for the agency field test tomorrow. ODFW and ODEQ confirmed that they planned to participate in the test, but other RCC members were unavailable.

Stinkhole Wetland Design

The design progressed to the 90% design phase. There are fairly minor issues to resolve. The bids will go out soon and for construction later this year. This wetland is located across the Toketee Rigdon Road from the Lemolo 2 Reroute project and will be constructed at the same time as that project.

Lemolo 2 Reroute

Construction has been going on for a month. The Toketee campground is closed. The sheetpile cofferdam is in place at the downstream end of the pipe and the contractor is getting ready to start excavation along the pipe route and at the upstream end. School bus sized rocks have been found and some minor blasting will be needed to break up the rock into manageable pieces that can be moved off site. The charges will be fairly small and under blankets, to muffle the sound. PacifiCorp is working with USDA Forest Service on a blasting plan. Project is expected to be completed by October 18.

ADA-Accessible Fishing Pier at Toketee Lake

This project is part of the requirements of the Recreation Resource Management Plan. The costs are higher than anticipated. After edits to the design, it will go out for bid. If bids come back in line with the budget, it will be constructed this year. If not, it may be pushed to 2012.

TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP (TWG) UPDATES

Aquatic Connectivity/Wetlands

Design is moving forward on the last of the more complex sites (15) to be constructed 2014-2016. Draft designs will be sent out to the USDA-FS and ODFW for review soon. The less complex (i.e., 'simple') sites will be done this year.

In addition, one more wetland site will be identified this year for design next year (for 2014 construction). Steve Albertelli will organize a site visit with possible locations. Two more wetlands will be selected, designed, constructed by 2016.

FHS (Fish Habitat Studies)

19.2 – Sam Moyers is working on the annual report for 2010. He is going back through all the smolt trap information. Stillwater Sciences is progressing on their work to summarize all pre-2011 data into

a complete baseline conditions report. There is no field work planned and no field personnel hired on this program for 2011.

Rich recommended that the float to count steelhead redds from Soda Springs downstream, scheduled for April 29, be cancelled due to his inability to row a boat (arm injury) and also due to high flows which will make it difficult to see steelhead and redds. He suggested that some RCC members may instead be interested in a fall float to count Chinook redds. **The TWG members on the call agreed to cancel the spring 2011 float.**

F&R (Flows & Ramping)

The TWG and USGS have approved the Toketee bypass reach stream gage relocation. A Notice-to-Proceed has been requested from the USDA-FS, to expand the parking area and install staff gages. This work and repair work at other gages is being estimated now, with most work likely to occur after snowmelt recedes.

North Umpqua Lake Management Group

The group met in March, and agreed to have annual meetings in March each year, with interim communication by email. Regarding Lemolo Reservoir, Joe Eilers summarized his monitoring work and conclusions for 2010, and the PacifiCorp report was released to the group. Management-wise, since the last RCC meeting, the ODFW and USDA-FS have agreed to allow more storage in Lemolo Reservoir than usual to reduce impacts to downstream construction projects during the anticipated high and prolonged snowmelt. The reservoir will likely be drawn down to the lowest level approved (4,117 ft MSL) and be held low until snowmelt begins in earnest. The boat ramps will not be usable for opening weekend of fishing (April 23), and may not be accessible until mid-late May depending on weather.

The USDA-FS has put together a news release to alert the public about opening day conditions of heavy snowpack and low water level. Rich hopes it will stress the use of PFDs when fishing along snowy banks or dragging boats into the water. Rob inquired about dock levels, as this Saturday is opening fishing day. Docks are high-and-dry at this water level but there are some bare banks along Bunker Hill campground that fishermen could access. Rich noted that the Poole Creek boat ramp parking area has been plowed open by PacifiCorp, and several campgrounds plowed open by the USDA-FS; although it won't be possible for boats to be launched from trailers.

Public Comments – *none at this time.*

The next RCC meeting will be a face-to-face meeting, held at the Toketee Implementation Office on May 18. More details to follow.

Meeting adjourned.