



Grant County
PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT
Excellence in Service and Leadership

Priest Rapids Coordinating Committee
Meeting
FINAL APPROVED MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, December 12, 2017
1:00 am
Grant PUD Wenatchee Office

PRCC Representatives

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

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

Meeting Attendees

Jim Craig, Chad Jackson, Curt Dotson, Tom Dresser, Kirk Truscott, Scott Carlon (by phone), Tom Skiles (by phone), Keely Murdoch, Pat Wyena, Wanapum (by phone), Denny Rohr.

Decisions of December 12, 2017 Meeting

1. SOA 2017-07, Acceptance of the 2015, 2016, and 2017 Steelhead Survival Estimates as meeting the (3 yr. ave.) Project Performance Standard" was approved subject to Skiles approval. (Skiles notified Rohr electronically on December 13th of his approval; accordingly, SOA 2017-07 is approved).
2. SOA 2017-06, Goals and Standards for the Yakama Nation Coho Program and Ongoing PRCC HSC Engagement in the Program was approved.
3. SOA 2017-08, Move the Due Date of the Multiyear Synthesis Report of PRCC-Funded Avian Predation Study Results from April 1, 2018 to December 1, 2018 was approved.

- I. **Agenda Review (D. Rohr)** – Skiles requested adding to the agenda a discussion of information received from FERC referencing Consultation with Tribes for the Priest Rapids Project, dated November 29, 2017 (See discussion under agenda item VIII). There were no other additions to the agenda.

- II. **Meeting Minutes (D. Rohr)** – November 22, 2017 meeting were approved with Murdoch requesting additional review; Rohr will follow up with Murdoch for approval by email. Rohr affirmed that he had received approval from Truscott of the October 25, 2017 meeting minutes and they are final approved.
- III. **Action Items Review from November 22, 2017 meeting (See List Below) (D. Rohr)** – Action items have been completed and/or will be discussed further in today's meeting.
- IV. **2017 Steelhead Survival Study** - Rohr noted the comment period was closed for the 2017 Steelhead Survival Study Skalski and Blue Leaf Environmental reports. Dotson reported that he had received comments from Truscott and that his comments were being addressed in the two reports. Next was a discussion of "SOA 2017-07, Acceptance of the 2015, 2016, and 2017 Steelhead Survival Estimates as meeting the (3 yr. ave.) Project Performance Standard". After discussion, the PRCC voted to approve SOA 2017-07 with the exception of Skiles who requested some time for further review. Accordingly, Skiles will notify Rohr in the next few days of his decision. Rohr will keep the PRCC members advised of Skiles decision. **(Editorial Note / Rohr): Skiles notified Rohr electronically the next day on December 13th that he approved SOA 2017-07; accordingly, SOA 2017-07 is approved.**
- V. **Grant PUD Coho Mitigation** – Grant PUD and YN reported that progress was being made and discussions would continue on December 15th. Next the PRCC discussed SOA 2017-06, Goals and Standards for the Yakama Nation Coho Program and Ongoing PRCC HSC Engagement in the Program. **After review and discussion, PRCC members approved SOA 2017-06.**
- VI. **Update Discussion of Estimating the Survival of Juvenile Spring Chinook in Lake Wenatchee** – Carlon reported that Jeff Jorgenson, NMFS life-cycle modeler, has communicated and received PIT Tag data from Peter Graf, Grant regarding Lake Wenatchee survival of juvenile Spring Chinook. Carlon noted that Jorgenson feels there should be additional studies to gather more data and behavioral information than what is being provided by the PIT Tag data. Jackson commented that doing a study similar to what was previously proposed by WDFW (Murdoch and Korth) could provide the information that Jorgenson is wanting. After further discussion, it was agreed that Rohr would schedule a meeting of Jackson, Dotson, Carlon, and himself to address next steps and the development of a draft RFP for the PRCC to review.
- VII. **SOA 2017-08, Move the Due Date of the Multiyear Synthesis Report of PRCC-Funded Avian Predation Study Results from April 1, 2018 to December 1, 2018** – Dotson provided details of the study and background information regarding the request to extend the due date of the study. **Accordingly, after review and discussion, the PRCC approved SOA 2017-08.**
- VIII. **Potpourri – (D. Rohr)** – Rohr called upon Skiles to address the subject item that he requested be added to the meeting agenda to have a discussion of information he had received from FERC dated November 29, 2017 referencing Consultation with Tribes for the Priest Rapids Project. Skiles commented he was hoping to receive some explanation and background regarding this subject. Accordingly, Dresser provided a summary of the project, which entails building a second embankment behind the existing earthen fill at the right bank of Priest Rapids Dam in order to prevent damage or failure in the event of a significant earthquake. Dresser explained there is no

in-water work anticipated at this time, and that the PRCC would become involved if in-water activities were to occur.

IX. GENERAL UPDATES

- A. Avian Predation Activities (C. Dotson) - The 2017 AFEP Annual Review Conference was held in Richland, WA on November 28, 29, 2017. Dotson and Skiles were in attendance. Dotson reported comments made by the USACE and BOR stating they are done with avian predation activities once the 2018 FCRPS BiOp is completed, including any dissuasion activities at Goose Island. Dotson voiced concern during the conference and questioned their involvement in future predation activities on Goose Island and other areas in the Columbia Plateau region. Skiles commented on information during the conference by Real Time Research (RTR) regarding estuary bird colonies. Information was presented that the western population of double crested cormorants has gone down by 40%, and this would remove the activity of lethal take. Skiles questioned this population estimate, because it was stated that for the population number generated, it is only based on birds associated with an active nest, so that birds on the colonies, but not associated with an active nest, are not included in the population count. PRCC members commented that RTR was giving perhaps presentations at the January 24-25, 2018 UCSRB Science Conference for those who would be attending. Rohr will follow up with Skiles on this subject.
- B. Tern Depredation Permit Activities (T. Dresser) – Dresser reported the BOR and USACE has concluded that the tern population is declining by 19%, and the cormorant population by 40% (see discussion in IX (A) above). Skiles described how these numbers were calculated and questions the validity of these numbers.
- C. Spill Report (C. Dotson) – nothing to report
- D. Hatchery Activities (T. Dresser)
 - 1. Carlton Acclimation Facility – transferring operations to Douglas PUD; current transfer date is February 1, 2017 but the date is flexible; Grant feels it best to transfer operations to Douglas PUD because of the support receiving from the Methow; Chewuch and Similkameen moving into Eastbank.
 - 2. Nason Creek Acclimation Facility – Grant working with permitting agencies regarding long term water needs.
 - 3. Priest Rapids Hatchery Modifications – center channel and crowder issues need to be addressed.
 - 4. Penticton Hatchery – nothing to report
- E. Hatchery Permits: Sec 10 Consultation/Summer Chinook, Sec 7 Consultation/Bull Trout. (T. Dresser) – Section 7 permit received from USFWS for the Wenatchee contract.
- F. Review of Outstanding NNI Funded Projects
 - 1. Continued Support for Upper Columbia Fish Screen Monitoring Program (C. Jackson) – nothing to report
 - 2. Lower Wenatchee Instream Flow Enhancement Project Phase II (C. Jackson) – nothing to report

3. Methow Valley Irrigation District (MVID) Instream Flow Improvement Project (T. Dresser) – nothing to report
 4. Predator Fish Recruitment Reduction (B. Rose, K. Murdoch) – proposal is in to the NWPCC and BPA, 2017-006-00.
 5. Northern Pike Removal in Lake Roosevelt (K. Truscott) – 1095 northern pike have been taken by anglers to date as part of the rewards program, which offers \$10/northern pike, to a limit of \$590 per angler.
 6. Satellite Telemetry of Caspian Terns (C. Dotson) – nothing to report.
- X. **Committee Reports** (D. Rohr) – Rohr distributed by email.
- XI. **Qtrly NNI and Habitat Funds Report – 3rd Quarter** (D. Rohr) – nothing new to report; Grant working on year-end report for 2017.
- XII. **Next Meeting** – Wednesday, January 24, 2018, Wanapum Dam HOB, Room 107 (D. Rohr) – decision made to move meeting to 1:00 pm on January 23rd at the Grant Wenatchee office as most PRCC members will be attending the UCSRB Science Conference on January 24th and 25th. Rohr will coordinate with HCP CC, John Ferguson.

Action Items for December 12, 2017 Meeting:

1. Rohr will schedule a meeting of Jackson, Dotson, and Carlon to review and discuss Lake Wenatchee Spring Chinook survival including next steps plus a draft RFP for the PRCC to review.
2. Rohr will follow up with Skiles regarding avian predation activities.
3. Rohr will coordinate January 23rd meeting activities with John Ferguson.