

Cowlitz Hydroelectric Project
FERC No. 2016
Cowlitz Fisheries Technical Committee
Cowlitz Salmon Hatchery
Final Conference Call/WebEx Meeting Summary
March 3, 2020 from 12:30 – 3:15

Attendees:

Travis Nelson	TPU
Bryce Glaser	WDFW
Carol Serdar	WA Dept. of Ecology
Rich Turner	Tech Rep for NMFS
James Archibald	Tech Rep for NMFS
John Serl	Tech Rep for WDFW
Peggy Miller	Tech Rep for WDFW
Brian Gale	Tech Rep for WDFW
Sam Gibbons	Tech Rep for WDFW
Josua Holowatz	Tech Rep for WDFW
Matt Bleich	Tech Rep for TPU
Florian Leischner	Tech Rep for TPU
Melora Shelton	Tech Rep for TPU
Eric Shoblom	Tech Rep for TPU
Phil Sandstrom	Tech Rep for TPU
Tim Hoffnagle	Tech Rep for TPU
Chris Foster, by phone	Tech Rep for TPU
Steve West	LCFRB
Steve Manlow	LCFRB
Laura Wolfe	LCPUD
Ann Weckback	Lewis County, Tech Rep for TPU
Ruth Tracy	USFS, Tech Rep for TPU
JD Jones	USFS, Tech Rep for TPU
Lyn Wiltse	PDSA Consulting / Facilitator

Remaining 2020 FTC Meeting Dates: Apr. 7 (conference call), May 5 (conference call?), June 2, July 7, Sept. 8 (Sept. 7 is Labor Day), Oct. 6, Nov. 3 (Election Day), Dec. 1

- **Action Item:** Travis: Update next or next few meeting invites to show that they are conference calls (to minimize the spread of the COVID-19 virus).

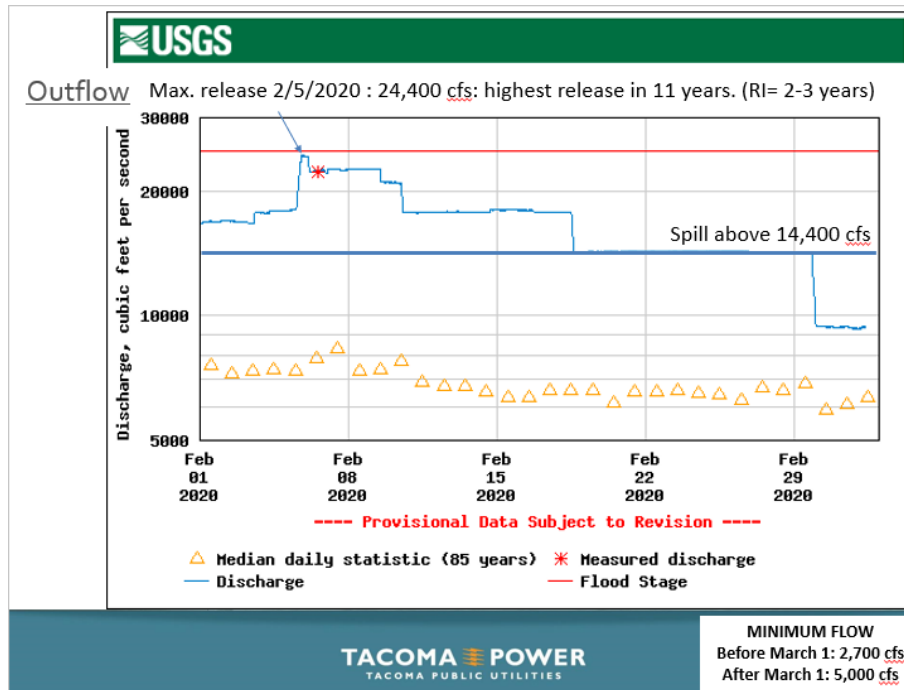
FHMP Workshop Dates: The morning of the FTC meeting dates March-June (see above)

Updates

Hydro Operations:

- **Inflows:** January and February inflows were higher than normal, with February inflows twice as high as the historical average. Since then, it has been relatively dry. March 1 inflow was 5,478 cfs vs. the historical March 1 average of 7K cfs.
- **Storage:** In capturing recent storms in Riffe Lake, the highest refill was 761' on February 10. Since then TPU has been draining Riffe Lake which is currently at 734'. Snowpack looks good. – at 90-100% of average in snow-water equivalent at lower stations and is at 140% of average at the higher elevation station.

- Outflow: Peak release at Mayfield was at 14,400 cfs on Feb. 5. Note: Spill occurs with any flows above 14,200 cfs. This was the highest release in 11 years. On March 1, outflows decreased to 9K, where TPU anticipates being for the foreseeable future (there is room to drop further). Inflows are expected to stay at 4-5K cfs.



Link to the USGS real-time Cowlitz River hydrograph:

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

Action Item: Florian to coordinate with Matt Peter in providing Carol with Mossyrock discharge volumes and spill (above 14,400 cfs). She requests spill and TDG data from December to current.

Water Quality: Travis reported the stockpiled contaminated material has been removed from the upper flat area of Kosmos Flats. TPU is working through related issues with contractors. WDFW is wanting to discuss recreational impacts of the Kosmos seep. TPU is continuing to implement the Water Quality Protection Plan for the interim phase, before the cleanup phase. Regular weekly monitoring is in place since the cap was installed. When Carol visited the site with TPU staff on March 2, she noticed floating patches of oil sheen. She was disappointed there were no water quality sampling bottles on site. She noted that Tacoma Power is working with F&W related to some areas that will need to be regraded and seeded. The area where the contaminated stockpile was located is one of the locations where oil is oozing up from below the sediment and then spreading out on top of the water, creating the sheen. She spoke with Matt Peter about on March 3 prior to this meeting.

Low Flow Planning: Florian requested time at the April FTC meeting to outline in more detail the following 3-step approach:

1. Present current conditions and summary of climate change conditions,
2. Reviewing communication and how best to keep the FTC informed. Is additional communication required?

3. Any management changes we can make in response to the changes in the climate and anticipated run-off.

Carol reminded TPU that communications need to occur with Ecology before the FTC, as Ecology is the agency with conditioning authority on minimum flows. Peggy suggested adding a communication chapter in the low flow plan.

Draft Cowlitz Article 9 (LWD) Report: Travis reminded all that he sent this report out for electronic approval on Feb. 28. Comments are due by March 30.

Downstream Adaptive Management TWG: Matt highlighted the following three activities:

1. They are wrapping up the third year of a three-year contract on evaluations for the Cowlitz Northshore Collector and are developing an RFP for actions in the coming year.
2. The annual product will be the report which is coming in in the next week or two. Because the contract is ending, the TWG will do a concurrent 30-day review with the FTC review.
3. Work on the FCE metric is occurring. Recommendations may come to the FTC pending results of discussions.

FHMP Update: Matt reported that just this morning they completed the third of three very productive workshops. He thanked everyone for all their hard work in identifying and resolving outstanding issues. He is sending out a series of updates to keep the FTC informed of progress on these workshops. The first update was sent out February 19; the second on February 27, and another update package will be out in the next day or two. One of the follow-up actions will be to possibly schedule a fourth workshop to work through the handful of remaining unresolved topics. So far only one topic is slated for a white paper. The next workshop is currently scheduled the morning to April 7 (with the FTC meeting starting at 12:30 that day).

Review of FTC Protocols

Presenter: Travis Nelson

At the February FTC meeting, since everyone had not been able to review WDFW's proposed edits, it was agreed to review the track-changes version of the protocols near the start of this meeting instead. On March 1 Travis forwarded an email from Paul with two attachments for FTC consideration prior to doing the track-changes edits to the Protocol document. Travis, having been out of the office when they were emailed, apologized for not forwarding them right away on February 18 when Paul emailed them. All reviewed the first document that outlined Paul's concerns about Technical Advisors. Travis will follow up with Paul on this to see how best to address his concern with SA consistency and report back to all prior to the next meeting. Perhaps the Issue can be addressed through a white paper?

Travis displayed section 12:6 from the SA:

The FTC develops their own operating rules and procedures – emphasizing the importance of developing a consensus among FTC representatives on fishery measures. When making recommendations, the FTC will operate by consensus when possible or by majority vote.

Balancing respect for Paul's request to be present for discussions on the Technical Advisor issue, and the need to get consensus on protocols, especially concerning subcommittees, the FTC agreed to use the remainder of the time to review Sections 7: Subcommittees.

- 7a: States that subcommittees work at the direction of the FTC.
- 7d: Lines out need for an agenda to be provided a week in advance to FTC members

so that they would know what was coming up and have time to prepare and engage.

- 7e: Preparation of meeting summary with major ideas, discussions, and outcomes.

Bryce explained that WDFW's intent was to expand what was already in the protocol document to help with the transparency issues that Paul brought up.

Subcommittees are to develop clear work plans based on direction from FTC. There should be continual communication between the subcommittees and the FTC. To that end, Matt worked with a consultant to develop a Meeting Summary Report template. The source of the template was feedback from the FTC about wanting to improve communication with subcommittees.

Subcommittee Meeting Summary Report: Matt explained that this report (distributed on February 7 by Lyn for all to review) can provide a useful template for two-way communication between the FTC and various subcommittees. After discussion, including Paul's expressed doubts that such a template would become "busy work for technical staff and fall short of the kind of sharing of information and insights most needed by the FTC" it was agreed to test drive this form for the second quarter of this year and evaluate how well it works, and then improve it is/as needed.

Action Items:

- Travis: Talk with Paul about how best to capture his concerns with FTC Technical Advisors as described in the SA.
- All: Come to the March FTC meeting ready to discuss.

M&E Subgroup Report

Presenter: Phil Sandstrom

Tilton Release Site: Eric reported the water splash-back problem is still occurring. TPU addressed this issue by getting DOT approval to pave the impacted area with asphalt. That area is now shored up. They are still working to remove the sag from the release pipe, and a few other minor modifications. After those have been addressed, they will begin commissioning of the facility for fish. Bryce noted that WDFW will be moving a rule change through the North of Falcon Process to make "release site" plural. John will work with Phil and Eric to determine the best places to post movable markers, taking into account the enforcement objective.

M&E Work Plan: Phil explained that as the APR process is starting again, TPU is working with WDFW on getting data together to inform the process and is putting task orders in place for next year. TPU is also finalizing comments on the juvenile screw trap process. This subgroup hasn't met for three months. Next steps include presentation or a draft work plan for this subgroup and getting feedback from the FTC at the April FTC meeting. Phil looks forward to ensuring the work plan reflects FTC priorities.

Action Item: Phil to present list of M&E topics/priorities for FTC feedback at the April FTC meeting.

Gravel Augmentation

Presenter: Florian Leischner

TPU understands that folks are anxious to get this license obligation met and they want to do so in a smart and successful way. Recently a high-flow event provided an opportunistic

moment to further disperse the gravel pile just below the Barrier Dam. After consulting with Ecology, USACE, and USFWS about possibly doing more to help disperse the material there, TPU ultimately did not take any action (based on agency responses). The FTC was not notified of these discussions and potential action as TPU did not receive agency approval. Some FTC members expressed disappointment at this and said they would like to be kept in the loop if TPU contemplated doing something similar in the future. The high-water event did take with it a significant amount of material from the pile below the Barrier Dam.

Florian displayed and briefly discussed an Alternatives' Analysis Spreadsheet showing ten potential locations and associated parameters including land ownership, access, constructability, benefits, and risks. Travis emailed this spreadsheet to all during the discussion.

When asked why the Gravel Augmentation Work Plan was not available to review, Florian assured everyone that the Work Plan will be put together by June. That plan will be based on the sites prioritized by the FTC as the most viable and will include a timeline, key communication points with the FTC, and considerably more detail. The basis sequence of events is as follows:

1. Alternatives Analysis
2. Site evaluation
3. Design and Permitting phase in June
4. Construction in 2021 or 2022

Florian also displayed a Google Earth map showing the location of each of the ten sites. At the April FTC meeting, a high-level Work Plan will be shared that includes a timeline of tasks up to the point of implementation. FTC members remain eager to see the Plan.

Action Items:

- All: By March 24 review list of parameters (Column A) on Alternatives Analysis Spreadsheet and send additions / edits / opposite views, etc. to Travis and Florian. Focus on Column A.
- Florian: Prepare a high-level Gravel Augmentation Work Plan to share at or prior to the April FTC Meeting.

Cowlitz Restoration & Recovery (CRR) Fund: 2020 Program
Presenter: Melora

Melora reported that on March 1 TPU submitted the first CRR Annual Report to FERC. During the review of that report, several questions were raised about the funding mechanism. She walked through a PowerPoint presentation that included these questions along with TPU responses. Members asked a few additional clarifying questions and seemed satisfied with the responses. These questions also were addressed in detail in the final CRR annual FERC filing. Travis emailed the PowerPoint to FTC members during the meeting and said TPU welcomes other questions as they arise.

Approval of Last Meeting Summary

The February FTC meeting summary was approved with edits and will be posted to the FTC public website.

Meeting Evaluation

- Great attendance!
 - Much appreciation to all for putting up with the frustration of technical difficulties.
 - Need TPU to set up Webex that works for State agencies with strong fire walls.
 - Ensure that everyone has the documents they need for the meeting before the meeting starts.
 - Consider reinstating the beeping to signal when someone wants to speak to ensure balanced participation (Would that work with so many on the phone?).
 - Travis: Let everyone know if moving issue to white paper.
 - Quotable Quote:
 - Josua: “Trust is the lubrication that makes it possible for organizations to work.” – Warren Bennis
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Potential Topics for April 7 FTC Meeting

- FHMP Workshop in the AM of this meeting
 - Updates incl. Hydro Ops, Water Quality, Kosmos seep
 - Planning for low water/drought conditions in 2020 (e.g., as for the Nisqually)
 - FTC Protocols
 - M&E Subgroup
 - Alternate Tilton Release Site
 - Gravel Augmentation Work Plan
 - Downstream Adaptive Management TWG
 - Cowlitz Restoration & Recovery Fund 2020
 - Satellite Rearing
 - Set topics for the May 5 FTC Meeting
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Parking Lot

- Review Steelhead Recycling Program