

**2-17-10 Meeting Summary \*Approved 3-17-10 \*  
RESOURCE COORDINATION COMMITTEE (RCC)  
NORTH UMPQUA HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT- FERC #1927-008**

RCC Members or Alternates Present

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

Also Present

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

RCC Members Absent

Chris Stine (ODEQ)  
Ariel Hiller (BLM)  
Ed Meyer (NMFS)

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**INTRODUCTIONS, AGENDA, OLD BUSINESS**

Member Updates

USDA-FS – Steve Haydon, Gordon Hanek’s replacement, will begin April 11.

PacifiCorp – Mark Croissant is departing the company. His last day is February 19.

ODFW – Steve Denny, the Regional Supervisor, is retiring after 30+ years.

NMFS – Stephanie Burchfield now has been hired as a permanent position.

**RCC Action: Tentatively approved the January 2010 Work Session Summary.** It will be considered final on February 24, unless additional comments are received.

Public Information Opportunities

*None at this time.*

## **CURRENT PROJECT UPDATES**

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

Notice-to-Proceed meeting scheduled for March 16. It is primarily held each year with PacifiCorp and the USDA-FS, but is open to other RCC members who wish to attend.

–Verbal NTPs have been received for the construction of the Soda Springs fish passage project, scheduled for 2010-2011, and the Slide Creek tailrace barrier project, schedule to be completed in 2011. Pam indicated that hard copies for these and other 2009 NTPs should be received by PacifiCorp in the near future.

### Fish Creek and Lemolo 2 canal shut-off and drainage systems –

Fish Creek CSD Test – the date for agency test is still unknown; possibly late spring/early summer. An internal test was done and it worked fine. An additional radio will be added to the Watson Ridge Communication Tower, to provide communication to the diversion dam. This will enable automation of the canal intake gate via the instream flow gage.

L2 CSD Test – this test is scheduled for March 2. PacifiCorp expects a successful demonstration. The design of the CSD at Lemolo 2 is similar to the Clearwater 2 system.

Lemolo 1 Forebay and Wetland – This project will be completed this year. There will be significant work done with the installation of the liner and connecting the waterway to the new forebay, but no problems are anticipated. Steve Albertelli and USDA-FS personnel will work together to coordinate planting of the new wetland.

Fish Creek Screen Pipe Inspection – One of the requirements in the recently submitted fish screen biological evaluation was to take another look at the fish return pipe for possible obstructions. On February 2, Rich Grost physically went through the dewatered pipe in the screen area and the fish return pipe. He found no obstructions, noting that the pipe was in good condition, and is confident that the two fish injuries identified in the evaluation were not caused by the pipe.

Soda Springs Fish Passage – The bidders meeting is scheduled for today, February 17, 2010, at noon. Everything is on schedule for the contract to be awarded and for work to start this year. This work includes dewatering, constructing the ladder entrance, spillway modification, and all in-water work below the dam. PacifiCorp had a recent successful test of minimum in-stream flow facility, which will be providing 100-125 cfs into bypass reach during construction.

Pam Sighting asked if FERC had approved the construction plans. Monte Garrett said that while FERC DC has approved the RCC agreed-upon plans, FERC PRO still needs to approve the final construction plans. April 1 is the expected date to receive this last approval. Construction is scheduled to begin on May 1.

Slide Creek Tailrace Barrier – The 30% design meeting is scheduled for April 7 at the Toketee Implementation Office. It was noted that a plant overhaul will happen concurrent with construction of the tailrace barrier. There will be issues to work out, but PacifiCorp is confident it's doable. Rich Grost is anticipating getting the permitting applications in next month. He'll want to include notes of agency support and will request them by e-mail.

Toketee Trash Rack Modification – The draft designs have been given to ODFW and the USDA-FS for review. Once their review is complete, FERC PRO will complete its review in order for construction to proceed. The construction is scheduled for this year.

Watson Ridge – Construction is almost complete. Another radio will be added for Fish Creek communication.

Aquatic Connectivity – Recently, ODFW and the USDA-FS took a look at the last year's completed sites and provided input, so that improvements can be made for construction of future sites.

### **TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP UPDATES**

Aquatic Connectivity – Designs have been completed for 18 sites, which are scheduled for construction over the next three years. ODFW and the USDA-FS have reviewed the designs and final edits are being added. Five sites are planned for construction this year. The completion date for all connectivity sites required by the Settlement Agreement is 2016. The overall goal of the SA is to increase connectivity across the landscape by re-establishing flows across project waterways at 76 tributary streams and seeps; many of these have already been completed as part of constructing wildlife crossings and remediating erosion sites.

L2R (Lemolo 2 Reroute) – The 90% design meeting is scheduled for March 4. Construction will occur in 2011. A site visit is also planned for the same date, for viewing the proposed wetland enhancement site, which will be completed as part of the overall Lemolo 2 Reroute project.

*Timber sale update:* Pam said USFS staff (Dale Anderson) has met with Steve Albertelli and that the timber sale is on schedule to be completed in 2010. Clearance will be needed for sensitive lichen as more has been found. She's working with the USDA-FS biologists. The sale still needs wildlife clearance.

Monte added that the dewatering aquifer pumping test was completed in January. Due to the pipe being located in close proximity to the river, there will need to be continuous pumping during the pipe installation to ensure it is seated properly. The DAPT test was to determine how much water they would be dealing with. Though initial estimates were that several thousand gallons per minute would be encountered, the test indicated that the water management task will be significantly less than was anticipated.

It was also noted that another recreation closure from the USDA-FS will be needed in 2011 for this project.

FHS (Fish Habitat Studies) – The next meeting is scheduled for March 3, at which time 2009 work will be reviewed. Stillwater Sciences is updating the 2007 Predator Control report, to reflect the 2008 & 2009 data collected. This report should be out next week to the TWG. They'll also review plans for the rest of the proposed 2010 work. Currently, redd surveys are being done and smolt traps are being launched at all three trap sites. Rich inquired with Dave about the PUR biologist position. They will work with Bob Kinyon at PUR to ensure this position gets set up and contracted. ODFW may have a seasonal employee available to apply for the PUR position.

FPD (Fish Passage Design) – See Current Project Update above. Rich noted that permitting questions can also be discussed at the upcoming April 7 Slide Creek tailrace barrier design meeting.

Lemolo Reservoir – A brief meeting was held after the January work session, where it was decided to re-schedule the larger presentation meeting to March 25. The hope is to have all the 2009 information analyzed and presented March 25 by Joe Eilers (MaxDepth) and others. A discussion of plans and expectations for 2010 will take place.

A few weeks ago Scott Lamb approached the TWG, to have a meeting prior to March 25 to address the unseasonably warm weather and proposed earlier trapnetting. This meeting is scheduled for February 18. Scott will present his plan & budget for tui chub trapping, and the TWG will consider the implications of our unseasonable weather pattern and make any decisions that can't wait until March 25.

Rob Burns asked about the relative value of Scott Lamb's proposed effort of starting tui chub trapping in March. Dave mentioned that starting that early may use a lot of \$ he's proposing. Rich said, personally, he doesn't know what to expect because no traps have ever been set in March or April. ODFW typically waits until it gets warmer (June, July, and August). It could be different this year due to low snowpack and warm weather. Scott expected the lake to possibly be free of ice within weeks. Rich would like to allow for both an early start and the possibility of substantial effort into May, June and July. There could be great benefit to capturing as many fish as possible early, before they spawn.

Rob also asked why the draft budget totaled \$53k. Rich had asked Scott to stick to that figure since it is about all that is currently available, and no additional funds appear to be likely from any venue. Monte said PacifiCorp and the USDA-FS earmarked funds for 2009 and part of these have carried over to 2010. Beyond that, the RCC may need to help support Scott in applying for Title II funds. The existing 2009/2010 contracting has been coordinated through PUR.

It was noted to keep Mikeal Jones in the loop.

Low Impact Hydropower Institute (LIHI) Certification – PacifiCorp has applied for this certification based on Settlement Agreement conditions. A questionnaire is currently posted on the LIHI website for review and comment. The LIHI notified service list parties as well as resource coordination members of this posting. Several of the NGOs and others that backed out of the Settlement Agreement process, still have hard feelings because the Soda Springs dam is still in place. They have provided comments to LIHI not to certify the project because of this.

The criteria for determining if a project is low impact is: "Does the project meet the latest and most stringent recommendations by the resource agencies?"

Even though the comment period has ended, Rob was told by LIHI that agencies could still comment at any time. Pam said that the USDA-FS never did receive notification of the posting.

Meeting adjourned.