

# PRCC POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING

April 17, 2009

10:00 am – 2:00 pm

Grant PUD SeaTac Office

Meeting Attendees (\* indicates Policy Committee Member):

\*Bill Tweit, WDFW

\*Keith Kirkendall, NOAA

\*Joe Peone, CCT

\*Gerry O'Keefe, GPUD

Richelle Beck, D. Rohr & Assoc

\*Jim Craig, USFWS

\*Steve Parker, YN

Scott Carlon, NMFS

Denny Rohr, Facilitator

**I. Welcome and Agenda Review:** Rohr welcomed meeting attendees and reviewed the meeting agenda. There were no additional agenda items.

**II. Purpose of Meeting:** Rohr stated this is the first meeting of the PRCC Policy Committee, and accordingly the meeting will include a discussion of Policy Committee organization.

### **III. Organization of Policy Committee**

**A. Discussion - Committee Membership/Designation of Representatives:** Rohr stated the membership of the Policy Committee includes entities represented at this meeting, plus the Umatillas who were not in attendance. The Umatillas are not signers of the SSSA, but they are listed in the Biological Opinion of the Priest Rapids Project as an affected party. Additionally, the Committee recognized that the Wanapum are participants in the Policy Committee meetings as well. Rohr provided a formal membership list of the names he had received from each entity designating their respective representatives:

WDFW Bill Tweit, representative

USFWS Jim Craig, representative

Grant PUD Gerry O'Keefe, representative  
Joe Lukas, alternate

Colvilles Joe Peone, representative  
Jerry Marco, alternate

Yakama Nation

Phil Rigdon, representative

Paul Ward, alternate

Steve Parker, technical representative

Bob Rose, alternate technical representative

NMFS	Bruce Suzumoto, representative Keith Kirkendall, alternate
Umatilla	Carl Merkle, representative
Wanapum	Rex Buck, representative Alyssa Buck, alternate

**B. Discussion - Meeting Process:** The Committee agreed to meet near the end of each year to receive PRCC and subcommittee updates on current operations, information, data, and study results, plus review and discuss goals for the upcoming year. It was generally recognized that the purpose of the Committee was limited to issues that the PRCC was unable to resolve consistent with the terms of the SSSA.

In addition, the Committee will set a mid-year place holder meeting in case a policy discussion is needed to address subjects of interest.

Committee members asked about the established timeline when an issue is placed into the dispute resolution process. Rohr stated there is a clearly defined procedure set up in the Salmon and Steelhead Settlement Agreement (SSSA) stating the Policy Committee needs to meet within 60 days of a dispute being elevated to their level, but the Committee is also given the flexibility to extend that deadline if they deem it necessary.

Rohr was directed to develop draft Policy Committee protocols for review by the Committee. Rohr was asked to ensure that the draft protocols remain consistent with the parameters of the SSSA.

**IV. PR Hatchery Fish Marking Review and Discussion:** While the Priest Rapids Hatchery Fish Marking Review and Discussion was removed from the agenda two days prior to the meeting at the request of WDFW, the committee continued with a discussion of the issue. WDFW raised the subject to the PRCC Policy Committee after it had been discussed first at the PRCC Hatchery Subcommittee and next at the PRCC without receiving consensus support.

Tweit stated for 2009 WDFW will accept otolith marking the fish, but that WDFW would like to see this change to an adipose mark effective in 2010. Tweit stated WDFW has committed to the Yakamas and USvOR parties to conduct some model runs regarding fish marking, and they are working to finalize the modeling plan. WDFW will be using the modeling plan to work with the USvOR technical advisory group to evaluate potential impacts to harvest. WDFW will need about 3 months to identify harvest impacts through the modeling process, and how to address those impacts. At this point, WDFW's intent is to present the subject to USvOR parties in their June meeting, and then discuss the subject further with the PRCC Policy Committee at a future meeting.

Rohr noted that the issue is in formal dispute within the PRCC, the PRCC and the PRCC Hatchery Subcommittee did not reach consensus on the issue, and WDFW asked to have the dispute elevated to the Policy Committee. In order to comply with the SSSA dispute resolution process, an extension of time is needed if WDFW wants additional time to do modeling studies as discussed. Accordingly, the Committee extended the dispute resolution time period to August 25<sup>th</sup>.

Additionally, the Committee set the next Policy Committee meeting for August 18<sup>th</sup> to couple with the new time extension of August 25<sup>th</sup>.

**V. PRCC and Subcommittee Updates: (No Discussion).**

**VI. Next Meeting:** The next meeting will be Tuesday, August 18<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 am. Possible agenda items include the following:

- Status on the development of the Wenatchee Spring Chinook Implementation Plan.
- Sturgeon
- Adult Broodstock Management
- PR Hatchery Fish Marking
- NMFS' Hatchery Operations EIS
- Brief reports from PRCC and subcommittees
- Discussion regarding how to deal with FERC regarding timelines and what can be done to help speed up the process