

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Minutes for November 4, 2004 FPOM Meeting.

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

Rex Baxter	USACE	509.527.7124
Cal Sprague	USACE	503.808.4305
Larry Beck	USACE	503.808.3943
Tammy Mackey	USACE	541.374.4552
Scott Bettin	BPA	503.230.4573
Larry Basham	FPC	503.230.4287
Robert Stansell	USACE	541.374.8801
Ben Hausmann	USACE	541.374.4598
Greg Taylor	USACE	541.937.2131
Victor Albaladejo	WDFW	360.906.6745
Rudd Turner	USACE	503.808.3935
Randy Lee	USACE	503.808.4876
Tim Darland	USACE	541.374.4551
Miro Zyndol	USACE	541-506-7823
Phil Smith	USACE	541.506.7860

2. The following handouts were distributed:

- AGENDA, FISH PASSAGE O&M COORDINATION TEAM, ROBERT DUNCAN PLAZA, ROOM 3C, NOVEMBER 4, 2004.
- CENWP-OP-B, 04 November 2004, MEMORANDUM FOR: FPOM MEMBERS, SUBJECT: Bonneville Lock and Dam Fishway and Construction Activities Report for November 2004 FPOM meeting. [E-mailed to Rex B. on November 4, after the meeting.]
- Protocols for Adult Fish Facility Trapping Operations at Bonneville Dam. [Proposed revisions to the Fish Passage Plan. E-mailed to Rex B. on November 4.]
- CENWP-OP-B, DRAFT, Updated 11/04/04, MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD, SUBJECT: BONNEVILLE DAM WINTER FISHWAY MAINTENANCE 2004/2005. [E-mailed to Rex B. on November 4.]
- Date: November 4, 2004, Fish Passage Operation and Maintenance Meeting, The Dalles/John Day Status.
- Grating test summary: John Day Smolt Monitoring Facility, summer 2003 (plus two diagrams). [Summarizes the ability of adult lamprey to pass through diffuser gratings with various spacing. Provided by Phil Smith. Not included with these minutes. Contact TDA/JDA project for copies.]
- FISH PASSAGE O&M COORDINATION TEAM, Adult and Juvenile Fish Facilities Status Report, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Walla Walla District, November 4, 2004.
- Cormorant Management in New York [See <http://www.dec.state.ny.us/website/dfwmr/cormorant/> - 3 pages last modified October 18, 2004.]

3. Action Status Updates (meeting dates are in parentheses):

- (October 2004) – Four spillway gates will be rehabbed at MCN from October to February...should then have 22 usable spillway gates...the gates have become worn in recent years due to frequent adjustments to accommodate spill patterns. ... Scott B. asked if we should explore new spill patterns for MCN to avoid wearing out gates? **ACTION:** Rex said he would mention this possibility to Dave Hurson and others in Walla Walla.

(November 2004) – Rex said that Dave's view was to stay with the present 22-bay spill pattern and monitor/maintain the spillway gates more closely. There will be no change for now. **STATUS:** Completed.

- (October 2004) – Tammy said...DSM1 continues to run south. ... Scott B. asked do we need all of the orifices open? Tammy said she was not aware of any studies indicating how many open orifices are needed to provide adequate flow, so they just leave them all open. Scott asked if she would investigate having half of them open...at JDA orifices are closed when units are off...but of course PH1 is different. **ACTION:** Tammy agreed to look into having fewer orifices open.

(November 2004) – Tammy said that all orifices must be open for the channel to work properly (i.e. water levels and velocities) and avoid having fish hit the back wall of the channel as they exit the orifices...\$56/day/open orifice.
STATUS: Completed.

4. Construction Updates:

Portland District – See handouts. At BON...Tammy M. said there was no construction other than the adult PIT tag detectors for the WA shore ladder...construction begins Nov 29.

At TDA/JDA...Miro Z. said there was no construction going on.

Walla Walla District – See handout. Rex B. discussed the handout without elaboration.

5. Fishway Status Updates:

Portland District – See handouts. At BON...Tammy said the smolt monitoring facility went to bypass on Oct 29...DSM1 is still running south...Cascades Island and B Branch are intermittently in manual mode.

At TDA/JDA...Miro Z. said there were no problems to report...the JDA smolt monitoring facility is shut down.

Walla Walla District – See handout. Rex B. discussed the handout without elaboration.

6. Research Updates:

Portland District – See handouts. At BON...Tammy M. said research had concluded. Cal S. asked about the chum researchers. Tammy said they would start late this week or next. Cal added that they would be tagging chum at the AFF until the ladder is shut down.

At TDA/JDA...Miro Z. said the University of Idaho is continuing with its radio-telemetry study...there was a dive inspection for erosion of the spillway stilling basin this week [did not say which dam]...there will be another dive to remove hydroacoustic equipment at TDA powerhouse the week of Nov 15.

Walla Walla District – See handout. Rex B. discussed the handout without elaboration.

7. Task Group Updates: Shad Task Group - Cal S. said he and Whit Anderson had received a request from Stacey Horton (NPCC, Spokane) for information about shad...Cal provided her with a report from Jim Peterson (USGS) and other information... he can forward it to FPOM members if asked...was not sure why the information was needed by the NPCC. It was speculated that the NPCC is concerned about salmon-shad interactions. Cal added that he was going to propose various shad management strategies for FPOM to consider and briefly discussed them...he will be writing it up...he asked for other ideas. [Cal is chairman of the shad task group.] Rudd T. added that CBFWA once had a shad technical group that attempted to get a program of research and management going...they had trouble setting priorities...based on genetic studies, the shad we have here originally came from the Susquehanna River, a tributary to Chesapeake Bay. Bonneville Winter Spill Task Group (Bays 1 & 18 Winter Attraction Spill - Proposed Spill Test at Cascades Island - Spill On vs Spill Off For Detection of Differences in Counts) – [Extensive discussion on this item – about 40 minutes.] Cal S. discussed a proposal for winter attraction spill at BON to aid passage of winter steelhead. Scott B. said the proposal was not in the draft BiOp and there was no agreement among the action agencies...he questioned whether this was the proper forum for discussing the matter. Cal added that this proposal is something that might go into the BiOp and it had support from the Portland District and fishery agencies...the Corps proposes to provide spill from bays adjacent to open fishway entrances (Cascades Island and B Branch – bays 1 and 18) throughout this coming winter...the bulk of the wild winter steelhead pass from mid-Jan through Feb. Larry Beck suggested a spread-the-risk strategy that would provide a

variety of conditions for fish to choose from...have some entrances with attraction spill and some without. Cal suggested a test to see what the effect would be on fish counts. Robert S. said fish counts would be very low and it would be difficult or impossible to get statistically valid results...would probably need to rely on gross patterns...we all know that attraction spill works [although there is some question about winter steelhead]...would winter spill be worth it considering the low numbers of fish? Scott B. had doubts that winter spill would be of significant benefit for fish...if they are delayed a few hours then so what? Robert said a radio-tracking study would likely be needed to show a benefit. Larry Basham said that if PH2 is run during the winter then spill should be provided...spill is not needed if PH2 is not running. Rudd T. said that with the low water temps then the fish are probably moving slowly...spill might actually interfere with fish being able to find the entrances...he suggested spilling out of one bay only and focus on the peak passage period to spread-the-risk. It was generally agreed that there were some unknowns and the proposed action would have to be based on professional judgment. How many fish are we talking about? Is the population increasing or decreasing? Cal said he would contact ODFW to get information from the Hood River. Tammy said PH1 is the priority this winter and PH2 will be used if necessary. Cal said Gary Johnson's view was that we should do what is in the FPP. Tammy added that the FPP is unclear. Cal said the FPP allows FPOM to fill in the blanks. Tim D. asked if PH2 is operating then should we provide attraction spill at least at Cascades Island so fish don't get dead-ended at the powerhouse? Tammy suggested some wording...when PH2 units are running, operate bays 1 and 18 during daylight hours beginning Dec 1. Extensive discussion continued...there appeared to be general agreement that attraction flow would get fish past the dam quicker but uncertainty remained about the biological benefit. Cal said we need a decision on what to do starting Dec 1. Larry Basham recommended providing spill when PH2 is operating. Victor A. agreed...we need to move fish past the dam promptly regardless of the low fish numbers. It was decided to compromise and have one bay open at a time this winter – beginning Dec 1...open bay 1 during daylight hours when the Cascades Island ladder is operating...open bay 18 during daylight hours when CI is not operating. Avian Task Group Information on Cormorant Management in the U.S. – Tim D. asked for clarification of volunteers to be on the task group...two of those present asked to be taken off the list. Cal then discussed cormorants and provided a handout...see <http://www.dec.state.ny.us/website/dfwmr/cormorant/>. Tim said he had a USACE conference call this morning involving the Portland and Walla Walla districts, and the division office...cormorants are becoming more of a problem in the estuary...an EIS and implementation plan may be in the works to manage cormorants...could be 2010 before implementation. Cal said the focus would be on habitat...Fern Ridge, Crescent Island, and East Sand Island...there are now 12,000 breeding pairs on East Sand.

8. Fish Passage Plan Revision Process: PH1 STSs/VBSs – At BON...Tammy M. said this year they would keep in place only the STSs needed for adult fallback...the extra STSs will be disposed of at the end of next year. Scott B. asked about VBS/ESBS/STS inspections...was concerned that units are out of service and perhaps inspections are done more frequently than really necessary. Tammy said VBSs are video inspected monthly when STSs are done. Scott said some project personnel [Lower Granite] want to reduce the frequency of inspections because they have found nothing significant in recent years...we are spending a lot of money for no good reason. Rex said ESBS video inspections at the Walla Walla projects allow for very limited viewing...can only see the cleaning brush and upper few feet of the bar screen ...inspections of STSs are more complete because the mesh rotates into view...he will look into changing the inspection frequencies as part of the FPP revision process. Weir 37 modifications to remain in criteria? Tammy said to ignore this item for now. Appendix G revisions – Tammy discussed water temperature discussions/arguments involving the adult fish trap over the years...Appendix G has been revised...see handout or draft FPP...only mandatory steelhead research will be allowed start up the trap when temps are over 72 F...other researchers can still piggyback. Larry Beck suggested removing “steelhead” from the wording to allow for “mandatory research” over 74 F instead of strictly “mandatory steelhead research.” Tammy said she wanted to leave the wording as is...if others want to change it, they can follow up. PH2 AWS emergency operations table - Randy L. gave a heads up by saying the table may be revised for the upcoming FPP...an incorrect formula was used in the hydraulic model upon which the present table is based...they are doing a sensitivity analysis. TDA unit priority – Scott B. asked if we yet knew what the unit priorities would be, especially units 1-4...he is working with the Transmission Business Line to integrate the wind generators with that transmission line. Miro Z. said it would be 1 or 2 then every other unit...the proper unit priorities at TDA are a bit vague due to the lack of information...used to think that west loading was beneficial but the fish did not follow the theory...now the loading is put into no particular area. The draft FPP will be out in mid-Dec.

9. TDA Adult Sturgeon in Gatewell Update/Report: Miro Z. discussed this unusual incident (see handout)...not sure how the large fish got into the gatewell...after various people and various means failed, Bob Cordie managed to snag the fish in the snout, which led to its rescue. Cal said Bob probably has lots of experience with snagging fish. Rudd added that the technique should probably not be added to the FPP.

10. Avian Lethal Take Issue Update: Project Feedback on Timing for Lethal Take – Cal S. contacted the project biologists for their opinions...BON Apr 1 to Jun 30...TDA/JDA Apr 1 to Aug 31...lots of juvenile gulls seen under the wires at TDA/JDA. Robert S. said the FFU's observations over the years at BON, TDA, and JDA coincided with the recommended lethal take dates...he provided a report to Cal who will forward it to Tara Zimmerman of the USFWS (she will be writing the permit). Cal mentioned an island near JDA where lots of gulls nest. Tim D. said the EA was due out in mid-January. Rex B. reiterated what he said last month...project biologists in the Walla Walla District recommend lethal take during the spring, basically Apr 1 to Jun 30. Larry Basham said there should be some flexibility in the dates to accommodate varying gull numbers and fall chinook [e.g. allow July lethal take at BON]. Avian Abatement at P2 Outfall - Tim D. said he is working on getting bird wires installed at the BON DSM outfalls...wires would cover a limited area near the outfalls.

11. Bonneville TIES/Index Testing: Scott B. said the testing did not show any advantage to power production...there was a slight reduction in efficiency...from BPA's standpoint the fishery people can do whatever they want with the TIES, leave them in or out or dispose of them. Tammy M. said six would be scrapped and six left in. The remaining TIES need rehab work or may be rebuilt. Scott asked if they are rebuilt is it possible to come up with a better design, one that achieves more laminar flow that is better for fish? No definite answer...hydraulic study needed.

12. John Day Floating Orifice Gates – Closure Proposal: Miro said the University of Idaho has concluded that the FOGs provide no significant benefit to fish passage, based on an analysis of 2003 data...he is seeking approval from FPOM to close them off...they could be kept on project for awhile in case new information comes in indicating they should be put back in place...Miro has the U of I report and can provide it if requested...the U of I said keeping the northernmost and southernmost FOGs operating, adjacent to the main entrances, may benefit fish passage...there are currently 13 open FOGs...closing some would benefit the project by being able to operate only 2 of 3 fish turbines rather than all 3...this would increase system reliability due to the backup capability...the project would like to get approval soon, in advance of the winter maintenance period...they want to close at least 10 of the 13. Robert S. said that at BON PH2 there was also no net benefit but the FOGs were left open because the fish agencies wanted it that way. Randy L. said a hydraulic analysis at JDA should be done to determine overall hydraulic effects. **ACTION:** It was agreed to follow up on this matter at the next meeting.

13. Project Operational Data Reporting (New BiOp Requirements?): Cal S. said he had no new information to offer...has not been able to talk with NOAA about what they want. Rudd T. said they want hourly, real-time data for individual turbines and spillway gates...they will not be given real-time turbine data due to marketing concerns...this effort has been "bumping along" for four years...he asked what is the status at the two districts? Cal said at TDA the powerhouse was outfitted with GDACS but not the spillway. Rex B. was not sure about the Walla Walla District. Scott B. questioned the need for such a BiOp requirement. Rudd suggested that FPOM consider setting priorities...which projects should be outfitted first?

14. Willamette Valley Fish Issues: Greg Taylor addressed the group...he is detailed to Gary Johnson's shop temporarily...the Willamette Valley is light years behind the Columbia mainstem efforts...13 projects with one biologist and one bio tech...they are working through their BiOp and seeking help from this group or some similar group...have nothing comparable to the FPP...have no fish salvage plans...need to put together draft plans...some facilities are being modified...the projects tend to be end-of-the-line for fish...they trap and haul to upstream areas or hatcheries...facilities tend to be old and deteriorated...lots of challenges...he is seeking help and information from those experienced with Columbia River issues. Robert S. said Gary Johnson feels they need something comparable to AFEP and the FPP. Greg continued...no RM&E...no money...at "ground zero"...have extensive hatchery mitigation program...he wants to get exposure to various groups like FPOM, FFDRWG, etc...invited others to visit...a week-long tour is coming up in late November and early December to visit all 13 projects...you can tag along...minnows, bull trout, spring Chinook, and winter steelhead are the focus.

15. RCC Reports on River Flows/Weather: Rudd T. said there is only one forecast out so far...flows at Dworshak for Apr – Jul 2005 are expected to be 86% of normal, strictly based on oceanographic indicators...Libby forecast will come out later this week...water year so far is higher than normal...125% to 185% of average for Sep and Oct in key basins...he described current operations at Libby, Dworshak, LWG (out of MOP on Oct 9), BON (10.5 hard and 11.0 soft constraint on tailwater elevation since last week)...a chum test is scheduled, ramping flows up and down...Grand Coulee is close to full...a mild El nino event is predicted by the NWS the first few months of the year, above average temperatures and below average precipitation. Regarding BiOp Implementation, Rudd said a working draft Water Management Plan will soon be issued...will ask for comments by Nov 24...see TMT website...operations next year will be guided by the 2004 BiOp, or 2000 BiOp, or a court order...things are a bit uncertain.

16. Replacement of Diffuser 16 Grating at JDA: Phil Smith discussed his investigation of lamprey passage through diffuser gratings with various spacing...3/4 inch was about as small as the grating should be to prevent passage...see his handout.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING: December 16, 0900 hours, Portland District Office, USACE.

Minutes prepared by Rex Baxter