

Cedar River Instream Flow Commission

Final Minutes

SPU Water Quality Lab

January 8, 2014

Organizations/Members Present:

- Seattle Public Utilities -- Tom Fox, Rand Little, Karl Burton
 - Seattle City Light -- Liz Ablow
 - Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife -- Peggy Miller
 - US Fish and Wildlife Service -- Tim Romanski
 - Army Corps of Engineers -- Larry Schick, Ken Brettmann
 - Muckleshoot Indian Tribe -- Holly Coccoli
 - Guest – Frank Urabeck
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Tom introduced the IFC members who were taking part in the call.

I. Real Time Water Management:

Hydrologic Conditions: The current elevation of Chester Morse Lake is 1552.8' and decreasing. SPU is releasing 800 cfs from the reservoir to make more room in the flood pocket. Releases will decrease on Friday as the storm arrives and flows increase from local rain. The 8-week moving average for inflows to the reservoir are in the 75 percentile range. Snowpack is 35% to 40% of the median for this time of year. Tom said that, given current conditions, the minimum flow for Chinook redd dewatering protection of 410-420 cfs should be maintained into early February. Demand is 120 MGD, which is close to the demand from 2013. Cumulative Cedar water use for 2013 was 72.8 MGD compared to 73.7 MGD for 2012. Tom expects the weekend storm to increase flows in the Cedar to between 1500 cfs and 2000 cfs. Tom asked the IFC whether they would like attempt to increase flows to 2200 cfs for the scour study. Tom said that there was only one generator up and running at the dam which would necessitate the use of the 48' spill valve to bring flows up to 2200 cfs. Tom informed the IFC that the 48" spill valve was not designed for fine adjustments in flow and the level of accuracy for releases may result in flows exceeding a targeted flow of 2200 cfs. The IFC did not want to risk any scour of sockeye redds and declined to target a maximum flow of 2200 cfs. The IFC members agreed, that given the uncertainty of valve operations and variation in the magnitude of local inflows, a target maximum

of 2000 cfs for this particular weather event would help reduce the risk of redd scour.

Weather Forecast: The current weather is very dynamic. The morning forecast discussion indicated that there was a weak storm in the next 24 hours and a bigger storm expected on Friday night and into Saturday. Snow level is currently at 2500 feet and small rain storms are expected in the mountains today and Thursday with a break in the storm late on Thursday. After that, there is a bigger atmospheric river storm event expected to move into the region but that storm is expected to be moderate in intensity and short in duration. The snow level will rise to between 5,000 and 6,000 feet but will drop back down to 2000 feet by Saturday and a dry weather pattern is expected to arrive late Sunday lasting through Wednesday.

II. Supplemental Studies: Rand said that a meeting has been scheduled with USGS staff to develop the details and schedule for Tasks 2 and 3 of the Peak Flow Study. The meeting will be on January 23rd at 12:30 PM and Rand encouraged interested IFC members to attend. Tom mentioned that the SEPA checklist document for the new Chester Morse pump plants will be available soon and it will be provided to the IFC for their review. The checklist includes review of potential impacts from dredging the channel.

III. Conference call adjourned at 10:00 PM