

FINAL
8-15-13 Meeting Summary
RESOURCE COORDINATION COMMITTEE (RCC)
North Umpqua Hydroelectric Project (FERC No. P-1927)

RCC Members or Alternates Present

Also Present

Monte Garrett (PacifiCorp Energy)
Viva Worthington (USDA-FS)
Ed Meyer (NMFS)
Craig Kohanek (OWRD)
Rob Burns (USFWS)
Dave Harris (ODFW)

Rich Grost (PacifiCorp Energy)
Mike Blum (PacifiCorp Energy)
Steve Albertelli (PacifiCorp Energy)
Scott Schevenius (PacifiCorp Energy)
Bill Blackwell (USDA-FS, via phone)
Kelly Coates (Cow Cr Band)

INTRODUCTIONS, AGENDA, OLD BUSINESS

Introductions, Member/Organizational Updates, Etc.

The 5-15-13 Meeting Summary was accepted as revised via previously-submitted email comments.

NMFS: Undergoing re-organization that may integrate the Northwest and Southwest regions of NMFS, but Ed's duties and work location are not expected to change.

USFWS: Budget reductions and/or potential government shutdown may affect travel and hours.

ODFW: Several retirements are on the horizon in Salem which may redistribute staff. Terry Farrell is expected to retire within the next few years.

OWRD: Has 10% more staff than in recent years. They will be responding to recent changes in state and federal hydropower licensing regulations designed to facilitate small hydro development.

USDA-FS: Alice Carlton is back to the Supervisor's Office and everyone is back to their normal positions, except that Deb Barner is out on temporary leave.

PacifiCorp and Cow Creek Band: no recent or imminent changes

Notice to Proceed (NTP) Status

Viva indicated that efforts are moving forward to complete reviews for the remaining four NTPs to be issued in the near future. The cultural review form for the Fireswamp Wetland project has been provided to the USDA-FS for review.

Fire Issues

Viva reported there had been 11 lightning-strike fires on the DLRD since 8/1/13, but all have been small and controlled. Coordination worked well between PacifiCorp and the USDA-FS regarding use of Lemolo 1 forebay for helicopter firewater last week. The best contacts for USDA-FS emergency fire information are Allan Hubbs (541-643-9741) and Jill Knapper (541-530-0167).

Public Tour Planning

Viva said Pam had suggested locating some larger buses and limiting the tour to places where they could access. Monte and Scott suggested using the Toketee School Commons room for the public gathering and presentation to fit more people than the NUIC room, and also avoid conflict with early-arriving public and the pre-tour RCC meeting. To reduce construction conflicts and show a more complete project, it was decided to change the Public Tour date from October 16 to November 13, with November 20 as a back-up date. The RCC will confirm availability by email. The RCC conference call will still take place in October as planned.

CURRENT PROJECT UPDATES

Soda Springs Fish Passage

Scott reported that all three projects at Soda Springs Dam (fish screen modifications, flood protection, and spillgate coating) are proceeding on schedule. It is a very busy worksite, closed to the public, and should be avoided by all unless access is necessary. Agency representatives with official business will be allowed access, but they should first make arrangements with PacifiCorp (Schevenius or Grost), and must drive with extreme caution and adhere to the 15 mph speed limit. Full OSHA safety equipment is required to be worn at all times if you exit a vehicle. This includes safety glasses, steel toed boots, hard hat, and high visibility vests. Most crews are working Monday thru Thursday so visits are least problematic on Fridays. As in past years, the road gate will have locks for PacifiCorp, contractors, and the USDA-FS.

Scott described some of the work currently underway such as the last concrete pour on the new fish screen support columns, and automation of the north intake headgate and log chute gate. Work on all of the dam projects is expected to be complete by the end of October. Hydraulic and biological evaluations will be completed during 2014. The replacement of the fish ladder counting window is scheduled for early 2015.

Dave reported that ODFW is beginning to count fish from the video at Soda Springs' fish ladder. Beginning March 1st through March 18th, they have tallied 21 steelhead and 5 trout passing upstream, and have also documented some downstream movement. PacifiCorp and ODFW continue to coordinate towards more efficient video monitoring, but review of these data is expected to be time-consuming job.

Slide Creek Tailrace Barrier

Hydraulic evaluation – Alden Labs completed the report and PacifiCorp discussed results with ODFW and NMFS on a recent conference call. The facility successfully meets criteria at most flows on a vertically-averaged velocity basis. However, about 20% of the specific measurement points exceeded the point-criteria of 1.25 fps. Therefore, at NMFS suggestion PacifiCorp plans to develop concepts and field test additional baffling within the framework of the existing structure and panels. Rich is consulting with Alden Labs on this and hopes to see a proposal next week.

Fish Creek

Hydraulic fish screen evaluation – R2 Resources completed their evaluation report which showed that approach velocities were well within the criteria, and the sweeping velocity has greatly improved as intended.

CSD performance demonstration – PacifiCorp is planning to install a power line and fiber-optic cable to the diversion dam and CSD sites next year to address the ongoing power and communication issues. A system test demonstration will follow when flow conditions allow, probably in late 2014.

Lemolo 1 Forebay

pH amelioration – 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 week there was a period of several days where PacifiCorp opted to flush only at night and keep the forebay full during daytime hours to facilitate use and potential use by the USDA-FS for firefighting. Monitoring thus far indicates that the forebay is remaining fairly free of macrophytes and is not exhibiting high pH. There is a shutdown planned in mid-October for about a month during which the forebay will be dewatered.

Wetlands

Steve reported that delineation and surveying of the Pothole and Fireswamp wetland sites are proceeding in 2013 on schedule, and construction is expected for both wetlands in 2014. The work at Fireswamp is pending USDA-FS cultural surveys, which are planned for early fall 2013. The final wetland project (Elk Camp) will be completed in 2016.

Aquatic Reconnects

The three aquatic reconnect sites have been approved for construction and are proceeding on schedule. The last site in 2013, located along the Lemolo 1 waterway, will be completed during an outage scheduled at that development in October. The remaining aquatic reconnect sites will be completed with planned outages during 2014-2016.

TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP (TWG) UPDATES

Fish Habitat and Studies: will need to meet in late 2013 to plan monitoring and personnel needs for 2014 - 2015

Fish Passage and Design: will need to meet some in 2013 to review Slide Creek TRB baffling concepts

Flows & Ramping: no recent or anticipated activity

Wetlands: will meet later this year to initiate the 30-60-90 percent design process for two wetlands planned for construction in 2014

Canal Shutoff and Drainage: stay tuned for demonstration of Fish Creek CSD in 2014

OTHER ITEMS

Operational Updates

Mike said that planned maintenance outages remain on schedule at Toketee (starting September 9) and Lemolo 1 (starting October 15). Flows in the related bypass reaches will be high beginning just before those dates and extending for about a month after each of those dates.

SA 19.1 Trib Enhancement Project Updates

Dave reported that Sam Moyers and Kirk Haskett have been busy implementing this year's summer tributary enhancement work, mostly in mainstem Rock Creek and East Fork of Rock Creek. Most work is being done in partnership with the watershed council (PUR) and the Roseburg BLM.

Monte added that the long-term research project at East Fork Rock Creek, conducted by Stillwater Sciences, 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

Viva noted that Pam had provided a list of funded projects for 2013. She said there would not be a second round of project solicitations or funding for 2013, and that work on the Strategic Plan has slowed for the summer and will likely be resumed in the fall.

Lemolo Reservoir Monitoring

Rich and Viva said that the USDA-FS monitoring of Lemolo and Diamond lakes thus far has shown that despite the presence of blue-green algae blooms this year, the toxin levels have been below detectable limits and no water contact closures have been issued.

New Business

Bill Blackwell (USDA-FS) requested that the RCC allow PacifiCorp to reduce flow in the Lemolo 1 bypass reach from the usual minimum of 80 cfs to 40 cfs to facilitate a survey of the river channel needed to plan repairs of the footbridge below Lemolo Falls. The survey would take about one day, with ramping of flows allowed the day before and after, and preferred to be completed by the end of September. A similar flow reduction was done with RCC approval in September 2012 to facilitate temporary bridge repairs.

Action: The RCC approved a flow reduction in Lemolo 1 bypass to 40 cfs for up to 3 days in fall 2013 (dates to be coordinated between Grost and Blackwell).

Public Comments – None.

The next RCC meeting will be a conference call on October 16 to plan the public tour. The Public Tour is currently planned for November 13 (November 20 as a back-up).

Meeting adjourned.

The RCC tour included Slide Creek diversion dam, Slide Creek tailrace barrier, and the Soda Springs dam.