

**FTC Cowlitz Hydroelectric Project
FERC NO. 2016
Fisheries Technical Committee
Final Meeting Summary**

October 7, 2008 from 9:15 AM – 2:00 PM
Mayfield office, Silver Creek, Washington

Members Present

Mark LaRiviere	Tacoma Power
Brett Swift	American Rivers
Pat Frazier	WDFW
Tim Romanksi	USFWS
Michelle Day	NMFS

Other Attendees

Ed Meyer	NMFS
Mike Kohn	LCPUD/BPA
Joe First	LCPUD
Steve Vigg	WDFW
John Serl	WDFW
Julie Henning	WDFW
Tom Santee	Insight Northwest
Steve Fischer	Tacoma Power
Bill Iyall	Tacoma Power
Tom Martin	Tacoma Power
Al Giorgi	BioAnalysts
Chick Sweeney	ENSR
Dennis Dorratcague	MWH Global
Lyn Wiltse	PDSA Consulting

Future FTC Meeting Dates (first Tuesday of each month)

2008: Nov 4; Dec 2;

2009: Jan 6; Feb 3; Mar 3; Apr 7, May 5, Jun 2, Jul 7, Aug 4, Sep 1, Oct 6, Nov 3; Dec 1

Default time: 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM; Default location: Mayfield

Announcements

Brett and Mark announced that the Cispus River has been nominated and determined to be eligible for designation as a Wild and Scenic River. The qualifying reach is from the source to the backwater of CF Dam. The initial adult release site development proposal for the Tom Music Bridge may not fit with the Outstanding Remarkable Values (ORVs).

Action: Mark will present latest design ideas to the USFS to see if it is compatible with the ORVs for the Cispus.

Approval of Meeting Summary

We approved the September 9 meeting summary with no edits (nice job Tom S!). Mark will post for public review.

Agenda Item: Downstream Fish Passage Update Presenters: Chick Sweeney, Al Giorgi, Dennis Dorratcague

Discussion

Chick Sweeney walked us through the recommendations that the FTC agreed to since the workshop. The top 5 options were evaluated from a conceptual design standpoint.

1. Collector in Lake Scanewa
2. Collector in Riffe Lake
3. Riverine Collector Upstream from Riffe Lake
4. Enhancement of existing system at CFD
5. Surface Flow Outlet at CFD

Prototype studies recommended:

- Move debris barrier (this is happening)
- Induction slot collection flow augmentation up to 2 X existing flow (is being implemented)
- Weir box on non-screened bay tainter gate with screen and siphon
- Weir at fish screen entrance (with flow augmentation using tainter gate) – could not be implemented in 2009
- Flap gate test of SFO Concept (at odds with weir box – thus not moving forward with this)
- Re-engineer sluice gate to allow more low level flow release (not moving forward due to low probability for implementation – investigation only)

Merwin Traps will go in as part of the supplemental collection. We might be able to configure them to help us predict how we might use a FSC in the future.

Exclusionary nets are slated for study in 2010.

Biological studies

- Acoustic tags study
- Predator/prey study
- Disease/ parasites study in Riffe Lake

Physical characterization study

- Fixed temp profile array at deep point in reservoir with mobile casts at several locations on Riffe Lake

Chick reminded us that two files have been sent out for FTC review: Schedule and 10% Concept Report.

The concept report development has been broken down in terms of percents of completion. This will facilitate getting FTC comments in a timely manner. Al Giorgi is looking at biological input. Dennis D is doing the design work at the CF project. Dana Postelwaite from R2 Resource Consultants is putting together design concepts for those alternatives not at CF Dam. Chick is acting as overall coordinator of these activities, and editor in chief of the report.

Chick explained that they prepared a detailed Table of Contents for the Report. They also developed design criteria to be used across all alternatives being evaluated. They also drafted an outline of the appendices for the report. This is all undergoing FTC review (10% submittal).

Next step will be the 30% submittal. This will include writing up the intro to the report and preparing a method for comparing and ranking the various alternatives. A couple of viable alternatives will be carried forward for further development. Design site and location maps will be developed for each. There will be another review meeting.

Next: 60% design. Costs estimates will be prepared along with draft construction schedules resulting in a submittal for the 5 alternatives so they can be reviewed and a decision can be made on a technical and biological basis as to which should be carried forward. This will be reviewed from a technical standpoint with the FTC. There will also be a review meeting with the FTC to perform a biological review of the alternatives.

2009 Prototype studies: Study plans are under development as is design of the prototypes. LCPUD needs to review and approve these. This needs to happen before we move to 60%. The 60% submittal will provide the basis for the report that Tacoma submits to FERC in March of 2009. It won't be final yet at that point. We will have done the technical evaluation already when the submittal is made to FERC.

In early October of 2009 we hope to have results of biological and physical studies available.

Chosen designs will be advanced to a 90% review. They will be reviewed with the FTC and then taken to 100%.

Each review period is 15 working days in length. There was concern that this might not be sufficient time. We are working under the deadline of needing to make the submittal to FERC by early March.

There was also a question about whether there was a limit of two alternatives that would be carried forward. If the analysis criteria call for three alternatives to be carried forward, then we would do that.

To get to 100% completion, we are end of 2009 / beginning of 2010. Then there has to be a decision on implementing something and contracts put in place for a detailed design (design, permitting, easements, etc.). We are aiming to have this project

operational in 2013. This is comparable to design and development work done on similar projects.

Chick walked us through an outline of the contents of the Conceptual Design Report. There will be a functional description for each of the alternatives. It will describe the physical features and a cost estimate and implementation schedule for each.

Dennis walked through the plans for the testing of enhancement of existing system to see if additional flow (double the existing) will attract more fish to the screen entrance. We would be exceeding current criteria at the screen of 0.4 fps during the test. By the end of 2009 we should know if this is effective based on biological criteria. Marc Wicke is working on these plans which should be out by next week.

The structure to be tested would be a frame that runs down in the gate slot with an air foil on it. The flow would come in and go around this structure. It can be raised and lowered to a certain extent. We can also make porosity adjustments. There are no working parts on this structure. If it proves successful, it would become a permanent structure.

He also reviewed with us the plan for testing the weir box to test the surface flow outlet. Here flow would go over the weir, downward and they be siphoned through a bypass. The aim is to get to 200 cfs over the weir and 140 cfs through the screen. The approach velocity would be 0.6fps. We want to make this flexible to accommodate a variety of weir shapes. We will install this with a barge and get it into position. From there it would be suspended and held into position from a beam.

What would the reference condition for this be? We may want a water level sensor under the screens along with a brake valve so we can shut it off fairly quickly. If the screen plugs we need to make sure it won't collapse. Alternatively, we could put a vacuum breaking valve on there. In our schedule we will be starting the structural design on this later this week. It would be good to install a manual crowder in the box. Access would be a consideration.

The plan is to have both of these structures installed and operational April 15 of 2009 so the biological plan can be implemented. Final designs will be in December.

Actions

- All – Submit comments to Tom Martin and Chick Sweeney (and copy Lisa at Ldill@cityoftacoma.org) by October 20.

Agenda Item: FTC Response to WDFW 9-9-08 Re-Evaluation of Coho Management in Upper Cowlitz River Basis Presenters: Pat Discussion

Pat reported that WDFW plans to get a formal response back this week to the letter submitted to them from Tacoma and American Rivers. It will be mailed to all FTC

members. Pat explained that the WDFW plan presented at the last FTC meeting still stands. WDFW conducted evaluations for 20%, 30% and 40% FCE rates. They have already begun to implement the plan presented at the September FTC meeting. The letter from Tacoma and American Rivers asked WDFW to continue upholding the 1:1 ratio as the new plan was not consistent with the FHMP and what was recommended by the HSRG and agreed to by the FTC for last season.

There are strong HOR coho returns this year. Mark said Tacoma has taken a couple of thousand HORs upstream, but very few NORs (the NOR run is later in the season. We are expecting 3,000-5,000 NORs). Until we get the returns from the integrated program, the WDFW plan calls for 16,000 HOR being taken upstream.

WDFW sees this WDFW plan as a form of adaptive management. They looked at the goal of getting more NORs into the upper basin when they formulated this plan. The WDFW plan would more than double the number of NOR fish in the upper basin. They believe the evaluation should go forward to test the success of this plan.

WDFW's 3 year plan is 16,000 HORs upstream. WDFW plans to stick with this new plan for the next 3 years. At that point only NORs or adult returns from the new integrated program will be taken upstream.

What if an interim measure dramatically increases the FCE? The plan would be modified only when those outmigrants return as adults. Pat sees this fish management plan as consistent with plans to dramatically improve FPS rates in 2013.

Impact on FHMP? All agree there is value and coming to consensus as a team on the content of the FHMP. FERC says that if we can't reach consensus we invoke the Dispute Resolution Process. Pat would like to see the FHMP update be less prescriptive in how we get there but more prescriptive on what we get. Mark believes that the FHMP is very clear about goals. There was consensus that the current FHMP is a large and complex document. We hope to simplify it through the update process. How does the WDFW plan fit with the draft FHMP updates and what is the role of FTC? Pat will address this in the document he is preparing along with supporting data and rationale.

Actions

- Julie will summarize creel data and bring it with her to our November meeting.
 - Pat will address the question of how this fits with the FHMP and also the role of the FTC in the letter he is drafting – to be sent to all FTC members by Oct. 17.
 - Pat will ensure that attachments to the letter include supporting data (including sources of the data) and rationale for the models. He will clearly define all the rationale that support the new WDFW Plan.
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Agenda Item: Plan for Next Public Meeting Presenter: Tom S
Discussion:

In the last two years we have hosted public meetings in November (Morton and Packwood) re the fish transportation issue. Other meetings have been in the Centralia area and have been sparsely attended. Tom will be following up with these people to learn how useful they are finding the information shared at these meetings.

Tom recommends having the next meeting December 2nd following the FTC meeting (and after the 30% fish passage alternatives design meeting). We could have this in Morton, Mossyrock or Centralia. The downstream fish passage plans, hatchery construction update, FHMP process update (draft of the document will be out for public review March 6), and what should be done about future public meetings could be on the agenda items.

By holding this the same day at the FTC meeting, it would ensure we had broader participation by FTC members. This has been requested by members of the public. The next public meeting could include discussion of the FHMP schedule. We might consider Timberland library meeting room or a smaller meeting room at the same facility where we met with them in Morton. NMFS currently has a travel restriction that makes it difficult for them to travel for more than 12 hours in a single day. We will look at holding an abbreviated FTC meeting that morning to help fit within this schedule.

We want to do everything possible to ensure that we are presenting information that matters to the public and that time is well spent. Maybe we could use an open house format that would allow for break out session according to interest in specific topic areas. Maybe we could order pizza?

Actions

Tom will check with public about Dec. 2 afternoon meeting and review these potential topics and locations with them and share their input with us at our November meeting.

Agenda Item: Report on Satellite Rearing Facilities and Mayfield downstream passage construction

Presenter: Steve F

Discussion

At Hall Creek satellite rearing facility (Packwood), Steve reported they cleaned out the intake structure, pulled the screen off and are in the midst of building a new intake structure that will draw in water from beneath. They have also ordered new submersible pumps. The electrician is working on developing new breakers for the pumps. There are some mountain beaver complications. This will be used like an acclimation site. Stay tuned.

Mayfield contractor is installing stainless steel pipe today. Ed warned them to ensure internal joints are smooth. Next week (or the week after) they will be doing a water shut down to pull in the new liner pipe (HDPE liner). Secondary separator screens are being fabricated by Tacoma in their shop. Contracting for the counting house will be bid in December or January. After the contracts are awarded, construction should begin within a couple of weeks. A six month construction period is anticipated.

Agenda Item: FHMP Draft Update Presenter: Mark

Discussion

Mark reviewed the process for the FHMP update. We are following the agreed-upon timeline and norms. The public has asked for a chance to perform a second review before the plan is submitted to FERC. We will see if we can do this without adversely affecting the schedule.

We reviewed the process norms (we agreed to these earlier this year) for this update.

- Schedule all meetings, times and locations around Lars' (John Barr) schedule.
- FTC members and Tacoma follow the approved FHMP update schedule.
- All submittals should be addressed to Tacoma.
- All written comments to be submitted on time (per the update schedule).
- Email, letter or fax submissions acceptable.
- Tacoma (or Lars/John Barr) will respond to all comments in writing following the update schedule. Comment noted will not be used as a response.
- Tacoma (or a contractor) will implement a tracking system available to all FTC members for tracking and recording all comments and responses to the plan, and to changes to the plan.
- Lars (John Barr) will sequence the sections of the plans to be updated after reviewing Tacoma and FTC scoping comments/issues.

The draft of the FHMP update was posted on the FTC website last week. John Barr will walk us through the draft and explain the format and thinking behind this draft at the November 4th FTC meeting. They will also review with us their recommendations. Many of the recommendations are consistent with the current FHMP. Some are new proposals (e.g., innovative rearing on p. 38). Note: there may not be sufficient detail provided to new recommendations to allow FTC members to follow the rationale.

Questions: Will this be a stand-alone document? An addendum to the existing plan?

Actions

- Mark – Send FTC members John and Kevin's vision for this document (see questions in paragraph immediately above) by October 15.
 - All FTC members will review the schedule to see if we can accommodate the public's request for a second review of the FHMP before it is sent to FERC.
 - All FTC members will review the draft FHMP, paying careful attending to proposed recommendations and be ready to discuss at our November FTC Meeting.
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Agenda Item: Next Agenda

Presenter: Mark

Discussion

We brainstormed topics for our next meeting

Actions

- Marc Wicke will see if USGS can participate by phone if they won't be present for discussion of biological evaluation.
 - Mark will check with Mike Kohn to see if he can give a presentation on LCPUD projects.
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Meeting Handouts

- Agenda, October 7, 2008 FTC meeting
- Draft September 9, 2008 FTC meeting summary
- Letter from LCPUD to FERC dated September 29, 2008

Topics for Nov. 4, 2008 FTC Meeting

Welcome / Check-In / Review Agenda, Action Items, etc. (9:00 – 9:20)

Approval of Oct. 8 Meeting Summary including 2009 Dates (9:20 – 9:30)

Report on FHMP update process (9:30 – noon)

- Discussion of details regarding WDFW Coho Reintroduction Plan

Working Lunch (12:00 – 12:30)

Supplemental Collection Update (12:30 – 12:50)

Downstream Fish Passage Update (12:50 – 1:25)

- Include review of Biological Study Plans

Plan for next public meeting (Tom S) (1:25 - 1:40)

Update on Cispus adult release chute (1:40 – 1:50)

Evaluate Meeting and Set Agenda for Dec 2 Meeting (1:50 – 2:00)

Meeting Evaluation

- Lost FTC member to “tour” right after lunch
- Got started 15 minutes late
- Got out by 2:00
- Good presentation on fish passage
- Lunch break was late
- Laughter was good
- Missed Brad and George