

**6-27-12 Meeting Summary \* \* Approved 7-18-12 \* \***  
**RESOURCE COORDINATION COMMITTEE (RCC)**  
**North Umpqua Hydroelectric Project (FERC No. P-1927)**

RCC Members or Alternates Present

Monte Garrett (PacifiCorp Energy)  
Rob Burns (USFWS)  
Ed Meyer (NMFS)  
Dave Harris (ODFW)  
Craig Kohanek (OWRD)  
Anne Reece (OWRD)  
Craig Street (USDA-FS)  
Anne Shirley (BLM)

Also Present

Beth Bendickson (PacifiCorp Energy)  
Rich Grost (PacifiCorp Energy)  
Louis Collier (PacifiCorp Energy)  
Kelly Coates (Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Indians)

Absent

Chris Stine (proxy to Dave Harris)  
Pam Sichtung (USDA-FS)

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**INTRODUCTIONS, AGENDA, OLD BUSINESS**

Member Updates

OWRD – Anne Reece is new to the agency hydroelectric staff.  
PacifiCorp – Rich Barney (Project Manager) will retire on July 31, 2012.  
USDA-FS – Viva Worthington is the new District Ranger at Diamond Lake RD

Other Updates

Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Indians – Kelly Coates will attend future RCC meetings. Monte asked her, what spurred the tribe’s interest in the RCC? She said that the North Umpqua River is part of their historic use area, and they are interested in restoring culturally important species (e.g. salmon, steelhead, and lamprey). Their staff has grown and has more funding available to attend and participate in restoration projects.

Notice-to-Proceed Process – All NTPs have been issued for those actions included in the list of ground-disturbing projects list provided to the USDA-FS on February 15, 2012.

Public Information Opportunities - *None at this time. Rich mentioned that Lemolo Lake had been featured in the News-Review Outdoor page on a recent Sunday. Dave said he had been*

*interviewed, and that the article concentrated on the fishery for large brown trout and was very favorable.*

**RCC Action:** Review and approve the May 16, 2012 Meeting Summary – *Approved 6-27-12.*

## **CURRENT PROJECT UPDATES**

### Soda Springs Fish Passage

In general, progress is continuing at a rapid pace. The civil work (concrete on top of structure and fish ladder exit) continues. The fish ladder entrance at the base of the dam is complete. Work is proceeding in the middle section of the fish ladder, with most weirs poured and forms stripped. The 200 ft long exit channel still has quite a bit of civil work going on.

At the fish screen, the vanes and screens will begin to go up over next few weeks. The fish return pipe and flume is mostly complete and backfilled down to the bridge. The trim screen, which moves fish into the evaluation building, is in place but a few elements still need to be polished up and fixed on that structure. The portion of the flume which goes to the evaluation building still needs to be attached. The evaluation building trim screens are being fabricated at Convey (Roseburg). The building is taking shape with most of the tanks in place. You can now get a sense of work flow. Everything is looking good.

Spillway modifications have been pretty well complete since early 2011; however, a bit of grinding, polishing, and resurfacing still needs to be done once the low level sluice gate is in service, which is planned for this summer.

The last substantial in-water work is the removal of the large sheet pile coffer dam in Soda Springs reservoir. Built two years ago with gradual methods and minimal turbidity, PacifiCorp hopes removal will be the same. The bulk of removal is planned for September, but there may be some prep work in August. The sheet piles and rock removal will be in September. It will be a gradual process and will take most of the month.

Full water-up testing and training of staff will happen September through November, but daily operation of the facilities is not expected until the end of November.

FERC requires the hydraulic evaluation and testing to happen in 2013, with biological testing and full functionality by 2014.

Monte suggested holding the annual public tour later in the fall than our normal October date, in order to increase the likelihood that the facilities will be operating. There will be more discussion on this later on.

Craig Street inquired about large equipment access needed in September for the demolition of the old ODFW fish holding ponds. Both Rich and Monte urged the USDA-FS to postpone this work to the end of 2012, or 2013, as the fish passage project traffic and congestion at Soda Springs was likely to remain substantial throughout 2012.

Kelly asked if the fish ladder was going to allow for lamprey passage. Rich said yes, it was designed that way. She also wanted to know about coffer dam removal, specifically if the USFWS BMP had been followed as far as dewatering goes. Rich said that, yes, during the past five fish salvages for the project, all practical BMP elements were applied.

Aquatic Connectivity Sites (2012 Status) – nothing new to report.

#### Slide Creek Tailrace Barrier (Status and Hydraulic Balancing)

The contract for gravel removal is in place with Weekly Bros. The in-water work is planned for late August for best safety and efficiency. Fabrication of the lifting bar and other structural modifications are proceeding as part of a different contract. We're on schedule for functionality by the time anadromous fish arrive. The detailed hydraulic balancing will be done next spring, when the proper high flow condition exists for several weeks. It will take several tries to get them balanced

Ed reminded everyone that balancing should occur during nearly full design flow from the powerhouse and minimum flow (240 cfs) in the river. He also suggested adjusting the vanes to at least coarsely balance the flows visually prior to the full-scale balancing next year. PacifiCorp agreed to do this during the most appropriate flow periods.

#### Fish Creek Communication Upgrade

Nothing has changed since last month. The fiber optic cable is in place in the lower one-third of the diversion area, to improve radio communications to the dump gate system and diversion dam. PacifiCorp hopes that the radios will work well on initial testing. If an internal test is successful, an external test will occur.

#### Fish Creek Fish Screen Hydraulic Improvements

The bulk of the work will be done during August and September. The Fish Creek diversion is typically shut down August-October because natural flows are too low. This work won't have any turbidity impacts as it will be done in the dry with the ponds dewatered. The goal is to improve hydraulics for fish passage and debris cleaning on the fish screens.

We are still awaiting permits from both the DSL and ACOE. Rich said that Carol Fransen, ACOE representative, came out for a site visit on June 26. After seeing this site and the Soda Springs fish habitat project site, she will be writing the permits this week for both. DSL does

not require a permit for the Soda Springs work, as it's exempt, but they will permit the fill portion of Fish Creek fish screen project.

Monte indicated to Craig Street that the sediment disposal is worked into the project scope; that current plans include hauling the sediment offsite to the Fish Creek gravel pit. Rich elaborated about the potential for some sediment to be placed within a road prism on site; this will be determined later.

### L1 Forebay Operations

PacifiCorp operations are flushing and refilling water from the forebay several times per day and will be monitoring pH, DO, and water temperatures in August. The hope is that the increased flushing will diminish both algae and pH, and the monitoring so far looks promising. Monte said that if this doesn't fix the issue, per understanding with ODEQ, a more extensive vegetation removal will happen next year.

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

### **FHS TWG**

- SA 19.2 Baseline Conditions Report – Stillwater has reviewed all comments received and estimates that they can accommodate them into a final revision with about \$5K of additional effort. The SA 19.2 fund currently has a balance of about \$140k, with no other expenditures currently planned in 2012.

**RCC Action** – approve use of up to \$5K from the SA 19.2 fund for Stillwater to draft report into final report, by end of July. **\*\* Approved 6/27/12 \*\***

- SA 7.2 Revised Implementation and Monitoring Plan – The revised implementation/monitoring plan was filed with FERC.
- SA 8.3 Soda Springs Fish Habitat Maintenance Work 2012 – This repair of the log weirs, installed in 1992 and 2004, has been contracted to Weekly Bros. and they are planning to begin in early August. Once repaired, Weekly Bros. will reseed the channel with 800 cubic yards of spawning gravel.

### Flume 12 Remediation Plan

In keeping with the monitoring plan protocol, Jason, from Meridian, and Rich performed a rainbow spawner and redd survey on June 25 in the response reach and the reach below the Flume 12 spillway. They found a few redds in each reach, but no actively spawning fish. Redds were generally less than two feet long and were concentrated along the margins of the river channel in fine gravels.

The habitat measurements are planned for early November, when flows drop down to 50 cfs. However, within the Flume 12 reach, it was observed that the newer, angular rock had moved quite a bit within and downstream of the slide area, with the downstream edge several hundred feet beyond its November 2011 location.

### Operational Updates

There is a Lemolo 1 outage scheduled for July 8-26.

There is a current unscheduled outage for emergency maintenance at Clearwater 2 powerhouse. The bypass reach is at full flow now, with just enough water in the canal to keep fish sustained. PacifiCorp is planning to have the powerhouse repaired and back on line by July 1. If it's down for more than a few weeks, we'll dewater and do a fish salvage.

Public Comments – *none at this time.*

### Other Comments

Monte reported that Mark Brown is in the process of doing the last part of the video. He will be onsite and doing interviews at our face-to-face August meeting.

Dave reminded folks that the Resort crew has started netting tui chub in Lemolo Lake. In the June 2 – June 12 timeframe, they have caught about 400 tui chub, over 5 inches long. Other species netted were brown trout, over 100 of them at over 10" in size. He will keep us posted.

Dave also reported that the Rock Creek Fish Ladder is watered-up and functional. They have seen steelhead pass by the evaluation window. Fish are still challenging the old ladder, but it will eventually be capped. Ed wanted Dave to keep him in the loop, especially about the bypass.

Dave said that some habitat enhancement work on mainstem Rock Creek will begin July 2. Rich said the field work will conclude next year, followed by coho through spring. The first big effort will be a population estimate in September.

Craig Street said the USDA-FS has not appeared to have established a new monitoring protocol at the regional level as far as algae monitoring at Lemolo and Diamond lakes. He has received direction from Al Johnson to monitor visually, and then sample only for toxins and only after a scum is visually detected.

He also said the USDA-FS is planning for proposals for funding in 2013, with proposals due by July 13. They are also in the process of developing a 5-year strategic plan to help better guide future selections and process as well as develop a process to more efficiently involve NGOs. The existing selection criteria will be reviewed as part of the plan process.

Kelly talked about mitigation funding proposals and wanted to know if the USDA-FS solicited proposals only once. Craig Street said normally it's twice, however this year it may be only once. She asked if the tribe was interested in applying for funding, how would they go about it? Craig Street referred her to Pam Sighting, but as she is out for a few weeks, Monte suggested Craig Street send information to Kelly. Craig Street mentioned there have been some criteria changes to 2012 proposals and he would get together with Kelly after the call to work with her.

Rich reminded that PacifiCorp considers water quality issues at Lemolo Lake to be among the highest-priority uses of the 19.3 fund, as they are directly hydropower related and could affect all downstream reaches. Craig Street also said it would be good to have PacifiCorp input going forward.

He then asked if Monte was aware that the area near the Lemolo 2 reroute outfall was being planned for additional campground parking. Monte said yes, this could be considered as long as vehicles don't block maintenance access to the fence gate or exceed weight capacities over the buried pipe. Monte asked for Craig Street to send him a map and description of the plans for parking, and he also said he will talk with the operations folks. Craig Street said Aaron will be out for next few weeks but Miguel Amat Leon will provide the needed information.

Craig Street then inquired about the Toketee Lake boat ramp, about dredging along the shoreline. He said the material is mainly silt. Monte mentioned there was some talk of timeline for getting the job done; is lowering of Toketee Lake expected or can the dredging be completed during the high flow time of year, thus minimizing downstream turbidity caused by the action? Craig Street said that the FS Engineering crew did work to determine the amount of material in the boat ramp area and Miguel Amat Leon was working to get a non-obligatory ballpark estimate from Weekly Bros., Inc. on a cost/plan for removal of the material. Craig Street said that there is no plan yet, but the work definitely won't happen this year. Monte replied it would be good to talk about this at the next Rolling Action Plan meeting.

The next RCC meeting will be a conference call on July 18.

Meeting adjourned.