



BAKER RIVER PROJECT RELICENSE

Fish & Aquatic Resources Working Group/Hydrological & Water Resources Working Group Combined Meeting

November 9, 2000

9:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Puget Sound Energy's Everett Office
CFS Training Room
1122 75th St. S.W.
Everett, WA

AGENDA

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| 1. Review agenda and minutes |
| 2. Review action items/parking lot |
| 3. Status report from downstream passage technical working group |
| 4. Continue defining interest and issues |
| 5. Presentation on Flood Control – U.S. Army Corps of Engineers |
| 6. Presentation on Clean Water Act – WA Dept of Ecology |
| 7. Set agenda for next meeting (December 14, 2000) |
| 8. Evaluate meeting |

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MEETING NOTES

Hydrological Working Group Mission: *"To identify issues and develop recommendations that provide for the protection and management of water quality, watershed processes, and hydrologic regimes associated with the Baker River Project that address the social, economic, terrestrial, and aquatic values they affect."*

Fish Working Group Mission: *"To identify issues and develop solutions and recommendations addressing fish and aquatic resource interests related to the Baker River Project and its operations, leading to a settlement agreement."*

Hydrological Team Leader: Ken Brettmann, 425-462-3092, kebret@puget.com

Fish Team Leader: Arnie Aspelund, 425-462-3442, aaspel@puget.com

PRESENT:

Gary Sprague (WA Dept. Fish & Wildlife), Karen Kloempken (WA Dept. Fish & Wildlife), Stan Walsh (Skagit System Cooperative), Dick Raisler (Fidalgo Flyfishers), Steve Jennison (WA Dept. of Natural Resources), Don Schluter (by conference phone - Trout Unlimited), Rod Sakrison (WA Department of Ecology), Bob Newman (WA Department of Ecology), Jerry Louthain (Economic and Engineering Services for Skagit and Anacortes P.U.D.), Arn Thoreen

(Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group), Bill Reinard (Wildcat Steelhead Club), Ken Brettmann (PSE), Lloyd Pernela (PSE), Arnie Aspelund (PSE), Nick Verretto (PSE), Doug Bruland (PSE), Wayne Wagner (Army Corps of Engineers), Lyn Wiltse (facilitator - PDSA Consulting)

November 9, 2000 Meeting Agenda

1. Review notes/agenda
2. Action Items/Parking Lot
3. Report from Technical Working Group
4. Issues and Interests
5. Rod Sakrison—Presentations on Clean Water Act and Proposed Lower Skagit River Instream Flows
6. Wayne Wagner—Flood Control at the Upper Baker Project
7. Set agenda for December 14, meeting
8. Evaluate meeting

NEW (COMBINED) ACTION ITEMS

Ken and Arnie: Set up presentations for December 14 meeting.

Bob B.: Send hard copies of Hydro 101 presentation to Don, Arn, and Jerry.

Ken, Nick, Arnie: Merge Interests/Issues spreadsheets for two working groups into a single file. Send to Karen and Stan for comments by Dec. 1 and send revised version to team members by Dec. 7.

All: Review combined spreadsheet and come to next meeting prepared to discuss.

OLD HYDROLOGY ACTION ITEMS

Jon V.: Check with Brady Green re: Watershed Analysis Presentation at December 14th meeting

Bill R.: Give contact information for Don Wick of the Economic Development Association or Skagit County to Arnie so he can be copied on team minutes

Jon V.: Check with ID team re: their process

Fred S.: Bring sample models for structure

Rod S.: Give Ken contact information on Department of Commerce, Trade and Economic Development

Bob B.: Send hard copies of Hydro 101 to Arnie

OLD FISH ACTION ITEMS

Gary: - Bring hard copies of sockeye presentation

HYDRO PARKING LOT

- Communication Plan to enlist “reluctant” members
- Reservoir/watershed:
- Consider moving meeting locations around—closer to Olympia
- Copies of Section 7 of the Federal Register (Corps authority and responsibility)
- Coastal Zone Management Act (How it interacts with other mandates)
 - State Shoreline Management Act
 - Federal Clean Water Act

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- Federal Clean Air Act
 - State Environmental Policy Act

FISH PARKING LOT

- Watershed Analysis- presentation by Brady Green at a later date
We need a strategy to integrate this analysis into the process
- Feedback on “Salmon on the Baker River” document
Different perspectives
Discuss posting reviews on web
- Presentation on Northwest Forest Plan including Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (USFS) at a date to be defined later
- ESA (Endangered Species Act) briefing and 4(d) implications
- Consider alternating meeting locations to southern area

UPDATE FROM FISH PASSAGE TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP

The group is in the process of narrowing options on possible alternatives for solution. The next meeting of this technical working group will be December 12th.

SOLUTION TEAM MEETING DEBRIEF

The Solution Team met for the first time on October 25 at the Forest Service Office in Mountlake Terrace from 9:00 to 3:00. They were missing some key organizations (NMFS, USFWS, Ecology, etc.), but were otherwise well represented. Representatives have been identified from these organizations and full participation is expected at the next meeting, December 13. At the Oct. 25 meeting, members introduced themselves and described their experiences with FERC. They also cited factors contributing to and detracting from success in FERC projects they have been involved with in the past. They drafted a mission statement: *By April 30, 2004 develop a settlement agreement and associated documents for relicensing of the Baker River Project that (best) meet the interests of the participants.* They will finalize the mission statement and define norms at their next meeting. They will also be putting together a template for working groups to use in submitting options for solution to the Solution Team.

ISSUES/INTERESTS

There was strong support between the two groups that they be combined into a single Working Group. This will allow them to work more effectively and efficiently.

Members signed up their organizations for the interests they represent. The group also brainstormed additional issues associated with each interest.

Next Steps: A teamlet of Ken, Arnie, and Nick will merge the spreadsheets of interests and issues that they created for the two separate working groups. They will eliminate redundancies and align issues with appropriate interests as they understand them. By approximately Dec. 1, they will email the combined spreadsheet to Karen and Stan so they can incorporate their comments before emailing the spreadsheet to team members (by approximately December 7) so they can review the list prior to the next meeting on December 14.

The revised spreadsheet will also be available on the website.

PRESENTATION BY ROD SAKRISON

Rod gave very informative presentations to the group on “Hydroelectric Projects and the Section 401 Water Quality Certification” and on the proposed rule establishing Instream Flows for the lower mainstem Skagit River. His presentation is available to be emailed to members by request. This will be coordinated through the team leaders.

PRESENTATION BY WAYNE WAGNER

Wayne Wagner opened by explaining the integral relationship the Corps has with PSE for providing flood control. His presentation addressed these four areas:

- Why flood control?
- How dams are managed for flood control
- Effects of flood control
- Where are we going?

His presentation is available to be e-mailed to workgroup members by request.

LIST OF MEETING HANDOUTS

- Wildcat Steelhead Club’s: Reasons for Participation in the Baker River Project Relicense
- Comment Period and Hearing Notice: Rule Proposed to Set Skagit River Instream Flows
- Corps of Engineers Presentation on Upper Baker Flood Control

EVALUATION OF MEETING

Well-Dones

- Good location
- Good presentations
- Good snacks
- Facilitation

Opportunities to Improve

- Ended late
- Traffic
- Post presentations ahead of time when possible
- Disorganized lunch

Tentative Agenda for Next Meeting

December 14, 2000

9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

PSE Office in Everett (CFS Training Room)

1122 75th St. S.W.

Everett, WA 98203

Driving Directions to PSE's Everett Office:

- 1) From I-5 (southbound or northbound) take the State Route 526 exit (Mukilteo exit) – this exit from I-5 is several miles south of downtown Everett**
- 2) Exit from State Route 526 to Seaway Blvd (upon exiting you will be headed north on Seaway Blvd.).**
- 3) Turn right onto 75th St. SW**
- 4) PSE office is on the right about ½ mile after turning onto 75th St. SW**

Tentative Meeting Agenda

1. Review notes/agenda
2. Action Items
3. Issues and Interests
4. Review and discuss merged spreadsheet (for fish and water)
5. Review of draft study screen
6. Watershed Analysis Presentation (?)
7. Tribal presentations on cultural and spiritual significance of resources (?)
8. Endangered Species Act Presentation (?)
9. Set agenda for next meeting
10. Evaluate meeting