

**8-20-08 Meeting Summary – Approved 9-30-08**  
**RESOURCE COORDINATION COMMITTEE (RCC)**  
**NORTH UMPQUA HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT- FERC #1927-008**

RCC Members or Alternates Present

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

Also Present

Mary Graine (OWRD)  
Rich Grost (PacifiCorp Energy)  
Beth Bendickson (PacifiCorp Energy)  
Lois Schwennesen (Schwennesen & Assoc.)  
Stan Vejtasa (Umpqua Valley Audubon Society)  
Chip Clough (BLM)  
Francis Eatherington (Umpqua Watersheds)

Absent

Craig Tuss (USFWS) – proxy given to Rob Burns

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**INTRODUCTIONS, AGENDA, OLD BUSINESS**

Member Updates

USDA-FS: Pam Sighting noted that lots of energy is being focused on fire suppression activities due to the 95 lightening strikes that happened this past weekend.

BLM: The new RCC alternate is Chip Clough.

Public Information Opportunities – Monte Garrett and Monte Mendenhall (PacifiCorp Community Relations) will present the North Umpqua project video at the August 21 Rotary Club meeting at Kowloon's in Roseburg.

**RCC Action: The July 16 meeting summary was finalized and approved.**

RCC/TWG Workshop Discussion - Lois Schwennesen and the RCC discussed the last edits to the July 14 public meeting summary.

**RCC Action: Review last draft version to be sent today. If Beth Bendickson receives no further RCC comments by close of business Tuesday, August 26, this version will be considered final and will then be posted on the PacifiCorp website by Wednesday, 8/27.**

### September 8, 2008 RCC/TWG Meeting Discussion

At the July 14 meeting there was a public sign-up sheet for those that wanted to remain involved. Those individuals will be invited to the September 8 meeting. Per Monte, this will not be a public meeting as the July 14 meeting was, but there will be input periods at the beginning and end of the September 8 meeting for public comment.

Frank Ligon (Stillwater Sciences) was asked to come to the meeting so that he could answer any questions about how the workshop would work and why and how the workshop would proceed, so he can plan and explain to the science panel what's expected of them. It's largely his vision on how the workshop will roll out and for the RCC and TWG to provide opinions on how the workshop should work, what the objectives are, etc. PacifiCorp thought this would be helpful for Frank.

Rob Burns said what he's hearing is it's not a meeting to determine if there is a need for a science panel, but more so how the workshop would play out. He wanted to know if there would be an opportunity for RCC members to talk about the merits of convening the science panel.

Ariel Hiller asked, "What if the information is not compelling enough for a science panel, and what if the whole RCC comes to the same conclusion?" Lois Schwennesen said she would ask for details and rationale. Pam Sighting asked if questions could be asked at the meeting. The USDA-FS wants an open process, with the public having input. Lois summarized that the RCC wants to be able to review information, ask Frank questions and decide whether or not to proceed with workshop. Both Pam Sighting & Craig Kohanek agreed on this.

Lois said that it would be PacifiCorp's due diligence to have the workshop.

Monte Garrett said PacifiCorp's understanding is that we're going to the workshop. After the meeting, they could make recommendations to their policy group members as to if a science panel is needed, but PacifiCorp understood that there was a previous commitment by the policy group to vet the information before a separate science panel. Pam indicated that the FS said we would "listen" to the new information but did not agree to a workshop. Monte disagreed and said the FS executive policy member said that we would.

**Comment:** FS has verified with the FS executive rep - Dils and RO - Dortch, neither recalls agreeing to a workshop but to listen to PC new information.

Ariel asked if the RCC and TWG have power to make decisions. Monte replied the RCC can recommend to the policy group, who makes the final decision.

Ed Meyer asked if this decision went to the policy group. Lois replied, "First to policy group, who recommended it go to RCC." Ed stated it should have started with the RCC. He feels the RCC should be able to make decisions without having to go the policy group.

Monte said if the RCC has a disagreement with PacifiCorp's understanding with respect to the science panel, they should take it to their policy group members and that any RCC member may go to the executive policy group at anytime.

Lois paraphrased that the RCC members are saying they are keeping their minds open and doing the 30-day review, whether a science panel is needed or not. They're wondering if PacifiCorp is keeping its mind open as well. Ed said we may know enough that we either do or don't want to pursue an

amendment. "Are you not open minded to having a science panel?" Monte said PacifiCorp will go to the meeting with open mind and be fair/neutral regarding the scientific information that will be reviewed. They'll listen to the RCC and Frank Ligon and weigh everything at the end of the meeting. PacifiCorp hasn't determined what's right, but the company believes that the opinions of a separate science panel would be useful for the policy group to make their decision.

Regarding the distributed Stillwater documents, Ariel said she received the first three all at once, but the Rock Creek document a week and a half later. Pam said the USDA-FS would review it if they had time.

Monte stated that the Rock Creek mitigation information was sent out on Friday, August 15.

**Action Item:** Lois Schwennesen will send out a draft agenda for the September 8 meeting to everyone a week before the meeting.

## **CURRENT PROJECT UPDATES**

### Fish Creek (Screens and Canal Shutoff & Drainage)

The Fish Creek project has ceased diversion and is not generating because the natural inflows have dropped to below the minimum stream flow. The last of the fish salvages were done. A "re-do" of the canal shut off & drainage test will happen in November.

### CW2 CSD

Construction has begun. The Clearwater 2 development will be off-line through October. PacifiCorp is still awaiting Notice-to-Proceed from USDA-FS for camping/security gates and establishment of a construction camp.

### LM2 CSD

A kick-off site meeting was conducted on July 17. Preliminary designs are being developed and a conceptual design meeting is planned for late August. Designs are expected to be advanced enough for permitting to begin by the end of the year.

### Macro-invert Ladder

This project is complete. However, the electricity went off and no water is currently pumping through the constructed habitat on the dam. This power issue is currently being addressed.

### Slide Creek In-stream Flow

PacifiCorp is still working with Obermeyer on the weir compressor issue. A new compressor tank will be installed soon.

### Soda Springs Tailrace Barrier

Some balancing is still being done, along with addressing a gravel build-up near the pickets. When pulling pickets to clean, gravel falls into the picket slots and the panels may not seat securely on the concrete floor. Most of this may be due to excess gravel leftover from the coffer dam, but it also may

be a recurring issue – only time will tell. Ed Meyer is working w/PacifiCorp to modify the design to facilitate ease of periodic annual cleaning.

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

### FHS (Fish Habitat Studies)

ODFW & PUR are doing habitat mapping in preparation for fish population estimates.

### FPD (Fish Passage Design)

#### **Soda Springs Fish Passage Design**

Some of the RCC met at ENSR to view the hydraulic model. The conclusion is that modeling exercise has been very useful. There are varying degrees of concern because water does some tricky rollovers that may or may not have an adverse effect on fish exiting the screen. Additional adjustments need to be made in the design to benefit returning juvenile fish. Ed spoke of velocity concerns. He said in order to get down to the pool below the dam, the spiral fish return may need to be modified. Currently, the water enters the pipe at such high velocity that the water rolls over and causes turbulence. This is not a condition that we wanted to see in the pipe. He asked ENSR to do more research into how the pipe shape, elevation, or configuration may be adjusted to diminish this effect. He asked the designers to see if we could open up the pipe radius to make the flow more gentle. ENSR is working on solutions and will provide their conclusions at an August 27 conference call. They will also provide a video so everyone can see it.

F&R (Flows & Ramping) - *nothing new to report at this time.*

### CSD (Canal Shut off & Drainage)

**14.2 Clearwater 2:** Construction has started (see above).

**14.2 Lemolo 2:** will be constructed in 2009. Conceptual 30% design meeting: August 22.

#### **Lemolo Reservoir:**

The TWG met August 12 at Lemolo Resort to share updates and observe the trapnetting operation. The USDA-FS advisory is still on. MaxDepth is continuing with the comprehensive monitoring field work. Blue green algae update: It looks better, but algae scums continue to be seen and so the advisory can't be lifted. Scott Lamb says he has removed an estimated 74,000 tui chub from trap netting thus far. The Tui chub have moved offshore and back into the deep. More brown trout have been seen. Trap netting may continue through September. Potential fish control, fish enhancement, and water management actions were discussed. Tui chub control was considered a useful project to continue and expand in 2009. A more complete set of information will be reviewed at an October TWG meeting before deciding whether to propose additional water management actions such as a deeper winter drawdown.

## Public Comments

Stan Vejtasa (e-mailed to Beth Bendickson for inclusion in this summary):

“I might mention that my comments have been strongly worded and critical of PacifiCorp. This is not my normal style, but looking back on the last 10+ years I feel that PacifiCorp Management leads the agencies and public to think they are a responsible party in using a public resource. Then, just when we let our guard down, they pull a fast one and we are back to square one. They did this several times during the licensing negotiations. In this current conference call, it sounds all too familiar; I keep hearing PacifiCorp trying to railroad the process to move on to a science panel and workshop on the ‘New Data’. I urge the RCC Agencies to resist this and to proceed only if they feel the new information is truly compelling. I know that some independent fish biologists who have seen the new data feel it is ‘without merit’.”

Francis Eatherington:

She asked about the depletion of the \$100,000 from the 19.2 fund and wanted to know if the Stillwater alternative report was part of it. She also wanted to know how the money was allocated, and also why Stillwater did such a small sampling. She referred to the FEIS and Settlement Agreement, stating the term “predator control” was used a lot. Monte indicated that the funding is provided each year and allocation is determined by the technical working group that oversees the monitoring and predator control program. With the predator control funding, it is hoped that predation can be reduced to the point that it will not be a major factor impacting anadromous fish reintroduction. Francis said that predator control is not really the problem. Monte said it’s still a concern and the parties will address how to continue to control it with the funding they have.

Rich Grost proceeded to describe how the 19.2 funds have been allocated throughout the last few years.

**Action Item:** Beth will send hardcopies of the 2007 annual report to the RCC and other interested parties that summarizes expenditures from the funds.

The next RCC Conference Call is scheduled for September 17, 10:00 AM

**Meeting adjourned.**