

Cowlitz Hydroelectric Project
FERC NO. 2016
Fisheries Technical Committee
Final Meeting Summary
February 6, 2008
9:00 AM – 3:00 PM
Mayfield office
Silver Creek, Washington

Participating Members

Michelle Day	NMFS
Mark LaRiviere	Tacoma Power
Brian Peck	USFWS
Brad Caldwell	WDOE
Brett Swift	American Rivers
Pat Frazier	WDFW

Other Attendees

Mike Kohn	LCPUD/BPA
Joe First	LCPUD, Cowlitz Falls
Ed Meyer	NMFS
Steve Vigg (by phone)	WDFW
John Serl	WDFW
Julie Henning	WDFW
Charles Morrill	WDFW
Toby Kock	USGS
Tom Santee	Insight Northwest
Marc Wicke	Tacoma Power
Bill Iyall	Tacoma Power
Steve Fairchild	Tacoma Power
Debbie Young	Tacoma Power
Tom Martin	Tacoma Power
Lyn Wiltse	PDSA Consulting, Facilitator

Future FTC Meeting Dates

Mar 5 (from 10:00 – 2:00),
Apr 2, 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

Note: If you are running late, or if you need to participate by phone, call Lyn at 425-890-3613 the morning of the meeting.

New Action Items

- All – Note compressed schedule of March 5 meeting.
- Tom M: Send out link to Fish Passage Expert Workshop info to all.
- All: Send John your feedback on paper by noon Feb. 8.
- Marc – Share Smith Root voltage/pulsing data with FTC members.
- Pat: Send out spring Chinook run site forecast prior to next FTC meeting.
- All: Verify agenda for Public Briefings prior to each meeting.
- Julie: Summarize and send out Mayfield pump on/off data.
- All: Send Marc input on 2008 plans by COB on 2/15.
- Debbie: Invite Todd to explain Mayfield outflow projections at our March meeting.
- Mark: Send Gantt Chart with suggested FHMP update schedule to all prior to next FTC meeting.
- Lyn – Send out draft meeting summary of February meeting including suggested edits. Coordinate sharing of proposed edits to January meeting summary among FTC members.

Previous Action Items

- All – Consider ideas for chum enhancement – we will continue to discuss this at future meetings.
- 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 Greg Volkhardt to do a site visit to check purse seining feasibility for us.

Approval of Meeting Summary

The approval of the January meeting summary was deferred until after all members have a chance to review the proposed edits. The summary will be discussed at a conference call of FTC members on Feb 25 from 1:00 – 2:00.

Announcements

- Special Assignment: Congratulations to Michelle who will be leaving us to work on a special assignment related to a leadership program she is participating in. She will be away for the next 60 days with the exception of the Fish Passage Expert Workshop which she will be attending. Otherwise, Ed will assume her FTC duties in her absence.
- Meeting: Debbie reported on a recent meeting with staffers from the congressional offices of Cantwell and Dicks. The meeting occurred as a result of public concern about fish recovery actions in the Cowlitz Basin and FHMP implementation.

Agenda item: PR Plan

Presenter: Tom S

Discussion:

Tom S distributed the proposed schedule for FTC Public Briefings. We agreed (tentatively) on the following dates: March 20 (focus would be solely on Fish Passage Expert Workshop proceedings), April 10, August 14, and November 13. There was a question about the scope of these discussions. The FTC would determine the agenda for each of these meetings. The aim would be to keep the discussions fisheries focused. FTC members would be encouraged to attend these meetings. A news release about these briefings is in the works. One of the aims of these meetings is transparency. Some expressed discomfort with the idea of being recorded (audio and video). We will revisit this issue.

Conclusions: We are united in our desire to inform the public of our actions and supporting rationale.

Action items

Person responsible

Deadline

✓ Finalize dates and locations of public meetings

Tom S

ASAP

Agenda item: Annual FHMP Report

Presenter: Mark L

Discussion:

Mark reported that this report will be posted on the FTC website shortly for the (at least) 30 day FTC member review. He will send an email notification of the posting. This report is due to FERC April 1, 2008, and will include the draft 2008 Cowlitz Evaluations report.

Conclusions: N/A

Action items

Person responsible

Deadline

✓ Send email re: notification of posting of Annual FHMP Report

Mark L

ASAP

Agenda item: Lower Cowlitz River Steelhead Genetics Study

Presenter: Mark L

Discussion:

Mark and Debbie met with Pat, Wolf, Julie, and Steve to discuss this study. Tacoma has verbally committed to fund Phase I of the study as it substantially follows the study methodology recommended by the FTC genetics subcommittee, and endorsed by the entire FTC. The final study plan will be posted to the FTC website shortly. Mark will send an email notification of the posting. Pat met with Cleve about FOC involvement and reported there will be a follow-up meeting with FOC later this month.

Conclusions: N/A

Action items

Person responsible

Deadline

✓ Send email notification when Final study plan is posted to FTC website

Mark L

ASAP

Agenda item: Instream Flow Variances

Presenter: Debbie Y

Discussion:

Brian explained that for 2 out of the last 3 years the FTC has been asked to give a variance from the 5K cfs that is to be provided at Mayfield Dam from March 1 through June 30. The March 1 Riffe Lake expected refill forecast is used as the basis for the refill forecast.

Debbie announced that the Mossyrock Dam unit rebuild will further impact Tacoma's generational flexibility at Mossyrock. With the healthy snow pack, we hope not to have to request relief from the 5K in 2008. Brian hopes than any such requests would be made with sufficient lead time to allow for adequate discussions and recommendations by the FTC. The weekly projections provide data on refill, operations, inflow, outflow, etc.

Conclusions: We will get periodic updates.

Action items

Person responsible

Deadline

✓ Debbie will invite Todd to explain these forecasts and get FTC member input at our March meeting.

Debbie

Feb 18

Agenda item: FHMP Renewal Schedule

Presenter: Mark L

Discussion:

Mark explained that the renewal date for this is March 1, 2010. Tacoma will take the first cut at creating a schedule (such as a Gantt chart) to allow the FTC and the public adequate review time prior to meeting the filing date. We will discuss the schedule at our next meeting. Where possible we will plan to exceed the 30 day minimum approval timeframe.

Conclusions: We will review this at our March meeting with an eye toward maximizing review time.

Action items

Person responsible

Deadline

✓ Send schedule out for FTC review

Mark L

Feb 18

Agenda item: Mayfield Downstream Collection Facility Improvements

Presenter: Steve F and Bill I

Discussion:

Mark introduced Steve Fairchild and Bill Iyall who presented the plans for this. Ed had expressed concern about the screw pump. Steve explained that the intent with the screw would be to run 24/7 and provide additional water to the transport pipeline. There would not be clearance issues in the screw pump as the screw forms its own seal. It would move 2cfs up to the flume – 30 feet elevation. The advantages of this are that the fish aren't handled until they are anesthetized, tagged and put in the recovery tank. The "slide for life" is designed for more water than we would be running through it. This technique is in operation in several instances in Washington for moving hatchery adults. It is also used for shrimp farms. Our application of this for moving juveniles is new to the Pacific Northwest.

Ed explained that NMFS criteria say not to pump fish in a by-pass system, which is what we would be doing with the screw pump. To further explore this option, we need to test this in an environment that excludes listed fish (as per the NMFS experimental technologies protocol). Ed prefers that we go back to the existing batch system (hopper system).

Ed further explained the need for the inside of joints and pipes to be smooth. He thinks the secondary separator screens look good - no gaps should be larger than 1.75 mm. He is concerned about brush action causing debris to collect at the bottom of the screen. He is concerned about the monitoring facilities (counting house) design. He would like WDFW to review the plans and process flow for the counting house changes. He also requested the inclusion of more safety margin/features as we update this facility even if it means up to a year delay. He prefers the delay for the counting house, but thinks the screens, by-pass pipe and louvers all look pretty good and the work can proceed on those components. Julie expressed a desire to be included in the review of the collection facility. Tacoma will keep in mind that it's best to have as much water in the pipe system as possible.

Conclusions: Further consultation with NMFS is necessary.

Action items

- ✓ Bill will provide Ed with a comment sheet to capture –additional comments. They will meet to discuss this further the morning of February 22.

Person responsible

Bill I

Deadline

Feb 22

Agenda item: Fish Passage Expert Workshop

Presenter: Tom M

Discussion:

Tom M explained the list of experts being invited totals about 12. He distributed the tentative list of attendees.

The teamlet has prepared a draft of some background information. They distributed this and asked FTC members to provide feedback by Friday. We'll make sure all references are posted to the new website. Suggestions: Add debris barrier to cross-section drawing and add more detail on the forebay (show shoreline, etc.), as well as detail on Tacoma fish screen.

Workshop Dates: March 3 & 4 – Facilitated by Lyn with experts Al Giorgi and Chick Sweeney creating a summary document to be shared with the public (after review/approval by workshop participants). We want to provide the public with accurate information without overwhelming them with technical details. After some discussion we agreed to create a more technical document and a more user-friendly version for public consumption. We would release the higher level summary first and invite interested parties to sign up to receive the technical information at a later date.

We also want to share with the public information on how and why we make decisions. We agreed that the most productive and respectful way to do this would be to hold a public meeting a few weeks after the fish passage expert workshop to share the content and processes coming out of that workshop.

We discussed proceeding as follows:

1. Expert Workshop (2 days of intense work by fish passage experts)
2. One-two weeks later share a "Reader's Digest" version with interested members of the public and ask if any of them are interested in "going deeper" (Chick/AI) – Timeline/Next Steps. This meeting to run 2-3 hours with Chick and AI present to provide public with access to experts
3. Hold half-day review (as necessary) for members of the public who want to dive into the technical details of the discussions from the workshop. Timeframe: May-ish – 4+ hours to facilitate this review.

The location of the workshop is still undetermined.

Conclusions: There is still much to be done.

Action items	Person responsible	Deadline
✓ Determine the location of the workshop	Tom M	ASAP

Agenda item: LWSH **Presenter:** Mark L

Discussion:

Mark distributed a sheet describing the triggers. He will realign the issue of "objectives" in FHMP with management actions and the Productivity testing. He will consider whether the two triggers are necessary to conduct productivity testing. We will discuss this at our March meeting.

Conclusions:

Action items	Person responsible	Deadline
✓ N/A		

Agenda item: 2008 Downstream Migrant Collection Plans **Presenter:** Marc W

Discussion:

Marc explained that the debris barrier relocation at Cowlitz Falls Dam will be done in early April. A sheer boom will provide active debris removal above the dam (30" draft at most) as flows allow.

Bill walked us through diagrams showing the new location of the debris barrier and the potential area for low energy electrodes deployed for fish guidance. Jeff Smith of Smith Root provided Tacoma with laboratory data that show this voltage combined with the pulsing methodology doesn't harm larger fish. Marc will share these data with FTC members. There were questions around how we might evaluate the short and long term effects of this low voltage pulse on juveniles and adults. Might there be hot spots or other unintended consequences?

We also reviewed the plan/design for a penstock diversion screen.

Marc explained that we will be working with USGS to evaluate the impacts of the actions we will be taking. USGS proposes using RT and the DIDSON camera to monitor these impacts. Details are described in the Research Proposal distributed and posted on the FTC website.

Toby walked us through the study objectives and critical uncertainties. USGS expressed concern that there are so many different variables in the study that it will be difficult to get robust/meaningful data from which we will be

able to draw cause and effect conclusions. For this reason we will be doing a block study of the guidance tarp during the Chinook run. Mike Kohn shared that we might be seeing a later Chinook run this year due to a large snow pack.

Conclusions N/A

Action items	Person responsible	Deadline
✓ Review this with LCPUD and work with them to address some operations issues.	Marc L	ASAP

Agenda item: Draft Plan for Supplemental Collection Presenter Marc

Discussion:

Marc distributed an updated version of this plan (which incorporated input from FTC members). The new plan calls many diverse actions to be taken. A Merwin trap will be located near Mossyrock Dam from April through June 21. It would then be moved to Lake Scanewa where it will remain through September 26.

A 100' seine net with 9'3" depth and additional section to lengthen the net that can be added will also be used to fish in Riffe Lake.

Marc distributed pictures of an incline plane trap that is much larger than what had been previously discussed. The floats are 36' long at 3,000 lbs each. It will sit 6' deep and 6' wide. Marc also reported that they found a really good location for the trap. They will be able to move it up and downstream to find the optimal velocity. The plan is to deploy this in April. We will deploy minnow traps in Riffe Lake this spring. Natural Solutions will be deploying a special trap net in May (elevation needs to be above 750' to do this).

Fish handling was also described. They will be doing 48 hour delayed mortality testing.

Input on the Revised Plan:

- Could we deploy Merwin Trap at upper end of Riffe Lake?
- What frequency of seine netting will occur each day?
- Winter fish collection – desire to see a firm commitment of testing seine netting / minnow traps throughout the winter
- In-season monitoring and reporting would be appreciated
- Add species and stage for all salmonids

Conclusions: There is more work to be done on the plan.

Action items	Person responsible
✓ Marc will continue to provide updates at FTC meetings (at least monthly) and integrate feedback as possible	Marc
✓ Discuss CF fam post drawdown fish collection with LCPUD	

Meeting Evaluation

Well Done:

- Great focus
- Moved toward conclusions

Do Differently Next Time:

- Ran over
- Meet here next time from 10-2
- Focus on Expert Workshop and public meeting, instream flows and LWSH and Spring Chinook

Meeting Handouts

- February 6, 2008 draft meeting agenda
- January 30, 2008 Draft FTC Public Briefings Proposal
- February 5, 2008 Draft Background Information for Workshop to Investigate Solutions for Smolt Collection at or Near Cowlitz Falls Dam
- February 5, 2008 List of Attendees for above workshop
- Mayfield Dam Cowlitz River Downstream Migrant Facilities schematics:
 - Counting and Holding Facility Site Plan (1/15/08)
 - Screw Pump Plan (1/15/08)
 - Screw Pump Elevation (1/15/08)
- Cowlitz Falls Dam 2008 improvements schematic drawings
- January 30, 2008 USGS Research Proposal: Behavior and passage of juvenile salmonids during evaluation fish collection efforts at Cowlitz Falls Dam, 2008
- Draft 2008 Supplemental Collection Plan
- Late winter-run steelhead productivity issues

Parking Lot

Adaptive Management

Draft Agenda for March 5 Meeting from 10:00 – 2:00

10:00 – 10:30	Welcome / Check-In / Review Agenda, Action Items, etc. Update on Alternate Release Locations FHMP Renewal Schedule Todd to explain projections?
10:30 – 11:45	Report from Fish Passage Expert Workshop
11:45 – 12:05	Working Lunch
10:05 – 1:00	Report from Fish Passage Expert Workshop (continued) Plans to Inform the Public
1:00 – 1:20	Productivity Issues for: Late Winter Steelhead and Spring Chinook
1:20 – 1:50	Review 2008 Downstream Migrant Collection Plans at Cowlitz Falls
1:50 – 2:00	Set Agenda for April 2 Meeting and Evaluate the Meeting

