

**2-18-09 Meeting Summary \* Approved 3-18-09 \***  
**RESOURCE COORDINATION COMMITTEE (RCC)**  
**NORTH UMPQUA HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT- FERC #1927-008**

RCC Members or Alternates Present

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

Also Present

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

Absent

Ed Meyer (NMFS)

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**INTRODUCTIONS, AGENDA, OLD BUSINESS**

Member Updates

USDA-FS – Pam Sighting reported that the stimulus package is causing havoc with their agency in that people will be working on a lot of other projects and may be pulled off of some projects. Proposals will be going in this week for money from the stimulus package.

NMFS – Stephanie Burchfield said we could look at the NOAA website for projects. She also said for information about money from the stimulus package, we could go to [www.recovery.gov](http://www.recovery.gov).

USFWS - Jim Thraikill will be acting field supervisor for March and April, and will also be the RCC representative for those months.

ODFW – Suzanne Pollon has left the agency. Dave Harris said at this time there is no designated replacement.

Monte asked for comments about the annual Work Session. The RCC representatives responded that the Work Session was a productive use of their time, and continuing these annual planning meetings contributes to everyone’s understanding and participation in successful implementation of the SA. Stephanie Burchfield will check with Ed Meyer to see if has any comments on Work Session Summary that Lois drafted; we’ll finalize at the next RCC meeting. Edits were suggested related to the Lemolo TWG. Monte will edit and the Summary will be re-distributed to the RCC.

Public Information Opportunities - PacifiCorp is considering having our videographer (Mark Brown) go out and do some ground work/footage in preparation for the 2010 video update.

***RCC Action: Approval of the December 17 meeting summary was pushed until next month, in order that Ed Meyer gets a chance to comment.***

## **CURRENT PROJECT UPDATES**

Work Plans – provide any further edits to Monte and he will finalize in the near future. A site visit with the USDA-FS is scheduled for April 1. Angie Peace is preparing a packet of project information for all who attend. It's primarily a USDA-FS/PacifiCorp project review, but if others want to attend, please let Beth or Angie know. The packet will go out in early March for review. The meeting location is the Diamond Lake FS office. This meeting will help with the permitting process, as 2009 is going to be a very busy year.

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

The O&M plan (Operations Manual) is currently being reviewed internally. It's for the combined screen/dump gate facilities. It will be sent out to interested parties (ODFW, USDA-FS, NMFS, and ODEQ) in the near future. We're still planning for a good performance test. We have new radios, but still have power communication issues that need to be resolved before conducting the performance test. The fish screen is operating, but additional issues related to communications will be addressed further in the Operations Manual and as the facility gets some run time on it.

CW2 Canal Shut-off & Drainage – Monte reported that the project is near completion. We're now in the process of PLC programming for this water control system. A successful performance test is expected before the Fish Creek CSD, because communication at CW2 CSD is provided by fiber optics and there are therefore no issues related to providing enough power for radios.

### Soda Springs Tailrace Barrier

ENSR recently evaluated the picket panels. Rich Grost reported the good news is they came up with a concept that might help baffle the flows. The bad news is that there's no good way to baffle just one bay to test the effectiveness of baffle design. The concept is being reviewed internally for structural and generation impacts. Debris management is also an issue. The draft technical memo will be forwarded to Ed Meyer and Dave Harris for review.

Wildlife Crossings (Lemolo) – We got a late start on construction. Most of the footings are in place but the crossing structures weren't completed due to inclement weather late in 2008. Work will be picking back up this year, and the crossing will be completed this spring.

Watson Ridge – Pam Sichting said a draft Decision Memorandum should be made available for public review this week. The final DM is expected to be issued in time for beginning construction in June.

## **TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP UPDATES**

### Wetland TWG

#### **Wetlands**

The designs for Ranawapiti and the Lemolo 1 forebay wetlands are moving along nicely. Final designs will be coming out in early March. The final design meeting is scheduled for March 12. Procurement for construction is expected to begin after that meeting. Civil work is expected this summer, with planting to start this fall. PacifiCorp's consultant has been working with Angie Peace and Eric Baxter about salvaging and storing plants for this fall. Discussed Jeff Bohler's pothole project in Stump Lake wetland for possible plant salvage or other locations, perhaps from Stinkhole wetland.

#### **Aquatic Connectivity**

Angie is drafting the Aquatic Connectivity Plan. It will lay out conceptual designs for SA 10.6 and 10.7 aquatic reconnections. We have a short list of reconnections to be completed in 2009, and the other sites will be scheduled in the Plan. There are 12 sites for 2009, all along the Lemolo 2 system. That work will coordinate with the work going on with Lemolo 2 Canal Shutoff & Drain project.

A question was asked: "How do you provide aquatic connection across the water system and make sure we're not going to cause problems anywhere else (i.e. washout road down river)?" That question should be resolved prior to construction.

### FHS (Fish Habitat Studies)

April 24 is the tentative date for the 8.3 Soda Springs bypass reach annual monitoring survey and 19.2 float survey for steelhead.

The Copeland Creek, Calf Creek, and Soda Springs smolt traps are ready to go and are planned to start fishing March 2.

#### **2009 19.2 Monitoring Program**

Rich has put together a draft proposal for ODFW to use the SA 19.2 electrofishing boat as part of Lemolo Reservoir fish monitoring/tui chub removal. Renting this boat to other uses like Diamond Lake projects should only be considered after we have considered and addressed all needs and uses for the boat on hydropower waterways.

Dave reported that for the ODFW EBA positions, they can't do three-month payment intervals. It needs to be either a lump sum or monthly payments. He noted that a monthly system will be "a month behind" because they won't get paperwork until a month later.

**RCC Action: Approve a lump sum payment for nine months for ODFW EBA positions.  
(Approved 2-18-09)**

## FPD (Fish Passage Design)

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

The final design materials will be distributed for agency approval in March; filing with FERC is March 24. The final design meeting is scheduled for March 11. Monte will bring a signature page to that meeting for the pertinent agencies to sign.

The permitting process nearly complete. Rich Grost just updated figures based on final edits to designs. He'll be requesting updates to all permits with that updated information.

Geotechnical sampling at the Evaluation Facility site – Jeff Bohler is the last person who needs to review before Pam will give a final “go-ahead.”

2009 will entail mobilization and fish exclusion of the work area, while dewatering and major construction will begin in 2010. We're working with ODFW on designing a fish exclusion fence located at the existing weir remnant, to keep fish out of the dewatered area. The intent is to keep Spring Chinook out of the area. Dave mentioned decreasing flow in bypass area may reduce the tendency of fish trying to move into the area and increase the effectiveness of the exclusion fence. The fence would be a vertical picket PVC-type pipe with 1½” spacing in between and be installed whenever the flows come out of spill this spring. We may need to reduce flows in Soda Springs bypass reach to something like 100 cfs for a few work hours or days. The summer construction will consist of relocating the transmission cable, tapping off the penstock downstream of bridge to provide for ISF during construction. It will provide minimum flow to the rest of the bypass reach, while the upper structure is dewatered.

Planning to award contract in May for cable relocation and the temporary ISF facility; the contract for the larger construction project is expected to be awarded in August.

## F&R (Flows & Ramping)

### **Slide Creek Instream Test**

Completed last test; achieved target reaction time with new tank. “Mission accomplished.”

## CSD (Canal Shut off & Drainage)

### **14.2 Lemolo 2 Canal Shutoff and Drainage**

The 90% design meeting was held in early January. We're finalizing the 100% designs at this time and the design materials with approval signature sheet will be distributed to the pertinent agencies in early March. Permitting is near completion. This project is scheduled to start June 1, with completion by November of this year. An overhaul of the LM2 power plant and dredging for L2 forebay will be coordinated with this work.

Lemolo 1 forebay – will be constructed along with the wetland. Permits are in place for this project as well.

### Lemolo Reservoir

#### **TWG meeting update:**

A meeting is scheduled for March 6 to get caught up on how plans are developing for this year. As requested at the work session, Rich added some detail to the 19.3 fund application that Mikael Jones put together to clarify costs and benefits, and describe it as a one-year project. He also drafted a scope of work for trapnetting based on the TWG discussion in November – a tool that contractors could use for bidding purposes. He also drafted a scope of work for ODFW use of the electrofishing boat for several nights each week in the summer.

PacifiCorp is still planning to manage the reservoir such that it may achieve the 4114 ft MSL minimum pool for this winter, but whether and when this will occur depends on snowpack and weather. As mentioned at the work session, there may be an opportunity for an even deeper drawdown this fall since Lemolo 1 and 2 powerhouses may both be down for overhauls and construction work. PacifiCorp is investigating this concept internally to see if it is possible and feasible.

Since the January meeting ODFW put together a FAQ sheet and alternatives analysis. They tried to get things down that they knew. They asked questions internally and decided to create three alternatives about the tui chub. Dave will get this out to the TWG tomorrow. They want to take a proactive approach.

As discussed at the work session, the TWG meeting will be closed to the public in the morning, with Scott Lamb invited to the last hour for a synopsis (although public involvement is not required of TWGs). **Rich will call Bill Gamble to coordinate communications with Scott.**

**Public Comments** – *none at this time.*

The next RCC Conference Call will be on March 18 at 10:00 AM.

**Meeting adjourned.**