

FINAL (Approved 10-17-12)
9-19-12 Meeting Summary
RESOURCE COORDINATION COMMITTEE (RCC)
North Umpqua Hydroelectric Project (FERC No. P-1927)

RCC Members or Alternates Present

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

Also Present

Beth Bendickson (PacifiCorp Energy)
Scott Schevenius (PacifiCorp Energy)
Steve Albertelli (PacifiCorp Energy)
Mike Blum (PacifiCorp Energy)

Absent

Craig Kohanek (OWRD) – Proxy to Dave Harris
Anne Shirley (BLM)

INTRODUCTIONS, AGENDA, OLD BUSINESS

Member/Organizational Updates

PacifiCorp – A Communications Technician position has been filled, which will greatly assist ongoing implementation program objectives.

USDA-FS – Craig Street inquired as to why the baffles at the Soda Springs tailrace barrier were pulled out due to plugging. He wanted to know when the agreement to do that happened. Ed Meyer explained that was they were in place for some time, but were frequently clogged with debris that confounded balancing of flows. Monte Garrett added that after initial construction, it was difficult to balance all the bays with the diffuser panels alone. Porosity plates were developed and placed between the picket panels and the river. This assisted with flow balancing but increased debris plugging. The RCC acknowledged the fact that much of the debris load is likely to decrease once the Soda Springs fish passage project is completed. Monte requested tolerance from the RCC until the fish passage project is operational. When the Soda Springs fish passage project is complete, there should be less debris loading, and the porosity plates can be cleaned, installed, and the facility rebalanced.

19.3 Fund Proposal (Status Update)

PacifiCorp received the 2013 proposals and is reviewing to provide comments. The Board of Directors will provide a letter describing the proposal selection process works and a 5-Year

Strategic Plan is being developed for use of the 19.3 funding. No action will be taken until three weeks into October.

Public Tour Planning

Monte proposed November 14 as the date for the tour, with a starting time of 10AM, in anticipation of especially heightened interest this year. When the tour is announced, a request will be made for people to RSVP in order to get a headcount. A response to either Pam Sighting or Rich Grost will be required to have a spot on the bus; all others can come and listen to the presentation and pre-site tour. No personal vehicles will be allowed due to safety issues, as the site is still an active construction site. Rob Burns said we should make this clear in the public notice. Chris Stine added that as long as everything is clearly stated in notice, it should be okay. He asked that if it is moved to November, will they be able to see a watered-up facility. Monte said there should be water in both ladder and screen area and it should look good, unless there is a construction setback. We anticipate we will be in the middle of water-up.

The focus of the tour will be anadromous fish reintroduction and habitat - where we previously had a dam blockage, we now have fish passage facilities and protective tailrace barriers at two power plants and habitats enhanced for spawning.

Craig asked how people outside of the announcement area (John Ouimet/Bill Gamble) could attend. Monte said they could arrange for a seat on the bus or he would be happy to set up a separate tour for them.

Presentations to the Public

October 11 – Rotary Club & Douglas Timber Operators

October 31 – Roseburg Executive Club

November 2 – Optimists Club

November 15 – tour provided for local media

Monte will give the above presentations, but they are always open to RCC and it is preferable to have other agencies attend.

Other Presentations

October 4 - The USDA-FS, as part of a several day tour to illustrate what each district has been doing as far restoration efforts, will tour the Soda Springs dam area, viewing gravel-enhanced streams and talking about restoration. They will be focusing on the Soda Springs area and the partnership formed with PacifiCorp. Monte requested an e-mail from Craig to clarify what is expected of PacifiCorp.

October 25 - Craig mentioned the USDA-FS' all employee meeting (several hundred). This year's theme is "Water." The DLRD presentation will focus on the relationship with PacifiCorp.

PacifiCorp will participate as staff availability will provide. It will be held at the Douglas County Fairgrounds.

Public Information Opportunities – *none at this time.*

RCC Action: Review and approve the August 15, 2012 Meeting Summary – **Approved 9-19-12**

CURRENT PROJECT UPDATES

Soda Springs Fish Passage

Rich sent out an e-mail with the latest photos showing the sheet pilings in the upper cofferdam. They are being cut off at about 1,794 ft. elevation. The water is down to 1,793 ft. Because they are under the power lines, they are cutting them to be able to work safely. The coffer dam will be removed from now into the second week of October. The contractor will then transition into the water-up plan and addressing the punch list items, along with testing the mechanical aspects of facility. Specifically the mechanical fish screen and addressing concerns regarding smoothing of the fish screen surfaces. The big emphasis is getting the coffer dam out and minimizing turbidity at the same time and continuing to work on the fish evaluation facility downstream.

Ed presented a list of four items that he and Rich discussed.

Bank Treatment

The bank along the monitoring facility, originally constructed in 2009 - right now it's a rock surface (to act like riprap), but rounded river rock has been added. The original idea was to come back and add soil and establish plantings. The PacifiCorp proposal is to leave it as is for now; there is fear that the soil treatment will wash away. Willows may establish in the riprap. Ed's opinion is it doesn't look bad. There were some concerns in 2009 about removing trees and shade. Dave Harris agreed with Ed; it is not typical for Army Corps of Engineers to riprap with large boulders. It doesn't look like it would be a problem. Growth is already establishing itself. Chris asked about the toe of the slope where it was envisioned with the original riprap. The stream channel configuration in terms of long term function of stream channel - does it present any challenges or uncertainties? Ed replied no, the spawning gravel was placed higher up on bank (one foot higher than the existing water elevation). He doesn't think it will compromise channel function. Chris said he remembers the discussion that that side of river was described as something mobile and subject to slide. Ed said the small 5" – 6" diameter trees are subject to erosion. Rob Burns said this turned out bigger – the evaluation facility and we lost a fair amount. It was a bit disappointing, but it is what it is. Ed had a question for PacifiCorp – is there a cost savings by not doing the plantings? Monte said the planting is not going to cost much; the concern is more than whether the trees would wash away. It's whether or not to start

into something that's not going to be of value. He suggested it be monitored and if it appears that the vegetation is not establishing, a decision could be made to mitigate that. He inquired if everyone would agree we can monitor it for awhile. Ed suggested adding some large woody debris, to which Monte said it could be a good idea. Ed added that as logs come over the Soda Springs dam, they could be positioned in the area.

RCC Action - Accept the bank treatment as is as long as it's monitored. The USDA-FS, ODFW and NMFS accepted this. Pam added that we would just need to make sure the logs don't take out the weirs, to which Monte agreed and said they would be anchored in place.

Work Platform

Ongoing work at the ladder exit includes an access road at the lower end of the structure. The proposal is to create a flat area up from ladder for PacifiCorp to position heavy equipment to remove large logs from the reservoir and out of spillway. Part of the sheetpile would be left in place to support a work platform so they that operations could cable logs out from trash rack and spillway. Ed's concern it was that this could affect the hydraulics around the ladder exit. It could create an area where sediment wants to settle out in front of the ladder gates. Rich said a long reach excavator could be used. Clint Smith (MWH) is working on a design. One concern is that we will have a coffer dam bank (straight into water). Ed doesn't know if there will be an eddy or not. He talked to Rich and asked to see more about the platform design. At the least the structure would have to be monitored and potentially removed in the future. Monte indicated it will provide Operations personnel the ability to yard out large debris and logs. Right now they don't have good access because the boat ramp is being constructed the wrong direction for good access. From platform, they will be able to conduct necessary operations and maintenance tasks well. Monte asked Scott Schevenius and Mike Blum to weigh in. Scott said he spent most of yesterday morning onsite with MWH and one of the major concerns is hydraulics at the ladder exit.

Craig asked if a block in the form of a large piling could be added to block off and not have area extending out into the reservoir. Scott said they discussed this but it creates a point for logs to hang up on. This way it would keep a clean flow of water for intake and exit. Having a pile out there creates other hydraulics issues during high flows. You can pull logs back, but how to access it lower down the road. It could be a safety issue.

Monte suggested waiting for MWH to draw up conceptual designs that the RCC could comment on. Ed said he would need something to look at in more detail before he approves it. A monitoring plan would need to be part of the project.

Monte suggested having a TWG meeting after receipt of conceptual designs. It's troublesome to have to make such a quick decision at such a late date. Monte said this is an important issue that needs to be addressed, and asked Scott to get the drawings together and then a TWG meeting will be scheduled.

Gravel Augmentation

The proposal to put a two foot painted steel delivery pipe line on the back end of the screen structure, with a hopper feed to deposit gravel in high flow area of river. We could then come down the road and load gravel and deposit it downstream from the existing facility penstock. The cost of doing it is \$34,000 if built now with Todd Construction contract in place. Doing it after would add an additional \$4,000. We have a few months to think about this. The proposal is to use SA 7.2 funding, with future gravel additions utilizing both the SA 8.3 and SA 19.3 funding. Monte thinks it could be a cost effective project. Ed said it would have to be a significant costs savings over life of the project. Monte asked how we would get the gravel into the river, to which Ed replied it could be launched with a conveyor belt. Pam said gravel was previously sluiced down to the river. Ed suggested replicating the pipe and making it a permanent feature to the screen facility. Ed asked if this represented a better place than side loading it off the bridge. Pam said there was considerable time spent in finding locations, now it would just be a pipe? Ed inquired if the gravel would less expensive because we wouldn't have to bring in equipment. Pam asked if the gravel would get hung up in the downriver bend above the powerhouse. [Rich Grost indicated that would be preferable.]

Fish Viewing Window

RCC comments apparently did not effectively get into the designs regarding the design of the fish viewing window, because it is now undersized compared with what was agreed upon in the evaluation plan. The construction contractor built it as was specified in the designs. MWH may have replicated designs that they understood were included in other facilities, but we now have a window that is 30" wide (instead of 48-60" wide). PacifiCorp doesn't know how it happened. It will be a very large cost to address. We don't know for sure whether it will work. This is something we all overlooked. Monte suggested setting up the monitoring process and see if it will work the way it is if at all possible due to large the expense.

Rob Burns asked what it would do to the scheduling and completion dates. Monte said it would cause it to go into 2013 and would delay everything. Scott added it would be a four to six month delay. Dave Harris said if the scenario doesn't work, would it delay fish passage during the four to six months? Scott said it would require a major redesign of the fish ladder exit, which could be at least two months.

Ed said it was part of criteria and we didn't catch it in design. There weren't any dimensions when he went back and looked at it. He is not confident that it will work with a 30" window, but he doesn't want to delay the project.

Monte requested RCC comment on all four topics.

Aquatic Connectivity Sites (2012 Status)

This year's sites complete except for one small culvert modification left to do (24 inch).

Slide Creek Tailrace Barrier (Status)

Scott reported that all gravel cleaning from the base and inside the tailrace barrier is complete. They are working on the grounding and grating work. Weekly Bros measured all twelve bays – Bays 3 and 5 need grinding. It is on schedule to be completed by the time Soda Springs fish passage project is completed. The hydraulic balancing will begin next spring.

Fish Creek Fish Screen Hydraulic Improvement

The new wall directly across the floor from the T-screens has been poured. Work is currently being done on the back-filling behind the wall and compressors.

The minimum instream for Fish Creek and Slide Creek bypass will go up on October 18 (130 CFS Fish Creek; 240 CFS Slide Creek)

Lemolo 1 Forebay Operations

MaxDepth is conducting monitoring for the forebay. There is an operational regime for daily flushing to minimize algae and hopefully reduce pH levels. pH levels have been reduced at the forebay entrance, but there are still hotspots within. Chris reported there may be flushing several times a day. Continued monitoring will determine if operational changes are sufficient.

Flume 12 Plan

PacifiCorp is putting a contract together for some aerial photography and will implement data collection per the remediation plan. This will occur in the fall. Habitat restoration constituting compensatory mitigation is complete in the Soda Springs bypass reach.

TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP (TWG) UPDATES

FHS TWG

There is a meeting planned for October 18, 2012. It will be on long term monitoring going forward and will be based on next year's needs.

- SA 19.2 Baseline Conditions Report
The report is complete and considered final unless RCC has comments. It's an internal report to RCC only; not required for FERC.
- SA 8.3 Soda Springs Fish Habitat Maintenance Work 2012
Completed

- SA 8.2 Slide Bypass Reach Monitoring
The field work has been completed and the report should be complete by the end of the year.
- SA 7.2 Monitoring for Gravel Patches and Salmon Use Mid October
Dave said monitoring includes the typical one-day float that Rich does, along with the spring Chinook count.
- Wetland Enhancements

Steve Albertelli did a site visit a few weeks ago to determine the last three remaining wetlands to be enhanced:

- Clearwater flood plain (below Stump Creek) – 2014
- Lake Creek Elk Creek – 2015
- Stump Lake potholes (above Stump Lake dam) – 2016

The Fire Swamp site was dropped as there are cultural concerns and there was also a concern about the costs associated it. This could be a candidate for SA 19.3 funding.

Regarding the flood plain wetland site, PacifiCorp is currently waiting on inundation maps which will help determine how much area will be needed for the wetland and how much camping will need to be excluded from the site to address FERC's public safety concerns. The plan is to excavate where the wetland will go, lay it adjacent to the camping area, and provide an area for existing camping going on. Therefore, there would not be a campground closure, only about a modification of the existing campsite conditions.

Operational Updates

Work started today on the USDA-FS pedestrian bridge. Lemolo 1 bypass flows were reduced from 92 to 42 CFS to provide for this work to be completed.

Lemolo Lake Drawdown Plan – this plan is required each year in consultation with USDA-FS and ODFW. ODFW has approved this plan. It's currently awaiting approval by both Craig and Pam. They said they will review and respond.

Public Comments – *none at this time.*

The next RCC meeting will be a conference call on October 17, 10:00 AM – Noon.

Meeting adjourned.