

7-15-09 Meeting Summary * * Approved 8-20-09 * *
RESOURCE COORDINATION COMMITTEE (RCC)
NORTH UMPQUA HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT- FERC #1927-008

RCC Members or Alternates Present

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

Also Present

Rich Grost (PacifiCorp Energy)
Beth Bendickson (PacifiCorp Energy)

Absent

Jim Thraikill (USFWS)
Bill Gamble (USDA-FS)

INTRODUCTIONS, AGENDA, OLD BUSINESS

Member Updates

USFWS - Jim Thraikill has accepted the field supervisor position and will officially start in this role on July 20. He will be the official RCC representative.

RCC Action: Review and approve 6/17/09 draft meeting summary. Approved 7-15-09.

Public Information Opportunities

Video Update – Videographer Mark Brown will be on site next week taking video footage of this year’s projects, in preparation for a revision of the *North Umpqua Hydroelectric Project Continuum* video.

The Pacific Rivers Council will hold a meeting at the Steamboat Inn on July 28, including invited scientists and North Umpqua Foundation members addressing ongoing and planned river conservation actions of the “Legacy River Program” (past and ongoing efforts to enhance the rivers) with the North Umpqua Foundation members. The PRC requested a tour of the Soda Springs Dam area regarding past habitat enhancement efforts and plans for fish passage. Monte Garrett and Rich Grost will host the tour. If any other RCC members want to attend the tour, the plan is to meet at the Toketee Control Center at 3:00 PM.

CURRENT PROJECT UPDATES

Notice-to-Proceed (NTP) Status

The USDA-FS recently issued the following NTPs:

- Lemolo 1 Pole Relocation
- Lemolo 1 Wetland
- T&D Vegetation Management (partial)
- O&M Vegetation Management (partial)
- Lemolo 2 Canal Shutoff and Drainage System
- Erosion Site Remediation
- Toketee Trashrack
- Lemolo 2 Reroute Borings
- Lemolo 2 Forebay Dredging
- Part 8 Signs
- Toketee Water Tank Meter
- Lemolo 2 Plant Upgrade
- Snyder Resident Project

Fish Creek (Screens and Canal Shutoff & Drainage System) – By consensus of the agencies, the performance test will be scheduled later this year when there is water in the canal (late November to early December).

Lemolo 2 Canal Shut-off & Drainage System – Facility construction is ongoing and on schedule.

Lemolo 2 Forebay Dredging/Lemolo 2 Plant Overhaul – This project is going well. The timber sale is complete and cutting/hauling is underway. Dredging is scheduled to start in August.

Lemolo 1 Forebay – FERC PRO is requiring PacifiCorp to put 16” toe drain pipes at the base of the berm, to allow for draining of any forebay liner leakage that may occur. USFS staff is working on clearance for this additional ground disturbance.

Part 8 Signs – Installation is underway and expected to be completed before the end of July.

Soda Springs Tailrace Barrier (Baffle Prototype Test) – AECOM completed the field measurements last month. They are currently drafting a technical findings report. PacifiCorp will share this report with Dave Harris and Ed Meyer following internal review.

Soda Springs Fish Passage – Final comments on construction plans have been requested from the RCC, in order to complete this filing with FERC PRO. After the bid process, permit drawings will be revised and submitted to the agencies (for additional fill, etc.). The smaller project (temporary instream flow release facility) has been filed with FERC PRO for September start-up work; the plans and specs for the larger overall project will also be filed at that time.

Watson Ridge – Excavation work for this project has followed an updated plan, and the USFS Lease is being revised accordingly. Pam Sighting mentioned that the project is moving along nicely. The vaults and conduit are in. More rock may be needed. She said, “It’s looking great!” She noted that at the communication site, there is one snag that she will mark for cutting.

TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP UPDATES

Aquatic Connectivity

The NTP packet proposed 12 connections for this year. Per consultation with both ODFW and the USDA-FS, we’re paring back to fewer sites in 2009, in order to complete site-specific designs prior to contracting. Three or four sites are planned (combo wildlife crossings) this year; in addition to complete designs for all aquatic sites (56-57 sites).

L2R (Lemolo 2 Reroute)

The geotechnical investigation is underway. PacifiCorp is moving the previously accepted conceptual design to a 30% design after the geotech work is completed. The first TWG meeting will be scheduled later this fall 2009. The target is a 60% design by year-end or early next year, with permitting in 2010 and construction in 2011.

FHS (Fish Habitat Studies)

19.2 Monitoring Program – smolt traps are removed from Calf and Copeland creeks due to low flow, but the Soda Springs trap is still operating. Dave Harris reported that this trap is having mechanical issues which are currently being resolved. The crew is also working on the SA 19.1 brook trout eradication program, but will switch over to SA 19.2 fish population surveys upstream of Soda Springs dam during August and September.

FPD (Fish Passage Design)

Ed Meyer indicated he still had comments on the most recent drawings from the Soda Springs fish passage project emailed out after the last RCC call. The comment deadline was extended to July 31, and Monte will set up a conference call with MWH, NMFS, and ODFW for July 29 to review the most recent comments and concerns.

A contractor has been selected to begin the design process for the Slide Cr tailrace barrier, and will have draft conceptual designs for TWG review at the September 3 meeting.

RCC Action: Schedule kick-off TWG meeting date for Slide Creek Tailrace Barrier Design.
September 3, 2009 (10:00 AM – 3:00 PM, at NU Implementation Center) was chosen by RCC.

Lemolo Reservoir (met 6/16)

Experimental reservoir operations, as modified since April, have been followed to provide lower than normal water levels. Since the start of trapnetting May 26, approximately 55,000 tui chub have been removed as of July 7, mostly still in the 9” to 10” size range even though the catch rate has decline to a couple thousand fish per week. The TWG feels it’s beneficial to continue trapping through July and into August. Dave said that Scott Lamb initiated a mark-recapture study and has so far estimated about 39,000 tui chub are left in the reservoir, but cautioned that there is a lot of uncertainty around this estimate.

Joe Eilers is doing his third field sampling of water quality and algae today. The USDA-FS is monitoring algae conditions every Monday. No water contact advisories have been issued yet, since algae densities and conditions have remained below the threshold for an advisory. The USFS and PacifiCorp are consulting on a strategy of posting the area near the dam and spillway off-limits to swimming, which may improve safety and remove this area from concern for water quality advisories.

Pam requested an accounting of exactly how the \$40,000 mitigation funds are being used relative to the trapnetting effort. Monte reported that the mitigation funds/PacifiCorp funds are being used as 50:50 matches to pay for Scott Lamb’s effort until the Title II funds become accessible to him, as agreed at recent TWG meetings. The first such payment totaled about \$20,000 (thus about \$10,000 PacifiCorp funds and \$10,000 SA 19.3 mitigation funds). He and Rich will provide Pam the documentation she needs for this.

2010 Mitigation Projects

Pam mentioned that the Peer Group has ranked the 2010 mitigation project proposals. The Board of Directors will be ranking them on July 21. Once this happens, Pam will send the project list and rankings out to the RCC and to Rich.

The next RCC meeting is a face-to-face on August 19 (10am-3pm), at PacifiCorp Green District Office.

Meeting adjourned.