

**4-21-10 Meeting Summary \* \* Approved 5-19-10 \* \***  
**RESOURCE COORDINATION COMMITTEE (RCC)**  
**NORTH UMPQUA HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT- FERC #1927-008**

RCC Members or Alternates Present

Monte Garrett (PacifiCorp Energy)  
Craig Kohanek (OWRD)  
Dave Harris (ODFW)  
Rob Burns (USFWS)  
Chris Stine (ODEQ)  
Ariel Hiller (BLM)  
Pam Sighting (USDA-FS)  
Ed Meyer (NOAA)  
Bill Gamble (USDA-FS)

Also Present

Beth Bendickson (PacifiCorp Energy)  
Stan Vejtasa (Umpqua Audubon Society)  
Bob Kinyon (Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers)

Absent

Rich Grost (PacifiCorp Energy)

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**INTRODUCTIONS, AGENDA, OLD BUSINESS**

Member Updates

USDA-FS: Steve Haydon (Gordon Hanek's replacement) started on Monday, April 19. Sierra Lewis (a student at Oregon State) is working on a Soda Springs anadromous fish mitigation project. She will be tracking radio-tagged steelhead to be released above the dam, and is looking for volunteers to help out with the project.

The USDA-FS received a letter from the Steamboaters, Umpqua Watershed, North Umpqua Foundation, and Native Fish Society, requesting a meeting with the Mitigation Fund Board of Directors, regarding the 19.3 Mitigation Fund. The Board of Directors is scheduled to meet on April 28 and the letter is an agenda item. The Steamboaters previously inquired about selected mitigation fund projects and received the information back in February.

Aaron Grimes, the new Umpqua Recreation Officer, will start at the end of May. Pam Sighting noted that the new recreation sign at the Toketee dam is gone. Monte Garrett indicated that this was also noted during the Lemolo 2 TWG meeting site visit last week; the situation will be corrected soon. Joy Archuleta is replacing Todd Buchholz as the USDA-FS liaison to Partnership for Umpqua Rivers (PUR).

PacifiCorp: Mike Blum is replacing Joe Donnell as Manager, Hydro Production, for the North Umpqua Hydroelectric Project. He comes from Klamath project, so he's familiar with regulatory requirements. Mark Croissant's replacement, Scott Schevenius, will be starting at Toketee in the near

future. Todd Olson is the new Director of Compliance; Mark Sturtevant's role will now focus on hydro operations. Rich Grost was promoted to Principal Scientist.

Mike Pommarane has withdrawn as the PacifiCorp representative for the Umpqua Watershed Council (Council). If PacifiCorp wants to maintain a Council position, it should identify someone. Rich Grost is currently the alternate.

ODFW: Steve Denny is retiring at the end of April. His replacement will be Larry Cooper (from Salem). Tim Walters, Dave Loomis' replacement, will be responsible for the Umpqua and Coos Bay Watersheds.

OWRD: A number of positions are vacant and will remain so, for cost savings. The head of field services went to the ODFW. That position will remain open until September/October. Mike Ladd is working in this capacity in the interim. Gerry Rogers has retired and is currently on contract. He will leave in December. He was most recently the Administrator of the Technical and Information Services Division and worked for the department for more than 30 years. Bob Devyldere, the Information Service and Technology manager is leaving the agency after 22 years of service. He will go to the Secretary of State office.

ODEQ: Interviews for the Umpqua Basin Coordinator will happen in a few weeks. Hope to have someone in the spot by the end of May. Chris also noted that his counterpart in the eastern region is no longer in the 401 Hydro Program.

**RCC Action: Approve the March RCC Meeting Summary.** *Approved 4-21-10.*

#### Public Information Opportunities

The ODFW's **ROCK-ED** (Rock Creek Outdoor Conservation "K"lassroom Education Center) will hold a ground-breaking event on April 22. The ODFW Commission meeting on this same date will include a tour of the education center area.

The USDA-FS is currently updating a brochure that will be handed out to clubs and organizations with topics for speaking opportunities. The hydropower project is listed as a topic.

The ODFW recently gave a private tour to two ODFW commissioners (Commissioner Levy and Commissioner Webber). They toured the Clearwater Reconnect and Soda Springs fish passage project areas. They were impressed and want to come back when the Soda Springs project has progressed further.

Per the USDA-FS, the Soda Springs project road closure is still in place. The signs were taken down, but will be put back up on May 1. The closure will run until 2012. Stan Vejtasa said he'll get phone calls from hunters. Monte is working with Cheryl Caplan and Meghan Collins on a press release, and will send out the final version to the RCC. Beth Bendickson will add the press release to the PacifiCorp website. It was suggested to send the release to the Umpqua media list (TV, radio, and newspaper). Pam has another press release that pertains to road closures. The road closure over the Lemolo 1 forebay bridge will be from June 1 to August 15. Pam said that people can still get to the area via the west side.

Mark Brown (videographer) will be on site in June; a new video update is expected by end of the year.

## **CURRENT PROJECT UPDATES**

### Notice-to-Proceed (NTP) Status

Pam said USDA-FS is concerned about issuing the NTP for vegetation management along the transmission ROW while the roads are still so wet. She will continue to monitor this situation and understands that PacifiCorp's T&D staff are trying to complete this work prior to the fire season during the summer.

Monte Garrett suggested having Pam provide a NTP status table to be reviewed at the RCC meetings.

### Fish Creek and Lemolo 2 Canal Shut-off and Drainage Systems –

**Fish Creek Test** – PacifiCorp is trying its best to ensure a performance test will happen this June. The radio battery packs are being replaced and the programmable logic controllers will need to be programmed and tested to confirm they are working okay. When Watson Ridge communication site opens in May, installation of an additional radio will provide another link for communication to Fish Creek. That, along with spring flows, should result in a successful test.

Lemolo 1 Forebay and Wetland – This project ran into design difficulties with the FERC - Portland Regional Office, which caused a delay in project completion. It will be completed this year, with the forebay liner and connection to the water beginning in June. The wetland should be fully operational by late fall. Plantings and completion of the wetland will be done in the fall as well.

Soda Springs Fish Passage – A contractor has been selected and the contract should be officially awarded on May 5. FERC requires submittal of a blasting plan, coffer dam plan, TEAP plan, and erosion control plan, before they will approve start of construction. Given they take the full 30 days, construction probably will not be started until the first of June. That said - some things may be able to happen ahead of time, like mobilization and dewatering/fish salvage in late May/early June. Rich Grost will coordinate with pertinent agencies. Monte will notify the RCC when the contract is awarded.

The Soda Springs bridge designs are being reviewed by the USDA-FS both locally and at the regional office level. Once the bridge is installed, through a Transportation Management Plan transfer process, the USDA-FS will potentially become the owners. The local USDA-FS bridge engineer will coordinate the review (i.e. ramps leading on/off, etc.). Monte said that per the Transportation Management Plan, it's a joint-use road with a cost-share for maintenance between the USDA-FS and PacifiCorp.

Monte was informed that Douglas County is now going to require a building permit for the Soda Springs project. The permit fee is a percent of total project cost. Most likely, the fish evaluation building and a few other structures will be the only components of the facilities that will require a permit, although this is uncertain. A number of questions regarding the need for such permits remain unanswered. Rich Grost talked to county staff who indicated that a permit is required for a variety of

structures (retaining walls, walkways, etc.). PacifiCorp is conducting an internal review to assess this potential requirement. Pam said that Federal agencies seem to be exempt. Dave Harris said that the County is requiring building permits for the Rock Creek project.

PacifiCorp received a letter from the Pacific Rivers Council, PUR, and American Rivers. It was sent to the attention of Pat Reiten, with copies to Monte and Greg Abel (PacifiCorp Energy CEO). The subject was the fish passage project and the option of dam removal. PacifiCorp has sent a response. The RCC members requested copies of this response, and Monte indicated that he would distribute it to all.

Toketee Trash Rack Modification – Notice-to-Proceed has been received from the USDA-FS. Construction is scheduled for this summer.

Aquatic Connectivity – 20 sites are relatively simple; 34 others are more complex. The 20 simple sites all involve an arch culvert under the flume. Detailed engineering designs will be completed over the next few years. All connections will be constructed by 2016; Five to seven sites will be constructed this year.

In the Settlement Agreement, a number of actions were included to provide connectivity across the landscape. In the first year, PacifiCorp breached 16 diverted streams, and more recently wildlife crossings have been constructed across project waterways. Aquatic reconnections pertain to small seeps that are intercepted by the waterways. The objective of SA 10.6 is to reestablish those flows back into the river.

Slide Creek Gage Relocation – This project is complete. The Obermeyer weir expands and contracts with water behind the dam ensuring that the minimum flow, without ramping, is provided over the dam. Depending on river flow conditions, and whether the project is in spill, the old Slide Creek gage would not accurately provide data on bypass flows. Because of this, the new Slide Creek gage was installed approximately 300 feet downstream. Both gages currently operate. When the USGS and PacifiCorp are satisfied with its operation, only the new downstream gage data will be utilized.

Poole Creek Boat Ramp at Lemolo Lake – The USDA-FS is still working on the design – it's due by the end of April. The project is scheduled to be constructed this year.

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

Aquatic Connectivity – this was covered above in current project updates.

L2R (Lemolo 2 Reroute) – The 90% design meeting was held on March 4. There are no more planned TWG meetings. PacifiCorp will forward the 100% design to the TWG for final review, and then move forward with the permitting/procurement process. Construction is scheduled for next year following final design acceptance and permitting in 2010.

This project will need about nine months to complete. PacifiCorp is hoping this project could start as early as April. The USDA-FS archaeologist, Deb Barner, will begin the data recovery at the site in June. During the recovery process, a Passport in Time (PIT) project is scheduled for two weeks. Pam

said the timber sale, required in order to excavate the pipeline route, is being finalized and expected to be conducted this summer after the data recovery process is completed.

Wetland TWG – The TWG was on site on April 20th. Steve Albertelli is working with TWG representatives on options for the Stinkhole wetland. Instead of Stinkhole being specifically a wetland enhancement project, it may be a turtle habitat enhancement project. The potential for this option exists near Toketee-Rigdon road in the vicinity of the pipeline. Discussion is ongoing to determine if site conditions are suitable for a wetland size that would be associated with turtle nesting habitat, which will be acceptable to all TWG members.

There are other potential wetland site areas near the Stinkhole, and there are three additional wetlands required to be constructed by 2016.

FHS (Fish Habitat Studies) –

**Habitat projects, evaluations, monitoring, and study status** - The ODFW provided a fish population estimate for trout above Soda Springs Reservoir. Rich passed it on to Dirk Pedersen at Stillwater for additional review. Dave Harris said three traps are operating (Copeland, Calf & Soda Springs). Soda Springs will be closed down in June due to construction of the fish passage project. There are a few coho smolts exiting both Copeland Creek and Calf Creek. Thousands of chinook fry are being caught at the Soda Springs trap. They are continuing to collect information. This is the last year of pre-passage monitoring. There will be none in 2011 because of the Soda Springs fish passage construction. There may be a modified monitoring schedule in 2012. A steelhead spawning ground survey was conducted (floated) on April 19. The survey begins by “Putting in at the Soda power plant and floating downstream.” Surveys were conducted up Copeland, Calf and Boulder Creeks. It was a challenge to get trout estimates upstream of Soda Springs Reservoir, as there was a lot of water in Fish Creek. The traditional sample technique (backpack electrofishing) was difficult. They did a snorkeling survey, using two snorkelers, then came back in with another snorkeler to verify the count. The challenge was to go back into the bypass reach. Even with two to three snorkelers, it was hard to cover the wetted area. They decided to angle for trout for three to four weeks, and will mark and recapture using hook and line. Justin Moffitt caught 70 using a fly rod; enough for a population estimate. The report went to Stillwater Sciences. Most likely, they’ll go back to the angling method to obtain a trout population estimate.

They would like to get back into Soda Springs for electrofishing (perhaps twice) this year. Sam Moyer and Dave will coordinate if volunteers are interested. Ed asked for a timeframe of dates for hook-and-line fishing as well as electrofishing. Dave will send this out to the RCC.

Brook trout eradication was done last year above Stump Lake. Shared cost by PacifiCorp and ODFW, as is required by Memorandum of Understanding.

Dave also said that “legal” trout have been stocked in Diamond Lake and Clearwater 2 forebay as of yesterday, April 20.

SA 19.2 – Rich is awaiting final report from ODFW. Once he receives it, he’ll get it out to the TWG for review.

EBAs – January through December; PUR biologist - October through December

Laura Jackson asked the RCC to consider allowing use of the electrofishing boat to fish for golden shiners in Diamond Lake. The protocol for use of the electrofishing boat includes consensus by the RCC, compatibility of the use with other implementation and hydro work, and assumption of any costs for damage repair by the borrower. This was discussed and this use of the boat was approved by the RCC. ODFW Hydro staff would supervise use of the boat at Diamond Lake.

**RCC action: Approve use of electrofishing boat as noted above. Approved 4-21-10**

FPD (Fish Passage Design) – The Slide Creek tailrace barrier (TRB) TWG met last week for the 30% design review. The design will be a picket type barrier similar to the Soda Springs TRB. There is a 30-day comment period on the 30% design. The 60% design review meeting is scheduled for July 28. The NTP for construction has already been received. The schedule is to design in 2010, and construct in 2011. Rich is moving forward with joint permit application (JPA). At the same time the TRB is being constructed, the Slide Creek powerhouse will be overhauled.

AECOM is preparing a 1:15 model of the TRB in order to address flow balancing issues to adequately meeting NMFS criteria. The final model is expected to be complete and ready for viewing on May 25 at AECOM's office in Redmond, Washington.

Lemolo Reservoir – There was a meeting at the end of March. The presentation by Joe Eilers of preliminary information indicated an overall positive trend in water quality and declining trend in tui chub abundance. He will issue a final report soon, after he completes his analyses.

The report contained results of water quality/hydro acoustic work – a fish population estimate came in not far off from prior estimates. The breakdown of “fish” were from four to six inches; with approximately 100,000 left.

Nitrogen, density, chlorophyll, and plankton are down. Brown and kokanee are positive. Continued efforts are underway to remove tui chub. Scott Lamb called Bill Gamble about moving out of Poole Creek to Lake Creek. He's going to wait.

Efforts are ongoing. With help from Bob Kinyon (PUR) in seeking funding from Title II and other sources, the proposal is to continue tui chub removal and water quality monitoring beyond 2010 if it appears warranted after the 2010 season. Everyone is hopeful that Scott will be successful. A handful of tui chubs have been caught so far. Not much may have been gained by starting the trapping in March, but we're trying to accommodate resort owners by doing the right thing. It looks like we're heading in the right direction. Dave said that Scott is having technical problems regarding data. Weekly updates are currently arriving every two weeks or so. He's catching two tui chub a day and lots of trout. Dave also indicated that the electrofishing boat will be used for sampling of tui chub this summer (piloted by Rich Grost).

Regarding tui chub, the data does indicate that our efforts are making progress. Dave said due to several factors: A) brown trout predation, B) winter drawdown entrainment (25ft in winter) and C) quality spawning habitat is limited. Because of these factors, the population hasn't been able to really explode. Long term goal: reduce the population and keep an eye on it.

It was noted that Joe Eilers feels tui chub are the main driver of blue green algae blooms and strongly supports tui chub removal, regardless of method (trapnetting, electrofishing, drawdowns, predation, etc.). Per Monte, this year or next year will tell. Result - no blue green algae blooms, or at least lessening. Time will tell.

Public Comments – none at this time.

The next RCC meeting will be a conference call on May 19.

Meeting adjourned.