



Priest Rapids Coordinating Committee Meeting

FINAL APPROVED MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, March 24, 2020

1:00 pm

TEAMS CONFERENCE CALL

PRCC Representatives

Scott Carlon, Justin Yeager (Alt), NMFS
Keely Murdoch, Brandon Rogers (Alt), YN
Chad Jackson, P. Verhey (Alt) WDFW
Curt Dotson, Peter Graf (Alt), GCPUD
Denny Rohr, D. Rohr & Assoc, Facilitator

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

PRCC Meeting Attendees

Curt Dotson, GPUD
Keely Murdoch, YN
Scott Carlon, NMFS
Tom Skiles, CTUIR
Chad Jackson, WDFW (absent)
Dave Blodgett, YN

Peter Graf, GPUD
Denny Rohr, D. Rohr & Assoc, Facilitator
Erin Harris, GPUD
Jim Craig, USFWS
Kirk Truscott, CCT
Patrick Verhey, WDFW

Decisions made during March 24, 2020 meeting

1. February 25, 2020 meeting minutes approved.

MEETING MINUTES

- I. **Welcome and Introductions –**
- II. **Agenda Review (D. Rohr) – No additions**
- III. **Meeting Minutes (D. Rohr)**
 - A. February 25, 2020 – Approved by all committee members.

IV. Review of Actions Items from February 25, 2020 Conference Call/Meeting (D. Rohr)

1. Rohr will contact Skiles for review of committee decision of discontinuing consideration and discussion of an RFP approach regarding Lake Wenatchee and juvenile Spring Chinook migration - **completed.**
2. Rohr will distribute Q&A's received from Jeff Jorgenson and sent to Peter Graf regarding Wenatchee Basin Juvenile Carrying Capacity Estimates- **completed.**

V. Review of 2020 Meeting Logistics and Changes (D. Rohr) – Rohr reviewed the new meeting schedule and reminded committee members of the review to take place in July. There were no additional comments from committee members.

VI. Review of 2013 PRCC NNI Funding Guidance Document (D. Rohr) – Rohr provided some review and discussion of the document. Some committee members commented they had not reviewed the document and requested more time prior to a more detailed discussion. When asked about the purpose of the document review, Rohr commented the recent discussion of a PRCC Habitat Subcommittee request for consideration of NNI funding resulted in his opinion that a review of the document would be appropriate. Accordingly, he requested committee members take time to review the document and be prepared to discuss it in more detail at the next PRCC meeting. Rohr will also distribute a copy of the document to the PRCC HabSC members as Graf requested. **Action:** Rohr will distribute the NNI Funding Guidance Document to the Habitat committee.

VII. CRITFC Avian Predation Activities (T. Skiles, D. Rohr) – Tom Skiles shared that CRITFC has been in communications with USFWS Assistant Director Jerome Ford, Migratory Bird Program, in Washington D.C. regarding management of piscivorous water birds in the Columbia River Basin. CRITFC is also working with the NWPCC regarding this issue. Blaine Parker, CRITFC, has reached out to Ford and is working on him coming to the northwest to tour several avian predation sites. Curt Dotson was being invited to take part in the tour as well. However, things have changed with the current Covid-19 shelter-in-place orders and the tour has now been postponed. When a new tour date is determined, Skiles will let the PRCC committee know. Rohr shared his opinion that the awareness of the avian predation issue in the Columbia Basin has increased, and continued discussion and focus on this subject is needed to continue to raise the awareness even higher. Rohr reported that Jaime Pinkham, CRITFC Executive Director, and Blaine Parker, CRITFC staff, recently made a presentation to the NWPCC outlining the avian predation issues throughout the Columbia Basin and the work CRITFC is planning to address this issue. The NWPCC has also increased their focus on this issue as well and pledged to work with CRITFC moving forward. Skiles shared that the PRCC has done 15-20 years of research on avian predation that has resulted in a huge body of data. He commented that we are now making the switch from research to

active management. Rohr applauded all the good and long-term work that Curt Dotson has done for PRCC on the avian predation issue, plus the work of Tom Skiles and CRITFC. Kirk Truscott shared his appreciation for Tom Skiles and his organization plus PRCC members dedication as well. Truscott also inquired about 2020 RTR monitoring activities asking if their staff can get out into the active nesting areas. Skiles shared that the Governor's Covid19 virus shelter-in-place orders are in effect and everyone is trying to understand and get answers regarding specific details. Dotson shared he will be on a conference call later today with RTR to discuss plans and a possible path forward at this time. Since the orders have just been announced by the Governor to shelter-in-place, this will be the topic of the conference call with RTR, and Dotson hopes to also have discussion with the BOR in Boise and USDA staff. Dotson also shared he has no new information at this time from the BOR on dissuasion activities.

Action: Rohr will communicate with Dotson and Skiles regarding ongoing activities and keep PRCC members advised.

VIII. Potpourri (D. Rohr)

- A. Final 2019 G. McMichael Predator Recruitment Report – The final report is posted on Jeff McMichael's website. **Action:** Rohr will send the final to the PRCC members.
- B. Final Annual P&I Report – Dotson shared Deb Firestone, GCPUD, sent it out last month to PRCC members with a comment period ending on the 25th of March. No comments were received or shared during today's meeting. The filing deadline for the report is April 15th. **Action:** Dotson will send the final report to Rohr for distribution.
- C. Microsoft TEAMS application – Erin Harris shared how Grant PUD is training staff to use Microsoft Teams. Erin provided two TEAMS demos for PRCC committee members, plus she is available to help with any TEAMS questions and training for PRCC members. Future PRCC meetings that are held in person will have Teams included in the appointment.

GENERAL UPDATES

- IX. **Avian Predation Activities** (C. Dotson) Curt Dotson covered this in earlier agenda item.
- X. **FCRPS BiOp – Corps/BOR Avian Predation Management in Columbia Plateau Region** (C. Dotson) – Nothing new to report.
- XI. **Review of Outstanding NNI Funded Projects**
 - A. Continued Support for UC Fish Screen Program / D. Didricksen quarterly report update (D. Rohr, C. Jackson) - Rohr spoke with Danny Didricksen, WDFW, and with Chad Jackson's approval, Danny will present at the next meeting.
 - B. Lower Wenatchee Instream Flow Enhancement Project Phase II (C. Jackson, D. Rohr) – Nothing new to report.

- C. "Non-Native Predator Recruitment Reduction – Phase II" (K. Murdoch) – Murdoch will contact Geoff McMichael to ask about his work plans for the spring research studies. Committee members will be kept advised.
- D. "Northern Pike Removal in Lake Roosevelt" (K. Truscott) - Truscott shared they are having a brief disruption in activities as it relates to the current Covid 19 virus issues, and right now no Northern Pike are being removed.
- E. 2020 Quincy Valley Tourism Association Northern Pikeminnow Fishing – Dotson shared that Grant's Recreations facilities are now closed until April due to the Covid19 virus issue, and the 2020 Fishing Derby is currently being evaluated. Committee members will be kept advised.
- F. Avian Predation on ESA-listed Juvenile Salmonids on the Mid-Columbia River, 2020, Real Time Research (C. Dotson) – see discussion above

XII. Committee Reports (D. Rohr) – Rohr distributed reports to committee members.

XIII. NNI and Habitat Funds Report (D. Rohr) - Rohr sent out Q4, end of year report, and also annual deposits made on February 15, 2020. Committee members were requested to contact him if they have questions.

XIV. Next Meeting – Tuesday, April 28, 2020, 1:00 pm, Conference Call

Action Items from March 24, 2020 meeting

1. Rohr will send the 2013 PRCC NNI Funding Guidance Document to the Habitat SC.
2. Rohr will communicate with Dotson and Skiles regarding ongoing activities associated with avian predation in 2020 and keep PRCC members advised.
3. Rohr will send the Final 2019 G. McMichael Predator Recruitment Report to the PRCC members.
4. Dotson will send the Final Annual P&I Report to Rohr for distribution.

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