

5-18-11 Meeting Summary (in-person, at Toketee) * * Approved 7-20-11 * *
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)
Craig Street (USDA-FS)

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

Absent

Pam Sighting (USDA-FS)
Ariel Hiller/Anne Shirley (BLM)

INTRODUCTIONS, AGENDA, OLD BUSINESS

Member Updates

OWRD – Craig Kohanek mentioned there is a new position opening in Water Resources. There will be three people, comprising 2 full time employees, working on hydro issues. He talked about his working 25 % of the time on hydroelectric projects and 75% of his time on reimbursement authority. Furthermore, he said there is currently a bill in the legislature, the gist of which is if a position remains open in a state agency for six months or more it would automatically be eliminated.

USFWS – Rob Burns plans to announce his retirement date on Saturday. He indicated that much of his agency's time is currently being devoted to spotted owl recovery issues.

USDA-FS – The Boulder Flat construction project is starting. Bill Gamble will be back on June 13; Pam Sighting will be back on May 23.

RCC Action: Approve the April 20, 2011 Meeting Summary – *Approved 5-18-11.*

Public Information Opportunities - *none at this time.*

Monte will give a presentation to the Rotary Club in Roseburg on July 21 and another presentation to the Optimists Club (at Kowloon Restaurant in Roseburg) on July 22. Other RCC members are invited to participate in these presentations.

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

The event date is scheduled for June 24, from 2:00-5:00 pm at the Steamboat Inn. It will be an open house setting, with hors d'oeuvres and punch provided. PacifiCorp has prepared a poster board presentation with highlights of the first ten years of implementation projects.

Approximate agency attendance headcount:

USDA-FS: 10

OWRD: 2

ODEQ: 3

USFWS: 2

ODFW: 2

PacifiCorp: 5-7

NMFS: 1

BLM: 2

Merkely, White & Defazio – possibly sending 1-2 people

The local news/press and other interested parties will also be invited.

PacifiCorp will issue a press release that will be reviewed prior to release by the other Parties' public relations representatives.

CURRENT PROJECT UPDATES

Soda Springs Fish Passage

We have received approval from FERC-PRO to proceed with the modifications to Spillway #2 required for construction of the fish screen. The high snowpack and cold weather is causing an extended snowmelt which will preclude work at the base of the fish ladder until July, and force a delay in the overall construction schedule. Most of the ladder, screen, and evaluation facility will be place in 2011 but the fish passage facilities are not likely to be completed and functional until late 2012. Monte will send out e-mail to RCC for approval to move the completion/functionality date to November 2012. As requested by NMFS, he will outline the milestones showing what is expected to be completed in 2011, and what will move to 2012. The hydraulic and biological evaluation will be completed by the end of 2013.

Work is currently progressing on the evaluation facility and fish screen. The project is spilling about 200 cfs at the dam.

Aquatic Connectivity - *no change from last month.*

Six to seven of the stream bridge sites will be done this year. The other eight sites are culvert modifications and most are expected to be done in 2012.

Slide Creek Tailrace Barrier

Work on the large cofferdam has been postponed as the crew concentrated on completing a smaller cofferdam to dewater the draft tubes of the powerhouse. The large cofferdam will be completed as runoff flows allow. The original idea was to build a large cofferdam to cover both projects, but the heavy snowpack and high flow pattern this spring is interfering with completion of the large cofferdam, but so far it is not affecting the overall schedule. The project is still expected to be completed by October 18, 2011.

Stinkhole Wetland Design

The 100% design is ready to go out for bid. The wetland is scheduled to be built this year.

Lemolo 2 Reroute

Work on the outlet structure began in March. In-water construction of the cofferdam for the inlet began in early May. Once that is done, they will start forming the inlet structure. To stay on schedule, they will build from both ends. Extremely large rocks were found when the site was cleared and grubbed. Dates may have to be extended in order to blast the rocks in order to break them up to moveable sizes. We received a notice-to-proceed from the USDA-FS for additional tree removal. Four to five trees will be used for the Stinkhole wetland project.

Craig Street asked if all excavation material will be re-used. Scott Schevenius said yes; but some of the material will be stockpiled for riprap. Other material will be stockpiled for topsoil. Some fines will be used for reclamation projects and some will be used on top of the Lemolo 2 Reroute pipe. Coordination may be needed with Pam Sighting on the fine material.

Monte said the only other issue is the cultural site located near the project. A USDA-FS archaeologist will be closely monitoring that area. The projected completion date is October 18. There may be punch list items that extend beyond that date.

Chris inquired about turbidity monitoring, and Rich explained that turbidity is being monitored separately at both ends of the pipe project, which are about ½ mile apart. Mason, Bruce & Girard is doing the monitoring. Turbidity has been minor and well within permit thresholds.

ADA-Accessible Fishing Pier at Toketee Lake

The bids were received last week. They are in line with the budget approved by both PacifiCorp and the USDA-FS in the 2011 RAP, so the project should be completed this year.

Toketee Stream Gage Relocation

Rich reported that the plan is to build a new gage location after the snow melts. Both the USGS and the Flow and Ramping TWG are onboard. This came about due to the high flow event damage to the original gage site.

TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP (TWG) UPDATES

Aquatic Connectivity/Wetlands

Work is continuing on designing the aquatic connectivity sites and wetlands. One more wetland site will be chosen this year, and PacifiCorp will work with the USDA-FS and ODFW to identify last two remaining wetlands to be constructed by 2016.

Operational Updates

Lemolo Reservoir Management for High Snowpack – It has been a challenge this year to manage Lemolo Reservoir with respect to potential impacts to construction projects. The Parties agreed to draw the reservoir down lower, to 4,117 ft, and use that extra storage space to help reduce high flow peaks downstream. We are currently raising the water level. The new boat ramp provides access for anglers at 4,135 ft and we plan to reach that level by May 27. The reservoir level will be raised to the normal summer range (4,145 to 4,148.5 ft) during June. We will continue to use the extra storage space and time to minimize the impact of high flows on downstream construction sites.

The USDA-FS has been getting a lot of calls about the Poole Creek levels, so the priority is to get the level up to 4,135 ft for Memorial Day weekend.

Maintenance Actions Requiring Canal Dewatering – Lemolo 2 canal will be shut down for routine maintenance June 12-30 with a fish salvage scheduled for June 13.

The Slide Creek powerhouse was shut down on May 1 for overhaul and tailrace barrier construction, as planned. The fish salvaged from the canal were liberated into the Lemolo 2 forebay.

At Soda Springs, the pool at the base of the dam will be dewatered again after flows drop and spill at the dam ceases – probably late June or early July.

Public Comments – *none at this time.*

The next RCC meeting will be a conference call on June 15. The June RCC meeting was subsequently cancelled due busy schedules and the 10-year Anniversary Event in June.

Meeting adjourned.