

**3-18-09 Meeting Summary * Approved 4-24-09 *
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)
Pam Sighting (USDA-FS)
Bill Gamble (USDA-FS)
Rob Burns (USFWS)
Jim Thraikill (USFWS)

Also Present

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

Absent

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

INTRODUCTIONS, AGENDA, OLD BUSINESS

Member Updates

PacifiCorp – Tim Hemstreet will transition out of North Umpqua Implementation (Soda Springs Fish Passage project) as he's accepted a Manager position on the Klamath project. A construction project manager will be selected to replace Tim for implementation of the fish passage project.

USFWS – Jim Thraikill attended the meeting and will be the RCC representative for the next two months.

ODEQ – Chris Stine has indicated that ODEQ will not be participating in RCC activities due to budget considerations until July 2009. Until that time, ODFW has its proxy.

Public Information Opportunities – *none at this time.*

RCC Action: Finalize and approve February 18 meeting summary. (Approved 3/18/09)

CURRENT PROJECT UPDATES

Work Plans

With no further edits received, the work plans are now deemed final. A site meeting is scheduled for April 1. It is primarily with USDA-FS, but others are welcome to attend. The purpose is to review

projects that will cause ground disturbance in 2009 and therefore require a formal Notice To Proceed by USDA-FS.

Fish Creek (Screens and Canal Shutoff & Drainage System)

The consultant has nearly completed drafting of the operations manual. There have been several iterations due to the communication/power issue (radios that were installed weren't powerful enough to provide consistent link at the monitoring sites). Updated radios that were installed required more power than the solar panels could provide; therefore, "in-canal generators" are being installed to provide sufficient power. The flow turns the generators and provides power to batteries. During significant times in the year (late summer and occasionally during the winter), there isn't enough flow for diversion and the in-canal generators will not provide power to the batteries. During such times, the CSD may not be functional. However, if a canal breach happens at this time, there would be no water in the waterway to cause an erosive event. With the communications/power issue close to resolution, the draft manual will be reviewed internally during late March and then go out to the ODEQ and USDA-FS for review. The manual will include the Fish Creek fish screens and the canal shutoff & drainage facilities.

Planning for the biological evaluation is progressing. A research permit is needed for the use of rainbow trout. Field work is tentatively scheduled in mid-May for the high flow and mid-August for the low flow evaluation. FERC has accepted our request for extension of filing time of the biological evaluation to November 2009.

Clearwater 2 Canal Shut-off & Drainage

This project was designed different than the Fish Creek CSD; fiber optics is used for communication, which eliminates the need for radios and reduces power requirements. The solar panels will provide the minimal power needed to operate canal gates. Large tainter gates control the water within expanded sections of the waterway system rather than utilizing high-capacity dump gates. The Lemolo 2 CSD will use this same design

A performance test is scheduled for internal evaluation on April 7. Rich Grost will send an e-mail requesting RCC approval of a ramp rate modification from normal ramping limits to allow the test to proceed.

Wildlife Crossings

Construction has been delayed to the weather in late 2008. Construction will be completed as soon as conditions permit this spring.

Soda Springs Tailrace Barrier

ENSR's draft evaluation report was distributed to NMFS and ODFW. Reviews by these agencies and PacifiCorp are in progress. The main question is whether a viable and cost-effective baffle prototype test can be designed. If possible, a modification of the tailrace barrier pickets will be tested this year.

Watson Ridge

The communications tower at Watson Ridge is expected to provide critical communication links for the instream flow systems, flow monitoring sites, canal shutoff and drainage systems, and general project operations and safety. Construction of this facility is planned to commence on June 1.

Pam Sichting noted the draft Decision Memorandum was published in paper on February 25. There will be a 30-day comment period followed by a 45-day appeal period. They have received one comment so far. Pam indicated that she expects the final decision document will be issued in a timely manner.

TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP UPDATES

Wetland TWG

Wetlands - The 90% design meeting conducted on March 12 to review designs for the Ranawapiti wetland went very well, and final designs for both Ranawapiti and the Lemolo 1 forebay wetland have been approved by all parties. Both wetlands will be constructed this year.

Aquatic Connectivity - Up to 12 aquatic reconnect sites are planned for 2009, all along the Lemolo 2 system. Final designs have been distributed to the ODFW and USDA-FS; a conference call is scheduled for April 2 to discuss any final concerns. The Aquatic Connectivity Plan is being prepared and expected to be completed by the end of 2009.

FHS (Fish Habitat Studies)

Rich Grost will send an e-mail, fishing for dates for a mid-April TWG meeting to review the draft SA 19.2 report.

2009 19.2 Monitoring Program - Harris reported that the smolt traps were set in mid-February, began fishing in early March, and have produced spotty catches so far. The weekend rain event created some high flow and debris challenges but all traps are now fishing again. Winter and spring spawning ground surveys are also underway. The SA 19.2 crew has been busy; things look good.

Payment to ODFW was delayed due to uncertainties about the ODFW furlough issue (26 days for all state employees). Harris reported that the furlough issue between the state and the state workers union(s) may not be settled until the end of June. The EBA Technicians probably won't escape furlough beginning in July despite having dedicated funding.

Rich posed the question: Pay invoice as is or subtract furlough days from invoice?. From a work standpoint, Dave will ask HR about it. Possibly stagger days off so it won't affect overall monitoring program. If everyone has to take the same day off, it may cause periodic stoppages of SA 19.2 work (e.g., smolt trapping) and pose a problem.

RCC Action: Approve invoice for full funding of SA 19.2 personnel for 2009 as was sent by Dave Harris. If adjustment is needed due to furlough days, it will be adjusted with next year's invoice. (Approved 3-18-09)

Slide Creek Emergency Shutdown Evaluation - The SA 6.9 Slide Creek powerhouse emergency bypass system study was planned and performed in 2006, and indicated minor stranding and water quality impacts. The FHS TWG discussed at several meetings and one site visit in 2007 and agreed with the report findings that impacts were minor, that construction of a bypass valve (major project) was not warranted, and that the most appropriate place to consider opportunities for reducing impacts was during design of the Slide Creek tailrace barrier. However, the TWG and RCC then became focused on other issues (electrofishing boats, Lemolo algae blooms, etc.) and failed to fully document completion of the SA 6.9 consultation. This decision is needed in order to properly frame the scope of work for the Slide Creek tailrace barrier design, planned to begin in 2009.

RCC Action: Rich Grost will send an e-mail request to the RCC for RCC responses to document completion of consultation on SA 6.9.

FPD (Fish Passage Design)

Soda Springs Fish Passage Design - At the March 11 TWG meeting, the design and O&M plans were finalized for filing with FERC/DC. They may be modified as necessary for construction design to be submitted to the FERC Portland Regional Office. The final facility designs have been completed and approval signatures were provided at the March 11 meeting; these final designs will be timely filed with FERC/DC on March 24. The DSL/ACOE/ODEQ permit figures were updated and still require final approval of those edits by the agencies. Rich is following up with these agencies.

Construction will occur in two phases. The first phase is the 2009 construction of a temporary in-stream flow facility, to provide minimum instream flow to the bypass reach while the work area is dewatered. The second phase is the 2010-2011 construction of the rest of the facility (ladder, screen, and spillway). An evaluation will be completed in 2012. Since the last RCC meeting, the TWG agreed that a fish exclusion weir in the bypass reach was not warranted and a reduced minimum bypass flow will be provided during construction to reduce attraction of fish near the construction area.

F&R (Flows & Ramping) - *nothing new to report at this time.*

CSD (Canal Shut off & Drainage)

14.2 Lemolo 2 Canal Shutoff and Drainage - The final design is done and has been approved by authorizing agencies. This approval will be filed with FERC soon. Construction will start in June pending receipt of Notice to Proceed from USDA-FS. It's 30% larger than the Clearwater 2 CSD, but otherwise the design elements are similar with the exception that radios will again be used on the Lemolo facility (no available fiber optics). The Lemolo waterway has more light (for solar panels) and

water is always flowing (for in-canal generators) so power issues that have affected Fish Creek are not anticipated.

Lemolo Reservoir

At the March 6 TWG meeting, the MaxDepth report was reviewed briefly, indicating that a review of all hypothesis using historical and 2008 information concluded that the hypothesis most consistent with observations is that the blue-green algae blooms in Lemolo Reservoir are being driven by the large biomass of tui chub.

The TWG reviewed draft scopes of work for tui chub removal by trapnetting and electrofishing, to ensure efficient removal of the maximum biomass possible within funding and personnel limits. The trapnetting work is envisioned for a contractor, while the electrofishing work is envisioned for PacifiCorp and ODFW staff (SA 19.1 and 19.2 funded, although other ODFW and TWG staff are welcome to assist) and the RCC-purchased electrofishing boat. Since the TWG meeting, Scott Lamb obtained Title II funding (\$50K out of \$71k requested) for his proposal to trapnet tui chub and will be considered the only trapnetting contractor on Lemolo. He's gearing up to do as much removal as he can with the funding, and with ODFW permitting and oversight.

The TWG proposed making the same request for experimental reservoir management as was made in 2008 (not fill, operate at 4143 +/- 2 ft MSL, this spring and summer and drawdown allowed to 4114 ft MSL this fall). The goal is to reduce tui chub spawning habitat (from full-pool conditions) and ensure an efficient trapnetting operation. PacifiCorp is currently reviewing this request to see if it can be accommodated within existing snowpack, weather, flow, and generation conditions.

As in 2008, PacifiCorp and the USFS are planning a cooperative monitoring effort enlisting the support of MaxDepth Aquatics to continue investigation of algae dynamics and potential causal mechanisms.

Public Comments – *none at this time.*

The next RCC Meeting (and Conference Call) will be on April 15 at 10:00 AM. Note: This is a face-to-face meeting and will be held at the BLM Auditorium in Roseburg. Please arrive 15-20 minutes early to sign-in and get guest badges.

Meeting adjourned.