

8-15-12 Meeting Summary ** Approved 9-19-12 **
RESOURCE COORDINATION COMMITTEE (RCC)
North Umpqua Hydroelectric Project (FERC No. P-1927)

RCC Members or Alternates Present

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

Also Present

Beth Bendickson (PacifiCorp Energy)
Rich Grost (PacifiCorp Energy)
Steve Marchi (USDA-FS)

Other Attendees

Kelly Coates (Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Indians)
Mark Brown (Intermountain Digital)

Absent

Pam Sighting (USDA-FS)
Anne Shirley (BLM)

INTRODUCTIONS, AGENDA, OLD BUSINESS

Member Updates –

PacifiCorp – Monte reported we are short one Communications Technician on the North Umpqua, which may affect progress on the Fish Creek CSD testing.

USDA-FS – Pam Sighting reported there was an incident with bikers going through the Soda Springs fish passage worksite. Law enforcement was called. Also, there will be some demolition work in September that Bill Blackwell will be in charge of.

19.3 Fund Proposal (Status Update)

Steve Marchi reported that all proposals have been received. There are 20 for a net total of \$1.1 million. The peer group will meet on August 16 to rank them in order of importance. The Board of Directors will then meet on August 30 to go through them and make a preliminary list of

approved projects. There is a little bit of both aquatic and terrestrial projects, including a proposal for a lamprey study. He said it was a good distribution of projects.

Another item the USDA-FS is developing is a strategic plan on how to spend the 19.3 mitigation money. They are planning to have a draft by early next year and will send it out to the partners (including the RCC) for evaluation. They expect to have a final plan towards the first part of next spring. It will address long term (five years) and an even longer term (20 years) schedule. This is expected to bolster the amount of funding to hit the ground. They will work with third parties for cost-share possibility and hopefully increase the amount of money available for mitigation projects.

Monte mentioned that if the amount spent per year is between \$700-800K, the money should last throughout the license term. This doesn't even take into consideration the possibilities for cost-share partnering. Steve said the average for matching funds has been 30-40%, with some years even approaching 70%. It's been two to one and feels they can hit even more matching funds.

Mark Brown – North Umpqua Video

Mark is working on the last part of the North Umpqua project video. During today's project tour, he will be asking agency folks for their overviews of the last ten years – what are some of the highlights since licensing began. This will be a big picture look at the entire program. He will start the editing process for the final video in January. It will highlight completion of the Soda Springs fish passage project but also include many other efforts. He suggested using a mini fish cam to get some fish ladder activity.

Public Tour Scheduling – This tour has always been well received by the public. The RCC suggested keeping the date the same as the RCC meeting on October 17. The USDA-FS will again be able to supply a 20 passenger bus. Monte asked what our contingency is if more people show up. He suggested perhaps renting a large van. It was said that if too many people sign up, perhaps a second tour could be arranged. The consensus is to wait and refine the plans as the date gets closer.

Rich added that the coffer dam removal could interfere with the tour, so having the tour in November could also be a possibility and said that perhaps the November RCC meeting date could be a better tour date. That RCC meeting date was changed to November 14 so as not to conflict with the Thanksgiving holiday.

Public Information Opportunities – *none at this time.*

RCC Action: Review and approve the June 27, 2012 Meeting Summary – **Approved 8-15-12**

CURRENT PROJECT UPDATES

Soda Springs Fish Passage

The screens, as well as cleaning systems, are starting to be installed. Fish screens for the evaluation building are on-site but not yet installed. The cofferdam removal is schedule to begin mid September and last about a month. The water-up is scheduled for late September, with the water testing of the ladder and screen during October.

Last week, the low level sluice gate was repaired and on Friday it was restored to service to provide the minimum instream flow, as Spillway #1 was shut to prevent fish attraction and potential harm, as well as to provide for inspections and repairs of the concrete spillway. As expected, fish modified their leaping patterns but an unexpected danger was identified as they leaped mostly near the corner of the spillway, where one adult steelhead failed to escape the flat surface and died over the weekend. Per consultation with the RCC, on Monday afternoon, the flow was reduced from the initial 320 cfs to 200 cfs in an effort to reduce leaping at the spillway corner. Rich suggested that further reduction may be warranted to further reduce the risk of fish injury during the next few months of abnormal conditions. In the future, when the fish ladder is in service, the low level sluice gate would rarely be used – but it is necessary during the next months to accommodate spillway repairs, coffer dam removal, and fish habitat maintenance. The minimum instream flow system (MIF) has been repaired and can also be brought back into service if necessary, but can only be manually operated and only closed or full open (about 70 CFS) to add flow downstream of the bridge.

Rich suggested that we all go observe the leaping situation at the dam and then consider the best plan for flow management.

Note:

At Soda Springs dam, the RCC observed unacceptable fish leaping and agreed that PacifiCorp should:

- 1) Further reduce flow from the low level sluice gate necessary to minimize leaping at the spillway corner, with a target of about 100 cfs and minimum of 30 cfs.
- 2) Consider using the MIF to add another 70 cfs to the river downstream of the bridge after the fish habitat construction is completed.
- 3) Continue to monitor for fish leaping and injury and adjust flows or install fish protections (e.g. padding) as warranted.

Aquatic Connectivity Sites (2012 Status) – Three aquatic site reconnections are currently being completed on Slide Creek and the Lemolo 2 systems.

Slide Creek Tailrace Barrier (Status) –The in-water work to clean away gravel and improve hydraulics is scheduled to begin next week.

Fish Creek Communication Upgrade – PacifiCorp is down one Communication Technician, which could delay improvements, but there is not likely to be enough water to allow testing until next spring or early summer.

Fish Creek Fish Screen Hydraulic Improvement

The screen area and settling pond were dewatered on July 30. It took several days and as expected, pumps were needed to control seepage into the work area. Most fish were salvaged on July 30, with assistance from ODFW which took about 13 for the Fishwich broodstock program, and the fish salvage was completed on the third day (August 1). Sediment removal is completed. Modification to the fish screen gallery is underway with the foundation being laid out. The project is on schedule to be completed in October.

Lemolo 1 Forebay Operations

The forebay was dewatered as planned in mid-July for powerhouse and canal maintenance. It was watered back up July 26-27 and since then, has been operated to include frequent water flushing to minimize stagnation and algae growth. Monitoring for pH has been initiated in accordance with the 401 Certification and the more extensive pH evaluation plan that PacifiCorp coordinated with DEQ. Initial indications are that the pH is quite a bit lower than last year.

Monte doesn't feel vegetation removal will be needed next year. There was just a fine layer of sediment and organic debris found during the July 2012 dewatering and desiccating. Rich added that PSU sampled for invasive species, and that they and Joe Eilers have both examined the sediments to see what can be learned about them.

TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP (TWG) UPDATES

FHS TWG

- SA 19.2 Baseline Conditions Report

Stillwater Sciences provided a final report to the TWG, which is doing a final review and approval prior to distribution to the RCC. So far ODFW and NMFS have approved the report, other agencies will follow suit.

Dave suggested that the TWG meet to discuss SA 19.2 program monitoring expectations (staffing, schedule, etc.) for the next few years. ODFW is gearing up for their district's overall monitoring program and they need to update smolt traps to new OSHA safety standards. In order to work on traps in the future, personnel will need to be trained by ODFW. There will also be a need for training by PacifiCorp in the use of the new Soda Springs Evaluation building.

- SA 8.3 Soda Springs Fish Habitat Maintenance Work 2012

Construction and gravel work will commence next week (for three weeks). The first step will be to remove a new log that fell into the river from the bluff above.

Operational Updates

Rich noted that the NUHP has been asked several times to minimize hydro generation so the company can accommodate more wind generation during periods of high wind forecasts. This creates unusual challenges for balancing flows and ramp rates but we are managing it well so far.

Lemolo 1 Bridge Repair

Craig Street presented his written proposal, emailed August 13, for reducing flows below the normal minimum requirements to facilitate repair of the USFS footbridge across the Lemolo 1 bypass reach. They are requesting a decrease in the minimum instream flow to about 40 cfs for two to three days after September 15 to remove a large log that is deflecting flows into the area they need to repair. The water is currently chest deep by the gabion, and flow reduction is needed to work safely. Bill Blackwell is talking about getting a fire crew onsite to assist with the repair.

He asked if anyone had any questions.

Steve Marchi mentioned this repair is temporary until the bridge is replaced due to old stringers. It will be limited to pedestrian traffic only. It may take a year or up to three years before can be replaced, in order to get funding in place.

PacifiCorp said they would reduce flows as specified as long as the RCC provides documentation of approval to ensure regulatory compliance with flow requirements. ODFW voiced agreement with the proposal.

RCC Action: Approve USDA-FS proposal to reduce flows below minimum in Lemolo 1 bypass reach for bridge repairs. **Approved August 15, 2012 **

Public Comments – *none at this time.*

The next RCC meeting will be a conference call on September 19, 10:00 AM – Noon.

Meeting adjourned.