

**7-21-10 Meeting Summary \* Approved 8-18-10 \***  
**RESOURCE COORDINATION COMMITTEE (RCC)**  
**NORTH UMPQUA HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT- FERC #1927-008**

RCC Members or Alternates Present

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

Also Present

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

Absent

Ed Meyer (NOAA)

---

**INTRODUCTIONS, AGENDA, OLD BUSINESS**

Comments on June Notes: Minor edits to notes with some substantive changes to the 19.1 notes (see below).

Member Updates

**USDA-FS:** Williams Creek timber sale is on the block.

**ODEQ:** David Waltz is the new Umpqua Basin Coordinator (he replaced Paul Heberling)

**RCC Action: Approve the June RCC Meeting Summary.** *Approved with edits received 7-21-10.*

Public Information Opportunities

Mark Brown is working on video updates. Release of the revised implementation video is expected by early 2011.

There was a positive News Review article, KEZI television bit, and radio segment about the Soda Springs fish passage project. It was arranged on short notice by PacifiCorp's External Communication group. Monte said future arrangements will be coordinated with RCC representatives. Pam pointed out that Frank Moore (local person very knowledgeable about the North Umpqua River) provided good input in the newspaper article.

**CURRENT PROJECT UPDATES**

Notice-to-Proceed (NTP) Status

Pam e-mailed NTP Status to RCC. The USDA-FS is still doing cultural resources data recovery needed for the Lemolo 2 Reroute project NTP. This cultural clearance work is also needed for the Lemolo 2 Reroute timber sale. Other recent NTPs include the Fire Suppression implementation plan and the hazard trees removal at the Clearwater shop.

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

Lemolo 1 Forebay and Wetland – Contractors are finishing up the firming of the forebay berms for liner installation by the end of August. The liner has been laid in place in the wetland site. The facility for providing water to the wetland from the canal is in place, and planting of the wetland will be completed this fall.

Soda Springs Fish Passage – While good headway has been made on the project, a couple of issues have arisen that are impacting the construction schedule. FERC PRO provided delayed approval for construction start-up due to concerns with spillway capacity and flood flow routing that may be complicated by the presence of the fish screen in spillway #2. These issues are currently being addressed while construction continues.

Another issue emerged when removing rock at the base of the dam. It was discovered that the rock was less competent and more crumbly than expected based on geotechnical studies. Areas at both the new penstock pipe crossing at the downstream end of the fish screen and at the fish ladder entrance were found to be a concern. Thus, a different design is being developed in order to adequately anchor these facilities into the bedrock. PacifiCorp's consultant engineer, MWH, feels that an alternative design that involves micropile drilling will provide for well anchored foundations into the bedrock, but will take significantly more time to complete than originally expected. Due to this, it is likely that additional work below the OHWM will be necessary in 2011 (another dewatering, fish salvage, and permit revisions).

Rich explained that PacifiCorp opened up the Minimum Instream Flow Facility (MIFF) upon dewatering of the work area at the base of the dam. The RCC had an agreement to reduce minimum flows to 100 CFS. The MIFF was designed to provide 125 CFS. It turned out that it has to be fully opened or fully closed. It became necessary to fully open the valve (210 CFS) in the Soda Springs bypass during construction to minimize vibration and potential damage to the facility. It has been noted that some adult salmon were trying to leap at the MIFF outfall. Recycled trampoline netting, construction materials, and other fabric barriers have been used to dissuade fish from leaping at the MIFF outfall. Such material has been installed at the MIFF structure and appears to have reduced leaping. Few fish injuries have been noted to date.

Rich added that last week he discussed with Stephanie and Dave the need to extend the in-water work period as long as possible. Stephanie's idea was that, rather than picking a random date, allow work to continue at the base of the dam as long as that area remains dewatered. When that area becomes inundated by high flows, the in-water work season would cease until May 1, 2011. There is no certainty when this area will be inundated but it may be possible to work through most of the winter. Rich is working on a written proposal for approval by ODFW and NMFS, which he will then send to

Oregon Department of State Lands (ODSL) and the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) for inclusion in the permits.

Stephanie inquired about an earlier email exchange regarding the potential use of uncured concrete in water to stabilize the upstream sheetpile cofferdam in the reservoir. Rich explained the challenges posed to this cofferdam, as it would have to withstand 40 ft of water pressure to stay intact through the 1-year work period and follows an uneven bottom contour which is partly bedrock. The contractors, subcontractors, engineering and the geotechnical folks are battling around creative designs for a safe coffer dam that minimizes aquatic impacts and minimizes the seepage of water that would need to be pumped out. Rich said, after discussing the potential use of uncured concrete in water with USACE and ODEQ, and learning of the apparent 35 day public review and 3 to 4 month processing time it would trigger, he went back to the engineers and contractors who developed alternate means of constructing the coffer dam and isolating uncured concrete from water.

Fish salvage – Rich said he received lots of staff assistance from the ODFW, USDA-FS, the contractor and PacifiCorp, for the 4-day gradual dewatering and fish salvage of the work area at the base of Soda Springs dam. He sent a summary to ODFW and others, but the highlight was the salvage of 54 adult spring Chinook salmon as the pool was pumped down. Also over 1,600 juvenile trout (mostly brown and rainbow), one adult Lamprey, and five steelhead. Two of the steelhead were summer run fish and were radio tagged by Sierra Lewis and placed upstream of the dam for her telemetry study. All other fish were liberated downstream of the dam below the Soda Springs bridge.

Rich added that overall, it's been a clean project as far as water quality. There might be more potential for elevated turbidity during August as work begins in the reservoir.

Toketee Trash Rack Modification – PacifiCorp is still awaiting the final permit from USACE (for Nationwide Permit No. 3 for maintenance activity). Work on the trash rack installation is scheduled to begin in late August. Before construction begins, debris must be removed in front of the rack (beginning August 9). No coffer dam or dewatering is needed, as the rack will be installed by divers. FERC PRO and the other agencies have approved the project.

Aquatic Connectivity – Six more sites, all along the lower reaches of the Lemolo 2 system, have been designed and contracted out. Construction will start in late August or early September.

Slide Creek Tailrace Barrier Design – Preparatory road work is planned to occur in September 2010. The 8 x 8 box culvert will temporarily reroute Slide Creek under an expanded parking lot by the powerhouse. The road behind the powerhouse is being expanded for long term maintenance, as well as for a crane base needed for the plant overhaul. The ODSL has authorized the project and the USACOE permit is expected soon. However, this is Merina's 2<sup>nd</sup> priority, behind the Toketee Trash Rack project. Looking forward, there will be another JPA prepared for the tailrace barrier construction in 2011. This JPA is drafted once we get authorization for this year's work. Rich will submit the JPA for 2011 work.

Pooler Creek Boat Ramp at Lemolo Lake – *no change from last month.*

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

Aquatic Connectivity – Monte recently distributed to the agencies the final approved designs for 16 aquatic sites that will require canal dewatering (outages) to complete. They were designed with ODFW and USDA-FS input and approval. There are 15 other more complex sites still to design.

Wetland TWG – Procurement has been completed to bring on a consultant, R2 Resources, to develop a design for the Stinkhole wetland. This wetland will be designed and permitted this year and constructed in 2011.

L2R (Lemolo 2 Reroute) – The 100% design has been completed and the project is now moving forward to the permitting process. The JPA was submitted in the first week in July. The next step is procuring construction contractor bids. PacifiCorp expects to do that in the next month and hopes to have the contract in place by the end of the year. We hope to start construction very early in 2011. The design consultant estimates nine months of construction will be needed. The pipe will be buried along the Toketee-Rigdon road and across the Toketee recreation area. The pipe will carry 700 cfs from the Lemolo 2 plant tailrace and eliminate ramping in the Lemolo 2 full flow reach of the North Umpqua River.

FHS (Fish Habitat Studies) – Final report for 2009 19.2 work has been reviewed by the TWG and Rich will get it out to the RCC soon. Smolt trapping has been concluded for 2010, and the focus now is on resident fish populations. Furthermore, Rich had some discussion with Stillwater Sciences regarding technical ideas and field support. Sam Moyers and Rich had a conference call with Dirk Pederson of Stillwater Sciences to develop an approach for better fish estimates. It will begin with a pilot study in early August, and depending on what is learned, larger field efforts will be planned for mid-late August. A dedicated, experienced crew is needed to work with the ODFW crew to get the most difficult work done within the limited time available, so ODFW and PacifiCorp propose contracting Stillwater Sciences to provide 2 field personnel for the pilot study and main study, and also to assist with data analysis and reporting. All funds will fit into the contingency line item (already approved) of \$60K (will spend less than \$30K). The ODFW crew will also repeat angling methods this year.

One thing learned in recent years, is that increases in flow force changes in fish monitoring methods. The methods used in Slide Cr bypass reach at 30 cfs do not work at 80 cfs. In the future, the methods being used now at 80 cfs will not work at 240 cfs, when the river will be almost impossible to wade let alone fish or snorkel. Stillwater suggests that future monitoring allow for a reduction of flow from 240 cfs back to the current 80 cfs so that the methods currently being used may be used for post-passage monitoring too. The flow reduction would be needed 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). Such reductions below the future minimum flow would require RCC support and approval from regulatory agencies. Rich requested that the RCC would consider providing such an approval this year. Stephanie said she would like to talk to Ed Meyer prior to supporting this proposal, and that it should allow for the possibility that future technology might make fish estimates at 240 cfs possible.

Dave added that Sam Moyers and Kirk Haskett have finished two MOU fish habitat projects on East Fork Rock Creek and one project on Pass Creek. The brook trout reduction in the upper Clearwater

basin appear to be of limited value. There is so much large woody debris it's impossible to eradicate all the brook trout, and may be impossible to reduce their numbers by shocking.

#### SA 19.1 – East Fork Rock Creek project

Regarding ongoing discussions between PacifiCorp and ODFW with respect to the 2001 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Oregon Fish & Wildlife Commission, the Commission has delegated approval/authority to the ODFW Director to amend the MOU. Monte stated that PacifiCorp has followed through with commitments prescribed in the MOU. Decisions about how funds are used to meet ODFW objectives are at the agency's discretion inasmuch as it's consistent with the original goals of the MOU and documented accordingly.

FPD (Fish Passage Design) – A demonstration of the 1:15 scale model of the Slide Creek tailrace barrier (30% design) was held June 23 at AECOM's office in Redmond, Washington. Attendees agreed that it was a good presentation and it will help with development of the 60% design. The model confirmed that the design under consideration will be able to adequately balance flows across the barrier. Based on that, McMillen is moving forward with the 60% design. The next meeting is scheduled for July 28.

Jean Castillo requested a site visit on July 27 to take a look at the Soda Springs project. Ed Meyers will join her. If anyone else is interested, they are invited to attend. Rob requested an e-mail with meeting agenda.

Lemolo Reservoir – The next TWG meeting is scheduled for August 19. The management levels are following the normal summer regime. Regarding tui chub removal, Scott Lamb is at 15,649 tui chub removed as of July 1. In one week he had over 10,000 chub (in the last week of June). In first few weeks of July, he said he's been getting over 1,000 per day. He has three nets still out. Though he will soon be out of funding, Scott told Rich he would continue to net through July and perhaps all of August. He received Title II funding for next year (approx. \$50K). Pam mentioned that blue green algae Health Advisories were put out on Lemolo Lake on July 2 and subsequently on Diamond Lake and Fish Lake (in the Rogue-Umpqua Divide Wilderness). Rich said that Lemolo Lake is mostly clearing as of yesterday but he saw thick scums and milky spots of decomposing algae along the dam. Joe Eilers is continuing with monitoring on a bi-weekly schedule.

Craig inquired if there was any "end in sight" as far as blue green algae management. Rich said the time is probably right to discuss the future of the TWG and whether to expand it to a basin-wide group in light of it being a broader issue than just Lemolo Reservoir. Monte indicated that the blooms appear to be out of hydro operations' control and that PacifiCorp has little business case to continue funding the actions, experiments, and monitoring. PacifiCorp would however continue to provide staffing assistance. Rich said it might be something for the Department of Health & Human Services to take over.

### **19.3 Mitigation Funding Application**

Pam reviewed the process for selecting projects to be supported by the 19.3 funding. The process is that Pam sends the application out to the peer groups. This year it is on a very compressed timeline, with everything due to the Albuquerque office on August 1<sup>st</sup>.

Ariel questioned why for the third time in three years, there was only a one to two week turn-around time for the application process. This year, there was no notification to the RCC that the application process had opened or closed. Pam explained the announcement went to Scott Lightcap and he was supposed to get it out to the BLM. The USDA-FS Board of Directors took a very long time to get back with comments. RCC members re-expressed interest to be on the notification list for future years. Pam asked how RCC would like to see projects – whole list; reduced list, etc.

Pam also mentioned that four NGOs sent letters regarding the 19.3 Mitigation Funding. They wanted a more structured breakdown and more monitoring. USDA-FS personnel met with representatives of the Steamboaters, NU Foundation, Native Fish Society, and Umpqua Watersheds.

Public Comments – *none at this time.*

The next RCC meeting will be “face-to-face” on August 18, 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM, in the Toketee Implementation Conference Room.

Meeting adjourned.