

Cowlitz Hydroelectric Project
FERC No. 2016
Cowlitz Fisheries Technical Committee
Final Meeting Summary
 January 11, 2019 from 1:00 – 4:00 PM

Attendees:

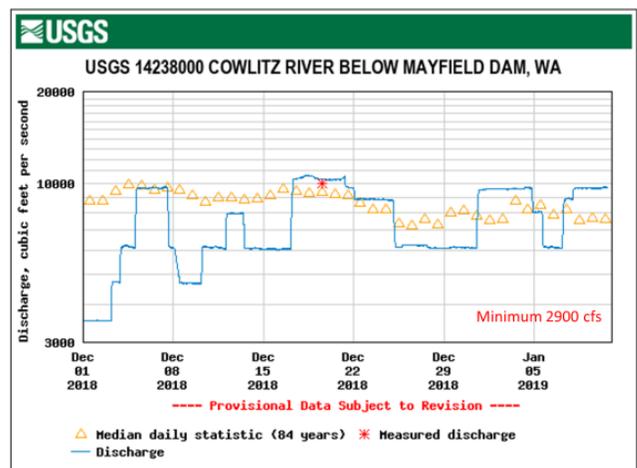
Travis Nelson	TPU
Paul Sparks	WA Council of TU / TU / American Rivers
Tom Wadsworth	WDFW
Jim Pacheco (by phone)	Tech Rep for WA Dept. of Ecology
Bryce Glaser	Tech Rep for WDFW
John Serl	Tech Rep for WDFW
Peggy Miller	Tech Rep for WDFW
Sam Gibbons	Tech Rep for WDFW
Matt Bleich	Tech Rep for TPU
Tim Hoffnagle	Tech Rep for TPU
Chris Foster	Tech Rep for TPU
Florian Leischner	Tech Rep for TPU
Melora Shelton	Tech Rep for TPU
Steve West	LCFRB / Tech Rep for TPU
Laura Wolfe	LCPUD
Lyn Wiltse	PDSA Consulting / Facilitator

2019 FTC Meeting Dates: Feb. 5 (Coho Workshop starting at 9am / FTC starting at 1pm), Mar. 5 (Public FTC meeting), Late March (Steelhead Workshop), Apr. 2 (Cutthroat and Chum / FTC), Apr. 30 (Annual Process Chapter Workshop / FTC), June 4, July 2 (FHMP Placeholder), Aug. 6, Sept. 5 (Thurs.), Oct. 1, Nov. 5, Dec. 3 from 9:30-3:00 at Cowlitz Salmon Hatchery unless otherwise specified.

Announcements

- Hydro Operations: Florian projected a PPT presentation describing the Cowlitz Hydro Status. Inflows for Jan. 2019 to date are at 7,818 cfs, averaging 9,427 cfs. Storage at Riffe Lake on Jan. 10, 2019 was 708.27' with an average for the month of 733.31'. Snow at Paradise is 83% of normal. At White Pass snow is at 72% of normal. The average daily outflow since Dec. 1, 2018 is 7,535 cfs. The forecast continues to be warm and dry. Link to the USGS real-time Cowlitz River hydrograph:

https://waterdata.usgs.gov/wa/nwis/uv/?site_no=14238000&PARAMeter_cd=00060,00065



- Cowlitz Falls Fish Facilities Report: Chris reported they are tying up loose ends as they plan to restart collection on Mar. 1, 2019. He has completed his report for fall operations and it will be distributed to all as soon as the internal review at TPU is

complete. This report is formatted similarly to the weekly reports he has been distributing and it includes a lessons-learned portion at the end.

- **Action Item:** Chris to send out the Fall CFFF Report ASAP.
- M& E Subgroup – Matt explained this group is working on how best to support FHMP efforts. When they meet again on Jan. 16, they will discuss the marking strategies and description of baseline vs. directed evaluations. In February, they will look at how to structure the M&E chapter - what to include and what to defer to an appendix (previously in Appendix J). Matt noted a smaller group is working on the details on an enumeration study of Steelhead smolts out of the Cowlitz Trout Hatchery. They are finalizing the study plan for this year – which models to use, etc.
- D/S Adaptive Management TWG: Matt reminded all that this group has been making recommendations to the FTC and they are in the midst of implementing the annual process, starting with getting the necessary contracts in place. The process will involve baselining for a second full year of operation for the downstream collector, including directed studies for Chinook and Steelhead. After they receive last year's annual report from the consultants, they will review it and then send it to the FTC for review (likely 4-6 weeks from now).
- Tilton Release Site: Bryce asked that this topic be included among the regular updates as there is an urgent need to procure a second release site on the Tilton (there is agreement on the location for the site). Going through another season without an additional site will present a real management challenge. There is lots of angst over the change to a 300' fishing area closure around the release site at Gust Backstrom Park during late summer/early fall. After TPU identifies a lead to help with the permitting, WDFW will assign a point person to help, as it is important to initiate the permitting process for the new site. Matt explained that TPU should be able to provide details on a timeline for this is the near future as they have requested an engineer to design the proposal. WDFW is working on developing a management strategy on how best to utilize the two different sites throughout the season.

Meeting Summary Approval

The Dec. 4, 2018 FTC meeting summary was approved with edits and will be posted to the FTC public website. Lyn expressed appreciation for everyone's edits.

Decision Document 2019-01: 2016 FHMP Update Extension Request to FERC Presenters: Matt Bleich / Travis Nelson

Matt distributed a 9-month schedule for completing the FHMP. He will expand it to include an opportunity for the FTC to do a final review of the entire document after the public comment period. There was concern that perhaps this Extension of Time (EOT) was not long enough given the current challenges around federal partner engagement due to the government shutdown. Travis has been in touch with FERC about our asking for an EOT. He agreed to note in the accompanying letter to FERC that the EOT assumes federal partners impacted by the government shutdown will be fully engaged.

Jan. 11 Spring Chinook FHMP Workshop: There was consensus that the workshop approach is working well for the various species and is identifying key themes for the FHMP which focuses on the next six years starting in February 2020. Except for Steelhead, which will require a separate full day, these workshops will occur in the morning of FTC meeting dates. Upcoming workshops will focus on remaining species and then the Annual Project

Review (decision rules, etc.). At the end of each workshop, agreements will be memorialized. At the start of each subsequent workshop, those agreements will be reviewed, revised as necessary, and then finalized before moving on to the next species.

Action Items:

- Matt: Work with Lyn to send out Agenda for Feb. 5 (AM) FHMP Coho Workshop.
 - Those attending the Coho Workshop: Please arrive for a prompt 9:00 am start!
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Decision Document 2019-2: Gravel Placement Temporary Strategy

Presenter: Florian Leischner

This document was revised based on input received at the December FTC meeting. It was reviewed, edited slightly and then approved by FTC members present. Travis will follow up, to the extent possible, with absent FTC members, according to the FTC protocol.

Decision Document 2019-3: CRR Habitat Guidance

Presenter: Florian Leischner

Florian began by emphasizing that this is a living document and can be changed over time. After much discussion and clarifying questions, it was pointed out that a separate decision document would be forthcoming regarding hatchery projects. This document was approved, with slight edits by FTC members present. Travis will follow up, to the extent possible, with absent FTC members, according to the FTC protocol.

Q&A from Nov. 6 Public Meeting

Presenter: Travis Nelson

Travis explained that there was no intention to reply to comments made by members of the public at the Nov. 6 FTC meeting. The commitment was to post an official FTC reply to all questions within 30 days of the meeting. He acknowledged with appreciation the work done on responses by WDFW. Draft responses are currently undergoing internal TPU review. They will then be sent out to the FTC for further comment / edits before being posted.

Action Items:

- Travis: Post on the public website that comments and Q&A from the public meeting will be posted after the January FTC meeting.
 - Travis: Email out draft responses to all to review ASAP.
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Potential Topics for the Feb. 5, 2019 FTC Meeting

- Usual Announcements/Updates including Additional Release Site on the Tilton
- Approval of January Meeting Summary for posting to public
- FHMP Update, including Debrief of the Feb. 5 Workshop (the bulk of the meeting)
- Approval of FTC responses to Public Questions from Nov. 6 FTC Meeting (if not done electronically prior to the meeting)
- CRR Fund Update
- Gravel Augmentation Update
- M&E Subgroup Report
- Downstream Adaptive Management TWG Report
- Plan for March 5 Public FTC Meeting
 - Location, agenda, presentations, advertising, etc.