

**6-16-10 Meeting Summary \* Approved 7-21-10 \***  
**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)  
Ed Meyer (NOAA)  
Pam Sichtung (USDA-FS)  
Chris Stine (ODEQ)

Also Present

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

Absent

Rob Burns (USFWS) – proxy given to ODFW

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**INTRODUCTIONS, AGENDA, OLD BUSINESS**

Member Updates –

BLM – Ariel will be the acting public affairs officer for the next three months and will retain RCC duties.

**RCC Action: Approve the April RCC Meeting Summary. Approved 6-16-10.**

Public Information Opportunities

Soda Springs Fish Passage project – Regarding site visits during the construction period, the USDA-FS may contact designated project contractors directly to arrange a site visit; initially call Monte, Rich, or Michael Kahut to get contact information for these designated individuals. Other RCC agencies must contact Monte, Rich, or Michael Kahut, who will coordinate communication with contracted site personnel for an escort into the job site. Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) is expected to be worn at all times. Brightly-colored vests are available from construction staff on site. Visitation should be scheduled at least five days to a week in advance.

**CURRENT PROJECT UPDATES**

Notice-to-Proceed (NTP) Status

Pam e-mailed NTP Status to RCC.

Fish Creek Canal Shut-off and Drainage Systems – Monte reported that the Fish Creek project will run out of water this summer before new batteries for the radios can be installed and tested, so the performance demonstration of this system will be conducted this fall.

Chris mentioned that currently the flow in Fish Creek is 240 cfs. However, Monte stated that all the battery packs that control the radio network had died due to lack of use. New ones have been ordered and when they arrive will be installed and the Programmable Logic Controllers will be re-programmed. By then, flows will likely be down to the 80 CFS minimum and diversion for the demonstration will not be possible.

Lemolo 1 Forebay and Wetland – *no change from last month.*

Soda Springs Fish Passage – Monte said that the contractor kickoff meeting is going on today. Mobilization has already started. The site is now officially closed to public. Construction on the ground will commence next week. The first step is dewatering the project area, and then a fish salvage will be conducted throughout the first week of construction. Dave reported that the ODFW is winding down its smolt trapping, so they should have three to five personnel to aid the salvage. On Monday, the minimum instream flow structure will be ramped open as the low level outlet is slowly closed, so that a minimum flow can be provided in the bypass reach. Once the area at the base of the dam is dewatered, the construction of the entrance to the fish ladder will begin. Pam inquired about video documentation. Monte said he'd talk next week to Mark Brown about beginning videotaping revisions to the North Umpqua implementation video. Soda Springs reservoir will be closed to the public during construction; Weekly Brothers has put buoys 0.5 mile upstream of dam. Pam said that until the USDA-FS closure is made official, the sign at these buoys marking closure had to be covered. The current official closure date is scheduled for July 4 and USDA-FS has no enforcement authority until then. Monte said that he'd arrange this with the construction contractors.

Rich added more detail to the fish salvage work: The fish salvage is scheduled to begin on Monday, June 21. He will update the contact group after he talks to Todd Construction. Tuesday and Wednesday might be the days when most fish will be moved. On Monday, PacifiCorp will switch over to the newly-built minimum instream flow structure. PacifiCorp is at the mercy of how much water is seeping into the pool and the small amount seeping through the gates. Pumps will be used on Tuesday and Wednesday. PacifiCorp will pump the pool as completely dry as possible. Pam Sighting requested photos be taken to document salvage.

Someone asked if it was worth re-releasing the news release regarding start of construction and possible turbidity in the river. Rich suggested the previous release be reworded to include the most current information. Since no one could remember seeing the first news release published, Ariel said it might worth it to give the newspaper a call; especially on the issues that are important.

Toketee Trash Rack Modification – Final designs were sent to FERC PRO for construction approval.

Aquatic Connectivity – The bidders meeting will be conducted soon, and construction of six sites will happen this fall. The sites are similar to ones completed last year - aquatic sites across existing wildlife bridges.

Slide Creek Gage Relocation – The new gage was installed, 500 feet downstream of the old gage, to provide accurate readings whether flow was released through the spill gates or the instream flow weir structure. Data has been verified over the last several weeks and the gage is operating satisfactorily. The PLC is being reprogrammed to use the new gage.

Slide Creek Tailrace Barrier Design – The joint permit application has been prepared and submitted to agencies for the road work to be done this year. This work includes building an access road behind the facility, and expanding the parking area where Slide Creek comes down adjacent to the plant. The tailrace barrier is being coordinated with the plant overhaul in 2011.

Poole Creek Boat Ramp at Lemolo Lake – The construction is scheduled to begin in October. This new boat ramp will be significantly longer to facilitate use by anglers until the end of October.

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

Aquatic Connectivity – Designs have been prepared and approved by the TWG for the 16 sites that will require outages (cutting waterway flumes to add large culvers and to cross roads). Designs are in progress for the rest of future sites.

Wetland TWG – There will be a wetland near Stinkhole. Steve met with prospective bidders last week and will receive bids next week. This wetland will be constructed in 2011, in conjunction with the Lemolo 2 Reroute project.

L2R (Lemolo 2 Reroute) – The 100% design has gone out for final RCC review, July 7 is the comment deadline. The comments from the 90% design have been incorporated into the 100% design. The joint permit application is being prepared by Steve Albertelli and will be submitted this year. The USDA-FS has contracted for data recovery and curation of archaeological artifacts within the project footprint. Construction scheduled for as early as possible in 2011.

FHS (Fish Habitat Studies) – The smolt trap has been removed from the Soda Springs bypass reach. Sam Moyers/Dave provided a draft of the 2009 annual report to TWG yesterday, for 30 day review. Rich requested that any corrections or comments be made in track changes mode and forwarded to the TWG. Dave said that the smolt traps are still operating in Calf and Copeland creeks and that for the last few years; this is the longest they have been able to operate due to higher spring flows. Currently, the number of fish captured is down due to lots of water. They will soon shift to summer mode and begin brook trout eradication above Stump Lake. Soda Springs is still high; Slide Creek is down to normal flows. Stillwater Sciences will start work on 2009 Fish population estimates. Dirk called Rich regarding bounded count snorkeling. ODFW thinks this is a good idea and will schedule a meeting to discuss.

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

ODFW - Rock Creek Fishway update. The project continues at “full speed ahead.” The last issue is funding from the tributary enhancement program (TEP). The Rock Creek Fishway is expected to require the use of the majority of the discretionary tributary enhancement funding. The portion of the tributary enhancement fund intended for conservation easements for both Rock and Pass Creek basins

was thought to be needed for this project, but PacifiCorp said concurrence would be needed by the OFW Commission to move the funding. This issue will not be considered, if at all, until the September Commission meeting. A change in use of funding would require a 30-day public review period. Dave is hopeful it will go smoothly so they can utilize the conservation easement funding for habitat enhancement projects (large woody debris, culvert replacement, etc.). If not, Sam and Kirk will be out of funds for enhancement projects by the end of the year. Fishway construction is expected to begin mid July, with the instream work period ending August 31. Beyond then, a NOAA in-water extension to the end of September will be required. Wild Coho will be in the area in September, and the construction work would impact Coho spawning.

Regarding Stephanie's earlier suggestion of not doing a trapping facility to save money, Dave said that it was determined it would only be about a \$200-300K savings and that the suggestion went away. He said the two current issues are using all funds available for the project, and the in-water work period.

FPD (Fish Passage Design) – The Slide Creek tailrace barrier 60% design meeting is scheduled for July 28. There will be a meeting on June 23 at the AECOM office in Redmond, WA, to view/discuss the operation of the 1:15 scale model, which will address flow balancing issues. ODFW, NMFS, and PacifiCorp will be there to witness the model.

Lemolo Reservoir –

**Tui Chub Trapping Update** – Rich reported that due to a big storm on June 2, the TWG opted out of going out on the lake to view the tui chub operation. Instead, Joe Eilers' work was discussed. The trapnetting got off to a slow start in March. Yesterday, June 15, Scott Lamb caught about 600 tui chub. The electrofishing boat is planned for use for a few nights while the chub are spawning. It will allow access into the nooks and crannies of the reservoir to see if chub can be removed without it having undue impact on trout. Regarding size class details, ODFW said the chub appear to be pretty large. None were less than 4" long. The next TWG meeting is scheduled for August 19 at Lemolo Resort. Scott has the trapnets well marked out. As of June 2, Scott has caught 2,100 chub. While the early start was not very productive, Scott said he could still make the funding last throughout the season.

**Water Quality Monitoring** – *Monitoring is proceeding according to plan and schedule.*

Public Comments – none at this time.

The next RCC meeting will be a conference call on July 21.

Meeting adjourned.