

FTC Cowlitz Hydroelectric Project
FERC NO. 2016
Fisheries Technical Committee
Final Meeting Summary
April 3, 2008 from 9:00 AM – 3:45 PM
Mayfield, Silver Creek, Washington

Participating Members

Michelle Day	NMFS
Mark LaRiviere	Tacoma Power
Brian Peck	USFWS
Brett Swift	American Rivers

Other Attendees

Rich Turner (by phone)	NMFS
Joe First	LCPUD, Cowlitz Falls
Mike Kohn	LCPUD
Debbie Carlson	BPA
Steve Vigg	WDFW
Wolf Dammers	WDFW
John Serl	WDFW
Charles Morrill	WDFW
Julie Henning	WDFW
Tom Santee	Insight Northwest
Bill Iyall	Tacoma Power
Steve Fischer	Tacoma Power
Tom Martin	Tacoma Power
Lyn Wiltse	PDSA Consulting, Facilitator

Future FTC Meeting Dates

May 7, Jun 4, Jul 2, Aug 6, Sept.3, Oct 1, Nov 5, Dec 3.
Default time: 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM; Default location: Mayfield

New Action Items

- Joe: Set up meeting to address status of debris barrier removal and send out update to all ASAP. *(done)*
- Charles: Send Mike email confirming extension of contract ASAP.
- John: Send Lyn presentation made at March 20 public meeting to attach to notes. *(done)*
- Lyn: Attach PowerPoint presentation made by John *and Pat* at March 20 public meeting to draft notes *(done)*
- Lyn: Cut and paste into May FTC agenda all relevant FTC protocol items. *(done)*
- All: Review Protocols – adequate? Note # 13, #16 re consensus process.
- All: When receive draft agenda for next meeting from Lyn notify her of any supporting documents that FTC members should read to prepare for next meeting ASAP.
- All: Send suggested edits to Lyn on Jan, Feb, and April meeting summaries by April 23.
- Mark: Meet with Brian, Steve V., and Wolf re: Draft Goals of Fish Release Program and which sites qualify.
- Mark: Provide Cowlitz Project Operations chart in color for May meeting.
- Mark: Revise FHMP schedule (Include summary of all input and how each suggestion was treated) and send out notification of posting to all by April 15.
- All: Review draft FHMP schedule/protocols and send comments to Mark before May 7.
- Mark: Draft sample FHMP update process norms and post by April 30.
- Mark: Convene teamlet of Brian, Wolf, Steve V, Ed ?, Bill I to make recommendations re: adult fish release locations by May 1.
- Tom M: Ask for answers to “King question” by April 11 if possible or ASAP and that workshop experts send their ideas directly to Lyn. Include an explanation that Chick and Al’s draft summary was just that and it has been neither reviewed nor approved by the FTC. *(done)*

- All: Send comments on Chick and Al's summary to Tom M by April 30.
- Tom M: Post FTC-approved version of Chick and Al's summary as soon as approved by the FTC.
- Tom M: Send follow-up email to Experts re: timing of response to "king question."
- Bill: Send Tom M drawings and documents relevant to electro guidance / electro anesthesia studies so he can post them for FTC review ASAP.
- Mark: Talk with USGS about acoustic tagging at Cowlitz Falls this year (to better understand fish movement in the forebay).
- Marc: Update this plan and post it for all to review. Include contingency plan if debris barrier cannot be removed. Consider also changing baffle panel arrangement on Unit 1 to allow for surface collection on Unit 1.
- Marc: If not fishing by April 15, re-do the plan and post by April 16.
- Mark: Revise plan to include the following: Parr in Lake Scanewa stay, and parr in Riffe Lake go downstream.

Previous Action Items

- Pat: Get detail of HSRG recommendation on chum.
- Julie: Send out Mayfield pump on/off data for Lyn to send out along with this draft meeting summary.
- All – Consider ideas for chum enhancement – we will continue to discuss this at future meetings. (*Is this still relevant?*)
- Wolf – Report on the definition of low run sizes for summer-run and early winter-run steelhead.
- Steve – Send out creel data electronically to FTC members.
- Steve V – Look at getting WDFW experts to do a site visit to check purse seining feasibility.

Approval of Meeting Summary

The approval of the March meeting summary was approved with minor edits.

Agenda item: Riffe Lake Refill / Instream Flow Update **Presenter:** Mark

Discussion:

Mark walked us through the most recent forecast. He will update it in the next day or so. Snow pack is 134% of normal at Paradise. We are holding steady at 5K cfs for Mayfield discharge except for the weekly pulse flow.

Conclusions: N/A

Action items	Person responsible	Deadline
✓ Provide Cowlitz Project Operations chart in color for May meeting.	Mark	May 7

Agenda item: NMFS Position on Electro Shocking at Cowlitz Falls Dam **Presenter:** Michelle

Discussion:

Michelle explained that NMFS supported our going forward with this on a trial basis. If we see injury to fish we'll shut it off. If it looks like a long-term option, Tacoma will do long-term study on survival rates.

Conclusions: Okay to start (a conditional start)

Action items	Person responsible	Deadline
✓ Review data from this year to analyze effects	FTC	

Agenda item: Adult Fish Release Location **Presenter:** Mark

Discussion:

Mark explained that Tacoma is looking to develop a release methodology that would work at a variety of release sites using a smooth-walled conduit pipe. Tacoma feels the portable option doesn't look feasible from a technical standpoint. This would mean developing a "Packwood-like" flume at the Tom Music Bridge site and possibly other sites. There would be security issues at each site to protect the flume from vandalism or destruction by high water. The proposal is to develop the flume on an as-needed basis and remove it when not in use. There has not been a discussion with the FTC on this yet. There was skepticism about this approach, as it is not water to water transfer. Mike K explained that he is awaiting State approval of his request for extension to use the 7K – request is through the end of September 2009. Frustration was expressed about the lack of progress made on this topic. FTC members want to take a detailed tech look at this before our May FTC meeting.

Conclusions: It makes no sense to proceed without the teamlet meeting and coming up with recommendations and supporting rationale.

Action items	Person responsible	Deadline
✓ Convene teamlet of Brian, Wolf, Steve V, Ed ?, Bill I Deliverables: Notes, Recommendations, Alternatives Considered and Supporting Rationale.	Mark	April 15
✓ Send Mike email confirming extension of contract.	Charles	ASAP

Agenda item: FHMP Renewal Schedule **Presenter:** Mark

Discussion:

Mark explained that the revised schedule includes the suggestion for a second FTC resolution process. The length of review time for FTC has been doubled as requested. It also includes public review. Tacoma proposes Lars Moberand as contractor to help with this. This idea was supported by FTC members.

The FERC order reminded the FTC to go through the settlement agreement dispute resolution process (approved by FERC) to resolve any disagreements. We will provide two opportunities to dispute resolution within the FTC before invoking the formal settlement agreement dispute resolution process.

Constituent issues shall be vetted during the entire FHMP update process. There were many questions about how the review would happen and what each of the tasks in the proposed schedule actually means. Steve V requested that FTC members be able to participate in the review process beginning in Step 1. There was not consensus among FTC members on this. We agreed we want to establish norms to support the review process. For example, how best to capture and communicate proposed changes to the plan? This will include addressing Steve's request (see above).

Conclusions: We need a revised schedule. If, at our May meeting, it is determined we need a teamlet to work on this we'll set one up at that time.

Action items	Person responsible	Deadline
✓ Post revised schedule and send out notification to all.	Mark	ASAP
✓ Draft sample FHMP update process norms and post.	Mark	April 30
✓ Send comments to Mark regarding schedules and protocols.	All	ASAP
✓ Include summary of all input and how each suggestion was treated.	Mark	ASAP

Agenda item: Hatchery Update **Presenter:** Tom M

Discussion:

Tacoma posted the bid for the hatchery remodel, not including the crowders. Tacoma is still working on the best model for the water treatments and well design. They expect to award the bid in mid-May. This will be an approximately \$18M project.

Conclusions: N/A

Action items	Person responsible	Deadline
✓ Keep FTC informed.	Tom M	Ongoing

Agenda item: Status of Debris Barrier **Presenter:** Joe

Discussion:

Joe reported that LCPUD does not want to remove the debris barrier until July 1 due to the possibility of high-flow events which may occur through the end of June. A further complication is the restaging of two support blocks which have been overturned due to a high-water event. Joe further explained that the moorage site was originally intended for maintenance rather than long-term usage. There was discussion about frustration about the delay with this process and what we will actually be doing to improve this fish passage this year. There was consensus that we need to have a face-to-face meeting to try to work this out quickly. This is complicated as there are permitting and liability issues, mitigation costs for lost generation and lost fish, and fear of being blamed for misalignment of the screen.

All agreed that this process was plagued by missed deadlines and inadequate information. There was a question about the shared responsibility and associated costs for fish passage among LCPUD, BPA, and Tacoma.

There is hope. Joe explained that Steve Bell can expedite the HPA.

Conclusions: We need LCPUD, BPA, and Tacoma to take whatever steps are necessary to facilitate moving the debris barrier as soon as possible for the purpose of testing and improving fish passage.

Action items	Person responsible	Deadline
✓ Set up a meeting to address this.	Joe	April 3

Agenda item: Request for Shared Funding of Supplemental Collection **Presenter:** Mike

Discussion:

In response to an Action Item from our March meeting, John talked with Mike about Tacoma and LCPUD possibly sharing costs for operation of wintertime seining and minnow traps. It was suggested that this wasn't the forum to request funding as we are a technical advisory committee.

Mike explained that LCPUD will be investing in areas at or above Cowlitz Falls. Activities include: radio telemetry, juvenile winter behavior, when sub-yearling Chinook actually migrate, performing a literature search regarding turbine and spillway survival evaluations (by Normandeau). They are also looking at treating the milfoil problem.

Conclusions: The cost-share funding is doubtful for FY 2008.

Action items	Person responsible	Deadline
✓ Continue to explore options for this in FY 2009 through budget request to BPA.	Debbie Y	September

Agenda item: Fish Passage Expert Workshop **Presenter:** Tom M

Discussion:

Tom reported that Chick and Al's technical summary of the workshop was sent out to FTC and experts who attended the workshop on March 28. They also, at that time, sent out "the King question" to all the experts. Tacoma acknowledged the need to take a more scientific approach this year compared to last year. They proposed forming a technical committee to fast-track (by August) recommendations to address fish passage survival for 2009. This committee would begin meeting this month and report regularly to the FTC. It might make sense to try to delay

the report until September so we could take advantage of fish passage results that come in mid-August after we shut the facility down.

It was suggested that the 95% fish passage survival goal be added to the outline of the plan. *WDFW wants to see the final plan completed by August 1 – a review draft one month prior.*

Concern was expressed that Chick and Al's workshop summary was sent out to the experts without review/approval by the FTC (according to the agreed-upon protocol called out in the FTC March meeting summary). FTC members were also frustrated that there was a delay in sending out "the King question". The unfiltered answers to this question (*What plan of action would you propose to achieve the juvenile fish passage survival goal of 95 percent?*) should be shared with all FTC members.

WDFW has said it would provide its perspective on how implementation should proceed in the near future, *after discussing these recommendations with WDFW Director Koenings.*

Conclusions: We have some trust to regain among FTC members as we develop a process for moving forward.

Action items	Person responsible	Deadline
✓ Ask for answers to "King question" by April 11 if possible or ASAP and that workshop experts send their ideas directly to Lyn. Include an explanation that Chick and Al's draft summary was just that and it has been neither reviewed nor approved by the FTC.	Tom M	April 3
✓ Send comments on Chick and Al's summary to Tom M.	All	April 30
✓ At next FTC meeting, review Tacoma's proposed approach, "King question" responses, WDFW approach, that of other FTC members, and determine next steps.	All	May 7

Agenda item: Protocol Discussion

Presenter: All

Discussion:

There is an accountability issue. This shows up in lack of follow-through on commitments as recorded in meeting notes. We are all responsible for this, as we are all responsible for the content of the meeting notes.

Concern was expressed that the FTC meeting summaries failed to capture important statements (for example, policy statements) of FTC members. We discussed the proper level of detail the notes should reflect. This was the subject of a conference call in February among FTC members. We are still struggling with this issue. At our March meeting, we adopted a new format for the meeting summaries. Lyn did her best to put the meeting draft summaries from January and February into this new format. In many cases, she neglected to provide the appropriate level of detail. She pleaded with members to edit the notes as she reviews them on the flipcharts. That way there should be no surprises when FTC members review the draft notes she sends out afterward.

After some discussion we agreed to generally (no names) capture what was said with the exception of disagreements, in which case parties would be identified along with next steps. Note: There will be times when members ask to be identified when they call out specific policy statements.

We need to get the meeting summaries posted on the website and available to the public in a timely manner. We have not posted any summaries this year as we have not been able to approve them.

Conclusions: We need to continue to review/change protocols to meet FTC and public needs.

Action items	Person responsible	Deadline
✓ Send comments to Lyn on revised versions of January and February meeting notes and today's meeting notes.	All	April 23
✓ Check with presenters for agenda items of future meetings, about what documents should be reviewed in preparation for the meeting.	Lyn	Ongoing
✓ Cut and paste into May FTC agenda all relevant FTC protocol items.	Lyn	April 30

Agenda item: Public Meeting

Presenter: Tom S

Discussion:

WDFW, Tacoma, and seven members of the public, along with some consultants, attended the public meeting on March 20. There was poor weather. This may have been a factor. Consensus was we were well prepared and gave out good information. Several members of the public commented on how they appreciated the update without having to wait for a formal plan. John's PowerPoint was well received. Lyn's workshop notes were distributed. The flipcharts from which she typed these notes were displayed on the walls of the meeting room to give the public a flavor of the expert workshop.

Some members of the public expressed concern about the FTC being able to work together to resolve the important issue of fish passage.

Conclusions: Job well done! The meeting was appreciated. We plan to hold at least two more meetings this year.

Action items	Person responsible	Deadline
✓ Send Lyn the PowerPoint presentation that John made to all.	John	April 30
✓ Post FTC-approved version of Chick and Al's summary as soon as approved by the FTC.	Tom S	ASAP

Agenda item: 2008 Downstream Migrant Collection Plan **Presenter:** Bill

Discussion:

Bill explained the basic components of the 2008 plan. They include:

- Electro guidance plan is moving forward. We need to ensure we are monitoring the fish condition carefully while we execute this plan.
- Electro anesthesia is a further study component of this plan which we will try based on the results of the initial study (see above).
- Turbine intake screen. Steve F explained that Tacoma is still in the process of approval, review, and evaluation of the intake screen. There are safety questions that need to be answered before proceeding. There is concern that it might set up harmonics with the turbine. They are hoping to get these issues resolved in time for the spring Chinook season which begins July 1. Note: Unit 1 may not be available after July 1.
- Marc is working on getting more antennae to use upstream to see if fish do trend along the left bank.
- USGS is going forward with the original plan for evaluations.
- Removal of the debris barrier is in question. Guidance tarps are attached to this (pun intended).
- Tacoma is also considering looking at different boom gate settings. They will also consider beefing up the evaluation plan.

Conclusions: We need the final plan and it needs to include contingencies if we can't move the debris barrier.

Action items	Person responsible	Deadline
✓ Send Tom M drawings and documents relevant to electro guidance / electro anesthesia studies so he can post them for FTC review.	Bill	ASAP
✓ Talk with USGS about acoustic tagging at Cowlitz Falls this year (to better understand fish movement in the forebay).	Mark	ASAP
✓ Update this plan and post it for all to review. Include contingency plan if debris barrier cannot be removed. Consider also changing baffle panel arrangement on Unit 1 to allow for surface collection on Unit 1.	Marc	ASAP

Agenda item: 2008 Supplemental Collection Plan **Presenter:** Mark

Discussion:

The Merwin traps are being lifted into Riffe Lake tomorrow. Tacoma is currently doing a dry run for the incline trap below Cowlitz Falls. Both traps are set to be fishing by April 15.

Appreciation was expressed to Tacoma for incorporating FTC comments. Outstanding requests include: winter seining and transport of parr.

Conclusions: We need the final plan.

Action items	Person responsible	Deadline
✓ Send out meeting update / next steps to all.	Joe	ASAP
✓ If not fishing by April 15, re-do the plan and post.	Marc	April 16
✓ Revise plan to include the following: Parr in Lake Scanewa stay, and parr in Riffe Lake go downstream.	Mark	ASAP

Meeting Evaluation

Well Done:

- Facilitation
- Participant focus and endurance
- We need the 9:00-3:00 timeframe.
- Team-building.

Do Differently:

- We need more team/trust building.
- Discuss goals (95% and document) and methods of how to make recommendations and detailed schedule for fish workshop follow-up discussion.
- Try doing notes real-time, projecting on the screen.
- Be more serious about action items.
- End at 3:00.
- If you have a question or an issue with someone, check it out with them versus assuming the worst.

Meeting Handouts

- Revised draft agenda for April 2 FTC meeting
- Draft March 5, 2008 FTC meeting summary
- Snow pack and refill forecast graphs
- Draft FHMP update development plan and consultation schedule
- Tacoma Power proposal – Improvements for fish passage survival/fish passage experts
- Draft January 9, 2008 FTC meeting summary
- Draft February 6, 2008 FTC meeting summary
- Cowlitz Falls Workshop, Follow-up Thoughts from Lynn Reese, USACOE
- Tacoma Power plan for Supplemental Cowlitz River juvenile collection, March 26, 2008

Topics for May 7 FTC Meeting

- Welcome / Check-In / Review Agenda, Action Items, etc.
- Approval of January, February, April meeting notes
- FHMP Renewal Schedule – Teamlet required?
- Next Steps from Fish Passage Expert Workshop
- FTC operating protocol discussion; recommendation process
 13. The Sussman Consensus Model, DECISION MAKING BY CONSENSUS, A STRATEGY (adapted from Steve Sussman, Organization Training and Consulting) will be the Cowlitz Fisheries Technical Committee decision making process. In the event of an even split, the motion will be deferred to the following meeting.
 16. The FTC agreed they want their recommendations subject to public review opportunity. The FTC will develop a public review process. Formal recommendations

will be developed by appointed FTC members, distributed to the FTC with enough time for additional consideration, and distributed after final FTC consideration.

- Working Lunch
- Productivity Issues for: Late Winter Steelhead and Spring Chinook
- Review 2008 Cowlitz Falls Dam Collection Plans
- Review 2008 Downstream Migrant Supplemental Collection plans
- Update on Riffe Lake refill schedule and operations
- Set Agenda for June 4 Meeting and Evaluate the Meeting