

Meeting of the Packwood Lake Hydroelectric Project Cultural Resources Committee

Date: February 11, 2005

Location: Packwood, Washington

Present:

Energy Northwest - Laura Schinnell, Bernice Kasko, Bill Kiel

Historical Research Associates, Inc. (HRA) – Brad Bowden, Gail Thompson

United States Forest Service (USFS) – Rick McClure

Cowlitz Tribe – Mike Iyall

Yakama Nation – Cliff Casseseke, George Lee

FERC – Frank Winchell (by phone)

Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation – Rob Whitlam (by phone)

Introductions were made and Laura Schinnell discussed the purpose of the committee and reviewed the agenda for the meeting.

The Packwood Lake Hydroelectric Project Cultural Resources Committee is an informal group formed to collaboratively design and implement a cultural resources study plan. The work will identify historic properties within the Area of Potential Effects (APE) for the Project, assess potential relicensing effects on them, and develop a Historic Properties Management Plan. The work will be conducted in consultation with the Gifford Pinchot National Forest, the Cowlitz Tribe, the Yakama Nation, the State Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, and other stakeholders who may be identified.

The following is a suggested communications protocol for the committee:

- Energy Northwest will issue draft meeting minutes to attendees with copies to those who could not attend. These will be sent via email (or if email is not available, faxed or mailed).
- Comments and corrections from the participants will be provided back to Energy Northwest within 2 weeks of receipt of the minutes.
- Revised meeting minutes will be sent via email (fax or mail) with approval requested at the next meeting.
- Anyone can request paper copies of notices, meeting minutes or other documents be faxed or sent to them by mail.
- Communications among the group can be by email, voice mail, or regular mail. A website is available to review documents but only public versions of the cultural resource documents will be posted to the website. Website address is

<http://www.energy-northwest.com/gen/packwood/committee.html>

Rick McClure provided an interesting and informative overview of the Packwood Lake area. Rick discussed previous studies that had been done in the area and findings of those studies.

Gail Thompson distributed copies of a draft study plan (confidential and public versions) and provided a presentation that discussed potential issues, objectives, schedule, and dates.

All requests for Project study plans are due to FERC by March 12, 2005, Energy Northwest will issue its draft study plan by April 26, 2005. A meeting for all committees to discuss the draft study plan is scheduled for May 26, 2005 in Lacey, Washington. In addition, dates have been reserved for the individual committees to meet and discuss issues, with the last day in the series of dates reserved for the Cultural Resources Committee.

- June 14-16
- June 28-30
- July 12-14
- August 2-4

Rick asked when fieldwork will begin. The goal is for the group to reach consensus on the study plan so that fieldwork can begin as soon as practicable, although survey of the drawdown area will need to occur during the normal drawdown period.

Frank Winchell asked if meeting minutes will be posted on the website. All public versions of correspondence from the committee will be posted on the website with the meeting minutes posted as soon as they are approved by the committee.

Cliff Casseseka provided the following comments on Rick's presentation:

Cliff asked if we knew where the fill dirt at a site came from and if the artifacts could have been transported to the area in the fill dirt. He suggested that we may need to take a broader look at the area. Cliff indicated that fish traps were also used on the Columbia River. He asked who was selling fishing licenses for Packwood Lake. Rick responded that the State of Washington issues fishing licenses. Cliff also asked if fish are being planted at the lake. No fish are currently being planted at Packwood Lake.

Mike Iyall asked about checking for ancient trails that might be in the area.

Gail asked about an eyeing station and what its purpose was. George Lee responded that is a place to sort fish eggs, with the non-viable eggs discarded.

Cliff provided the following comments on Gail's presentation:

Cliff suggested that we need to establish who is responsible for protection of the sites and indicated that the Yakama Nation will treat TCP information as confidential. Cliff also indicated that the Yakama Nation has oral history of their use of the Cowlitz and Lewis Rivers. Cliff asked if there will be a long term monitoring process established. He stated that the presentation made no mention of the trails around the lake and that new trails should avoid historic properties. He also suggested that the use of signs should be considered and that they could state: "environmentally sensitive areas". He also stated that the word campsites should be replaced with home sites to indicate that they are used annually (seasonally) by the same families.

Cliff asked where artifacts from the study will be kept and where artifacts that have been found to date are kept. Rick responded that artifacts found from previous studies are located at Trout Lake.

Mike asked about the drawdown area and if we should consider closing the lake to public access during the drawdown that occurs each year. He also mentioned patrolling the area during the drawdown. Mike stated that seasonally occupied means that the particular site was occupied during the same season each year.

Study Plan

Gail briefly reviewed the draft study plan.

Mike asked if the access roads should be included in the APE.

Rick asked if we have maps showing the Project Boundary. Maps have been prepared showing the boundary. There was some discussion regarding lake level. The summer average lake level is 2857 MSL. Pre-project lake levels could potentially have been lower in dry years.

Gail discussed creating a sensitivity map and that a Forest Service permit will be needed to conduct the studies.

Rob Whitlam asked about the landslide that created Packwood Lake. Information regarding the slide can be found in the Pre-Application Document.

Rick wanted to make sure that subsurface samples were excavated deeply enough; 50 centimeters should be adequate. He also mentioned checking the cedar trees while we are conducting studies. Gail will use Forest Service forms to document finds.

Rob asked if there will be any new recreation facilities. Energy Northwest is not proposing any. Rob asked if Rick had been on the island and Rick responded that he had not.

Cliff asked if the Water Quality and Aquatic Resources Committee will be doing any ground disturbing activities and the answer was no; however if that changes, we will have the consultants coordinate with each other.

Rob stated that cultural resource issues should be made known to the other resource committees to avoid conflicting requirements.

Cliff stated that consultation with the tribes needs to be done at a policy level and consultation is more than a conversation with a tribal representative.

The committee was asked to review the draft study plan and provide comments. Gail asked that the public version be reviewed to ensure that sensitive information was removed. Frank commented that a section in the study plan about the historic context of the study area (i.e., giving background information and expectations) on what cultural resources would be considered eligible for the National Register would be helpful.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 28 at 10:00 in Packwood at the Cowlitz River Lodge.