

7-18-12 Meeting Summary * *Approved 8-15-12 * *
RESOURCE COORDINATION COMMITTEE (RCC)
North Umpqua Hydroelectric Project (FERC No. P-1927)

RCC Members or Alternates Present

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

Also Present

Beth Bendickson (PacifiCorp Energy)
Rich Grost (PacifiCorp Energy)
Mike Blum (PacifiCorp Energy)
Scott Schevenius (PacifiCorp Energy)

Other Attendees

Kelly Coates (Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Indians)

Monte asked about the status of the Rock Creek study. Rich replied that Stillwater is currently implementing the final year of the study that began in 2004. This is the last phase of the three-year post-treatment monitoring. The last field effort will be in March 2013. This before-after control-impact (BACI) study will be wrapped into one overall report next year.

INTRODUCTIONS, AGENDA, OLD BUSINESS

Member Updates - *none at this time*

19.3 Fund Proposal (Status Update)

Pam reported that the director extended the date for proposal submittal to August 4, 2012.

Rich said that the FHS TWG had a call on this subject and supports continued monitoring of Lemolo Lake as a high priority for the 19.3 fund. Craig Street and Dave Harris will develop a fish monitoring proposal, while others will do a water quality monitoring proposal. Rich said the water quality monitoring will include a modeling component. The idea is to use the past six years of monitoring information from Lemolo Reservoir to refine the water quality model PacifiCorp had built in 2001. There is now a lot more information to refine it and use it as a tool to help investigate different scenarios for management of the reservoir. PacifiCorp will provide up to \$15K toward the model development, as pledged during previous TWG meetings.

The second proposal for fishery monitoring is a continuation of the trap netting program for monitoring purposes of all fish and to continue to remove and monitor tui chub. There has been an increase in larger brown trout this year, which is a good thing for fisheries. We would also include additional components to better sample other fish species, such as gill netting which allows deeper water sampling for Kokanee. An increase in Kokanee salmon could have an effect on water quality similar to tui chub. The ODFW has been doing periodic redd surveys, but the TWG thought it would be good to capture and incorporate those into the program also.

Rich wanted to document RCC approval for the two proposals. However, Anne said that Max Yager might have something to say about it. She said they have a proposal for a multi-phase project that they want considered for funding. They received partial funding, but not all that they needed and are concerned with that. She will talk to Max after the RCC meeting.

Monte talked generally about the use of the 19.3 funding for various projects. PacifiCorp feels that the Settlement Agreement is clear on this. It doesn't specify particular projects for funding, but it does say that it will be used on projects related to hydropower impacts that aren't completely addressed within other Settlement Agreement sections. Pam added that projects which address direct hydropower sites and impacts have higher priority within the USDA-FS criteria. Besides occurring on a hydropower reservoir, the Lemolo reservoir water quality proposals address water quality that may have downstream impacts, and therefore should score high on the priority list.

SA 19.1 Projects (Status Update)

Habitat Enhancement on Harrington Creek was discussed. The tributary has a flood plain, so they reconnected some old channels with large boulders. It has gone through one winter and been monitored. One of the next big projects is Rock Creek proper – the mainstem Rock Creek, above East Fork. The plan is to create overwintering habitat for salmon fry pushed out of tributaries. Taking Stillwater Sciences' numbers and talking back and forth with Dirk Pedersen and crew has allowed ODFW to better design the structures.

FERC Environmental Inspection – A FERC consultant will review license compliance and then go out to tour the projects. Monte said that if any RCC members wanted to attend, to please let him know.

Notice-to-Proceed Process – All NTPs have been issued for those actions included in the list of ground-disturbing projects list provided to the USDA-FS on February 15, 2012.

Public Information Opportunities – *none at this time.*

RCC Action: Review and approve the June 27, 2012 Meeting Summary – **Approved 7-18-12**

CURRENT PROJECT UPDATES

Soda Springs Fish Passage

We are still on schedule for water-up in late September. The low level outlet is being repaired; the minimum instream flow is still being provided by Spillway #1 but will be switched to the low level outlet once repaired. This will allow finishing details of concrete surfaces on the spillways and painting of the gates. Screen installation has been delayed until September. Virtually all of the baffle panels are installed, but the screen panels are still two weeks out. The removal of the coffer dam in front of the fish ladder exit is still planned for September.

Aquatic Connectivity Sites (2012 Status) – *nothing new to report.*

Slide Creek Tailrace Barrier (Status) – Mechanical and in-water work is planned for August and September to ensure the facility is fully functional by November 30.

Fish Creek Communication Upgrade – We are still testing radios and antennas along Fish Creek Canyon in order to do a demonstration on the dump gate system.

Fish Creek Fish Screen Hydraulic Improvement

Bids from contractors are in review, and the ACOE permit should arrive next week. Chris asked how long the in-water work will take to reconfigure. Rich said most of the work will likely happen in September, with very little actual in-water work since the settling pond will be salvaged and dewatered so that work will be done in the dry. Work will be completed well before natural high flows allow diversion restoration.

L1 Forebay Operations

Rich reported that Lemolo 1 canal and forebay were dewatered as planned on July 8. The salvaged fish were liberated in Lemolo Lake. The lined portion of the forebay is now drying in the sun, desiccating what little algae was present prior to dewatering. The lack of algae growth compared to last year is a positive sign that flushing operations are succeeding in reducing algae growth. By the time we water back up on July 25/26, whatever algae remains should be dead. This August we expect to avoid high pH conditions, and monitoring will help document what actually occurs. Then we can evaluate results and make plans for next year.

Chris supported the use of operational methods to interrupt algae growth.

Pam asked about the fish salvage. Rich said there were about 220 trout salvaged, mostly brown trout and about evenly split size-wise between the less than 10” and larger than 10” categories. The largest was about 20”. There were also a few hatchery rainbow trout salvaged, and several hundred juvenile Kokanee (2-3” long) that didn’t survive the salvage efforts due to warming water in the forebay and the delicate nature of kokanee. Rich said very few tui chub were seen in

the forebay, indicating that the forebay was dominated by cold water rather than warm water prior to dewatering.

Pam mentioned that the corner buoy of the helicopter dip site pad is missing, and requested that PacifiCorp replace it.

TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP (TWG) UPDATES

FHS TWG

- SA 19.2 Baseline Conditions Report – Stillwater Sciences' is in the process of incorporating TWG comments into a final report which will come out next month.
- SA 8.3 Soda Springs Fish Habitat Maintenance Work 2012 – The habitat maintenance work is planned for the first two weeks of August.

Operational Updates

The Lemolo 1 outage is currently going on (July 8-26) so flows in Lemolo 1 bypass reach are higher than normal. One of the Toketee generators will be down for its normal two week maintenance but this won't affect river flows. Fish Creek will also be down for maintenance after natural flows drop below diversion levels, so this won't affect river flows either.

Public Comments – *none at this time.*

Other Comments

The next RCC meeting will be a face-to face meeting/project tour at Toketee on August 15, 2012, from 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM. Please bring your own lunch and safety gear.

Meeting adjourned.