

**10-8-14 Meeting Summary *\*Approved 12-29-14\****  
**RESOURCE COORDINATION COMMITTEE (RCC)**  
**North Umpqua Hydroelectric Project (FERC No. P-1927)**

RCC Members or Alternates Present

Todd Olson (PacifiCorp Energy)  
Rich Grost (PacifiCorp Energy)  
Ed Meyer (NMFS)  
Jim B. Muck (NOAA)  
Chris Stine (ODEQ)  
Dave Harris (ODFW)  
Pam Sighting (USDA-FS)  
Anne Shirley (BLM) \*

Also Present

Beth Bendickson (PacifiCorp Energy) \*  
Steve Albertelli (PacifiCorp Energy)  
Scott Schevenius (PacifiCorp Energy)  
Mike Blum (PacifiCorp Energy)  
Kelly Coates (Cow Creek Tribe)  
Pete Sukraw (PacifiCorp Energy)  
Carl Bauer (USDA-FS)  
Bianca Oltean (USDA-FS)

Not Present

Craig Kohanek (OWRD)  
Rob Burns (USFWS) – proxy to NOAA

\* Attendance by phone

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**INTRODUCTIONS, AGENDA, OLD BUSINESS**

Member/Organizational Updates/Upcoming Meetings & Presentations

**USDA- FS:** Carl Bauer is now the acting Diamond Lake District Ranger

**Cow Creek:** Kelly Coates is now the Water & Environmental Resources Program Manager

**RCC Action:** Review and approve the August 20, 2014 Meeting Summary. *\*Approved October 8, 2014\**

**CURRENT PROJECT UPDATES**

Soda Springs Fish Passage

**Operation and Maintenance:** PacifiCorp is continuing with mechanical and program control improvements.

**Facility Modifications (window, fish ladder platform, AWS chamber dewatering pump, fish evaluation access):** The conceptual designs for these facility modifications were reviewed by the Technical Working Group (TWG) on October 7, 2014. The fish ladder window widening

construction is scheduled for January 2015, and the other modifications will occur during the winter.

**Hydraulic and Biological Evaluations:** The hydraulic evaluation and balancing is continuing, with work on the fish ladder AWS occurring this month and hopefully concluding by the end of the year. Initial measurements of the fish screen hydraulics may also occur this year. Recent measurements of flow within the fish return system and fish evaluation building indicate that use of the building to sample fish will require reducing flow by about 10 cfs. This can be done by either a reduction in flow to the hopper, in which case the hopper entrains air and causes the pipe to shake with turbulence, and/or to build additional flow trimming capacity into the fish return flumes upstream of the building. Northwest Hydraulic Consultants is developing conceptual designs for trimming off flows and the TWG can compare those options with conditions in the hopper at lower flow conditions.

#### Tailrace Barrier Biological Evaluations

Two rounds of video monitoring were recently completed, one in August and one in early September. Approximately 50-60 salmon were viewed at Soda Springs from the deck, but there have been relatively few instances of fish coming within 10 feet of the barrier and into range of the underwater video cameras in front of the pickets. Meridian Environmental is providing onsite management and review of the video. They will provide a written update in a couple months and revise the study plan based on the experiences from these first field deployments.

#### Fish Creek Dam and Canal Projects

**Fiber and Power Upgrade:** The archeological evaluation starts next week, for ten days.

#### Wetlands

There are three remaining wetlands to be constructed.

**Fire Swamp Wetland:** The site has been cleared by USDA-FS cultural staff, and the Notice to Proceed (NTP) was received in August. The conceptual design will be presented at a Wetland TWG meeting in November. Construction is planned for October 2015.

**Stump Lake Pothole Wetland:** Work is wrapping up today. Water is already in the wetland cells, and Cascade frogs have been observed on-site. A financial plan modification is in progress with the USDA-FS for funding the revegetation materials and labor.

#### Aquatic Reconnects Update

Seven reconnects have been completed this year (four on Clearwater and three on Lemolo 2). There will be seven sites in 2015, two on the Lemolo 2 canal and five on the Fish Creek canal. Ten aquatic sites will be constructed in the final year, 2016.

### Gravel Addition at Soda Springs Bypass Reach

This project has been contracted and permits are in hand for work to begin sometime in early November. We have a nationwide permit for fish enhancement from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE). Turbidity monitoring is required, and Rich Grost is hoping some members of the TWG can assist with this monitoring.

Stillwater Sciences measured and characterized the condition of the SA 8.3 spawning habitat in August (prior to gravel addition) and that report has been sent to the TWG and RCC.

### Stump Lake Excavation

The NTP and ACOE removal-fill permit modifications were received in late September. Weekly Bros., Inc. removed approximately 2,600 cubic yards of sediment from the area in front of the spillways. Land and Water Environmental Services performed the turbidity monitoring

### Lemolo Lake Trashrack Cleanings

This cleaning was completed in November once we got near our lowest drawdown elevation. Cleaning was done in a series of dives, and took one week to complete. Approximately 40 yards total was removed from both trash racks.

Lemolo Lake is being drawn down now, per the August plan. ODFW said they are starting to release water from Diamond Lake, there is 45 cfs currently flowing down through Lake Creek. They should be able to manage their water releases according to the schedule they supplied.

### NEPA Status

Walkways and a platform are being added within the Soda Springs fish passage project footprint. Rich inquired if it needed additional NEPA review. Pam Sicthing said that work on top of the recently completed fill areas did not need review, but work along the edge of the fill zone may. Photos would be helpful. Rich will supply a description of the work to install a stairway from the fish evaluation building along the edge of the rip-rap bank toward the river.

### Other Updates

**U-39 Cottage Bridge (westernmost bridge by the shop):** After annual inspection and load ratings, this bridge was de-rated, and the plan is to replace the bridge. However, the USDA-FS has stated that the bridge must be expanded to a two lane bridge. PacifiCorp has requested regulatory citations and references to the requirements for bridge width so that expansion can be justified to management and rate payers. PacifiCorp can't begin the design phase until they get the USDA-FS justification.

If a two lane bridge is required, the bridge abutments will not be large enough. USDA-FS evaluations are needed, and Julie is working on this.

If an additional length is needed, there will need to be cost sharing, as it is above and beyond.

**Rock Sources:** Fish Creek is hard to access in the winter. Scott put in a request that the rock we purchased for the Soda Springs fish passage work (10,000 cubic yards) be made available. In the rock permit (Steve Marchi), we purchased it but it has not been moved yet. Should we leave it and pull off when we need it? How do we maintain operation? Pam said to put a request back out. Last year was a mild winter and didn't need much rock, but the year before we used a lot. The USDA-FS is saying it is only for their use, however, Pam said there is more to it so more discussion is needed.

## TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP (TWG) UPDATES

### Fish Habitat Studies

**6.2 Slide Creek Full-Flow Reach:** *no update*

**7.2 Gravel Augmentation:** Sam Moyer and Rich are planning the annual monitoring of Chinook salmon use of the gravel patches for October 10.

**8.2 Slide Creek Bypass Reach Habitat:** *no update*

**8.3 Soda Springs Habitat:** This fund is paying for the 2014 gravel addition to the Soda Springs bypass reach. Sam and Rich are making periodic counts of Chinook salmon use.

**19.2 Long-Term Monitoring/Predator Control Predator Control Study:** The Stillwater Sciences proposal to refine the plan for better monitoring was distributed in June. Jim Muck and Rich have provided comments. We now need to decide whether to send it back to Stillwater so they can use the information to revise the study plan. The estimated expenditure is \$18,500. Both ODFW and NOAA provided their support and since it is an RCC fund, the USDA-FS, BLM, and USFWS all offered their support as well.

**RCC Action Item:** Approve Stillwater's \$18,500 proposal *\*Approved 10/8/14\**

**Long-Term Monitoring:** *no update*

### Fish Passage Design

A TWG meeting was held yesterday at Convey in Roseburg to review the Soda Springs fish passage facility window and modification designs as described above.

### Flows & Ramping

The Annual Flow Monitoring Report for WY 2012 is in progress - Roger Reynolds is working on the data recently provided by USGS, and we should have the report completed by the end of November.

### 401 Water Quality Certification

While all the 401 Condition “boxes are checked,” we will still need to keep an eye on Lemolo 1 forebay pH issues. The water quality station below Soda Springs is ongoing with continuous monitoring and annual reporting.

## **OTHER ITEMS**

### Operational Updates

**Powerhouse/Canal Outages:** The Clearwater 2 canal was dewatered on October 1, and will be shut down until November 10 for planned maintenance and aquatic connection construction. A fish salvage was done.

The Fish Creek diversion is still shut down due to lack of natural flow. While down, maintenance is being done until December 1.

PacifiCorp and the USDA-FS coordinated work on Clearwater River Road 4776300 and Lemolo 1 Road 2610680 between the plant and the Forebay. PacifiCorp worked in coordination with the USDA-FS doing maintenance and splitting duties as per the Transportation Management Plan.

**Impoundment Water Level Conditions and Plans:** Pam relayed that Scott Lamb said when the water in Lemolo Lake is lowered, there seems to be a “dump site” that is exposed. They are looking into it. It is right where Poole Creek enters the lake.

**Toketee Lake Update:** Toketee Lake is still being held at the lowest normal reservoir level, as planned since earlier this year. The surveyor is back to determine when archeological surveys are needed. The dam is not in a position of failure. Safety concerns are related to a hypothetical earthquake situation; the drawdown is a proactive safety measure. If there was a large earthquake, it could liquefy the downstream side of the dam and lower water levels mean less damage from potentially released water. More analysis and investigation is planned. If repairs are needed, construction will happen in 2015 or 2016.

**September 16, 2014 Soda Springs Flow Event:** Rich presented some USGS flow figures and described this event, which triggered the flow monitoring plan’s (FMP) real-time notification for when bypass flows drop to less than 50 percent of the minimum flow. During this event, the minimum required flow was 275 cfs; but the actual flow dropped to 57 cfs for one 15-minute

interval. Flow was less than the minimum for two 15-minute intervals although the crew responded rapidly to get the flow back up to normal (about 300 cfs). Per the FMP, a notice went out to the pertinent resource agencies. (Note: NMFS asked to be added to that notification list for future events.)

As a result, water levels dropped about one foot in Soda Springs bypass and one-quarter foot in the wild and scenic reach and one foot in the bypass.

The event was due to a series of equipment malfunctions during an unusual shutdown of the AWS system and the attempts to balance flow in the bypass reach with the Low Level Sluice Gate and spillgates. This shutdown was unusual because the AWS flow control valve was considered out-of-service and was the piece of equipment needing the maintenance to install and encoder and re-set the control limits. Consequently, flow in the AWS system was shut off using a shutoff valve which moves much faster than the AWS or any other flow balancing devices. Several flow balancing devices failed to operate normally – the Low Level Sluice Gate failed to open due to actuator tripping out, the spillgate failed to open due to a redundant breaker being open. Additionally, the time required for the on-site operator to scramble from the basement AWS valves to the top of the dam to manage the malfunctioning equipment was several minutes. Part of the confusion was with redundant control screens at TCC, as a result of leaving old screens in place while new ones are being tested. The investigation is ongoing as there are a lot of moving parts and considerations, but improvements proposed include greater care in planning and testing equipment prior to similar flow changes, added staffing at the dam, bump testing devices prior to relying on them to work, and replacing the Low Level Sluice Gate actuator with one that has a longer duty cycle.

The good news is that the AWS flow control valve was fixed during this event and is working now. We are getting it and the related flow-control systems fine-tuned with experience.

Ed Meyer asked if anyone went down into the bypass to look for fish kill. Dave Harris said that at this time of year the fish impact would be minimal, and that spring Chinook surveys show they were just starting to position themselves for spawning.

Rich contrasted this event with the July 2004 event, which stranded a lot of steelhead fry due to the timing, greater magnitude (water level drop of 1.5 feet in the wild and scenic reach) and duration (water level down almost an hour). In comparison, there are few if any fry in river margins during September, and the short flow drop of one-quarter foot in the wild and scenic reach would not have dewatered much if any stranding habitat.

#### SA 19.1 Tributary Enhancement Project Updates (Harris)

ODFW Hydropower Mitigation Biologists placed a total of 330 large 5'-6' boulders, and 35 (40'- 60') logs in a 3/8 mile section of the mainstem Rock Creek near the East Fork of Rock Creek. Several side channels totaling 300 meters were reconnected and improved as part of the project. ODFW staff also assisted BLM personal in the placement of boulders and logs on the

mainstem Rock Creek. Combining the two projects created a continuous reach of enhanced habitat that covered 1.2 river miles. Plans for 2015 will be directed at Harrington Creek.

SA 19.3 Federal Mitigation Fund Project Updates (Sighting)

**2014 Project Selection/Strategic Restoration Plan:** Work continues on a Restoration Plan to strategically spend the mitigation fund dollars. The USDA-FS will be holding a public meeting in the future to bring our partners and conservation groups up to speed.

Public Comments – *none at this time.*

**Next RCC Meeting:** January 21, 2015 – Annual Planning Meeting (Conference call)