



Grant County **PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT**

Priest Rapids Coordinating Committee

Wednesday, January 29, 2014

9:00 – 2:00

Grant PUD SeaTac Office

PRCC Members

Scott Carlon/Bryan Nordlund, NMFS
Bob Rose, YN
Jeff Korth, C. Andonaegui, WDFW
Tom Dresser/Curt Dotson, GCPUD

Jim Craig, USFWS
Kirk Truscott, CCT
Carl Merkle, CTUIR
Denny Rohr, Facilitator

Attendees:

Scott Carlon/Bryan Nordlund, NMFS
Bob Rose, YN
Jeff Korth, WDFW
Russell Langshaw, GCPUD (Via Phone)
Debbie Williams (Via Phone)

Jim Craig, USFWS
Kirk Truscott, CCT (Via Phone)
Curt Dotson, GCPUD
Tom Dresser, GCPUD (Via Phone)
Denny Rohr, Facilitator

Decision Summary:

1. The PRCC approved \$79,906.00 from the NNI fund for the "Subyearling Survival Study through the Hanford Reach" proposal.
2. The PRCC approved \$102,814.50 from the NNI fund for the "Mid-Columbia River Intake Screen and Diversion Assessment" proposal.
3. April PRCC meeting will be held via WebEx on April 22nd @ 1:00 p.m.

Distributed Items:

1. Supplementary Tags and Tagging for Assessment of Predation Losses of Subyearling Chinook Salmon in the lower Hanford Reach and Upper McNary Reservoir
 - o PRCC Habitat Funds Project Specifications Sheet
 - o PowerPoint Presentation
2. 2014 Evaluation of Total Dissolved Gas Related to the Operation of Advanced Turbines at Wanapum Dam – Draft Report
3. Habitat Project Master List
4. Habitat Funds – PRCC Unencumbered Project Balances
5. PRCC NNI Funds Project Specifications Sheet – Intake Screen Structure and Diversion Assessment Mid-Columbia River (Rock Island Dam to Vernita Bridge)

6. Finding of No Significant Impact – Inland Avian Predation Management Plan
7. Geochemical Analysis of Fin Rays to Identify Spring-Run Chinook Salmon Populations in the Wenatchee Basin Using Inductively Coupled-Mass Spectrometry
8. Briefing Reports – Fall Chinook Work Group & Priest Rapids Fish Forum

Action Items:

1. Comments due January 31, 2014 for the "Evaluation of Total Dissolved Gas Related to the Operation of Advanced Turbines at Wanapum Dam."
2. Williams and Dresser will make sure that Chris Fisher's comments are included in the draft of the "PRCC and PRCC Habitat Subcommittee Active and Pending Habitat Projects."
3. Comments due January 31, 2014 for the "PRCC and PRCC Habitat Subcommittee Active and Pending Habitat Projects."
4. Read Section 14.5 of the Salmon Steelhead Settlement Agreement in preparation of the Habitat Project Evaluation proposal.
5. Williams will send the Box.net link for LiDar maps to the PRCC.
6. Williams will send Truscott a small copy of the Salmon Steelhead Settlement Agreement.
7. Comments due March 7, 2014 for the "Draft Report of Geochemical Analysis of Scales and Fin Rays."
8. Williams will send hard copies of the "Draft Report of Geochemical Analysis of Scales and Fin Rays" to PRCC members.
9. Langshaw will send hard copies of the "Draft Report of Geochemical Analysis of Scales and Fin Rays" to the PRCC Hatchery Subcommittee.
10. Williams will distribute a PRCC mailing list to members.
11. Williams will schedule the April 22nd PRCC WebEx.

Final Meeting Minutes

- I. **Welcome and Introductions** - Rohr welcomed members and guests. Self-introductions were made.
- II. **Meeting Minutes Approval** – December 18, 2013 - Approved
- III. **Agenda Review** – No additions were made to the agenda.
- IV. **Action Items Review – December 18, 2013** – All action items were complete.
- V. **Action Item: Proposal for "Subyearling Survival Study through the Hanford Reach"** – During studies conducted in Phase II of the Hanford Reach Fall Chinook Protection Plan, it was found that significant mortality was occurring between the Hanford Reach (natural origin smolts) and McNary Dam. Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL) has requested funding from the Pacific Salmon Commission Northern Fund, to provide additional acoustic (JSATS) transmitters to supplement those that will be used in a Pacific Salmon Commission funded study to determine losses of Hanford Reach subyearling fall Chinook salmon in the lower Hanford Reach and upper McNary Reservoir. At today's meeting, \$79,906.00 was requested from the No Net Impact (NNI) fund to purchase supplementary tags for 200 fish of Priest Rapids Hatchery origin during the same time period. If for some reason the Northern Fund proposal is not funded, PNNL will withdraw its proposal for NNI funds.

\$79,906 from the NNI Fund was approved by the PRCC for this proposal. Langshaw will notify Rohr if the Northern Funding is approved. (Subsequent to the meeting, Langshaw notified Rohr that the Pacific Salmon Commission Northern Funding Committee funded the Hanford proposal.)

- VI. ACTION ITEM: Proposal for “Mid-Columbia River Intake Screen and Diversion Assessment”**
The goal of this assessment is to reduce juvenile salmonid and Pacific lamprey ammocete mortality that could potentially occur due to improperly screened, or unscreened, irrigation diversion structures located within the Mid-Columbia (as defined above). Mortality would be reduced by inspecting points of water diversion (POD’s) to determine type, status, and condition of existing screens in the first phase of a two-phase project. Then, either existing screens would be upgraded or new screens installed (unless current screens meet WDFW and NMFS criteria) that did not previously exist in the second phase. If funded, Phase I would begin immediately with scoping and land owner contacts, but underwater field work would occur during a time when irrigation pumps are off for safety reasons, either before or after the 2014 irrigation season. The term of this proposal is 1 year. If additional funding is necessary from the PRCC after the 1 year term, a new project proposal shall be submitted to the PRCC to request additional funding. \$102,814.50 over a 1 year period is being requested from the NNI Fund.

\$102,814.50 from the NNI Fund was approved by the PRCC for this proposal.

- VII. Draft Document Review: “Evaluation of Total Dissolved Gas Related to the Operation of Advanced Turbines at Wanapum Dam” – Comments due January 31, 2014** - The report was distributed electronically by Debbie Firestone, GPUD, on January 7, 2014. Comments are due to Carson Keeler, GPUD, at 509-754-5088, Ext. 2687 or ckeeler@gcpud.org, by January 31, 2014. No gas production was found from the 10 units operated under three different operating scenarios.
- VIII. Review List of Projects: “PRCC and PRCC Habitat Subcommittee Active and Pending Habitat Projects”** – This document was updated after the combined PRCC/PRCC Habitat Subcommittees meeting on December 18, 2013. The document dated 12.30.13 is the latest draft. Dresser is using this to update information being sent to FERC. Comments due to Dresser by January 31, 2014. **Williams and Dresser will make sure that Chris Fisher’s comments are included in the draft.**
- IX. Discussion of Proposal to Habitat SC about Habitat Project Evaluation** – Rose asked PRCC members to talk to their PRCC Habitat Subcommittee members about an upcoming proposal, which will use a systematic approach for identifying PRCC and HCP habitat projects and the monitoring of habitat projects. The hope is that this proposal will help demonstrate that habitat projects can increase productivity while identifying habitat areas that don’t increase capacity or production. PRCC members should review Habitat Plan requirements as outlined in the FERC License, Section 14.5. **Williams will send the Box.net link for LiDar maps to the PRCC.**
- X. Review of Discussion in Hatchery SC about Future Monitoring** – The PRCC Hatchery Subcommittee has had discussions regarding discontinuance of rotary screw traps in the White River (WR) and Nason Creek (NC) as part of ongoing hatchery monitoring and evaluations. Grant PUD feels as though there are methods other than rotary screw traps that produce more usable smolt data as it relates to the WR and NC, some Hatchery SC members disagreed. GPUD agreed to continue use of rotary screw traps at all locations, but wants to continue this discussion because of the low number of fish collected at the WR.
- XI. Draft Report of Geochemical Analysis of Scales and Fin Rays - Request for Review and Comment with Comment Deadline of February 26th** – The report was distributed electronically on January 25th. Close of comments is March 7th, as opposed to February 26th. **Williams will send**

hard copies to PRCC members. The PRCC asked that the Hatchery Subcommittee also review this document and provide comments.

XII. Updates

- A. **Inland Avian Predation Work Group (IAPWG) Activities and Meeting Schedules** – Rohr distributed the Inland Avian Predation Management Plan Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) on January 24th. USACE and BOR are the primary agencies responsible for implementation of the Inland Avian Management Plan (IAMP) on Crescent and Goose Islands. USACE and Grant PUD have both contracted with OSU and Reel Time Research to conduct the work associated with the IAMP. They will also coordinate funding to assure that NNI funds not be used for any items identified as the responsibility of the Federal agencies. Materials used to create the dissuasion grid will be purchased by the USACE and BOR. Rohr reported that David Trachtenberg will provide an update to the PRCC at a future meeting, probably in May. **Williams will send Truscott a small copy of the Salmon Steelhead Settlement Agreement. Williams will distribute a PRCC mailing list to all PRCC members.**
- B. **Priest Rapids Bypass** – Dresser invited PRCC members to the Priest Rapids Bypass ribbon cutting ceremony on April 23, 2014 at 9:30 a.m. Invitations for the celebration and lunch, will be sent next week. Because of the celebration, the **April PRCC meeting will be held via WebEx on April 22nd @ 1:00 p.m.** Rohr will contact Mike Schiewe to make sure this schedule does not conflict with HCP Coordinating Committee activities.

Dotson reported that the last ogee concrete pour took place last week, and that stainless steel end caps are now being installed. LifeLast™, a coating to smooth out the concrete surface, was installed on Bay 22; application to Bay 21 will occur next week. The contractor is in the last phase of project completion; the project will be completed by April 1st

- C. **Priest Rapids Turbine Installation** – PNNL and Grant PUD engineering staff are drafting a white paper on the evaluation of each turbine design and how it's scored on the Biological Performance Assessment (BioPA).
- D. **Hatchery Construction Activities** – Dresser reported the following:
- **Carlton** – Things are going well; construction should be complete within the next couple of months. Currently waiting for the water system master controller to be delivered. Dresser is not aware of any potential impacts that will cause the facility not to be ready for fish.
 - **Nason Creek** – On schedule with completion expected in June 2014.
 - **Priest Rapids** - Grant PUD is working with WDFW on 65 modifications that were identified as needing to be addressed. The list is being prioritized for work to be completed between now and September 1st. Some of the critical items listed included: how to collect, hold, and remove fish from the adult trap, as well as how to bypass flows around the trap in order to reduce mortality. 28 items identified as critical will be completed by September 1st.
- E. **Hatchery Permits (Section 10 for summer Chinook and Section 7 consultation for Bull Trout)** – Dresser reported that Grant PUD staff is working through the permit process with USFWS and NOAA.
- F. **NNI Funded Projects**
- **Upper Columbia Fish Screen Monitoring Program** – Ongoing.
- G. **Committee Reports** – FCWG and PRFF reports were distributed by Rohr.

- H. **NNI and Habitat Funds Report** – Rohr sent the reports electronically on January 27, 2014. Annual funding to Habitat Accounts will be deposited on February 14th: NNI \$1,909,231.30, Habitat Supplemental \$1,010,191.99, Habitat BiOp \$360,863.24.

Fund	Balance	Unencumbered Balance
No Net Impact Fund 601	\$5,755,923	\$4,776,707
Habitat Supplemental Fund 602	\$4,971,955	\$3,099,604
Habitat Fund 603	\$1,013,351	\$600,893
Total	\$11,741,229	\$8,477,204

- I. **Other** – Dresser reminded PRCC members that Grant PUD’s annual Progress and Implementation Draft Report will be distributed next week for comments. It is due to FERC by April 15th.

XIII. **Review of Next Month’s Agenda Topics** – No specific topics were discussed.

XIV. **Next Meeting - Wednesday, February 26, 2014 at Grant PUD’s SeaTac office.**