

9-21-11 Meeting Summary ** Approved 10-19-11 **
RESOURCE COORDINATION COMMITTEE (RCC)
NORTH UMPQUA HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT- FERC #1927-008

RCC Members or Alternates Present

Monte Garrett (PacifiCorp Energy)
Rob Burns (USFWS)
Pam Sichting (USDA-FS)
Chris Stine (ODEQ)
Stephanie Burchfield (NMFS)

Also Present

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

Absent

Dave Harris – proxy to Chris
Craig Kohanek – proxy to Chris
Anne Shirley (BLM)

INTRODUCTIONS, AGENDA, OLD BUSINESS

Member Updates - *no member updates this month.*

Public Information Opportunities

Public Tour – The annual event has been scheduled for October 19, immediately following the RCC meeting at Toketee. The draft press release went out to ODFW/USDA-FS – after review, it will go out to the local newspaper in Roseburg about a week before the tour. Pam confirmed that the USDA-FS would again be providing a bus for attendees.

RCC Action: Approve the August 17, 2011 Meeting Summary – *Approved 9-21-11.*

CURRENT PROJECT UPDATES

Soda Springs Fish Passage

Good progress is being made during this year's construction season. The new penstock is almost completely across the river (it will be tied in to the old penstock in July 2012). Progress has been made on the fish ladder entrance and they are currently working above the foundation of this project feature. A lot of work has been completed below the ordinary high water mark. Currently PacifiCorp is hoping to avoid dewatering the base of the dam in 2012, but it may be necessary to facilitate in-channel construction of the pool weir; the fish habitat enhancement feature that had to be removed for construction of the fish passage project. In addition to the fish passage facilities, FERC is requiring the construction of a wing wall on the right dam abutment to fortify Soda Springs dam against flood damage. They are concerned that the new fish passage facilities have compromised spillway capacity.

A 20,000 CFS high water event may require more spillway capacity than one spillway plus the fish screen could provide, and flood flows would be routed over the crest of the dam; thus the need for right abutment erosion protection. FERC is also requiring some relocation/armoring of electrical equipment on top of the dam for protection against high flows. This work will require a short dewatering sometime in 2012 or 2013 so that equipment can be brought in underneath the new penstock/dam to complete the work.

Aside from that additional work, the ladder and screen are still scheduled to be fully functional by the end of 2012, with the evaluation occurring in 2013, and evaluation report to FERC due in 2014.

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

The 14 simple sites scheduled for this year are almost complete.

Slide Creek Tailrace Barrier

The construction contractor has provided assurances that the project will be done by end of year; however, it is possible that an extension may be needed. It has been a challenging site due to site constraints, including a narrow section of the North Umpqua River, high runoff early in the construction season, the confluence of Slide Creek, and the presence of a bridge at the facility site. By the next RCC meeting, we will have a better idea if we need to request a FERC extension.

Stephanie inquired about conditions related to any additional in-water work that may be needed in the future. Monte suggested that the coffer dam may be partially breached over the winter in order to pass seasonal flows. However, such a need is not anticipated. Again, we will know more as time goes by.

Stinkhole Wetland

Project mobilization has begun. The project is expected to be completed in early November. The wetland will be located under the power lines, upstream of Stinkhole Pond across Toketee Rigdon road from the Lemolo 2 Reroute project. This wetland is the fifth of eight wetlands required by the license to be enhanced and/or created.

Lemolo 2 Reroute

From a civil engineering standpoint, this is a straightforward project and is 85% complete at this time. Construction is proceeding from both ends inward. The project is on schedule and going smoothly. Some of the blasted boulders were used to provide fish habitat for the new ADA-accessible fish pier, and other material from the project will be available as habitat structure for the Stinkhole wetland. The project is on schedule for completion by October 18. Upon water-up (routing of LM2 flows through the pipe), some turbidity should be expected downstream as fine material will be temporarily mobilized in Toketee Lake.

ADA-Accessible Fishing Pier at Toketee Lake

The foundation work is complete. The project is expected to be done within the next few weeks.

Toketee Stream Gage Relocation

The need for this relocation was damage to several gages during the January 2011 high flow event. The project will be completed by the end of October.

TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP (TWG) UPDATES

FHS TWG – Flume 12 Remediation Plan

This plan will be comprised of the following:

- Slope stabilization and rebuild of the spillway facility.
- New water-up procedures to prevent this type of plugging to reoccur.
- Removing culvert debris from the river and monitoring natural restoration of river.

The draft plan will be distributed to the Technical Working Group members for review by early October (exact date TBD). Craig Street's report will included as an appendix.

Pam asked about impact mitigation. She said it may cause more damage to mechanically attempt channel restoration. However, it may be possible to use the facilities to plan a spill of short duration to simulate a channel-forming event.

Rob inquired about root wads and trees. Monte said that when we put together the remediation plan, we will consider placement of root wads and trees at the site of the slide. He wasn't sure what kind of helicopter work we could get in there. It won't be highly sculpted work. Pam mentioned that there is a USDA-FS expert on site that could help out. Monte said it might be a good idea to consider wood placement in the river following the first winter runoff season.

Chris said he would like to get input from all the parties as to what should be in the plan. Other mitigation factors may need to be looked at. He encouraged everyone to add input so it meets all needs.

Aquatic Connectivity/Wetlands

All aquatic reconnections have been designed and will be implemented through 2016. No news to report regarding the last three wetlands other than that Steve Albertelli conducted a site visit with Jeff Bohler to identify one other site.

Operational Updates

Lemolo Reservoir: The blue-green algae health advisory has been lifted. The Lemolo Reservoir Management Plan is being implemented, in accordance with Section 9 of the Settlement Agreement. The plan went out in August to the USDA-FS and ODFW, who have both reviewed it. The forecast is 4,823 feet by the end of October, which is right on schedule.

Actions Affecting River Flows: Rich sent out the revised shut-down dates; along with activities that would require dewatering and fish salvages for planned waterway maintenance. Since that time, the Sept 28 – Sept 30 outage for the Lemolo 2 Reroute has been changed to October 16.

Lemolo 1 Forebay: PacifiCorp is monitoring pH in the forebay and plan tailrace in compliance with 401 requirements. High pH is presumably due to algae growth. The forebay, as it was designed, does not apparently allow for enough circulation and turnover of water to prevent algal growth. PacifiCorp is working on operational procedures and other alternatives to address this. One option may be the addition of pumps to move stagnant water from the upper part of forebay. pH will be monitored this year and next per 401 requirements.

Joe Eilers' is contracted to assist with some of the pH monitoring and analyses.

Fish Creek Issues

Canal Shut off & Drainage System (CSDS) – Installation of fiber optic cable in 2012 will improve the radio signal needed to adequately control the facility. Future CSDS tests will be conducted to assure full functionality of this system.

WQ Monitoring – Additional diversion of a small amount of water into the forebay during the low-flow time of year is needed to assure the presence of water in the forebay for 1) local domestic water during health advisories, 2) USDA-FS wildfire control, 3) forebay facility maintenance, and 4) water quality issues upon start-up of generation. PacifiCorp proposes to use ODEQ modeling methodology to describe thermal impacts relative to 401 certification and TMDL requirements. Chris said it may take a year before they could revisit it, as they are working on a mid-coast TMDL revision during 2012. He said if the modeling demonstrates that a small diversion is compliant with state water temperature standards during the time when natural flows are below the required minimum instream flows in Fish Creek, then continued diversion may be possible. It may require a Settlement Agreement amendment, modification to the TMDL and 401 Certification, and amendment of the FERC project license.

Monte said the modeling is necessary to make sure this consideration is feasible. Chris said that data may already have been collected in-house and perhaps could be used for the modeling.

Public Comments – *none at this time.*

The next RCC meeting will be a face-to-face meeting on October 19, 2011 @ 9:00 AM at Toketee. It will be followed by the 2011 Public Tour.

Meeting adjourned.