

**8-26-15 Meeting Summary \* Approved 10-22-15 \*  
RESOURCE COORDINATION COMMITTEE (RCC)  
North Umpqua Hydroelectric Project (FERC No. P-1927)**

RCC Members or Alternates Present

Steve Albertelli (PacifiCorp)  
Rich Grost (PacifiCorp)  
Ed Meyer (NFMS) - *via phone*  
Jim B. Muck (NOAA) – *via phone*  
Chris Stine (ODEQ) – *via phone*  
Mary Grainey (OWRD) – *via phone*  
Paul Bridges (USFWS) – *via phone*

Also Present

Beth Bendickson (PacifiCorp) – *via phone*  
Scott Schevenius (PacifiCorp)  
Mike Blum (PacifiCorp)  
Pete Sukraw (PacifiCorp) – *via phone*  
Kelly Coates (Cow Creek) – *via phone*

RCC Members or Alternates Absent

Anne Shirley (BLM)                      Pam Sichtung (USDA-FS)  
Dave Harris (ODFW)                      Jim Thraillkill (USFWS)

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**INTRODUCTIONS, AGENDA, OLD BUSINESS**

Member Updates/Organization News

**NOAA** – The Coho Recovery Draft Plan is due out in September.  
**Cow Creek** – Kelly Coates is moving to the Rogue Basin to work out of their Medford office. She'll remain involved with the RCC.

Public Outreach

The June 4, 2015 Oakland Middle School field trip went well.

**Annual Public Tour Plans:** Due to several conflicting events on October 14, it was decided to set up a Doodle Poll for folks to choose a new date for the tour. A separate conference call will be set up towards the end of September to discuss tour logistics.

**CURRENT PROJECT UPDATES**

Soda Springs Fish Passage

**Status/Update:** The planned maintenance and upgrade work, which began in early July, is nearing completion. The stop logs will be pulled out tomorrow and the system will be watered up for calibration of the water level sensors and system testing. The facility will be brought back

online September 1 for additional testing, and when PacifiCorp is confident the system is running properly, the north intake will be closed. Normal operation is expected to resume by September 4.

**Hydraulic and Biological Evaluations Update:** NW Hydraulics did another round of fish screen balancing in June and tuned the screen as best as possible given the low flow situation. They will do one more round during high flows which will be weather dependent and may not occur until spring.

The modified trim screens were also balanced, but need some additional work to further reduce the flow into the evaluation building prior to juvenile fish sampling next spring.

The fish ladder evaluation is ongoing, with Meridian biologists doing weekly video evaluations. For the most part it's rare to find steelhead or salmon holding in the ladder. The normal AWS system has been off during the fish screen outage, but flow to the bypass reach is supplied through the log chute and the low level sluice gate. Adult fish have not appeared to have any trouble finding the fish ladder.

Video fish counts are also ongoing. Meridian recently provided a clip (which Rich sent to the TWG) showing a juvenile fish drifting downstream only to be snatched by an adult brown trout.

The Biological Evaluation of the fish screen is still planned for next spring, if study fish can be obtained. Jim mentioned there may not be any juvenile fish available from the Rock Creek fish hatchery to use for evaluation, due to the recent losses of Chinook and steelhead.

### Tailrace Barriers

**Status/Update:** Meridian performed the final Biological Evaluation field deployment in mid-June, to document the behavior of spring Chinook arriving at the barriers. They seemed to be orienting several feet away from the pickets and did not show any signs of challenging the pickets. A final report is expected by the end of September.

**Fiber and Power Upgrade:** Installation of the power and fiber cables was completed earlier this year. The fiber optics splicing was completed last week. The CSDS test will be delayed further due to this year's fires and drought conditions, and may potentially be scheduled for 2016 depending on flows and weather.

### Wetlands Update

Two wetlands remain to be constructed: Fireswamp and Lake Creek.

**Fire Swamp Wetland:** The RFP is out for bid. Construction is scheduled for this year and needs to be completed prior to the winter range gate closure on December 1. Contractors are waiting to

start due to the IFPL Level IV shutdown and the project construction backlog resulting from the shutdown.

**Lake Creek Wetland:** This project is under contract to start the survey work. The design is scheduled to be completed this year for construction in 2016.

#### Aquatic Reconnects Update

This project was on schedule before the IFPL Level IV shutdown. Weekly Bros. is under contract and ready to go pending reduction of the fire threat level. The goal is to get as much as is possible done this year.

Fire season is hampering all our projects this year. There is rain in the forecast for this coming weekend and hopefully that will help.

#### Fish Creek Forebay

It was noted that PacifiCorp is diverting between 0.3 and 0.7 cfs through Fish Creek Canal into the forebay to maintain a consistent water surface elevation (+/- 2 feet) for fire-fighting efforts as approved by the RCC. As far as we know the Fish Creek forebay has not been used for fire-fighting efforts to date this season.

#### Construction/Maintenance of Fish Weir at Soda Springs

The wildfire season threw us a curve ball. During August, it took about ten days to get a fire waiver, and then we learned that the DSL could not provide the expected exemption. It took another ten days or so of consultation to get an emergency authorization. Contractors have begun work and will start the in-water work tomorrow, working every day but Saturday to get done by the end of the in-water deadline of August 31. If it doesn't get completed, we may need to request a day or two of in-water work extension from ODFW. Rich said if any TWG members want to assist with turbidity monitoring on Sunday to please give him a call. If his schedule does not open up we may need to contract that work out, at a probable cost of <\$1,000. He is getting estimates now.

Other Projects Requiring NTPs or Other Coordination - *None at this time.*

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

### Fish Habitat Studies

**6.2 Slide Creek Full-Flow Reach:** *nothing new to report.*

**7.2 Gravel Augmentation:** At some point, Rich and ODFW will monitor the Soda Springs bypass and float the upper Wild and Scenic reach to check on gravel conditions.

**8.2 Slide Creek Bypass Reach Habitat:** Rich and Sam Moyers plan to wade/swim this reach in early- or mid-October, to check on gravel conditions and salmon redds.

**8.3 Soda Springs Habitat:** Rich will do the annual peak count of salmon redds. Sam and crew are already beginning weekly redd surveys.

**19.2 Long-Term Monitoring/Predator Control Study:** *nothing new to report.*

### Fish Passage Design

A TWG site visit is scheduled for September 3 to check the status of Soda Springs fish passage and especially flows into the evaluation building. We won't have all of the flow trimming done on the flume, but it will be good to get the TWG's professional opinion of the existing conditions.

Flows & Ramping - *Nothing new at this time.*

## **OTHER ITEMS**

### Operational Updates

**Powerhouse/Canal Outages:** There is an extended outage on Fish Creek through October for the Aquatic Reconnect projects.

Of the three turbines at Toketee, one is scheduled to go offline September/October for maintenance. When that one comes back online, another of the three will go offline in October/November. These outages won't affect flows in the bypass reach unless high flows occur during the outages.

### **Reservoir Management (Toketee Reservoir WSEs):**

Toketee Lake continues to be operated at a low, stable water level.

PacifiCorp has drafted a plan for the 2015 Lemolo Lake drawdown, which looks similar to in the plan from 2014. It is expected that flow at the Copeland gage can be maintained above 700 cfs. The plan will be provided today to the ODFW and USFS for routine consultation.

### CW2 Low Generation Operation

The 401 Water Quality Certification includes a restriction that the Clearwater 2 powerhouse cannot be operated at a generation level less than 2 MW, as a means of avoiding high total dissolved gas (TDG) in the tailrace. At the time of issuance, it was never necessary to operate at such a low generation. However, since 2002, several changes have occurred. Bypass reach flows in Clearwater 2 went from five to 40-60 CFS, which diminishes the availability of water in the canal for generation. During extremely dry years such as this one, natural inflows drop to the

point that there is not enough water to sustain generation above 2 MW. At that point, the powerhouse must be intermittently turned off and on to balance flows and not generate below 2 MW – and this interrupts flow through the forebay and tailrace as well as increasing the risk of mechanical problems at the powerhouse. Consequently, PacifiCorp began consulting with DEQ in July 2015 to conduct further study and determine whether TDG can be resolved physically rather than operationally, so that this operational restriction could be removed. The resulting August 2015 study showed that when the air intake is securely plugged, the TDG remains well below the state threshold at all generation levels, even well below 2 MW.

Chris reminded the group that he sent a summary of this issue to the RCC on August 7, 2015. In short, we now know that water quality criterion can be met with improved flow conditions and less operational risk if the 2 MW restriction is removed. Mike said that the current generation at Clearwater 2 is about 2.1 MW, and we may soon have less than 2 MW of water available, so the timing is good to remove the restriction.

Chris said ODEQ is about to issue an agreement with PacifiCorp that would allow operation of the Clearwater 2 bypass reach at lower levels immediately, while a longer process occurs to potentially craft a permanent modification to the 401 Condition. The permanent modification would include an opportunity for agency and public comment, and may take several months. Rich thanked Chris for his responsiveness in addressing this previously unforeseen issue so rapidly.

**SA 19.1 Tributary Enhancement Project Updates (Dave Harris):** *This update will have to be obtained at the next meeting, as Dave was absent.*

**SA 19.3 Federal Mitigation Fund Project Updates (Pam Sighting):** *This update will have to be obtained at the next meeting, as Pam was absent.*

With respect to SA 19.1 and SA 19.3, Steve noted that PacifiCorp recently received an extra three years of Low Impact Hydropower Institute (LIHI) Certification for the enhancement work on these two programs and thanked Dave and Pam for their quick and detailed input to PacifiCorp's response letter to LIHI, which provided the information necessary for approval of the additional three years of certification.

**2015 Project Selection/Strategic Restoration Plan:** *This update will have to be obtained at the next meeting, as Pam was absent.*

**Next RCC Meeting:** TBD. The October 14, 2015 meeting and annual public tour are in the process of being rescheduled.

Public Comments – *none at this time.*