

5-20-15 Meeting Summary *Approved 7-1-15*
RESOURCE COORDINATION COMMITTEE (RCC)
North Umpqua Hydroelectric Project (FERC No. P-1927)

RCC Members or Alternates Present

Steve Albertelli (PacifiCorp)
Rich Grost (PacifiCorp)
Anne Shirley (BLM) – *via phone*
Ed Meyer (NFMS)
Chris Stine (ODEQ)
Dave Harris (ODFW)
Mary Grainey (OWRD) – *via phone*
Pam Sighting (USDA-FS)
Paul Bridges (USFWS) – *via phone*

Also Present

Beth Bendickson (PacifiCorp) – *via phone*
Scott Schevenius (PacifiCorp)
Mike Blum (PacifiCorp)
Kelly Coates (Cow Creek) – *via phone*

RCC Members or Alternates Absent

Jim Thraikill (USFWS)
Jim B. Muck (NOAA)

INTRODUCTIONS, AGENDA, OLD BUSINESS

Member Updates/Organization News

USDA-FS: Patrick Barry is the new fish biologist at Diamond Lake. Miles Barkhurst, Forest Roads Manager, is leaving in mid-June. Angie Snyder, archeologist, is now at the supervisor's office.

OWRD: The new director, Tom Byler, has been in place for seven months. He brings watershed enhancement board experience. OWRD is in the process of updating the Division 51 rules for new hydro projects.

PacifiCorp: The Company is in the process of corporate restructuring. The Company will now be referred to as PacifiCorp instead of PacifiCorp Energy.

Public Outreach

There was a favorable feature article (with video) about the video monitoring of the Soda Springs fish ladder in the Roseburg News Review and on their website.

Cobb Charter School in Roseburg had a field trip for 33 students (1st through 8th grade) to visit with USDA-FS personnel as well as PacifiCorp. The 1.5-hour PacifiCorp tour included a walk from Soda Springs powerhouse to the dam and back, with stops along the way to discuss hydropower, rivers, fish, and fish passage.

The Oakland Middle School (8th grade) wants to come for a field trip on June 4 (noon to 1:30 PM).

Pam reminded folks that any professional media and/or video productions, such as a recent request from a documentary videographer to shoot Toketee Falls, need a permit from the USDA-FS.

CURRENT PROJECT UPDATES

Soda Springs Fish Passage

Status/Update: There was a series of events on April 5, including a fire at the Glide substation, forced outage of Project transmission lines, an incorrect set point for diversion through Soda Springs power plant, and reduction of Soda Springs reservoir level, which ultimately resulted in plugging of the fish screen. This, in turn, opened the blow-out panels to prevent damage to the facility. The panels were reset within one week and the system has been operating normally ever since. During the time that the panels were open, the ladder remained operational and downstream flows were provided through the spillway.

Upgrades include the installation of the 60-inch fish window completed in February; baffling of the fish ladder AWS floor chamber; installation of a new dewatering pump in the AWS Chamber for more efficient maintenance; and platforms and stairways for the fish evaluation building. One outstanding construction project for additional flow trimming in the fish return system as fish approach the evaluation building is scheduled for installation with three to four weeks. Once installed, it's the last of the currently planned modifications to the fish passage facility.

Hydraulic and Biological Evaluations Update: The hydraulic evaluation of the fish ladder is completed. Most of the hydraulic fish screen balancing is done, with the remainder to take about one more week sometime in June. The biological evaluation of the fish ladder is underway with Meridian completing underwater video work in March and April for steelhead, with more planned in July and September during Chinook salmon migration.

Meridian has also been reviewing video from the new ladder window and calibrating the Fish Tick software to maximize efficiency of fish video analysis. There are two different versions of Fish Tick software now running concurrently. The DVR records all frames for a comparison.

Tailrace Barriers

Status/Update: nothing changed regarding operation or physical layout.

Biological Evaluations Update: The Meridian crew was out in March and April making observations of winter steelhead. In their progress reports they mentioned seeing quite a few steelhead that were parallel with the barrier. They are not physically contacting the pickets. It's consistent with what we've seen with other steelhead and Chinook. Following the final field deployment in June, all the findings will be compiled within a final report.

Fiber and Power Upgrade: This project will start on June 1 and be completed by July 31. Pam requested an e-mail for the 5-day advance start notice in accordance with the Notice to Proceed process. Mark Sommer (hydrologist) will be monitoring this project.

Wetlands Update

There are two remaining wetlands to be constructed: Fireswamp and Lake Creek.

Fire Swamp Wetland: This project is scheduled to go out to bid next month

Lake Creek Wetland: The design will start this year. It is the final wetland to be constructed.

Aquatic Reconnects Update

For 2015, five sites on Fish Creek, and two sites on Lemolo 2 are planned. They will go out to bid with work starting in the fall. Pam asked for stamped design drawings for the engineering on public roads. They will want more detail where the roads go over the reconnects. Scott believes the design will be completed by June 15.

Other Projects Requiring NTPs or Other Coordination

U29 Cottage Bridge: A notice to proceed was received April 2, 2015. The USDA-FS determined that a single-lane bridge is sufficient for the bridge replacement. Engineering analysis confirmed that the existing abutments can be retained and used with the new span. Scott is working on the bridge replacement designs.

U41 Slide Creek Bridge: Pam mentioned Deer Creek. Scott said containment of construction debris would be part of the construction specifications. The schedule will be provided to the USDA-FS.

Pam said she is close to issuing notices to proceed (NTPs) on the following projects: removal of trees at Copeland Creek gage, the aquatic reconnects, and the replacement of Clearwater 1 forebay building.

Scott reported that on May 18, some large boulders fell on Fish Creek (Canal Mile 0.15) and broke about 16 feet of the flume wall. The canal was dewatered at the time of the damage and will continue to be dewatered until PacifiCorp repairs the flume wall. An NTP request is pending.

Fish Creek Forebay: With the upcoming anticipated fire season, Scott would like to keep the Fish Creek forebay full of water for firefighting purposes. The forebay is in good condition right now. What he fears is that when the helicopters come in, they will damage the bottom seal of the forebay with suction equipment when the forebay levels are low. Scott offered for discussion a proposal to divert less than 5 cfs as needed to keep the forebay full during fire season.

Mary said that OWRD understands that water is needed for emergency firefighting, and that the statutes allow such use without water rights restrictions. Emergency water diversion to Fish Creek forebay was allowed during some past USDA-FS firefighting efforts.

Chris added that diversion from Fish Creek has been ceased when flows are below the minimum of 130 CFS as and that this minimum flow is a condition of the 401 Certification.

Rich asked Chris what the next steps would be for DEQ to consider this proposal for minimal diversion during fire season, and a more detailed written proposal was requested. Rich will review the history on this subject and summarize it within a proposal for forebay water management for the 2015 fire season.

Chris asked if there would be a canal shutoff and drainage test in the fall after installation of the Fish Creek power and fiber optic cable project and if there would also be dry run testing during waterway outages. Scott said that PacifiCorp will make sure all communications are working before we have the RCC come up for a test run.

TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP (TWG) UPDATES

Fish Habitat Studies

6.2 Slide Creek Full-Flow Reach: *nothing new to report.*

7.2 Gravel Augmentation: *nothing new to report.*

8.2 Slide Creek Bypass Reach Habitat: Sam Moyers and Rich will walk the reach and see what changes occurred from the high flow events last winter. Because it was a five-year event it could trigger monitoring, or the TWG may opt to keep the monitoring on a 5-year schedule (2017).

8.3 Soda Springs Habitat: *TWG funding proposal* – SA 8.3 (current balance is \$120K): Commit approximately \$50k to design and build in water structures (boulders) this summer to repair and protect the upper log weir from severe scour experienced last December.

The TWG recently completed annual monitoring of the project log weir to make a determination if the habitat needed maintenance. It was determined that it does need maintenance. There are complications in that there have been substantial changes to the channel hydraulics and configuration as a result of the Soda Springs fish passage project.

Rich proposed to have fluvial geomorphologists and hydraulic engineers from Stillwater Sciences evaluate the situation and design scour protections, and then get bids from local contractors to do the work. If we do nothing and the log weir washes out, it would be more expensive to fix it. The goal is to maintain fish habitat and the water level of the pool for fish ladder access. Ideally the construction would occur this August before Chinook spawning begins in September. He's not sure if we can start that quick, but in any case we could at least design this year. Rich said the \$50,000 request was merely a guess on his part as to the least amount that a basic design and construction project would cost.

RCC Action – Approve the TWG funding proposal (if actual costs exceed \$50K, Rich will notify the RCC before committing). ****Approved 5/20/15****

19.2 Long-Term Monitoring/Predator Control Study: *TWG funding proposal - SA 19.2* (current balance \$486k): LTM staffing time and cost. Start 1 ODFW EBA in September 2015. This EBA will work year around on various LTM and Predator/Prey projects. Second ODFW EBA would work during the bulk of the outdoor data collection period February 1 thru October (9 months). EBA (Step 5) September 1st, 2015 through August 31st, 2016 (1 year). EBA (Step 4) February 1st, 2016 through October 30th, 2016 (9 months). Estimated total cost \$128,600. This includes truck rental, vehicle gas, waders, other equipment, etc.

Due to ODFW hiring processes, it is suggested that we request this budget ASAP in order to get a body on this September. We would resubmit a budget next spring that duplicates the current proposal. Goal would be to have at least 6 consecutive years of sampling, more if budgets allow (realizing that at least \$300k needs to be saved to bolster funding of the last 6+ years of monitoring).

Rich said the caveat is to start doing the study this year or risk ODFW losing the positions. They need to justify keeping the positions available.

The interim period lasts 12 years. The post-passage period starts in 2025. Rich's hope is to get in at least six consecutive years of interim period monitoring

Currently, Stillwater is working on the Predator Control Study Plan within the 19.2 funding program. The Plan is nearly done but the study costs are unknown, but could be around \$200K.

RCC Action – Approve the TWG funding proposal for ODFW EBA staffing. ****Approved 5/20/15****

Fish Passage Design – (See above discussion of Soda Springs fish passage modifications.)

Flows & Ramping – The WY13 flow monitoring plan report and data CDs were distributed in April 2015.

OTHER ITEMS

Operational Updates

Powerhouse/Canal Outages: CW1 is out for annual maintenance as planned and expected back online this week. Fish Creek is shut down due to low natural flows, but also has recent rockfall damage to the canal.

Reservoir Management (Toketee Reservoir WSEs): Toketee reservoir continues to be operated at the lowest normal level, same as during the past year, as geotechnical studies of the dam progress. The draft geotechnical report has been received and is being reviewed. It contains earthquake analysis, with information on risk of failing.

Lemolo reservoir is full at 4,148 ft MSL. The operating range from Memorial Day to Labor Day is 4,145 to 4,148.5 ft MSL.

Other

USDA-FS Mineral Permits: Pam reported that the USDA-FS policy is that they are unable to sell rock unless it is crushed onsite. The federal government does not want to be in competition with private industry for sales of rock. Talking with Steve, she mentioned that PacifiCorp will pay for a portion of crushing existing rock sources for use on the Forest. In the past, Steve said that contractors had to coordinate directly with the USDA-FS for mineral permits, but that practice will be discontinued in the future. Contractors will have to obtain rock from private sources or coordinate with PacifiCorp on use of existing stockpiles.

Regarding FERC inspections, Pam noted that FERC sometimes comes and looks at projects without giving USDA-FS notice of when they are coming. Pam requested notification to USDA-FS of future FERC inspection schedules.

FERC was on site recently to inspect the Lemolo 1 dam and powerhouse, Toketee, and Soda Springs. FERC was concerned with trees leaning over Soda Springs dam. PacifiCorp will monitor them, as well as do some brush removal at the Lemolo 1 POV building for maples growing through fence. The FERC inspector was generally happy with what he saw.

SA 19.1 Tributary Enhancement Project Updates (Dave Harris)

Dave said that Kirk Haskett and Sam Moyers are reviewing the fish ladder video data from 2014 in their spare time. They are also coordinating with BLM's tree farm in Lorraine to get free trees with root wads for enhancement projects in Harrington and Rock Creeks. ODFW just has to haul and stage the timber.

SA 19.3 Federal Mitigation Fund Project Updates (Pam Sichtung)

2015 Project Selection/Strategic Restoration Plan: Pam reported that work is in progress. The last meeting was on April 2. Pam will send out the draft project selection list and agenda for the next meeting scheduled for June 18. They are hopeful to get this plan done so they can use it.

Next RCC Meeting: A new date was proposed. August 26 will be a conference call only.

Public Comments – *none at this time.*

Lastly, Paul mentioned that Jim Muck is supportive of the predator control study in hopes to get both upstream and downstream monitoring and also wants us to continue to think about restoration opportunities in Fish Creek that would not put the PacifiCorp infrastructure at risk.

Meeting adjourned to begin project site visits.