



Priest Rapids Coordinating Committee Meeting

FINAL APPROVED MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, March 27, 2019

10am

Webinar Conference

PRCC Representatives

Scott Carlon, Justin Yeager (Alt), NMFS
Keely Murdoch, Bob Rose (Alt), YN
Chad Jackson, P. Verhey (Alt) WDFW
Curt Dotson, Peter Graf (Alt), GCPUD
Denny Rohr, D. Rohr & Assoc, Facilitator

Jim Craig, USFWS
Kirk Truscott, Casey Baldwin (alt), CCT
Tom Skiles, CTUIR
Erin Harris, Admin Ass't, GPUD

PRCC Meeting Attendees

Curt Dotson, GPUD
Keely Murdoch, YN
Scott Carlon, NMFS
Kirk Truscott, CCT (absent)
Chad Jackson, WDFW
Patrick Verhey, WDFW

Jim Craig, USFWS
Tom Skiles, CTUIR (absent)
Tom Dresser, GPUD
Denny Rohr, D. Rohr & Assoc, Facilitator
Erin Harris, GPUD

Decisions made during March 27, 2019 meeting

1. Dotson, Carlon, and Craig will be 2019 spill representatives.
2. PRCC approved a request from Dan Roby, OSU, for a time extension to July 31, 2019 for the final report regarding the "Evaluation of Caspian Tern Management to Reduce Predation on ESA-listed Salmonids in the Columbia Plateau Region", subject to concurrence of Truscott and Skiles who were absent from today's meeting.

MEETING MINUTES

I. Welcome and Introductions

II. Agenda Review (D. Rohr) – No additions

III. Meeting Minutes (D. Rohr)

- A. February 4, 2019 Conference Call – Approved by all
- B. February 27, 2019 Conference Call – Ongoing

IV. Actions Items from the February 27, 2019 Meeting (D. Rohr)

1. NNI Funding Proposal from Dr. Michelle Rub, NOAA, will be an agenda item for the next PRCC meeting on March 27th. Will attend April meeting.
2. Jackson will follow up on joint Oregon / Washington activities relative to the Dr. Rub proposal.
3. Rohr will alert Carlon to committee approval of providing funding for tasks in the USACE Synthesis Report to determine his position. Completed
4. Rohr will alert Carlon to committee approval of additional Task 3.3 funding for PIT Tagging work and analysis at Rock Island Dam. Completed
5. Skiles requested more time for meeting minutes review and he will contact Rohr with his comments. Completed

V. Affirm Carlon Approval of February 27th PRCC Decision Items (D. Rohr)

- A. (Affirm) Request for NNI Funding Participation of USACE Synthesis Report. Completed
- B. (Affirm) PIT Tagging and analysis at Rock Island Dam. Completed

VI. **(To Be Considered During April 24th PRCC Meeting)** – NNI Funding Proposal – “Testing the feasibility of collecting adult spring-run Chinook salmon using a pound net within the lower Columbia River Estuary” – Michelle Rub, NMFS (C. Dotson) – To be scheduled for April 24th meeting with Michelle Rub attending.

VII. Update – Consultation with PRCC Regarding the Priest Rapids Right Bank Embankment Project – Tom Dresser, GCPUD (C. Dotson) – Dresser had first met with the PRCC on August 29, 2018 to provide a project overview and today gave a power point presentation to provide a status update of the project (see attached power point presentation). Dresser is requesting a PRCC review of the environmental assessment including a 30-day comment period ending April 29, 2019. Dresser requested any comments by PRCC committee members be sent directly to him.

VIII. 2019 Spill Representatives (C. Dotson) – Curt shared that two committee representatives are needed to join him as 2019 spill representatives for the April – August time frame. Accordingly, Carlon and Craig volunteered to be 2019 spill representatives along with Dotson.

IX. Potpourri (D. Rohr) –Nothing new to add.

X. GENERAL UPDATES

- A. **Avian Predation Activities (C. Dotson)** – Dotson stated the dissuasion activities for Goose Island are running about a month behind due to severe weather conditions and a lack of access to the island. Vegetation plugs were planted last fall and a solar panel irrigation system is to be installed for irrigation. Active dissuasion is to take place also with rope and flagging needing to be installed on the island. Dotson will keep PRCC advised of activities moving forward.
- B. **FCRPS BiOp – Corps/BOR Avian Predation Management in Columbia Plateau Region (C. Dotson)** – Carlon informed the committee that the interim BiOp draft is due this week as staff are working on final edits and references. The draft will be sent to Action Agencies for their review. No information on avian predation management.
- C. **Update of the White River Spring Chinook Mitigation 2026 Decision Framework (D. Rohr)** – Rohr sent an email to the PRCC that was received from PRCC Hatchery SC (HSC) facilitator Tracy Hillman that outlined the HSC request for more specific direction from the PRCC regarding what they want the HSC to do. Murdoch stated the HSC is now picking up the subject again for discussion and looking for more specific guidance from the PRCC. After additional PRCC discussion, there was conclusion that Rohr will review the available information and discussion will continue at the next PRCC meeting in April.
- D. **Review of Outstanding NNI Funded Projects.**
 - 1. **Continued Support for UC Fish Screen Monitoring Program (C. Jackson)** – Jackson and Rohr will contact Danny Didricksen, WDFW, to receive and update presentation at the April meeting.
 - 2. **Lower Wenatchee Instream Flow Enhancement Project Phase II (C. Jackson, D. Rohr)** - Work is beginning again. Rohr will keep committee advised as it moves forward
 - 3. **Evaluation of Caspian Tern Management to Reduce Predation on ESA-listed Salmonids in the Columbia Plateau Region (C. Dotson)** – Dotson has received a request from Dan Roby, OSU, for an extension of time to draft a final report. The recent government shutdown delayed the preparation of the report. Roby requested a time extension to July 31, 2019. Committee members present approved the request subject to concurrence of Truscott and Skiles. Rohr will contact Truscott and Skiles.
 - 4. **“Non-Native Predator Recruitment Reduction – Phase I” (K. Murdoch)** –No new update information.
 - 5. **“Northern Pike Removal in Lake Roosevelt” (K. Truscott)** Staff preparing for the work to be done this spring.

XI. Committee Reports (D. Rohr) – Rohr distributed PRFF and Hanford Reach spawning escapement information to PRCC members. Members will contact Peter Graf, GCPUD, directly with questions regarding Hanford

XII. NNI and Habitat Funds Report (D. Rohr) – No new information. Q1 report is expected to be available in April.

XIII. Next Meeting (D. Rohr) – Wednesday, April 24, 2019, 10:00 am, Wanapum Dam, HOB, Room 107

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION PROVIDED AT END OF MEETING – Dotson reminded PRCC of the March 1st email from Deb Firestone, GCPUD, regarding the 2018 P&I Report with comments being due April 1, 2019. The filing deadline with FERC is April 15, 2019.

Action Items from March 27, 2019 Meeting

1. NNI Funding Proposal – “Testing the feasibility of collecting adult spring-run Chinook salmon using a pound net within the lower Columbia River Estuary” – Michelle Rub, NMFS – move presentation to April 24th meeting.
2. Consultation with PRCC Regarding the Priest Rapids Right Bank Embankment Project presentation by Tom Dresser, 30-day review period, April 29th deadline, comments are to be sent to Dresser.
3. Update of the White River Spring Chinook Mitigation 2026 Decision Framework, Rohr will follow up, add to April agenda, and also notify Hillman of ongoing activities and PRCC discussion.
4. Continued Support for UC Fish Screen Monitoring Program, D. Didricksen report will be added to April 24th meeting agenda.
5. Evaluation of Caspian Tern Management to Reduce predation on ESA-listed Salmonids in the Columbia Plateau Region, request for additional time for final report, Rohr will contact Truscott and Skiles to notify of committee approval and request his vote.
6. Dotson reminded committee members of April 1, 2019 P&I Report comment deadline to meet April 15, 2019 deadline to file with FERC.

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