

**10-20-10 Meeting Summary \* \* Approved 11-17-10 \* \***  
**RESOURCE COORDINATION COMMITTEE (RCC)**  
**NORTH UMPQUA HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT- FERC #1927-008**

RCC Members or Alternates Present

Monte Garrett (PacifiCorp Energy)  
Dave Harris (ODFW)  
Craig Kohanek (OWRD)  
Pam Sichting (USDA-FS)  
Stephanie Burchfield (NMFS)  
Rob Burns (USFWS)

Also Present

Beth Bendickson (PacifiCorp Energy)  
Rich Grost (PacifiCorp Energy)  
Mike Blum (PacifiCorp Energy)

Absent

Ariel Hiller (BLM)  
Chris Stine (ODEQ) – proxy given to Dave Harris

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INTRODUCTIONS, AGENDA, OLD BUSINESS

Member Updates

**USDA-FS:** Donna Owens is the new USDA-FS Tiller District Ranger. She won't directly deal with the Project just involvement with distribution lines.

**RCC Action:** Approve the September RCC Meeting Summary. *Approved 10-20-10.*

Public Information Opportunities

Pam mentioned that the Umpqua Community College engineering group is interested in touring the Soda Springs Fish Passage project; she'll contact Rich to arrange a site visit.

Mark Brown will have the newest update to the *North Umpqua Continuum* ready for the January 2011 RCC planning meeting.

Pacific Rivers Council (PRC) is holding a private Legacy Rivers program meeting at the Steamboat Inn on October 26. They invited Rich to give a brief presentation on long-term monitoring with respect to anadromous fish. Rob asked if PRC is going to start monitoring the North Umpqua River. Rich wants to participate to see what they envision doing as part of their own program. Pam suggested other RCC people might want to attend so there are two RCC members present as per our ground rules in public speaking engagements. Rich envisions a simple presentation of existing information, and will consult with Dave Harris on the material and ask the Council if they would like an ODFW representative to attend the meeting.

### Annual Public Tour Debrief

There were about 29 people in attendance, comprised of members of the RCC, additional USDA-FS and PacifiCorp staff, and members of the public. Four persons representing non-governmental organizations attended. To start the tour, Rich gave an updated presentation covering NUHP history, operation, and new license implementation with emphasis on projects that are currently underway such as Soda Springs fish passage project. A lively question and answer session followed. The first stop on the bus tour was the Soda Springs fish passage project for a “top of the dam” view. Comments were positive; people were impressed. Channel 4 (KPIC) news station was in attendance. Other projects toured included the Toketee Lake trash rack, the Lemolo 2 reroute, several projects along Lemolo 2 canal (e.g., wildlife/aquatic connectivity, canal shut off & drainage), and the Lemolo 1 forebay/wetland. Overall, the tour generated some interesting questions and discussion, with many positive comments.

A larger venue was suggested for the presentation for the 2011 tour, with the anticipation of more participants due to the Soda Springs fish passage project (the NUIC conference room was filled to capacity in 2010, although many more could have been fitted with theatre-style seating). It was also suggested that the 2011 tour occur in September, to allow for the possibility of better weather.

### Fish Creek CSD Performance Test

This project is ready for testing, with late November being the ideal time (weather and flows permitting). Sometime the week of November 29 was suggested. The test is tentatively scheduled for Nov 30-Dec 1 (Tues/Wed) and those interested in attending were requested to e-mail Monte which days would work best. Monte will firm-up with Operations and get back with a set date. Agencies that should attend are: ODFW, ODEQ, USDA-FS, and USFWS.

## **CURRENT PROJECT UPDATES**

### Lemolo 1 Forebay and Wetland

The forebay has been filled. PacifiCorp is in the process of completing plant programming and coordinating water management to optimize best use of storage capacity. FERC indicated some concern regarding public safety about the new plastic liner, which is quite slick and makes egress potentially difficult for animals or people who may fall in or otherwise enter the water. Planned water storage at the new forebay is only four feet deep, but this could still pose a threat of injury or death. PacifiCorp is revising its public safety plan to include ropes and life rings, and the berm is closed and gated from the public. There will be signs installed to warn people. Currently there are snow poles along the top of the berm.

Pam noticed a contractor was measuring around the forebay and asked if a fence was being considered. ODFW is concerned with the potential for wildlife entrapment. Monte indicated that fencing is not currently planned, but monitoring will be conducted to determine if wildlife entrapment becomes an issue.

Water quality monitoring in the new forebay starts August 2011 as required by the 401 Water Quality Certification.

### Soda Springs Fish Passage

This project is moving right along and good progress is being made to get the work site into a stable condition in anticipation of high winter flows. The immediate goal is to get the fish screen and upper fish ladder areas walled off from the flowing channel to be able to continue working in those areas during high water conditions. Nevertheless, the area at the base of the dam will need to be dewatered and fish salvaged again in 2011.

There is a forecast for heavy rains and high water this weekend with up to three inches expected. This may cause flows to exceed the penstock capacity and force a spill, inundating the work area at the base. In preparation for this possibility, Scott Schevenius is working on a 72-hr advance *High Water Early Notification Program*. This program consists of the following four stages:

- Stage 1: Contractor submits an evacuation plan to Scott.
- Stage 2: 48-hr notice, high water early warning system – yellow lights flash, contractor implements their evacuation plan.
- Stage 3: 24-hr notice, equipment removal beneath OHW.
- Stage 4: 4-hr notice, overtopping is eminent – red lights flash, contractor confirms all hazardous materials are removed from project site.

On the project, plans are being implemented to manage water such that we can avoid or minimize spilling at Soda Springs. Contactors are well aware of the weather forecast this weekend and are beginning to demobilize and remove equipment, while still trying to get as much work done as possible to minimize erosion and water quality risks to the river.

If spill does occur, areas that are coffered off would be pumped back out for work to continue after inflow subsides. However, at the base of the dam, Rich said the permit requires that once the area is inundated, work ceases in that area for the season. Rich said we should consider a scenario of a minor spill that may inundate the base of the dam, but not attract many fish or destroy work in progress. He suggested it might be prudent to pump out the pool and resume work in order to get the river channel work advanced. We will adapt to conditions as we go forward, and will keep everyone informed.

There will be significant work below the OHW in 2011, but this is not expected in 2012.

Monte asked the RCC, “If there was a minor spill with no fish in the area, would they agree to allow the base of the dam to be pumped out so that construction work could continue, thus allowing more work to be completed on the project?” After much discussion, **the RCC concurred with the action, under the condition that continued discussion would be necessary when spill occurs.**

Aquatic Connectivity – *No change since last month.*

### Toketee Trash Rack

The facility is complete. There was a small problem with the trash rake overheating. Polar Atlas, the manufacturer, came on-site and reprogrammed it. According to Mike, parts were replaced and the unit is operating fine now.

### Slide Creek Tailrace Barrier Design

Preliminary work is on schedule for completion this year, and includes extending the parking lot in front of the powerhouse and the road behind the powerhouse for a crane pad and access to the new tailrace barrier. For the 2011 tailrace barrier project, the design is nearing completion and the procurement bid package is scheduled to go out in December so construction may start in April 2011.

### Poole Creek Boat Ramp at Lemolo Lake

The reservoir was drawn down to 4,132 ft earlier this year to facilitate boat ramp construction. The project is underway and expected to be completed by the end of October.

### Lemolo 2 Reroute/ Stinkhole Wetland Design

Plans have been submitted to FERC PRO; all permits are in place. The USDA-FS has issued their Notice-to-Proceed. Trees, Inc. is proceeding with the timber sale today (October 20, 2010). The site has been cleared and is ready for excavation in 2011. There are a few cultural issues that still need to be resolved.

The Stinkhole wetland will be located under the power line, upstream of Stinkhole pond. It is being designed and will be constructed concurrent with the Lemolo 2 Reroute project. This wetland is the fifth of eight wetlands required by the North Umpqua Settlement Agreement.

## **TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP (TWG) UPDATES**

Aquatic Connectivity/Wetlands – *No change from last month.*

L2R (Lemolo 2 Reroute) – *Discussed above in Current Project Updates.*

### FHS (Fish Habitat Studies)

Stillwater Sciences is currently acquiring and reviewing all of the baseline data from ODFW and working on a cost estimate for developing it a succinct and rigorous “baseline conditions” report. Dave said that ODFW is also still analyzing the resident fish monitoring data from this fall. The field crew is keeping pretty busy with redd surveys. They are floating the North Umpqua River today, doing Chinook spawning ground surveys. They are also surveying Copeland and Calf creeks. When time permits, they survey Bear Creek to monitor and remove spawning brook trout.

### 6.2 Slide Creek Full Flow Monitoring Plan (Draft)

Comments have been received from ODFW but are needed by 10-25-10 from NOAA, ODEQ, USDA-FS, and USFWS. Rich asked everyone to review the version he e-mailed last week because it includes ODFW comments.

Dave said they lost the Partnership for Umpqua Rivers biologist working with the 19.2 program three weeks early -- he took another job and his last day with the 19.2 program was 10-8-10. They are now down to two people, but are doing fine.

FPD (Fish Passage Design)

Slide Creek tailrace barrier 90% design meeting was held on 10-14-10. Two issues were resolved: 1) cofferdam orientation and design, and 2) debris management; to minimize hot spots across face of pickets. The resolution will be reflected in the 100% design package, expected to be completed in late November. Procurement will send the project out to bid in December, and we should be ready to start construction in May of 2011. Rich has the latest permitting drawing set from McMillen; they allow for cofferdam design changes discussed at the last TWG meeting. He hopes to submit the permitting application this week.

F&R (Flows & Ramping) - *Nothing new to report.*

Lemolo Reservoir

The August draft meeting notes have been sent out for TWG review. Rich asked that those who intend to comment please get them to him in two weeks, so they can be forwarded to the larger North Umpqua Water Quality Work Group before their meeting November 10.

Since the last RCC meeting, Joe Eilers performed another round of water quality sampling. He has downloaded the weather station data and is working on drafting a final report for 2010 monitoring efforts.

Rich said that current reservoir management is following the August plan quite closely.

Public Comments – *none at this time.*

The next RCC meeting will be a conference call on November 17, 10:00 AM to Noon.

Meeting adjourned.