

**8-18-10 Meeting Summary \* \* Approved 9-15-10 \* \***  
**RESOURCE COORDINATION COMMITTEE (RCC)**  
**NORTH UMPQUA HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT- FERC #1927-008**

RCC Members or Alternates Present

Monte Garrett (PacifiCorp Energy)  
Dave Harris (ODFW)  
Craig Kohanek (OWRD)  
Pam Sichting (USDA-FS)  
Chris Stine (ODEQ)  
Ed Meyer (NOAA)

Also Present

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

Absent

Rob Burns (USFWS)  
Ariel Hiller (BLM)

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**INTRODUCTIONS, AGENDA, OLD BUSINESS**

Member Updates

*[Below is from a roundtable discussion about agency updates/information.]*

**ODFW:** Dave Harris reported that Larry Cooper is now the Southwest Regional Manager. ODFW has two area managers - one at Central Point/Gold Beach and one in Roseburg. Staff wise, they are up-to-date. The 19.2 crew had a personnel change. Shelly left and Scott, her replacement as one of the ODFW EBAs, is starting Monday.

**ODEQ:** Chris Stine reported that they are down on Hydro staff with the departure of Paul Heberling. Some of Paul's projects will go to the safety coordinator for Klamath. They are not refilling the position. Chris has assumed much of those job duties. Chris's title will change to Regional Engineering, although there will be little change in his responsibilities. Dick Peterson, Director, is making an effort to spend a week in each office. He was in Eugene office and Chris got to show him what they are doing. There may be some programmatic shuffling. Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) programs are now under him. The Warm Springs water manager retired at end of September, which will reduce managerial positions. Dave Waltz is Mid-coast basin coordinator – and is developing TMDL's for that basin, but will also be in implementation for North Umpqua.

**OWRD:** Craig Kohanek reported that organizationally there are lots of positions open, in the technical services and field services divisions. The former head of OWRD's field services division took a job as a Deputy Director at ODFW. OWRD's waiting to see how the budget issue works out before adding staff. "We are currently working with a skeleton crew."

**PacifiCorp:** Monte Garrett reported that similar to many agencies, “we’re operating with a reduced Implementation staff, but fortunately we seem to be working effectively.” The staff has not been able to travel, train, or attend conferences.

**NOAA:** Ed Meyer reported they have lots of work going on. The hydro division senior biologists for the Federal Columbia River Power System (FCRSP), over the last four or five years have needed to get their budget from Congress. The US Army Corps of Engineers’ budget is tied to the Defense Department and goes through smoothly, but NOAA’s budget is less secure. Training and travel for NMFS has been impacted, with only essential travel allowed.

All RCC members are being affected by economic, staff, and budget issues, but are working as efficiently as possible to keep the program on track.

**RCC Action: Approve the July RCC Meeting Summary.** *Approved 8-18-10.*

Public Information Opportunities – *none at this time.*

### **CURRENT PROJECT UPDATES**

Notice-to-Proceed (NTP) Status – Pam reported that they are working on clearances for the Slide Creek intake dredging and for stop signs at Soda Springs road. Clearance for the removal of hazardous trees above Soda Springs Dam has already been given.

Fish Creek Canal Shut-off and Drainage Systems – *no change from last month.*

Lemolo 1 Forebay and Wetland – The liner is now being installed. This 60-ml liner mark’s the first time PacifiCorp has installed this type of liner. FERC Portland Regional Office (PRO) originally had issues with the toe drain and the liner, but the issues have been resolved.

The forebay will be filled to a depth of four feet over five to seven days during the first week in September. Chris Stine mentioned the 401 certification monitoring condition, but said it does not take effect until the first August after project is finished. Associated with this project is the Lemolo 1 wetland, which is adjacent to the forebay.

Soda Springs Fish Passage – Due to FERC delay, this project got a late start. In the early stages of construction, the rock at the base of the dam was found to be more crumbly than expected. This has resulted in the need for a new foundation design for the facilities, which in turn has resulted in a significant delay in the 2010 schedule. As soon as the spill inundates the work area this fall, work in some areas (e.g. base of the dam) will cease until the next dewatering opportunity in 2011. Contractors are on an accelerated schedule to get the project stable by October 15. It is certain that the project area will have to be dewatered again next year. Thus, final construction is not expected to be completed until 2012. PacifiCorp appreciates the RCC’s cooperation and understanding about the unexpected site conditions and the delay in project completion that it has caused. Monte said one of the goals this year is to get the project stable and protected prior to high flows. During a spill, spillgate #1 will be open and an area below spillgate #2 will be walled off so work can continue until spillgate #2 is

needed. The toe of the dam needs to be protected from winter scour. All loose materials need removing, so erosion will not create a severe turbidity event downstream. Pam acknowledged that this could be of great concern to water users downstream, but that it would have to be a pretty major storm to cause this to happen. It's crucial that the area below spillway #1 is clean.

Pam wanted to clarify that PacifiCorp's not doing work before receiving approvals. Monte said contractors were on the ground in early May for mobilization but work on the ground did not commence until June 8: when FERC gave conditional approval for some of the work to be done that month. The approval for all work came at the end of June.

Ed Meyer asked if there was anything we could do to make future fish salvages easier? . Dave Harris talked about the bedrock, and also about a floating weir. Monte said it may be less problematic next year since there won't be as much loose gravel.

Micropiles are being added around the fish ladder entrance. Pam asked where the old bridge went. Monte said it was taken apart and removed from the site.

There is some concern regarding fish jumping at the minimum flow outlet facility. Perhaps some adjustments could be made. Monte said the facility can't be throttled below full open (240 cfs) due to valve cavitation. It may be possible to retrofit the outlet during this winter, when it is shutdown, so that it releases less water in 2011.

Aquatic Connectivity – *no change since last month.*

#### Slide Creek Tailrace Barrier Design –

2010 work: The Notice-to-Proceed from the USDA-FS has been received. PacifiCorp expects to start the first week in September. This year's work includes constructing a parking lot and an access road behind the powerhouse for the staging and overhaul project next year. It also provides a permanent access road for the tailrace barrier. The work also includes installing the culvert to the end of the parking lot. The rest of the culvert will be finished in 2011.

Ed Meyer has two concerns about the 2011 Slide Creek tailrace barrier construction. The main one is the coffer dam. He said to think about how the coffer dam will be installed and removed. From his standpoint, no anadromous fish are there currently, which allows for more coffer dam design options since temporary fish passage is unnecessary.

Monte said the plan is to use the most effective type of coffer dam. Routing the river out through pipes in order to provide more work area and access via the Southside might be the best way. Rich Barney is contemplating this method.

Ed's second issue is the debris. Monte has talked to PacifiCorp operations folks about servicing the picket panels. The diffuser baffle design may be better than perforated plates, but they too may plug periodically with debris. Monte said it was a laborious process to pull the diffuser baffles out and reinstall them and if the operations folks' jobs are excessively strenuous, it won't be a successful

facility. These issues were discussed at the 60% design meeting. PacifiCorp's design consultants are working on changes to the 60% design to address these concerns.

PacifiCorp is working closely with the programmers to finish testing of the Obermeyer weir for providing minimum flows to Slide Creek bypass reach, using the new gage. If it doesn't work, they will go back to using the spill gate.

Poole Creek Boat Ramp at Lemolo Lake – The work will start in October. PacifiCorp will draw the lake down to between 4,132 and 4,130 feet to complete the low end of the boat launch. The purpose of the new boat ramp is to provide fishing access through the end of October.

Stinkhole Wetland Design – Steve Albertelli has the consultant on board to design the wetland. It is the same design consultant that we used for the Lemolo 1 Forebay wetland. The procurement process for construction of this wetland will begin the same time as the Lemolo 2 Reroute RFP is issued.

Toketee Trash Rack Modification -- Rich Grost gave a Power Point presentation of recent photos of debris removal at the Toketee intake, which began August 10. The photos show a long-reach excavator working from a large barge, debris being lifted by crane onto land, and debris being placed into containers on another barge. The containers are then transported via truck to the disposal site. So far, the turbidity from debris removal has been acceptable and has not exceeded 5 NTUs below Toketee powerhouse. The debris is being removed and placed in the boneyard to dry out. Rack installation is scheduled for next week.

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

Aquatic Connectivity/Wetlands – *no change from last month.*

L2R (Lemolo 2 Reroute) –

PacifiCorp is finishing up the 100% designs and specifications for submittal to FERC PRO. Eric Hansen will be this project manager with Steve Albertelli assisting him with permitting. The plan is to start the procurement process and get a contract in place by the end of the year. PacifiCorp hopes to start construction early next year. It is expected that this project will take nine months to construct. The USDA-FS is still completing data recovery on the site. The 30-day advertisement for the timber sale has been submitted. There is interest from one of conservation groups regarding potential impacts on survey and manage species. Bill Gamble is working on this issue.

The project is scheduled for substantial completion in October 2011.

FHS (Fish Habitat Studies) –

Per Dave, two MOU projects have been completed this year: one in the Rock Creek Basin, and one on East Pass Creek. These were the projects that Sam Moyer and Kirk Haskett worked on this year. ODFW is in process of procuring logs from the USDA-FS for next year's projects. Monitoring will occur next summer.

19.2 Program – Stillwater Sciences assisted the ODFW crew in a pilot study of day/night snorkeling for resident fish population estimates in early August. Study results will be used to guide the main monitoring effort in mid-late August, also with Stillwater support. This monitoring will end in December, and no additional monitoring will happen for at least a year due to the Soda Springs fish passage project construction. Rich said that the 2009 19.2 monitoring report will be out by the end of the year.

At the last RCC meeting, it was proposed that the RCC allow flows in Slide Cr bypass reach to be reduced periodically in future years to allow monitoring of resident fish populations. Stillwater suggested that future monitoring allow for a reduction of flow from 240 cfs to the current 80 cfs so that the methods being used may be used for post-passage monitoring. The flow reduction would be for approximately 2-4 weeks in late summer (mid-July to mid-September) of each monitoring year (several years during the late 2020s). Flow changes would be made within normal ramping rates allowed for maintenance events. Reductions below the future minimum flow would require RCC support and approval from regulatory agencies. Rich requested that the RCC consider providing such an approval this year.

**RCC Action: Approve the above flow reduction request as originally proposed last month.**

*Approved 8/18/10.*

Todd Weekly of Weekly Bros. offered to provide additional spawning gravel to the Soda Springs bypass reach, while the coffer dam is in place, if the RCC considers it beneficial to salmon spawning. Rich suggested we look at the site on the field tour today. (During field inspection, ODFW and others agreed that no additional spawning gravel is needed, so Todd Weekly's offer was declined.)

FPD (Fish Passage Design) – *discussed above in current projects.*

#### F&R (Flows & Ramping)

Mikeal Jones suggested, as a check in, a fall meeting to walk through the 2010 water year information and the Flow Monitoring Plan. Roger Reynolds is working on this.

The existing Soda Springs bypass reach bubbler gage will be temporarily moved due to the coffer dam construction and the excavation related to the fish evaluation facility. Rich will work with USGS and others to ensure there is adequate temporary gaging until this gage is restored post-construction.

19.1 Funding – The escrow agreement has been finalized and the funds will be transferred on August 23rd. Funding the Rock Creek Fish Hatchery project is now wholly ODFW's obligation. This is the first modification of the Settlement Agreement since 2002.

#### Lemolo Reservoir –

The 2009 water quality monitoring report was just received from Joe Eilers and will be forwarded to the TWG. Joe Eilers will be attending the August 19 TWG meeting at Toketee to present preliminary

findings from his 2010 work. All RCC members are invited to attend. Afterwards, if people are interested, Lemolo Resort will provide a 2-3 hour lake tour. The measurements from August 16 show a pretty clear lake. The Health Advisory has been lifted on both Lemolo and Diamond lakes. Lemolo water levels have been managed consistent with the Settlement Agreement. The drawdown plan was just submitted to ODFW and USFS and calls for a more rapid drawdown than usual (but still within usual limits) to allow for Poole Creek boat ramp construction.

Craig asked whether the RCC should continue to have a Lemolo Reservoir TWG. The RCC discussed the origin of this TWG in July 2007 to investigate algae blooms and whether they were related to changes in hydropower management of the reservoir. Since then, this TWG has suggested and facilitated treatments such as experimental summer reservoir level (2008, 2009) and tui chub trapping (2008-present) and water quality monitoring (2008-present). Yet, algae blooms and health advisories continue to occur annually. Craig observed that blooms and health advisories are also on the rise on other lakes throughout the state and country, for various and mostly unknown reasons. At Lemolo Lake, there is no clear link to hydropower operations which was the nexus for RCC concern. Monte explained that while PacifiCorp remains concerned about the water quality issues and would remain engaged in technical discussions related to water management, he is finding it increasingly difficult to justify PacifiCorp's direct funding of actions and monitoring, and staff time for leading the TWG. As it relates to our license requirements, Settlement Agreement, and daily facility operation, PacifiCorp will stay engaged. Rich said this topic will be discussed at the TWG tomorrow, with a goal of transitioning into a larger group capable of addressing algae issues basin-wide rather than just at Lemolo Lake.

19.3 Funding Process – Pam said that the request for applications for projects will come out in January

Public Comments – *none at this time.*

The next RCC meeting will be a conference call on September 15, 10:00 AM to Noon.

Meeting adjourned.