



Priest Rapids Coordinating Committee

FINAL MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, February 24, 2016

9:00 am

CONFERENCE CALL

PRCC REPRESENTATIVES

Scott Carlon, Justin Yeager (Alt), NMFS
Bob Rose, YN

Jeff Korth, C. Andonaegui (Alt), P. Verhey (Alt) WDFW
Curt Dotson, Tom Dresser (Alt), GCPUD
Denny Rohr, D. Rohr & Assoc, Facilitator

Jim Craig, USFWS
Kirk Truscott, CCT

Tom Skiles, CTUIR
Orlene Hahn, GCPUD, Executive Assistant

PRCC CONFERENCE CALL ATTENDEES

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Bob Rose, YN

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Curt Dotson, GCPUD
Denny Rohr, D. Rohr & Assoc, Facilitator
Tom Dresser (Alt) GCPUD

Jim Craig, USFWS
Kirk Truscott, CCT

Tom Skiles, CTUIR
Orlene Hahn, GCPUD, Executive Assistant

Action Items from January 26, 2016 PRCC Meeting:

1. Approval of December 4, 2015; Approval of December 15, 2015 – Carlon was ok with the December meeting minutes. Rohr to send out an email vote for approval from the rest of the Committee. **COMPLETED**
2. **Priest Rapids Fish Mode Operations** (C. Dotson) – Rohr is to get a copy of the emergency SOA to the Committee. **COMPLETED**
3. **Inland Avian Predation Activities** (C. Dotson) – Dotson stated that there is a USFWS person out of Portland who deals with water birds asking for our data. Dotson is to provide follow-up to the Committee regarding the request. There was approval by the Committee to provide the information to USFWS. **COMPLETED**
4. **Amended 2014 and Draft 2015 Survival Study Reports** (C. Dotson) – Dotson will provide a copy via email so everyone has an opportunity to preview the draft report prior to February's meeting and will provide hard copies at the February meeting. **COMPLETED**

FINAL MEETING MINUTES

I. Welcome and Introductions

- II. **Agenda Review** (D. Rohr) – Agenda items added below (VII) WD right bank fish ladder maintenance, (VIII) Meeting Location; and (IX) Hanford Reach and Protection Flows

III. Meeting Minutes Approval (D. Rohr)

PRCC
February 24, 2016
FINAL Meeting Minutes

- A. Affirmation of Email Approvals for Dec 4, 2015 and Dec 15, 2015 meeting minutes – **Approved subject to edits by Rohr**
 - B. Approval of January 27, 2016 meeting minutes – **Subject to email approval**
- IV. **Action Items Review from January 27, 2016 meeting** (D. Rohr) – See above
- V. **“Evaluation of Total Dissolved Fas Related to the Operation of the Priest Rapids Fish Bypass – Final Report”** (D. Rohr) – Comment Period Closes March 15, 2016. This report is finalizes the requirement under the 401 certification to determine the potential for the PRD bypass to operate and achieve compliance with total dissolved gas requirements. Please submit written comments to Dresser.
- VI. **Review of Logistics of May 25, 2016 PRCC Meeting at Wanapum Dam** – The main meeting will be at Wanapum Dam at the new Hydro Office Building (HOB) in Room 118. The Committee was asked to think about what time they want the meeting to start as well as provide details of what they are wanting to look at i.e. tour Fishtown, take a tour of the new visitor center, etc. Lunch will be provided at the HOB. Carlton stated he will not be at this meeting.
- VII. **WD Right Bank Fish Ladder Maintenance** (T. Dresser) – Grant is requesting seeking approval for two additional weeks (to April 14, 2016) to perform and complete maintenance activities on the WD right bank fish ladder. Grant PUD commits to having the WD right bank fish ladder up and meeting criteria by April 14, 2016 COB. Dresser stated that the main reason for the extension is fish pump #1 was in worst condition than originally thought and in some cases, parts need to be. At this time, the WD left bank pump #1 will be tested by March 10 and running by March 14th. Maintenance is expected to start on the right bank either on March 15th or 16th. At this time, we expect that cavitation repairs are necessary on a value in the lower end of the right bank ladder (repairs were also done 2 years ago) and a need to re-grout an area which was done about 5 years ago. The left bank typically has the higher passage. Dresser stated that the caveat is that Grant is looking for a 2 week extension but it is unknown if the full two weeks will be needed until the full extent of the repairs are known. **APPROVED**
- VIII. **Meeting Location** (S. Carlton) – Carlton discussed with the Committee the possibility of moving the PRCC meetings to an East side location. It was noted that there really are only 2-3 people on the West side now with everyone else being from the East side. This has also been discussed with the HCP members as well and there would need to be some coordination done with the HCP meeting schedule. Discussion will continue at the next meeting regarding this topic.
- IX. **Hanford Reach and Protection Flows** (C. Dotson) – Beginning today February 24th, 2016 the Hanford Reach Program is entering into the emergence and rearing period. The critical elevation remains at 70 kcfs. Peter Graf of Grant PUD has provided the material to external stakeholders in the Fall Chinook Working Group. Dotson will forward this information to the Committee via email. **COMPLETED**
- X. **Updates**
- A. **Avian Predation Activities** (C. Dotson) – Things are moving forward with getting ready for the upcoming season. Data set has been turned over to folks (USFWS) from Portland. The Corps has also giving approval for their data to be released to the USFW folks, to assist them with a “bird project” they are working on.. Really nothing different from last year’s avian work is planned for this season, except in the fact that no satellite tagging of terns will be taking place in 2016. The terns tagged in 2014 and 2015 will continue to be monitored in 2016. There have been discussions with different groups regarding the John Day pool being at full capacity with active river management by the Corps to dissuade terns at the Blalocks this year.
 - B. **Hatchery Activities** (T. Dresser) -
 - 1. **Carlton Acclimation Facility** – WDFW staff are initiating treatment on sick fish from runoff and debris in the water from the fires.

2. **Nason Creek Acclimation Facility** – Critical intake infrastructure issues are occurring. Current information from divers indicate that there is a lot of debris on the cone screen and some damage has occurred to the cleaning brushes. Grant is working with engineering staff to see what can be done. At this stage, Grant PUD expects that heavy equipment will be necessary to remove gravel. Thanks to WDFW for running 24/7 shifts to watch the fish. Damage was the result of recent (late fall and early spring) run off events.
 3. **Priest Rapids Hatchery Modifications** - Nothing
 4. **Penticton Hatchery** - Nothing
- C. **Hatchery Permits: Sec 10 Consultation/Summer Chinook, Sec 7 Consultation/Bull Trout** (T. Dresser) – Nothing
- D. **Amended 2014 and Draft 2015 Survival Study Reports** (C. Dotson) – Rohr sent this out to the Committee with the links to SharePoint. The Committee was asked if they were able to access these links successfully. The Committee will be working with Grant PUD IT Department to make sure their user names and passwords are working. The comment period will close on March 23, 2016. There will be SharePoint training done at the May 25, 2016 meeting.
- E. **2016 Survival Study** (C. Dotson) – Approved and underway.
- F. **June 21/22 Sub-yearling Workshop and Coordinating Committees Meetings** (D. Rohr) – It looks like June 21, 2016 is the preferred date. John Skalski would be at the meeting as well as Billy Connor (USFWS – Snake River work) has been asked to present. On June 22nd both the HCP committee and the PRCC committee meetings will be taking place – one meeting in the morning and the other meeting in the afternoon. The three PUDs are currently working on the Agenda. There will be a variety of people attending and presenting.
- G. **NNI Funded Projects**
1. **(2015) Real Time Research / Oregon State University – “Evaluation of Foraging Behavior, Dispersal, and Predation on ESA-listed Salmonids from the Upper Columbia River by Caspian Terns Displaced from Managed Colonies in the Columbia Plateau Region”** (C. Dotson) – Waiting for the report to come out.
 2. **(2016) Real Time Research / Oregon State university – “Evaluation of Caspian Tern Management to Reduce Predation on ESA-Listed Salmonids in the Columbia Plateau Region”** (C. Dotson) – Ongoing
 3. **Upper Columbia Fish Screen Monitoring Program Phase I Contract Extension** (J. Korth) – Discussion took place with Danny Didricksen, Jeff Korth and Tom Dresser. Time extensions were given, intake screens were expanded and the boundary was expanded. There was no increased dollar amounts. Korth did have a discussion with Danny regarding long term funding on these projects and Danny understood.
 4. **Upper Columbia Fish Screen Monitoring Program Phase II** (J. Korth) – Discussion took place with Danny Didricksen, Jeff Korth and Tom Dresser. Time extensions were given, intake screens were expanded and the boundary was expanded. There was no increased dollar amounts. Korth did have a discussion with Danny regarding long term funding on these projects and Danny understood.
 5. **Mid-Columbia River Intake Screen and Diversion Assessment (2014-15)** (T. Dresser) – Discussion took place with Danny Didricksen, Jeff Korth and Tom Dresser. Time extensions were given, intake screens were expanded and the boundary was expanded. There was no increased dollar amounts. Korth did have a discussion with Danny regarding long term funding on these projects and Danny understood.
 6. **Lower Wenatchee Instream Flow Enhancement Project Phase II** (J. Korth) – It was suggested to have Aaron Penvose come to the next meeting to give an update and status on this project.

7. **Methow Valley Irrigation District (MVID) Instream Flow Improvement Project** (T. Dresser) – Dresser suggested having Aaron Penvose come to the May meeting to give an update and status on this project.

XI. **Committee Reports** (D. Rohr) – Rohr distributed by email.

XII. **Quarterly NNI and Habitat Funds Report through December 31, 2015** (D. Rohr) – The December 2015 quarterly report was sent out on February 19, 2016 by Grant PUD Accounting covering through the end of 2015. **NNI Fund 601 - \$2,373,607.00, Habitat Supplemental Fund 602 - \$2,770,021.00 and Habitat Fund 603 - \$538,247.00** with a Total Unencumbered Balance for all PRCC Funds at the end of 2015 is **\$5,681,875.00**.

Rohr reviewed the total funds for 2016. **NNI Fund 601 – \$4,341,056.75, Habitat Supplemental Fund 602 - \$3,811,016.86, and Habitat Fund 603 - \$910,114.07**. Total Unencumbered Balance for all PRCC Funds is **\$9,062,187.68**.

XIII. **Next Meeting** – March 23, 2016, SeaTac Radisson Hotel (D. Rohr)

Action Items from February 23, 2016 PRCC Meeting:

1. **Hanford Reach and Protection Flows** (C. Dotson) – Dotson to forward email from Peter Graf to the Committee with the report which he did right after the meeting ended via email to the Committee. **COMPLETED**