

FINAL
5-15-13 Meeting Summary
RESOURCE COORDINATION COMMITTEE (RCC)
North Umpqua Hydroelectric Project (FERC No. P-1927)

RCC Members or Alternates Present

Monte Garrett (PacifiCorp Energy)
Pam Sichting (USDA-FS)
Ed Meyer (NMFS)
Dave Harris (ODFW)
Chris Stine (ODEQ)
Craig Kohanek (OWRD)
Rob Burns (USFWS)
Anne Shirley (BLM)

Also Present

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

INTRODUCTIONS, AGENDA, OLD BUSINESS

Member/Organizational Updates

USDA-FS: Alice Carlton is on detail in Portland until July; Gina Owens is the Acting Forest Supervisor while Alice is away. Carole Cushing is Acting Deputy Supervisor; Ian Reed is the Acting District Ranger, and Jason Wilcox is the new Forest Fish Biologist

Notice-to-Proceeds: Pam indicated that efforts are moving forward to complete reviews for the last two identified Notices to Proceed to be issued in the near future.

CURRENT PROJECT UPDATES

Soda Springs Fish Passage

Rich reported there was a fish salvage today in preparation for the fish screen repair project. The stop logs are in place and the water is draining from the screen structure. Once it's fully drained and the fish salvage is completed, the site will be handed over to the contractors so they can start work. It was noted that the area is considered a full-on construction site again, with work moving forward on the screen repair and the dam overtopping projects, followed by the coating of the spill gates. Road trenching work is also going on today, tomorrow and into next week. Access is pretty tough and it will continue to be busy throughout the summer. Agency representatives with official business will be able to get in, but they should first make arrangements with Toketee. Drive with extreme caution and note that full OSHA safety

equipment is required to be worn at all times if you exit a vehicle. Crews are planning to work Monday thru Thursday so visits are least problematic on Fridays. As in past years, the road gate will have locks for PacifiCorp, contractors, and USFS.

- **Screen repair and overtopping projects** – These projects kicked off today and will continue throughout the summer, and finish up in October. A lot was learned with last year's damage. Because of the changes being made, Monte indicated that PacifiCorp is hopeful that the planned repairs and new operational procedures will prevent a reoccurrence of the kind of damage that occurred last December.
- **Recreation access site** – Pam said they are still in the phase of tearing down ODFW's holding ponds. The planning for the recreation day-use site has not started yet.

An equestrian gate is planned to be installed by PacifiCorp at the road to the Boulder Creek trailhead. (Following the RCC meeting, the USDA-FS indicated that the equestrian gate is no longer desired at Boulder Creek; a replacement project will be addressed at the next RAP meeting.)

- **Hydraulic and biological evaluations** – These evaluations, as required by the Settlement Agreement and directed by FERC-approved plans, will be completed by the end of 2014.
- **Fish window evaluation** – Agency comments have been received on the plan to evaluate the effectiveness of the existing fish viewing window. However, PacifiCorp now questions whether it even makes sense to conduct such an evaluation. Neither PacifiCorp nor the Parties are happy with the undersized fish viewing window and we don't expect that to change with the completion of a potentially expensive evaluation. Therefore, PacifiCorp has decided to move forward with replacing the window to meet the size specification required by the Post-construction Evaluation Plan. This work will be scheduled for 2015 so we can complete the current projects in 2013 and the Post-construction Evaluation Plan in 2014. After installation of the new window in 2015, there would be a follow up evaluation if necessary to assure its effectiveness. The agencies supported this decision and expressed their thanks to PacifiCorp.

The question was asked if there would be a ladder outage for the window replacement and what time of year the ladder outage would occur. Rich said the O&M Plan specifies a preferred maintenance time period of November-January. Rob asked if it could be done in the winter. Rich said it's mostly up to ODFW, NMFS, and USFWS to decide when it should happen. The O&M Plan allows shut downs with 48-hour notice. Ed said that depending on how long it will take, it is preferred to work behind a coffer dam. Monte said the project currently has not been fully scoped, so the extent of and conditions for an outage are unknown. When we know more (e.g. in 2014), a TWG conference call will be set up to talk through it.

Slide Creek Tailrace Barrier

Hydraulic evaluation – the field work and facility modifications are complete. Alden Labs was onsite last week and over the weekend to do a full series of measurements and adjustments at 1,000 CFS powerhouse flow. They also did a two-hour series of documentary measurements at the design flow of 1,300 CFS powerhouse flow. Rich is awaiting the report. In the course of cleaning the vanes and pickets, it was discovered that gravel is accumulating on some of the bays – the mid to upper end bays (#s 2-5), with #4 being the most problematic right now. Rich is hoping to get divers in to remove the gravel and wood debris during the current powerhouse outage. Ed asked if this is something we need to correct in the future, or do we continue to monitor it? Rich indicated the gravel seems to be coming from behind the tailrace, not the river. He said there is three-inch spacing in the forebay trashrack. We'll watch it for a few years and then see if maybe an adjustment needs to be done to the trash rack.

Fish Creek Fish Screen Hydraulic Improvement

- **Fish screen evaluation** – evaluations were done in 2008 and 2009 but we reshaped the screen gallery in 2012, so the hydraulic evaluation was repeated this year at the highest flows available during early May. Frank Postlewait (R2 Resources) did the work, as in earlier years. We are still awaiting a written report. The evaluation was done at 110 CFS of diversion flow, relative to the design of 150 CFS. Field observations indicated that approach velocities were well within the criteria, and the sweeping velocity has greatly improved as intended.
- **CSD performance demonstration** – There have been ongoing issues to get the right set of generators to run the Fish Creek screen airburst system. We can't seem to find the right generator set that will provide the performance needed while meeting new standards set by EPA. PacifiCorp is evaluating the option of providing direct power by installing a power line to the head works, and at the same time providing needed reliable power to the dump gate system stations and monitoring sites. We had hoped to provide an agency demonstration of the CSD this year, but it has been on hold until the power and communication issues get solved. Chris asked when we expected the wire to be installed. Monte said fiber was installed last year, so we have reliable communication, but not power. The plan is to lay the power line this year for reliable power.

Because of the new instream flow requirement of 130 CFS, during much of the year there is no water in the canal. We need a fully watered-up canal to conduct a demonstration. Monte will circle back to the RCC in the next few months to see if a demonstration will be possible to do this year. It may be nearer the end of the year or in 2014.

Lemolo 1 Forebay

Rich reported that the plan for this year is to continue fluctuating the water on a daily basis, as it appeared very helpful last year to inhibit vegetative growth and high pH conditions. Last year we also did a maintenance shutdown in July. We are planning to continue fluctuations this year and see how it does in the absence of a summer shutdown. We will continue to monitor this year. We have operational limits so we don't trip the plant at either end of the flushing cycles. The fluctuations are typically two to four feet (with four feet being as extreme as we can go). There are several different scenarios, with the best one being the regime with a rapid fill rate to force the greatest mixing of cold water within the forebay. There is a shutdown planned in mid-October for about a month. It will give us a potential opportunity to look at the forebay in greater detail.

Wetlands

Pam said the USDA-FS no longer considers the Floodplain Wetland site at the Clearwater diversion dam to be a valid place for the project, due to a concern of old-growth timber in the area. More information is being gathered and will be soon sent to PacifiCorp. Monte will schedule a meeting with Steve, Viva and ODFW to discuss.

Aquatic Reconnects

Three aquatic reconnects are planned for 2013. One major reconnect project will be done underneath the Lemolo 1 flume during the October outage when the flume is empty, because it may require cutting the flume. The reconnect sites will be completed by November.

TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP (TWG) UPDATES

Flows & Ramping TWG

There is a plan to move the Clearwater 2 canal gage (monitoring site #6) upstream. The USGS supports the move to avoid back watering, and has already begun installation of some of the new components during the recent canal outage. Rich sent an e-mail a few weeks ago about it and most agencies have already expressed their support. Craig and Chris both concur with the move. As with previous gage relocations, there will be overlapping data until the USGS abandons the first site.

Wetland TWG

Planning and designs for the Floodplain Wetland (or its replacement) and the Pothole Wetland are scheduled for 2013.

19.2 Electrofishing Boat Use

Dave said the ODFW District staff has withdrawn their request to use the 19.2 electrofishing boat at East Lake and other off-project sites this year.

Operational Updates

The timing of powerhouse and canal outages at Slide Creek and Lemolo 2 has been changed, with Slide Creek in progress now and Lemolo 2 beginning June 10.

Mike Blum reported that the WECC Test at Soda Springs powerhouse went well, with flow disturbances to the Wild & Scenic Reach within normal ramping allowances.

SA 19.1 Trib Enhancement Project Updates

Dave reported that both Sam Moyers and Kirk Haskett are gearing up for this year's summer tributary enhancement work. There are two projects scheduled – the main stem Rock Creek site (above last year's site) and a few small areas on the East Fork Rock Creek. They finally started into a partnership with the local Umpqua Watershed (PUR) and the Roseburg BLM. They held several meetings and agreed on a cooperative project involving all three entities. They will work on both BLM and private property, where they received some project grant funding. They will also use some of the PacifiCorp mitigation funds as match. They built access roads last week into the sites. They will take a break and then come back in to haul boulders and logs. The actual placement will happen after July 4.

On the monitoring side, they are doing some monitoring around the Rock Creek basin. Sam said that during some recent survey work, they found a few lamprey redds in the mainstem Rock Creek and are marking and monitoring them. They are also overseeing/monitoring enhancement work done in the past. They will continue to work with Umpqua District and Rock Creek hatchery staff on the improvement of the Rock Creek fish ladder. The O&M plan for the ladder is currently in draft stage. Some work is being done on the juvenile bypass system, while engineers design a third fix for it.

They are very busy with the three projects, and are providing input into the ladder fix and due to short staffing, are assisting in overseeing some of the work aspects.

Monte added that the long-term research project at East Fork Rock Creek, conducted by Stillwater Sciences, since 2006, is in its last phase and expected to be completed by the end of the year. Results of this research will help inform enhancement of juvenile coho salmon overwintering habitat pursuant to goals of the ODFW MOU.

SA 19.3 Federal Mitigation Fund Project Updates

Pam reported that the USDA-FS has changed the way they do their financial system. They were finally able to deposit the 19.3 PacifiCorp funding check, which has been sitting in the system since January. They can now spend the funds. They are ready to move forward with the FY13 projects. She said there are just a few more hoops to go through before BLM will get their requested culvert money.

Regarding the Strategic Plan, she said it has not moved too far forward since the last RCC call. The letters went out to the RCC and the public. They have accepted this is the process they will use. They are currently determining priorities for impacts to be addressed with the 19.3 funding, and more information regarding the strategic planning process will be coming out in a month or so. Slowly but surely, this is in line with their budget process (an integrated resource process style of determining where work will be). The next version of the plan will be available by the end of June.

Pam will make sure to notify the RCC if there is a round two for FY13 project requests.

Lemolo Reservoir Monitoring

Rich asked Pam if there was an update regarding funding and planning for the USDA-FS modeling and monitoring work on Lemolo Lake. She said nothing had been moving forward on their end due to the financial delay, but now they are starting to work on some contracts. This will allow some modeling work by MaxDepth and also the fish monitoring work including trapnetting and fish surveys. ODFW will have to get the ok before they can move forward with hiring an EBA for the monitoring work as Dave has someone they want to put into the position, which will begin ASAP and extend into the spawning survey season.

Dave also said Scott Lamb has initiated trapnetting and now has a collection permit for same. He alerted others that Scott may still need permits from other agencies for dumping tui chub, etc.

Public Comments – *none at this time.*

The next RCC meeting will be a face-to-face meeting on August 15, 2013, 10AM – 3PM at Toketee, with a project tour following.

Meeting adjourned.