

11-14-12 Meeting Summary * * *Approved 12-19-12* * *
RESOURCE COORDINATION COMMITTEE (RCC)
North Umpqua Hydroelectric Project (FERC No. P-1927)

RCC Members or Alternates Present

Monte Garrett (PacifiCorp Energy)
Pam Sichtung (USDA-FS)
Ed Meyer (NMFS)
Rob Burns (USFWS)
Dave Harris (ODFW)

Also Present

Rich Grost (PacifiCorp Energy)
Mike Blum (PacifiCorp Energy)
Kelly Coates (Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Indians)
Mark Brown (Intermountain Digital)

Absent

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

INTRODUCTIONS, AGENDA, OLD BUSINESS

Member/Organizational Updates

Pam reported that Joe Linn is transferring to the Cottage Grove Ranger District as District Ranger. Kelly indicated that Tim Vredenburg is the new Cow Creek Tribe Forester.

19.3 Fund Proposal (Status Update)

The 2013 mitigation fund projects have been approved by Alice Carlton. Development of the draft 5-Year Strategic Plan is underway. The Plan will articulate hydro project impacts that will focus on which mitigation proposals will be selected for funding.

Presentations to the Public

December 6 – Rotary Club

RCC Action: Review and approve the October 17, 2012 Meeting Summary – **Approved 11-14-12**

CURRENT PROJECT UPDATES

Soda Springs Fish Passage

Todd and Nick Weekly, and Abel and Dylan from Stillwater, have all reported seeing large, dark, salmon-sized fish near Slide Creek powerhouse and the Fish Creek confluence, so it appears that Chinook and/or coho have successfully navigated the fish ladder. The ladder has been open for fish passage since the conclusion of the test ladder shutdown on October 31, when fish exclusion screens were removed. The fish screen and return system is now also open for fish to go downstream. The fish-viewing window is operational, but the monitoring system (cameras, lights, etc.) are not installed yet. There still are a lot punch list items to be done but they are expected to be completed before year's end. The project is technically almost complete; contractually substantially complete, but final completion awaits the completion of the punch list items, most of which are minor details. The contractors and equipment suppliers have been training the operators and communication technicians in preparation for a smooth hand-off to PacifiCorp personnel. There will be remote operation from the Toketee Control Room (TCC) and from the control room embedded within the fish screen structure. Rich reported that there has been one several-hour test of the evaluation building with water running through it. It performed well, but several issues were identified for correction by the contractors.

Due to safety reasons and limited safety gear, the 50 or so people on the public tour today will not be allowed into work or secure areas for close-up looks. Stops will be limited to bridges. For those interested, smaller group visits could be arranged for closer looks at the facilities. Rich put together a detailed presentation that he'll show before the public tour.

Slide Creek Tailrace Barrier (Status)

Minor fixes are in progress. The spreader bar needed for picket screen maintenance has been made for the hoist, and work is ongoing to hinge and ground the walkway grating. The actuators that operate the diffuser vanes are scheduled for repair. The facility is still not hydraulically balanced, but preliminary settings to approximate a balanced flow will be completed in December, with detailed balancing planned for spring 2013.

Fish Creek Fish Screen Hydraulic Improvement

Rich reported that the reshaping of the screen gallery is completed as planned, and that minor maintenance of the fish weir gate is all that remains to do before re-watering the facility. Flows remain well below the 130 cfs minimum flow requirement and so diversion of flow is not anticipated until sustained fall and winter rains, and also during spring snowmelt.

The canal dump gate system has been modified with improved communications and radios. It's hopeful that this coming spring, a successful test/demonstration can be done.

Lemolo 1 Forebay Operations

Joe Eilers (MaxDepth) is working on his analysis of pH conditions through last summer. PacifiCorp's 401 monitoring report and Joe's report are both anticipated to be ready for ODEQ by the end of the year.

Flume 12 Plan

As planned, Meridian Environmental made habitat measurements in early November when the minimum flow dropped from 80 CFS to 50 CFS. They did habitat work in the low flow area of the reach. During the first two days, they measured both the response reach and Flume 12 reach. On the last day, they surveyed several channel cross sections to help document any changes to the channel and riverbed. Also on November 2, the Flume 12 and response reaches were photographed from the helicopter to create aerial basemaps to support to the habitat mapping work.

TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP (TWG) UPDATES

FHS TWG

- SA 19.2 – Long Term Monitoring/Predator Control

There was a meeting held on October 18, 2012. It was a planning session to review the Study Plan approved in 2006 and determine when to staff-up for the interim phase of the long-term monitoring program.

Rich e-mailed out the meeting summary, which ODFW provided comments on. The summary gave an RCC action to consider - a proposal of date changes with respect to long-term monitoring. The original Study Plan had anticipated that fish passage facilities would be fully operational in 2012, however we now know that performance evaluations are not likely to be completed until mid-2014. Consequently, the beginning of the interim monitoring period needs to be changed to 2014. In the course of proposing this change, it was realized that the Study Plan also indicated that monitoring would extend into 2039, however the License period ends in 2038.

The new proposal is to change the dates in the Study Plan such that the interim period is 2014-2025 (12 yrs, and the post-passage period is 2026 to 2038 (13 yrs). It was agreed that this change was logical and was minor enough to not trigger a full-blown revision and re-approval of the original 2006 Study Plan – the new dates could be supplied via email for all to incorporate into their files.

TWG Action Item: Approve the above monitoring date change proposal. **TWG Approved 11/14/12.**

RCC Action Item: Approve the above monitoring date change proposal. *RCC approved 11/14/12.*

- SA 8.2 Slide Bypass Reach Monitoring

Rich reported that the final set of spawning habitat measurements have been made by Stillwater at the new minimum flow of >240 cfs, including water depth and velocity over the gravel patches.

This year's work concludes the planned habitat monitoring for this project. Per the Settlement Agreement, the required monitoring began in 2006 and was to be completed in 2011; but was postponed to 2012 due to the Slide Creek tailrace barrier construction. Stillwater is drafting a report for the TWG which will describe the success for this project and also some direction for the rest of the license term.

Pam inquired whether ODFW has looked for signs of salmon above Soda Springs dam, and Dave said no but that he'd see if someone were available to take a look..

Operational Updates

Rich reported there has been some variation in flows downstream of Soda Springs dam and powerhouse during the testing and commissioning of new Soda Springs fish passage facilities. He said most have been within normal maintenance ramp rate allowances and none have been extreme enough to trigger real-time reporting.

Public Comments – *none at this time.*

The next RCC meeting will be a conference call on December 19, 10AM – Noon.

The 2013 Annual Planning session was tentatively set as the same date as the planned RCC meeting, January 16, 2013.

Meeting adjourned; Public Tour followed.