

9-16-09 Meeting Summary * Approved 10-21-09 *
RESOURCE COORDINATION COMMITTEE (RCC)
NORTH UMPQUA HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT- FERC #1927-008

RCC Members or Alternates Present

Ariel Hiller (BLM)
Stephanie Burchfield (NMFS)
Monte Garrett (PacifiCorp Energy)
Chris Stine (ODEQ)
Rob Burns (USFWS)
Pam Sighting (USDA-FS)

Also Present

Beth Bendickson (PacifiCorp Energy)
Stan Vejtasa (Umpqua Valley Audubon Society)

RCC Members Absent

Craig Kohanek (OWRD) – Proxy given to Chris Stine
Dave Harris (ODFW) – Proxy given to Chris Stine

INTRODUCTIONS, AGENDA, OLD BUSINESS

Member Updates

BLM – As of today, Max Yager is now the official Swift Water Area Resource Area Manager

USDA-FS – Allen Hubbs is the new Fire Management Officer

RCC Action: Review and approve 8/19/09 draft meeting summary. Approved 9-16-09

Public Information Opportunities

Public Site Tour Planning – Monte suggested possibly having it the same date as October RCC meeting (10/21). Everyone seemed to like this idea. Monte will begin planning and get a draft agenda out to RCC members and public relations staff. A News Release will be published within the next few weeks. [Tentative schedule: 9AM RCC meeting; Public at 10AM; Tour start at 11AM].

Pam said Mary Wagner's visit to the Soda Springs dam went well and that she was very interested in the fish passage project.

Public Comments – Stan inquired if PacifiCorp had insurance regarding the Williams Creek fire. Monte indicated that the status of the company's involvement in the issue is uncertain at this time.

CURRENT PROJECT UPDATES

Notice-to-Proceed (NTP) Status

The USDA-FS recently issued the following NTPs:

- Aquatic connectivity sites
- Ranawapiti wetland
- Lemolo 1 forebay road re-alignment
- T&D vegetation management
- Clearwater 1 forebay revegetation
- Fire management plan

Fish Creek (Screens and Canal Shutoff & Drainage System) – As soon as there is water back in the canal, there will be a test for interested parties. This is expected to be late November/early December and may be combined with a test on the Lemolo 2 Canal Shut-off & Drainage System project. Regarding the potential for winter maintenance flow diversion to prevent ice and snow build-up in the canal, PacifiCorp will monitor this year to evaluate future needs.

Lemolo 2 Canal Shut-off & Drainage System – On schedule to be completed by the end of this November. There is also additional work associated with this project, including road widening near the gate sites and canal debris cleaning and patching.

Lemolo 2 Forebay Dredging/Lemolo 2 Plant Overhaul – This project has been slightly expanded to include additional dredging of the forebay. PacifiCorp now plans to dredge an additional 35,000 cubic yards. Included in the project will be root wads installed in the forebay for fish habitat enhancement. For the dredge disposal site, the plan is to revegetate the area with native species to provide a big game food plot. Pam said the area is looking good.

Lemolo 1 Forebay – The schedule has been revised; the forebay will be completed in 2010, although the associated wetland is expected to be completed this year. BMPs will be utilized to assure erosion control over the upcoming wet season. The road closure may need to be extended into next year in order to complete the forebay work.

Soda Springs Tailrace Barrier (Baffle Prototype Test) – The results of the test indicated that the baffles, affixed to the picket screens, will more closely approximate velocity criteria across the tailrace barrier. But, because the perforated panels make the pickets less porous, there could be a debris issue. This may not be an issue following construction of the fish screen at Soda Springs dam, so the need for installation of perforated plates will be revisited in 2013. In the meantime, the prototype baffles will be utilized as practical for periodic observations this fall, and visual monitoring will be used to check for any signs of fish injury.

Soda Springs Fish Passage – This project is still on schedule. The minimum instream flow structure will be constructed in October. Plans have been submitted to FERC PRO. If for some reason it can't be constructed by the end of October, Dave Harris has indicated that ODFW will give week-by-week approval for in-water work period extensions as necessary to complete this work.

Slide Creek Instream Flow – Last Friday, the USGS conducted a flow test of a new instream flow gage location. The test was successful and the gage will be moved to the new location after the first of the year. The spill gate will provide the required instream flow.

Watson Ridge – This project is anticipated to be complete by the end of this November. It will provide important communication links for the Fish Creek fish screen, Fish Creek canal shut-off and drainage, and all the minimum instream flow controls.

TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP UPDATES

Aquatic Connectivity – PacifiCorp has received approval by interested RCC parties for three aquatic site reconnections this year. Of the other 54 sites, about 15 are uncomplicated and basic plans will be developed internally by PacifiCorp for review by ODFW and USFS. Full engineering designs will be completed late this year and into mid next year for the remaining sites.

L2R (Lemolo 2 Reroute) – A technical working group meeting is scheduled for September 29. The conceptual design approved by the TWG in March 2007 will be transitioned into the 30% design for review at the meeting.

FHS (Fish Habitat Studies) – Smolt traps have been removed and annual repairs will happen this fall. SA 19.2 population surveys are being done in Slide Creek bypass reach. Rob Burns said he was up on Slide Creek bypass last week.

FPD (Fish Passage Design) – The meeting on September 3 included both the Soda Springs fish passage and Slide Creek tailrace barrier projects.

Soda Springs fish passage – The ODFW indicated that one-week extensions for in-water work would be granted as often as necessary to complete the MIF structure during 2009. The other TWG members agreed to this.

There was discussion and design improvement regarding 1) design and functioning of the screen drain; 2) leakage past the brushes on the finishing screen ramp, which could create hotspots at the floor of the ramp; and 3) debris collecting in the fish return pipe. However, most of the discussion centered on the evaluation building - control of water inside the facility, how to manage hydraulics appropriately, and the transition control for diverting water to the evaluation building. Finally, it was agreed that the best fish outfall configuration was ODFW's preference for the outfall oriented downstream, close to the north bank, with flow entering approximately 180 degrees from its approach, in order to assure safety from predation. Further discussion is needed to finalize the design for FERC approval and procurement for construction. As urgent attention is needed, another meeting is currently scheduled on September 23, at PacifiCorp's Portland office, with NMFS/ODFW/PacifiCorp.

Slide Creek tailrace barrier kick-off meeting – Mort McMillen presented five alternatives for design (picket barrier, velocity barrier, vertical drop barrier, horizontal diffuser, and electric barrier). These were whittled down to two (picket and electric) that would be most appropriate for this site. While

they both deserve further consideration, NMFS noted that the electric barrier alternative is considered experimental.

Emergency spill system concepts (SA 6.9 requirement) – Concepts are being developed in concert with the tailrace barrier because the two projects must be coordinated into the same construction project. Two alternatives are being reviewed: 1) modify existing 4x4 intake sluice gate at base of trashrack; and 2) modify spillway to add a new gate at the canal floor.

The next meeting for the Slide Creek tailrace barrier / emergency spill system will be November 4.

Stephanie asked about riprap. Monte said the issue was largely resolved before the meeting during the July 29 phone call. The location of the evaluation facility was agreed to be as currently proposed, in order to provide for both the fish passage evaluation and goals of ongoing 19.2 work. Riprap will be minimized to the extent possible, and mitigated by covering with native material below OHW and planting above OHW.

Lemolo Reservoir (met 7/28)

There was a blue green algae bloom this year, although it was less of a bloom than in previous years. There has been a cooperative monitoring effort between the USDA-FS, PacifiCorp and other parties over the last several years, which has increased our understanding of these events. Joe Eilers (MaxDepth) has completed his water quality monitoring for this year and report is due in January 2010. The TWG feels that we've seen the worst of BGA blooms, but further tui chub trapping is planned for next year. Rich Grost developed a draft scope of work for future tui chub trapping and it's currently in review by the TWG. For funding, Title II and 319 grants will be pursued, but funds are still available from USFS 19.3 with matching from PacifiCorp for a total of approximately 53K.

In addition to about 60,000 tui chub that Scott Lamb removed this year, electrofishing on an as-staff-is-available basis has taken place cooperatively by TWG members and Lemolo Lake Resort staff, most recently the night of 9/15. In September, ODFW planted about 20,000 catchable "Fishwich" rainbow trout.

The next TWG meeting is scheduled for January 13, 2010, but work is proceeding in the meantime on monitoring, planning, and funding.

The next RCC meeting will be in person/conference call at the North Umpqua Implementation Center at Toketee on October 21, 2009; 9:00 AM – 10 AM, with the public tour following immediately afterwards.

Public comments – Stan appreciated the progress report on the Soda Springs Fish Passage project.

Meeting adjourned.