

**North Umpqua Hydroelectric Project
(FERC No. P-1927)****Resource Coordination Committee (RCC)
October 20, 2021 Meeting Summary****FINAL 1/11/22**RCC Members or Alternates Present

Steve Albertelli (PacifiCorp)
Rich Grost (PacifiCorp)
Pam Sichting (USDA-FS)
Amy Golladay (USDI-BLM)
Frank Weaver (USFWS)
Logan Negherbon (NOAA Fisheries)
Jason Brandt (ODFW)
Chris Stine (ODEQ)
Mike Korn (USDI-BLM)

Other Attendees

Beth Bendickson (PacifiCorp)
Scott Schevenius (PacifiCorp)
Jeffrey Brown (PacifiCorp)
Pete Sukraw (PacifiCorp)
Kelly Coates (Cow Creek)
Audrey Squires (National Forest Foundation)

RCC Members Absent

Craig Kohanek (OWRD)

INTRODUCTIONS, AGENDA, OLD BUSINESSIntroductions/Member Updates/Organization News

USDA-FS: Mark Sommer was selected as the Diamond Lake Deputy District Ranger. Amber Nelson, archeologist, has left. There is a backlog on Notice to Proceeds (NTPs). The FS is working on a programmatic ARPA permit for Historic Resource Associates (HRA) to perform cultural resource surveys with forms going to Chris Kelly to then fill out. Hopefully this will speed up the process by not requiring a separate ARPA permit for each NTP request requiring sub-surface cultural resource surveys. The projected return to office date for Federal employees is January 3, 2022. The BLM and USDA-FS offices will be soon be co-located in a new complex. Building construction has broken ground with a planned 2023 move-in date. Pam will move over to new complex. All USDA-FS contracts are going to require COVID vaccinations.

NOAA: No new updates on backfilling Jim Muck's position. The Oregon Coast branch office is down to 1.5 FTEs, with no anticipation of when they'll be back to full staff. No anticipated back to office dates yet, but they are approaching the phase of being able to get out for site visits. Optimistically, Logan said he is hopeful to be able to visit the project soon.

USFWS: Their office is still 100% teleworking for now, with no anticipated return to office date. Scott Center is going retire, but no date has been set yet.

BLM: No staff changes. Their visitor protocol is such that anyone who comes to the office must have either proof of vaccination or proof of a negative COVID test within three days.

ODEQ: They are still 100% teleworking. No staffing changes in the hydropower program. In the dredge/fill 401 certification program, Haley Teach has moved up the ranks and is now doing individual 401 permits. They will be recruiting for a new nationwide permit coordinator position.

ODFW: Kregg Smith is starting a rotation out of the hydropower program on November 1, 2021. He will be serving as a senior policy analyst for ODFW's Fish Division. The hope is that someone internal will rotate into the hydropower position. Kregg is planning to continue to help with hydro projects. The Umpqua Watershed District Manager (Tim Walters) retired this summer. That position is currently in rotation by Sarah Gregory. The District Office is closed to the public for now with a target re-opening in January.

PacifiCorp: The Toketee outage has been extended to 10/27/21, 3:30PM. Toketee bypassed reach is in full flow until then. Management is interviewing candidates for the open Maintenance Manager position.

Cow Creek: Their offices will open this week with COVID-19 protocols in place.

PUBLIC OUTREACH

Rich gave a presentation to the Natural Resources class at Umpqua Community College at the invitation of Professor Bryan Benz. It was largely a summary of the hydropower program but a shorter version than done at RCC public meetings, then it morphed into a talk about career development and education, including The North Umpqua Foundation's scholarship program. It was one of the largest groups he's seen (seven students in the lab, and seven online) and he was encouraged by the student engagement.

On November 4, 2021, Rich will give a brief presentation (online via Zoom) to the monthly hydrology group. It will focus on how the hydro project manages flows and ramping, with a Soda Springs fish passage update with ODFW's assistance. No other outreach events are planned at this point.

Scott reported on the Southern Oregon Trade and Career Fair in Canyonville. PacifiCorp and Pacific Power each had a booth. There were 80 schools in attendance. The North Umpqua Settlement Agreement 10th anniversary display materials were used. He deemed it a good turnout and a success.

FACILITY AND PROJECT UPDATES

Fish Protection and Passage Facilities

Fish passage: Rich reported that the fish passage facilities are working normally and everything is in service. Debris management is the primary activity now, with leaf-fall and autumn storms in full swing.

The Soda Springs Fish Evaluation Building and Slide Creek tailrace barrier have recently required substantial debris management attention. Maintenance has occurred on the Fish Creek T-screens to clean them prior to restoring diversion this fall when flows become high enough.

The planned Soda Springs outage for September maintenance has been postponed to 2022 due to supply chains constraints, staffing limitations, and early wet weather. None of the planned maintenance was dire for continued operation of the facility. It's still passing fish and no fish injuries have been observed at the fish evaluation building (FEB).

We are still on track and progressing with hydraulic upgrades for the screen cleaners. As soon as the parts arrive, the upgrades will be completed. The plan is for the upgrade to happen this year for the areas not needing outages and dewatering.

Toketee Dam Rehabilitation

Scott reported negotiations are ongoing with FERC and timeline remains the same (i.e., 2023-2024). He is hopeful to get it resolved with FERC soon.

Projects Requiring NTPs or Other Coordination

| Project | Status |
|--|-------------------------------|
| <i>DOGAMI Permit Application</i> | Awaiting review and Signature |
| <i>Slide Creek Diversion Power Supply</i> | Pending |
| <i>Two new residences at Slide Creek Village</i> | Pending |
| <i>Utility pole replacements (LM2 and CW2)</i> | Pending |
| <i>Residential fencing and gates</i> | Pending |
| <i>CW1 Public Safety Signage</i> | Pending |
| <i>Fish Creek pumped storage Geotech borings</i> | Pending |
| <i>LMI spillway electrical (priority one)</i> | Pending |

Steve said they are working on getting NTP requests together now for next year's projects. Pam appreciated that effort. Steve added that we make every effort to identify projects requiring NTPs before each calendar year begins. This was easier when most of the project activity was date-certain PM&Es. It's more difficult when the work is operations and maintenance on an as-needed basis. We understand the frustration with spur of the moment NTP requests during the course of the year, but it's mostly unavoidable.

Jeff reported the hazard tree requests have been sent in. They have identified more than they have funding for. He has asked Wright Tree Service to analyze which trees are a priority as far as significant hazard. They may not be able to get to all of them this year.

Regarding the Toketee Falls trailhead hazard trees near the flowline, Scott took a look at them and found two dead and two leaning trees near the flowline. This is four of the original thirteen identified by USDA-FS. He said the other nine were unlikely to hit the flowline because of where they were or orientation of the lean. He deferred back to the USDA-FS.

Pam mentioned Jack Fire rehabilitation of the transmission line. Regarding helicopter trimming through Brian King, it sounds like there have been some issues in contracting that work out.

PacifiCorp does have a notice to proceed (NTP) in hand. The Jack Fire was one mile east of where the Archie Fire ended. It affected transmission lines near Steamboat. The ground is too steep to log it, so instead a helicopter equipped with a saw will be used to dump any trees to eliminate the hazard to the transmission lines. People on the ground will then lop and scatter the trees. It's been a lot of work to get that NTP together.

Pam asked about the dates for the Toketee rebuilds. The dam rebuild is scheduled for 2023. Once PacifiCorp obtains the DOGAMI permit, we'll proceed with production of rock from Slide Creek quarry.

MONITORING PROGRAM & TECHNICAL WORK GROUP UPDATES

Rich provided the following updates:

SA 4.1 Soda Springs Fish Passage O&M

In addition to what he touched on in the facility updates above, he added that the Project crew went through an annual review of precautionary measures to see if any improvements were needed. No revisions were necessary. The crew is now experienced in to how to protect the fish screen from high flow damage. The annual Soda Springs Fish Passage Facility Operations and Maintenance Report submittal to FERC will be drafted in early December and sent out for agency review later in mid-December to meet the February 1 filing deadline.

SA 5 & 6 Flows and Ramping Monitoring

The USGS WY2019 records are currently being reviewed. Rich Grost and Yutaka Hagimoto (PacifiCorp hydrologist) expect to have the report submitted for review by mid-November.

SA 8.3 Soda Springs Bypass Reach Habitat Maintenance (update, schedule)

Chinook salmon are spawning and the amount of spawning habitat is about the same as last year. Gravel is still present upstream of the spawning area. No maintenance is needed on the spawning habitat, just monitoring. Rich assisted ODFW with a salmon redd survey float from Soda Springs down to Calf Creek two weeks ago with Chris Sheely. They stopped at each gravel augmentation site identified in the 2004 studies and documented that each site has spawning gravel and spawning activity. One of the sites has a submerged rebar post that was installed by Stillwater Sciences in 2004 to monitor the depth of gravel and it's been interesting to try to find it each year. This year it was exposed by Chinook salmon spawning activity.

Jason asked about the gravel stockpile along the road. He hoped it wasn't in the way. Rich said the stockpile looked to be about 1,000 cubic yards and Jeff verified that it was not in PacifiCorp's way. Pam said the mitigation fund supplied this gravel for use as gravel augmentation within and upstream of the SA 8.3 spawning habitat structures, as described in the Gravel Augmentation Plan, to get the most "bang for the buck." The only deviation from that placement strategy is when some of the gravel is placed upstream of the Soda Springs Dam in the Slide Creek bypassed reach. Gravel placed there ultimately gets trapped in Soda Springs Reservoir and doesn't help the rest of the river.

SA 19.2 Long-term Monitoring and Predator Control (update, schedule)

Fish movement is currently slow. At Soda Springs, upstream and downstream fish movement has slowed down. On a recent Monday night, only 40 fish were captured at the Soda Springs FEB, which was possibly due to decreasing water temperatures combined with a brightening moon phase. Chinook are spawning, dying, and becoming fertilizer for the next generation. Rich will be assisting Chris Sheely on the last float for Chinook salmon. A few coho salmon are starting to show up, but their movement won't peak until November-January. Summer steelhead passage has been very low as expected with such low numbers elsewhere in the North Umpqua with only about five passing Soda Springs Dam in September. This year may be the lowest count since 2013. Jason hasn't heard any recent updates on steelhead passage at Winchester Dam, but said they are still trying to work through the video and expecting the number to remain low. He said the number of Spring Chinook passing Soda Springs will be in the mid-range of recent years, and the expectation is that there will be good Coho counts this year.

Rich said there was very little predator control effort this year due to COVID-19 restrictions, fire closures, and staff limitations. He will continue to work on plans with ODFW for next year and will keep everyone posted.

Rich will initiate an email to the TWG regarding a budget proposal for the 2022 program of SA 19.2 work. The largest line item is the ODFW staffing cost, which was \$100,000 in 2020 but increased to \$120,000 in 2021. That cost deviates from the TWG discussion proposal idea a few years ago which was that if we could keep the ODFW costs to \$100,000, we could then save \$26,000 each year to bank toward post-passage monitoring. Jason said ODFW will take a closer look at how their costs worked out over the last two years to see what is needed in 2022. Jason needs to work with other ODFW personnel to get specific budget numbers.

Water Quality Certification Monitoring

Since the last RCC meeting the emphasis has been on Lemolo 1 forebay management. This summer began with clumps of Cladophora algae, stimulated by the dry, hot spring weather, floating to the surface and clogging the trashracks. Adjustments were made to the flushing regime, and a new strategy was put into place whereby the forebay level is kept as high as possible in the heat of the day, then a slow drawdown is done into the evening. In the morning, it refilled with cold water from Lemolo Reservoir. This seemed to be successful at reducing the warming of the water and production and movement of algae. The plan for next year is to start out with this flushing strategy in May and see how it works.

For clarification, Chris asked when we implemented the modified flushing schedule. Rich said that the algae issue was identified in May, and flushing regimes were experimentally modified many times over the summer before the one described above was implemented during August. Chris said

by mid-August the peak algae growth has passed, so next year would be the test so to speak. Rich agreed. Chris asked about the decay rate of existing algae and whether it would eventually be exported out or is it based on the hydraulics of Lemolo 1. Rich said some does exit the forebay as part of the daily flush cycle, but quite a bit remains in the forebay around the margins. Chris also asked whether there were any plans to remove the algae and sediment from the forebay. Rich said there were no plans but removal would certainly be considered if the new flushing regime alone fails to control the algae issue next year.

OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE UPDATES

Powerhouse/Canal Outages (updates, plans)

Jeff reported that Toketee 1 and Toketee 3 were currently in outage but it shouldn't affect current flows. There are no more scheduled outages for the rest of the year. We have a draft schedule for next year and will be meeting this month to see if we can move some outages further out into next year.

Reservoir Management (Lemolo, Toketee, Soda Springs)

Rich gave the following updates:

Lemolo Reservoir: We are in the middle of the fall drawdown. The level is about one foot higher than planned due to unexpected precipitation. He checked in with both Pam and Jason in early October. The precipitation this fall has helped the river and lake stay higher, and this combined with the wet forecast over the next week, means we won't have to draw the reservoir below 4,123.5 mean sea level. The Copeland gauge at the North Umpqua River has been above 720 CFS since October 6, 2021. Pam asked if the capped Poole Creek cultural site was creating any navigation issues. Neither Steve nor Rich had heard of any issues with reservoir management but said it might be good to go out and check. Rich added that he checked with Jim at the KOA, and Jim didn't mention it. Rich remembered seeing the rock capping the cultural site as he was operating a boat for aquatic plant surveys in September but did not notice it as any greater hazard than other rocky shoreline features. Steve asked Rich if he was concerned it might be a recreation hazard, to which Rich replied that he didn't think so.

Toketee Reservoir: It's being operated at a high level during the Toketee plant outage. We needed to fill it up to spill over the dam crest into the bypass reach during the shutdown. It's currently at an above-normal full pool. If anyone wanted to put a boat (anything bigger than a canoe) in, this would be the time to do it.

Soda Springs: Nothing new to report reservoir-wise. The levels are fluctuating some as we manage water for the Toketee outage. Jason asked how the Toketee outage and reservoir filling affects the North Umpqua River downstream of Soda Springs Dam. Rich said the flows did drop below 700 cfs during the filling of the reservoir but stayed above the target minimum flow this year of 640 cfs. He has been working with the operators to manage it and balance Toketee Lake and Soda Springs to minimize downstream impacts. The weather next week could increase flows and further dampen any flow impacts. Jason asked if PacifiCorp plans on doing any boat launch management to make it easier to launch a boat into the Toketee Reservoir and also about sediment removal. Rich said that the boat ramp is a USFS facility and that over the past ten or so years there have been some

conceptual plans, but at this point the general concept is to wait until we do the Toketee Dam Rehabilitation when the reservoir is down. Pam added that the USFS thought is to construct a boat launch in the river channel where the water is moving, just below the Lemolo 2 Re-Route outlet in the day use area. Her hope is that the USFS recreation department will put through plans and get all the permits at the same time. She said she would remind folks to get the planning done.

SA 19.1 TRIBUTARY ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM

Jason reported that the hydropower crew completed spring Chinook and summer steelhead adult holding snorkel counts in early-September. Last year the counts were cut off due to the Archie Fire. The counts were reinitiated this year in an abbreviated time period and scope, with 64 sites snorkeled above the hatchery diversion dam. The counts in Rock Creek were 171 hatchery, 3 wild, and 9 unknown origin Chinook. There was a greater number of hatchery fish observed as compared to the past few years which was not surprising as we didn't remove fish at the hatchery ladder this year due to fire damage to sorting equipment. Until the fire destroyed the Rock Creek Fish Hatchery and sorting system last year, ODFW was sorting out some/most of the hatchery fish (using Settlement Agreement funds) and using them for brood stock and/or donating them. That didn't happen in 2021, and they are trying to figure out a sorting facility rebuild. The summer steelhead count was very bleak with a count of three hatchery fish observed which was the fewest number of steelhead documented since counts were initiated. It's not surprising, however, as counts are low throughout the basin. Spring Chinook spawning ground surveys in Rock Creek started off slow this year with no redds observed through September. The recent rains in October seem to have spurred fish into action, and a peak of 70 new redds over approximately nine stream miles was observed the first couple weeks of the month. That will likely be the season peak but they will see if they get anything additional with the predicted coming weather.

The water quality stations are still malfunctioning due to fire damage. This issue has been elevated to the manufacturer. ODFW is hoping to not have to get all new equipment out there. Staff worked with ODFW Corvallis research personnel to fly a drone equipped with a FLIR camera on privately owned stretches of Rock Creek with previously completed instream restoration structures in place. Flights went well and initial results appear to indicate that it will be a promising method to track potential stream temperature change associated with instream restoration work, though a significant amount of GIS work still needs to be done to help evaluate data collected this year. ODFW hopes to have something to show the group soon.

Regarding post-fire monitoring, Jason said they are keeping a close eye on existing in-stream structures and gaging any maintenance needs (e.g., new trees, boulders, etc.). They had a recent high-water event, and everything seemed to be holding strong. They are still planning on doing hazard tree placement but had to get an in-water work window extension due to delays from fire closures and restrictions. They are working with private contractors/landowners and hope to have everything in place to help mitigate for any high-water events this year. The placements are planned for next week depending on the projected rain and high water. The trees are being placed above spring Chinook use and the hope is the work will be completed before Coho salmon show-up in large numbers.

SA 19.3 FEDERAL MITIGATION FUND

Strategic Planning

Audrey Squires reported on the status of the Umpqua Basin Restoration Strategy and Mitigation Fund documents, recently sent out for review and comment. Seventeen groups commented on the strategic documents. She thanked everyone for their comments. She will be out on maternity leave for four months returning in March 2022. At that time, she plans to send out information for the fiscal year 2023 projects.

Pam reported there are still mitigation funding challenges. Project proponents outside the USFS must file quarterly and final reports; otherwise “it’s a nightmare” to approve invoices. Project proponents will not receive additional funds until reports are received. Justin Hadwin should be sending out quarterly report reminders.

FY2022 funds will be distributed next week.

OTHER RCC AGENCY PROJECTS AND/OR COORDINATION

Transmitting large documents: In the current era of computers not having CD drives, there needs to be another way to smoothly transmit large documents. (e.g., Annual Erosion Control Plan Summary, Flow Monitoring Plan report/records, etc.)? What is the preferred transmittal method?

Comments

Pam – Via website or FTP

Chris – Move away from CD and/or hardcopy and towards electronic. He advocates a direct download

Beth will research different options (MS Teams, SharePoint, FTP, website).

Future RCC meetings: Steve asked if everyone wanted to stay with the current meeting schedule of January, May, August, and October, or change to a more regular quarterly schedule (i.e., the first month of each quarter). Discussion followed and **the RCC approved moving the meeting schedule to January, April, August and October.** They will remain as MS Teams meetings on the third Wednesday, with a target of in-person meetings in April and October. Beth will send invitations for the 2022 new quarterly meeting schedule.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: *None at this time.*

Break (5 minutes)

PUMPED STORAGE CONSULTATION

Steve reported that the draft License Amendment Application will be submitted to the RCC for the agreed-upon 30-day review and comment period. It’s not required, but PacifiCorp wants the RCC’s

input and participation in the process. FERC noted it would still consider any comments outside of the 30 days.

Exhibit E is largely complete. We are adding water quality information for mixing in the Slide Creek impoundment and hope to have that to ODEQ as soon as possible; maybe even before the draft application is sent out for review.

Pumped Storage is a priority for the company, and the Fish Creek “pump-only” development is a proof-of-concept for new technologies and the first stage of pumped storage development at the Project. An initial consultation document for the second stage of pumped storage development on the Project at Clearwater 2 will go out early next year. Chris asked about the initial package identified in the preliminary permit application. It was broader (including pump-turbines at both Fish Creek and Clearwater 2) but slimmed down for Fish Creek “pump-only”. Other than the preliminary permit application, Chris wondered if there were any other formal filings on pumped storage developments to date. Steve replied, no. PacifiCorp plans to be ahead of the curve and collaborative on development of the pumped storage proposals. PacifiCorp will consider all relevant studies or potential problems up front. Chris said, secondly, you referenced some new technology (new pump). Do you anticipate requiring a longer review time by FERC? Steve said, no, the environmental review will be more focused on the layout and orientation of the pump than the new technology. It wouldn’t be something that would have any impact on water quality or fish survivability through the pump. Chris noted PacifiCorp was finishing up the water quality modelling to support the amendment request for the 401 revision. Steve said we finished the bulk of it (modeling temperatures in Fish Creek forebay and calculating mixing in Slide Creek impoundment), but as we dug in to preparing the modification of the certification, we felt we needed more information on Impacts downstream of Slide Creek Dam. The project proposal will still require post-implementation monitoring and adjusting of operations if results are different than the model. With the protection, mitigation, and enhancement measures (PMEs) we are proposing, we will still do a full suite of water quality monitoring in the pre-implementation period. Any data we collect will be used to refine the model and mixing calculation. We’ll have a robust model to compare with post-project monitoring results. Chris said the 401 process needs to run simultaneously with the license amendment process. Steve hoped to have three documents submitted simultaneously: the license amendment application, the water right amendment application, and the request for modification of the water quality certification. The Toketee water right would be amended to include a new place of use at Fish Creek plant. If we have the request for modification of the water quality certification ahead of the License Amendment application, then we will get that to ODEQ as soon as possible. PacifiCorp lawyers are preparing the water right amendment application. Steve said we are hoping that by consulting early on reduced scope of the Fish Creek pump-only development, there will be no surprises for any of the stakeholders.

Preliminary permit applications have been filed with FERC for eleven other pumped storage projects across PacifiCorp’s service territory. Pam asked if they were all existing PacifiCorp facilities. Steve said some are existing (e.g., Bear River), but some are new developments. The vast majority of them are not on existing FERC licenses.

NEXT RCC Meeting: January 19, 2022

The meeting adjourned at 12:24 PM.