



Grant County
PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT
Excellence in Service and Leadership

Priest Rapids Coordinating Committee

FINAL APPROVED MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

SeaTac Radisson Hotel

PRCC Meeting 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

PRCC Meeting Attendees

Jim Craig, USFWS

Jeff Korth, WDFW (via telephone & in person)

Scott Carlon, NMFS

Denny Rohr, D. Rohr & Assoc., Facilitator

Tom Dresser, GCPUD

Andrew Murdoch, WDFW (via telephone)

Bob Rose, YN

Curt Dotson, GCPUD

Kirk Truscott, CCT (via telephone)

Orlene Hahn, GCPUD (via telephone)

Pat Wyena, GCPUD

ACTION ITEMS from August 24, 2016 PRCC Meeting:

1. **Meeting Minutes Approval for July 27, 2016 (D. Rohr)** – The July 27, 2016 minutes were just sent out to the Committee on August 23, 2016. Korth, Dotson, Rose and Truscott approved them. **Rohr will work with the rest of the Committee via email for approval.**
2. **Discussion: NNI Funding Proposal – “Factors Influencing the Survival of Juvenile Spring Chinook Salmon in Lake Wenatchee, WA”, Andrew Murdoch, WDFW (J. Korth)** – Korth and Rohr will figure out a date to meet before the next PRCC meeting. They will coordinate with Elizabeth McManus regarding the next HSC meeting and possibly tag this half day workshop on to the afternoon of the next HSC meeting.
3. **ACTION ITEM: SOA 2016-04, De-coupling Sub-yearling from Steelhead Performance Standard and Linking to Yearling Chinook for Purpose of Calculating NNI Funding** – Rohr is to work on getting a date set by Doodle poll for a JFP conference call or meeting.

Meeting Minutes

I. Welcome and Introductions

- II. **Agenda Review (D. Rohr)** – No additions were made to the Agenda. Rohr mentioned that the semi-annual “habitat projects tour” to Canada is taking place on October 12-13, 2016. If any of the PRCC are interested in attending he needs to know by the end of the month, which is this Friday, September 30, 2016. Pat Wyena stated he was interested in going. **Rohr will notify Chris Fisher, HSC member.**

- III. **Meeting Minutes Approval: Affirm email approval received of July 27, 2016 minutes; Request approval of August 24, 2016 minutes (D. Rohr)** – The July 27th meeting minutes were approved. The August 24th meeting minutes were approved subject to Korth's approval via email.
- IV. **Action Items Review from August 24, 2016 meeting (D. Rohr)** – All Action Items are complete or will be discussed further during today's meeting.
- V. **ACTION ITEM: SOA 2016-04, Decoupling Sub-yearling from Steelhead Performance Standard and Linking to Yearling Chinook for Purpose of Calculating NNI Funding (C. Dotson)** – There was a September 6th and a September 27th conference call of the JFP that took place for discussion of this SOA. Carlon stated that these two species (steelhead and yearling (spring) Chinook) are different enough and it seems kind of tough to couple them (summer sub-yearling Chinook) to anything and they (JFP) still do not have a solution yet to offer as a "counter-offer" to SOA 2016-04. They are still discussing some ideas. NOAA is not ready to agree to this SOA. Rose said they are not ready. Korth stated they are still discussing alternatives and are not ready to offer them up yet. Rohr offered his help to keep the discussion moving. Carlon and Rose stated they did more talking to their peers in their office in trying to develop an alternative. This is not just Grant PUD's problem (getting a valid summer sub-yearling Chinook survival estimate within a Project), but a problem in the region. It was suggested to have another meeting in the next 30 days. Rose stated that the SSSA says it is Grant PUD's obligation (responsible for sub-yearling meeting performance standard) but he didn't want to see that we divide ourselves into two camps over this. Grant PUD needs to recognize that the SOA as currently written will not be approved and a common solution needs to be found. During discussion Dotson presented a draft copy of an SOA regarding conducting sub-yearling survival studies within the PR Project (SOA 2016-05). This draft SOA would defer sub-yearling survival evaluations until 2020. This will be on the Agenda at the next meeting. Further discussion took place and it was decided that further discussion needed to happen before Oct. 18th was needed. **Rohr is to schedule a couple different one hour calls prior to October 18th and anyone (PRCC) can attend according to Rose.**
- VI. **ACTION ITEM: Close of Comment for Draft 2015 Steelhead / Sockeye Survival Study Report (C. Dotson, K. Truscott)** – Yesterday the newest 2015 Draft report came out. Highlighted yellow sections within the report represent the first set of edits/comments received from the PRCC. Sections highlighted in green represent the second set of edit/comments received from the PRCC. A edit discussed in the meeting was a survival number correction in the text of the report (the Table number was correct). The correct paired release survival estimated is 94.1%. The version document that is under current review is Version 3.1. Grant PUD needs finalization of this report at the October meeting. The 2016 juvenile steelhead survival evaluation report in in development. Currently, statistical analysis is underway by Skalski. A draft report should be ready for discussion at the November 15.
- VII. **ACTION ITEM: NNI Funding Proposal – "Factors Influencing the Survival of Juvenile Spring Chinook Salmon in Lake Wenatchee, WA", Andrew Murdoch, WDFW (J. Korth)** – This project will investigate factors limiting the survival of juvenile spring Chinook Salmon that rear in or migrate through Lake Wenatchee. Following three years of data collection, and in consultation with the PRCC, management actions will be implemented in year four and evaluated post-implementation in year five to assess improvements in juvenile spring Chinook survival.

Grant PUD had several outstanding questions/clarifications related to this evaluation. Dresser asked WDFW staff to confirm total project cost was and what the specific request from NNI would be.

Murdoch stated that the revised spec sheet is dated August 16, 2016. Phase 1 is for 3 years and is \$1,957,027 with \$390,000 to be requested from SRFB at \$130,000 each year. If the entire project is

implemented Phase II and III ramps the total up to \$2,499,598. The biggest cost is the acoustic tags. Murdoch stated that near the end of the three years a conversation would need to be had with PRCC. Dotson asked what the anticipation is for management action. Murdoch stated that right now a potential preferred management action could be that northern pikeminnow are responsible for the predation and that there would be a removal program from this predator. Part of the uncertainty in this proposal is that WDFW has not conducted a fish evaluation in Lake Wenatchee. There is only anecdotal information of what predators exist in Lake Wenatchee. Certainly identifying some action that we can reduce the pikeminnow population would be anticipated. There is more uncertainty on how to reduce predation risk as to call out bull trout is very premature. They are trying to understand how many bull trout there are and how they can get at pikeminnow with little to no impact on bull trout. Murdoch stated this is a pretty intensive study so that the information retrieved during the first three years would be enough to get management action. Dotson asked about a reliable fish source for the tagging of yearling Chinook, citing that the study plan calls for 150 yearling Chinook being trapped and tagged at the screw trap for all five years of the study – stating that the screw trap reports for the past four years on the White River only show a total of 98 yearling Chinook being trapped during those four years. Dotson also asked about the SE associated with the survival estimate generated, based on the given sample sizes of tagged smolts, given the anticipated high mortality rate within the lake. Permitting issues were also discussed as concerns. Rohr asked for a straw vote. Rose stated his vote was yes, but with a level of discomfort. Craig stated he was abstaining on his vote as he has concerns. He didn't feel this study was an appropriate use of NNI funds. He stated that the NNI funding guidance states remedying Project mortality impacts is the priority for NNI Funds and this is a study. He stated that NNI funds have been stretched in the past but we try and find projects that are in the mainstem Columbia River. He recalled that a whole lot of NNI funds have not be spent on just studies. He did not like the amount of funding. Phase III should be pretty similar to Phase I. However, there is a lot of positive data that could come from this. Rohr stated that back some time ago the NNI document was gone through and asked if this study would be violating something. The approved funding guidance was presented to the PRCC in August 2013. Carlon stated that to him this study is just one of those projects where he is straddling the fence. As a straw vote Carlon was agreeable with the study but agreed with Craig that it is stretching the use of the NNI funds stating that it sure would be easier if it wasn't using a huge chunk of a shrinking fund. Korth's straw vote was affirmative. Dotson stated he is still uncomfortable with some aspects and uncertainties of the study. His straw vote at this point and with the concerns he has would be a No vote. Dotson stated that Grant PUD needs to have some more internal discussions. Truscott's straw vote was affirmative. Rohr stated that Skiles has indicated to him that he would go along with the group. Dresser stated that a concern for Grant PUD is that the committee has not considered other possible priorities that may require NNI funding. Dresser also communicated Grant PUD's concern is that they are not responsible for determining predation or predator/prey relationships within a natural lake that has no linkage to Project impacts. He also voiced concern about how this could be viewed as part of the Priest Rapids Project boundary. An additional concern is the large sum of money requested (~\$2.9M). Rohr asked Dotson if there was anything else he needed for when this is brought back again next month for discussion and he said not at this time. Korth also stated that he was not insensitive to the amount of money. Murdoch wanted to reiterate Korth's comments on the process. They tried to follow the process. He stated that it is a lot of money and there are a lot of uncertainties of what they are going to find. He would envision and he would hope that the study would be revisited on an annual basis. Maybe do something at a reduced scope but in doing that we may miss something. There could be a serious check in after year 1 of Phase I making sure the study would be good to go for years 2 and 3. Once we have some information then we would be able to know pretty quickly given the technology that would be used and with that precision what we

are going to do next. Rohr stated that Grant PUD will take a relook and we will talk about this at the next meeting.

VIII. Updates

- A. **Avian Predation Activities (C. Dotson)** – These activities have been wrapped up. Rohr did a good job passing on information from Real Time Research (RTR), and RTR will be giving a presentation of this year's avian predation studies at the Corps' AFEP meeting in Portland. At the end of November we will start seeing the data.
- B. **Hatchery Activities (T. Dresser)** –
1. Carlton Acclimation Facility – In final phases of completing modifications.
 2. Nason Creek Acclimation Facility – The main intake structure work has been completed. Crews continue to install/complete backup system, which should be completed by mid-October. Dresser reported that emergency modifications were in excess of \$1M.
 3. Priest Rapids Hatchery Modifications – Three major milestones have been achieved; center channel corrections, outside paving and incubation room drain corrections.
 4. Penticton Hatchery – nothing new to report
- C. **Hatchery Permits: Sec 10 Consultation/Summer Chinook, Sec 7 Consultation/Bull Trout. (T. Dresser)** – Nothing new to report.
- D. **2016 Survival Study (C. Dotson)** – Still crunching numbers.
- E. **2016 Spill Schedule (C. Dotson)** – Dotson stated that the adult fall-back spill at PR and WD is in place until November 15, 2016. **Rohr is to remove this item from the Agenda.**
- F. **Review of NNI Funded Projects**
1. **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
 2. **Upper Columbia Fish Screen Monitoring Program Phase I - II Contract Extension – (J. Korth)** – Ongoing
 3. **Mid-Columbia River Intake Screen and Diversion Assessment (2016-17) – (T. Dresser)** – Danny Dickerson with WDFW was going to get in touch with the landowner.
 4. **Lower Wenatchee Instream Flow Enhancement Project Phase II – (J. Korth)** – Ongoing
 5. **Methow Valley Irrigation District (MVID) Instream Flow Improvement Project (T. Dresser)** – No Updates.
 6. **Agrilaser – Autonomic (Green Laser) for Caspian Tern Deterrent (C. Dotson)** – Dotson stated that we did not spend the money so this is unencumbered at this time. **Rohr is to remove this item from the Agenda.**
 7. **Predator Fish Recruitment Reduction (B. Rose)** – There is a contract that is in place. **Rohr is to go to Geoff McMichael and ask when a good time would be for him to come and talk to the PRCC.** Rose felt it might work better to get a report in the spring.
- IX. **Committee Reports (D. Rohr)** – Rohr distributed email to PRCC members received from Tracy Hillman, PRFF facilitator, that included the PRFF Meeting Progress Report as follows (the FCWG did not meet in September):

The Priest Rapids Fish Forum (PRFF) met at Grant PUD Natural Resources Office in Wenatchee, WA, on Wednesday, 7 September 2016, from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm.

White Sturgeon Technical Group Updates

- All juvenile sturgeon resulting from the 6x6 spawning matrix are doing well at Marion Drain. Their growth and survival are comparable to those measured last year at this time.
- Grant PUD began juvenile sturgeon index monitoring in September. Grant PUD will increase sampling effort (added an additional boat in Wanapum Reservoir) to improve the precision of growth, survival, and size estimates.
- WDFW continues to monitor the harvest of sturgeon (CRITFC fish) in the recreational fishery within the project area. The fishery will continue through September.

Pacific Lamprey Updates

The PRFF Pacific lamprey subgroup met on 4 August to identify and discuss appropriate lamprey passage metrics, how they are measured, and how unavoidable effects (NNI) are measured. They identified three adult lamprey passage metrics:

- *Within-Fishway Passage Efficiency* = Fraction of adult lamprey that successfully egress a fishway.
 - *Entrance Efficiency* = Proportion of adult lamprey being detected at a fishway entrance at least once after release.
 - *Adjusted Inter-Dam Conversion Rates* = Ratio of adult lamprey counted at an upstream dam to the number counted at a downstream dam, adjusted for overwintering, tributary escapement, predation, fallback/re-ascension, and reservoir/tailrace spawning.
- The Subgroups identified and discussed methods and assumptions associated with each metric. They concluded that Within-Fishway Passage Efficiency is the passage metric most likely to be measured accurately. The other passage metrics have assumptions that are difficult to accept or measure at this time. At least three years of passage efficiency data are needed to estimate variation in the metric.
- In order to evaluate adult lamprey passage in the upper left-bank fishway at Priest Rapids Dam, Grant PUD collected and PIT-tagged 150 adult lamprey and released them in the lower left-bank fishway. As of early September, they detected 148 lamprey, and of those, 84% passed the dam. The average travel time for those fish was 14 hours, which is similar to last year. About 87% of the fish that exited Priest Rapids passed Wanapum Dam.
- As part of the active-tagging study, Grant PUD collected and tagged 100 adult lamprey with acoustic tags (sleep-mode tags) and PIT tags. A total of 70 adult lamprey were released in Wanapum reservoir and 30 in Priest Rapids reservoir. This is the second year of this study. As of early September, 97 have been detected (this is better than last year at this time). Of the 97 fish detected, 76 were detected at least as far upstream as Rock Island tailrace. Of those detected at Rock Island, three were later detected in the lower Wenatchee River and 26 at the Rocky Reach exit. No tagged lamprey were detected moving downstream out of the project area.

Next Steps

The next meeting of the PRFF will be on Wednesday, 5 October 2016 at Grant PUD in Wenatchee, WA.

- X. **Quarterly NNI and Habitat Funds Report (D. Rohr)** – Orlene to send an email asking when the next quarterly report might be expected.
- XI. **Next Meeting** – October 26, 2016 @ 9:00 a.m., **Grant PUD Office, 11 Spokane Street, Suite 205B, Wenatchee.** Discussion took place regarding holding a joint meeting with the HCP Coordinating Committee. Rohr felt it appropriate to have a joint meeting when there is a need. Committee members decided there was not a need at this time. Rohr will discuss with Ferguson.

Action Items from September 28, 2016 PRCC Meeting:

1. Rohr mentioned that the semi-annual project tour to Canada is taking place on October 12-13, 2016. If any of the PRCC are interested in attending he needs to know by the end of the month which is this Friday, September 30, 2016. Pat Wyena stated he was interested in going. **Rohr will notify Habitat SC member Chris Fisher who is coordinating tour details.**
2. **ACTION ITEM:** SOA 2016-04, Decoupling Sub-yearling from Steelhead Performance Standard and Linking to Yearling Chinook for Purpose of Calculating NNI Funding (C. Dotson) – **Rohr is to schedule a couple different one hour calls prior to October 18th and anyone can attend according to Rose.**
3. **2016 Spill Schedule (C. Dotson)** – Dotson stated that the adult fall back spill at PR and WD is in place until November 15, 2016. **Rohr is to remove this item from the Agenda.**
4. **Agrilaser – Autonomic (Green Laser) for Caspian Tern Deterrent (C. Dotson)** – Dotson stated that we did not spend the money so this is unencumbered at this time. **Rohr is to remove this item from the Agenda.**
5. **Predator Fish Recruitment Reduction (B. Rose)** – There is a contract that is in place. **Rohr is to go to Geoff McMichael and ask when a good time would be for him to come and talk to the PRCC.** Rose felt it might work better in the spring.
6. **Quarterly NNI and Habitat Funds Report (D. Rohr)** – Orlene to send an email asking when the next quarterly report might be expected. **Patti Dietmeyer, GCPUD responded after the meeting with the Q2 report via email.**