

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Minutes for May 11, 2004 FPOM Meeting.

1. The meeting was held at the Portland District Office. In attendance were:

Rex Baxter	USACE	509.527.7124
Larry Basham	FPC	503.230.4287
Scott Boyd	USACE	503.808.3943
Bob Cordie	USACE	541.298.7406
Tim Darland	USACE	541.374.4551
Randy Lee	USACE	503.808.4876
Gary Fredricks	NOAA Fisheries	503.231.6855
Bill Hevlin	NOAA Fisheries	503.230.5415
Steve Richards	WDFW	509.545.2050
Victor Albaladejo	WDFW	360.906.6745
Cal Sprague	USACE	503.808.4305
Rick Martinson	PSMFC	541.296.8989
Mark Smith	USACE	509.527.7275 (on the phone)
Brad Eby	USACE	541.922.2263 (on the phone)
Scott Bettin	BPA	----- (on the phone)

2. The following handouts were distributed:

- DRAFT AGENDA, FISH PASSAGE OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE COORDINATION TEAM, ROBERT DUNCAN PLAZA, MAY 11, 2004.
- CENWP-OP-B, 11 May 2004, MEMORANDUM FOR: FPOM MEMBERS, SUBJECT: Bonneville Lock and Dam Fishway and Construction Activities Report for May 11, 2004 FPOM meeting.
- Date: May 10, 2004, Fish Passage Operation and Maintenance Meeting, The Dalles/John Day Status.
- FISH PASSAGE O&M COORDINATION TEAM, Adult and Juvenile Fish Facilities Status Report, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Walla Walla District, May 11, 2004.
- Water Supply Forecast (various Columbia Basin locations).

3. Action Status Updates (underlined items are excerpts from the minutes of the April meeting):

- Cal asked if the University of Idaho was going to wire the count stations for radiotelemetry [at TDA]...relates to possible fish delay...this work is needed. ACTION: Miro will check on it.

Miro was absent and nobody knew of the outcome. Gary said this is needed particularly because of the shad fishery at TDA. STATUS: Bob said he would follow up. [STATUS: Miro later reported that there were no additional antennas for the counting stations this year...this is a research issue and it has been routed to Dave Clugston...for those antennas to be implemented in the future, the proposal has to be approved for funding...after the funding is secured Dave will write a work order to the University of Idaho to perform this task.]

- ACTION: Dave and Cal will develop a core list of task group participants, run it by FPOM for approval, and FPOM can add members to individual task groups on an as-needed basis.

Cal S. said he has sent a tentative task group list to Dave and Rex. Rex said he and Dave would review the list and forward it to others as needed. STATUS: Ongoing.

- Bonneville Unit 16 Index Testing: HDC of NWP wants to test three scenarios utilizing the TIES: 1) Test with current TIE configuration including both adjacent units, 2) Test with opposite TIE configuration, 3) Test with NO TIES in place. ACTION: Decision is on hold until this is discussed with Gary Fredricks. Status: Ongoing.

Cal discussed the details. Gary said this testing would be okay in July [2004] since there has been no benefit shown for subyearlings so “TIES in or out” doesn’t matter...yearlings do benefit. Randy added that this would be an abbreviated test...a full-blown index test is scheduled for 2006. Cal and Tim said the TIES are in bad shape and scrapping them might be cheaper than painting them. Scott Bettin said the testing might show that units are more efficient with TIES in...if so this would help justify keeping TIES. Gary asked if the TIES might be left in all year due to power gain. Scott said yes...possibly better flow through the unit...BPA would have incentive to fund new ones. STATUS: July testing is approved so proceed with testing.

- Bonneville P1 VBSs (in or out while gatewell dipping?): ACTION: Approved, project to proceed with VBS removal.

Tim said VBS removal began a couple of weeks ago...MGR units first...asked if it would be okay to leave the VBS in unit 4 while the scintillation frame is in use...approved...most VBSs will be out by the end of the month...6 will be left in until September. STATUS: Approved (again), proceed with VBS removal.

- Chief Joseph Spill Deflector Installation In-water Work Window: ACTION: FPOM agrees with the proposed work window [July 2004 to February 2005] to accommodate deflector construction at Chief Joseph, with FPP revision to be made (Cal assumes as an addendum). [There is now some question that FPOM has any authority in this matter. Perhaps NOAA Fisheries and WDFW should handle the request.]

There has not been much contact with Seattle District. Cal said Portland District cannot “approve” the proposal...would require Division approval. Gary said FPOM is a multi-district forum and so FPOM was the appropriate forum... it’s really up to the Corps about what process to follow, but still feels FPOM is appropriate...the Colville Tribe has raised the issue of harvest and wants a November construction startup...need to consider their perspective and that of others...Mark Schneider of NOAA F should be involved...should have a section in the Fish Passage Plan dealing with dewatering procedures and in-water work period. Bill said the Seattle District wants to start as soon as possible, when spill is not a problem...there is a need to get the work done for gas abatement. Scott Bettin suggested that the matter be handled by a separate conference call or meeting...some key players are not here anyway. STATUS: Cal said he would follow up with Jeff Laufle of the Seattle District and try to set up a conference call.

4. Construction Status Updates:

Portland District – See handouts. At BON...Tim said bays 1 and 18 need gate hoist repairs that will begin today or tomorrow...repairs may take a week. Gary asked how the spill pattern has been looking. Cal said not too bad but there was a standing wave on the outside of the wall between 17 and 2 (?). Tim added that the hydrocannons are OOS...water pipe is encased in concrete so they cannot access it...will try to reroute new piping...freezing caused the damage to begin with. Gary...so we have no cannons at all? Tim...that’s correct...to mitigate for this they are borrowing a USDA control agent from upriver to cover one day during the weekend when the regular agent is off...this has helped. The topic of sea lion predation came up. Gary said we cannot afford to have sea lions feeding at the ladder entrances. Bill suggested installing something like trashracks to keep sea lions away. Bob and others wondered about causing fish injury...velocities would be higher than at ladder exits. Bill and others came up with the idea of calling such a device a SLED (sea lion exclusion device). ACTION: Make a decision at the next FPOM meeting regarding if and how to proceed with installing SLEDs. For TDA/JDA...Bob said there was nothing to report.

Walla Walla District – See handout. Rex said there was nothing to report beyond what he said last month. Bill asked for an update on upgrading the count station at LMO’s north ladder. As background for everybody, Rex said there is an eddy in the first pool above the counting slot where fish hold up and also fall back through the slot...hydraulic design people are looking at options for eliminating the eddy, maybe by modifying the weir just upstream...design is underway and construction is scheduled for next winter. Larry added that modifications were done some years ago to improve velocity through the counting slot. Steve asked if any consideration was being

given to moving the count station downstream a couple of weirs or so. Rex said no...we'll see what the engineers can come up with to fix the hydraulic problem.

5. Fishway Status Updates:

Portland District – See handouts. At BON...Tim discussed unit 16 brake repair...took unit to tailwater level...stayed within the 4-day requirement so no need to salvage fish...unit should be back in service this week...MU4 will be first on/last off for MGR survival study...unit 18 will be OOS in June...may therefore have more trash on fish units because unit 18 will not be pulling it over. At TDA...Bob discussed new east entrance weir hoists for east fishway...work is almost done...will do west entrance next...east fishway count station crowders need new limit switches...can manually move the crowders in the meantime...not sure when new switches will be installed...turbidity has not yet been a problem...will need to do more adjustments during shad run...north fishway is doing better...the sluiceway is running according to research needs. At JDA...Bob said north fishway pump 6 is OOS...not sure of the problem yet...started ESBS testing recently...problem occurred with the ESBS brush but this was resolved by resetting...however, before the fix the unit was run to accommodate research...the gatwell fish release had already occurred...but he said if ESBS brush is not working then the FPP says the unit is to be taken out of service...was it the right thing to do to run the unit with a defective ESBS brush to continue the research? Gary said in this case it was probably okay.

Walla Walla District – See handout. Rex briefly discussed juvenile facilities...LGR has been inundated with fish lately...over 800,000 per day, two days in a row...the RSW was used one night to avoid running fish through the facility that would otherwise be bypassed anyway. Bill said he would like to see this use of the RSW put into the FPP...fish going through a spillway tend to have higher SARs than fish bypassed through a facility. Gary said we needed to somehow incorporate a fish density trigger. Long discussion ensued. **ACTION:** Rex said he and Dave H. would come up with some draft wording for the 2005 FPP. Bill also said that, because of how well the RSW worked in this case at LGR, he sought an endorsement from FPOM to put in a new RSW at Little Goose by 2007...this would put off an RSW at LMO until 2008 or later...there is a debate within SCT as to whether LGS or LMO should come first...all the Lower Snake dams will get RSWs eventually...IHR gets one in 2005. Scott Bettin said if LGS comes first then that would be more expensive due to 24-hour spill at LMO...could save maybe \$12-15 million by installing an RSW at LMO first and passing excess fish at LGS by using regular spill. This issue will be further discussed in various regional forums (e.g. FPOM, SCT, TMT).

6. Research Updates:

Portland District – See handouts. At BON...Tim discussed his handout without much elaboration. Bob did likewise for TDA/JDA.

Walla Walla District – See handout. At MCN...Rex brought up the McNary modernization research. Mark (on the phone) described results to-date in more detail. Bill said at times there had been lots of morts coming into the separator and high descaling and that Rosanna Tudor (WDFW at MCN) felt this was unusual, but Mark was saying otherwise. Brad (on phone) pointed out that this year dead fish are being retrieved from the separator due to the present study...in the past they have pushed morts on through the separator bars where they are subject to sampling, bypass, or raceways...therefore we cannot say that an unusual number of morts are being seen this year at the separator. Gary asked if the separator morts had been categorized as “fresh” and “long-dead.” Brad said he didn't think so. Bill mentioned that last Friday the project was operating at 1% and there were lots of morts. Brad responded that we still could not attribute the morts to any particular factor because unit loading varies and so forth. The issue will be further discussed during a conference call later today. There was more discussion about removing morts from the separator as a standard practice. Rex said morts are routinely removed from the separators at LGS and LMO...the daily number of separator morts is added to the collection total derived by expanding the daily hand count of sample fish...Rex [or Dave H.] will talk to Brad about it. Rex briefly discussed a few other items on the handout. Bill mentioned that at IHR there was a request that came in yesterday to shut down spill for a few hours today to install some fish release pipes in spillway bay 5 for a balloon tag study...his recommendation is to make this a fish-survival-neutral action...some fish would be lost due to the lack of spill so he asked for 4 hours of bulk spill to compensate on this, a non-test day...the test involves gas cap bulk spill for 24 hours versus 45K daytime spill and gas cap spill at night. Scott Bettin said BPA is required to follow the BiOp (45K daytime, gas cap nighttime). Scott Boyd said we have not been following the BiOp anyway due to the testing protocols. Scott Bettin

added that since Bill's proposal would not be done on a test day, and therefore subject to the BiOp, then what should he do?...is 4 hours of 55K bulk spill really needed as opposed to 45K BiOp spill for 4 hours?...he's having trouble justifying Bill's proposal biologically. It was finally agreed to go with 2 hours of 60K bulk spill...Scott will check with others at BPA to see if they will agree to it. [They did.] Everyone agreed that more than one day's notice is needed for such actions in the future. Rex will follow up on this. [He did.]

7. Task Group Updates: Cal said he had provided a proposed list of task group members to Rex and Dave Hurson...after they look at it they will forward to others for their okay.

8. Updated BON Fish Turbine and Fishway Operational Table: Randy said they have updated the BON emergency operation table...it's done. No issues to discuss. [Cal sent out the interim procedure and emergency operation files via email on May 24 for a two-week review. If accepted they will be incorporated into the FPP.] **ACTION:** Discuss at next meeting.

9. BON SMF Juvenile Mortality: Tim said they had a fish lift failure that killed 68 of 150 smolts...somebody had shut off the flushing water (electricians?)...he is trying to figure out who is responsible so they will know not to do it again. Rick added that somebody had left the electricians alone with the fish, after explaining to them the critical need to maintain flow to the fish...he felt there was a need to establish a protocol where the biological staff would remain whenever similar maintenance is done in the future. **ACTION:** Biological staff at BON will follow up. Tim went on to discuss fish beheadings...a potential problem area is the air burst system...they will check the tank about an hour after the system goes off and maybe correlate a cause-effect. Various people speculated about the cause...sheer effect?...mechanical?...not known to occur elsewhere...seems to occur at BON about this time each year...could be many more that are not found.

10. Count Program Briefing: Cal said that the new counting system is on hold due to logistics...secure computer lines is an issue...there is also a contract dispute...system may not be implemented until next September. Steve asked about where shad are to be counted this year. Cal said BON and TDA, not at JDA. Rex said MCN, IHR, and LGR.

11. River Flow Forecast: Scott Boyd discussed his handout...Libby inflow projection has dropped from 53% to 49% of normal...Dworshak is at 78%...Lower Granite 72% to 61%. Bill asked if we had just recently seen the freshet? Scott was unsure. Cal asked about El Nino. Gary said ocean conditions were not typical of El Nino but the weather pattern seems to be what El Nino would produce.

12. Use of Lower Granite Removable Spillway Weir When Fish Numbers Exceed Barge Capacity: This was discussed under "Fishway Status."

NEXT REGULAR MEETING: June 3, 2004, 0900 hours, Portland District Office.

Minutes prepared by Rex Baxter