



Grant County  
**PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT**  
*Excellence in Service and Leadership*

## Priest Rapids Coordinating Committee Meeting

### FINAL APPROVED MEETING MINUTES

#### Conference Call

Wednesday, October 23, 2019

10:00 am

#### PRCC Representatives

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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

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Curt Dotson, GPUD  
Keely Murdoch, YN  
Scott Carlon, NMFS  
Kirk Truscott, CCT (absent)  
Chad Jackson, WDFW (absent)

Jim Craig, USFWS (absent)  
Tom Skiles, CTUIR  
Peter Graf, GPUD  
Denny Rohr, Facilitator  
Erin Harris, GPUD

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#### Decision made during October 23, 2019 meeting

1. None
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### Meeting Minutes

#### I. Welcome and Introductions

PRCC Meeting  
Meeting Minutes  
October 23, 2019

**II. Agenda Review (D. Rohr) – Nothing additional**

**III. Meeting Minutes (D. Rohr)**

- A. July 24, 2019 Meeting – Affirmed final approval
- B. August 28, 2019 Meeting – Under committee review
- C. September 25, 2019 Meeting – Under committee review

**IV. Review of Actions Items from September 25, 2019 Meeting (D. Rohr)**

- A. All committee members will send comments to Rohr in preparation for next PRCC meeting and Lake Wenatchee activities review and discussion, including proposal of path forward. – See agenda item VI below
- B. Rohr will follow up with information regarding Lake Wenatchee activities. – See agenda item VI below.
- C. Rohr will distribute Final Approved copy of SOA 2019-01. Completed.
- D. Murdoch will follow up with McMichael on PRCC decisions of path forward for “Non-Native Predator Recruitment Reduction Project” activities. – Completed.
- E. Jackson will follow up with D. Didricksen regarding WDFW Screening Project and No-Cost Change Order plus details related to Stemilt Screen Project and Land-Owner Agreement. – Rohr will follow up with Jackson.
- F. Carlon will follow up with NOAA attorney regarding possible avian predation discussions with BOR attorney. – Completed.
- G. Rohr will contact K.Geris, HCP CC, regarding November and December meeting schedules. – Completed.

**V. No-Cost Change Order to HFA 601-28, Upper Columbia Basin Screening Contract (C. Jackson, C. Dotson)**

- A. Update of approved December 31, 2020 Change Order – change order has been signed by parties and completed.
- B. Status of Landowner Agreement for Stemilt Screen Project – Jackson is absent from today’s meeting and Rohr will follow up with him regarding status.

**VI. Committee Review and Discussion of Lake Wenatchee Activities Regarding White River Spring Chinook Juvenile Migration (D. Rohr) – An action item from the September 25<sup>th</sup> PRCC meeting was for committee members to send their questions regarding Lake Wenatchee and White River activities to Rohr in preparation for review and discussion during today’s meeting. Accordingly, the following was received from Murdoch and no other questions were received from other members.**

*Draft Questions for the Life Cycle Model*

- 1) *What is the extinction risk for the White River spring Chinook in the absence of a supplementation program?*
  - a. *What is the probability of persistence of the WR spawning aggregate (all life histories) without hatchery supplementation?*
- 2) *What are the limiting life stage(s) for White River spring Chinook?*
  - a. *Will supplementation help ameliorate the limiting life stages?*
  - b. *What other actions can help ameliorate limiting life stages? (Habitat improvement, lake survival, supplementation, etc?)*
- 3) *How would supplementation in the White River affect VSP parameters (abundance, productivity, diversity, spatial structure)*
  - a. *Will supplementation increase NOR abundance?*
  - b. *What is the capacity: spawning capacity, rearing capacity for fall migrants, rearing capacity for spring migrants, etc.*
  - c. *What supplementation program size (release number) is appropriate for the habitat?*
  - d. *What other actions (excluding supplementation) could provide a greater benefit to VSP parameters?*

Committee members present reviewed and discussed Murdoch's draft questions plus additional memorandums and information previously received from the PRCC Hatchery SC regarding this subject. It was noted that having 3 committee members missing from today's meeting made it difficult to discuss details of a possible path forward. Carlon commented that NMFS is beginning their 5-year Status Review of the White River and the resulting information would be helpful as we work through this process. Accordingly, after continued review, there was agreement to have a thorough discussion during the November meeting when all members are expected to be present.

**VII. Potpourri (D. Rohr) – nothing additional for discussion.**

### **GENERAL UPDATES**

**VIII. Avian Predation Activities (C. Dotson) –** The first installment of draft documents associated with the "Avian Predation Synthesis Report" that the PRCC cost-shared and RTR is writing were distributed to committee members. The results given in this report are for colony and ESU/DPS-specific predation rates associated with Appendix A (Methods) and B (Data Tables) of the Report. Results will be incorporated into Chapters 1 – 4 of the Report, whereby RTR will summarize and synthesize predation rates across managed and unmanaged colonies in the Columbia River basin. A draft of Chapters 1 – 4 of the full report, however, is not due until March 2020, but RTR is trying to roll-out the results as they become available in support of NOAA's 2020 BiOp. The funding to complete this aspect of the Synthesis Report was from a cost-sharing venture between the PRCC, BPA, ODFW and USACE. In general, the Corps supported a summary of previously reported predation rate estimates, while BPA, the PRCC, and ODFW supported several retrospective predation rate estimates.

Additional Draft Synthesis Report roll-out documents are expected in the coming weeks/months.

- IX. FCRPS BiOp – Corps/BOR Avian Predation Management in Columbia Plateau Region (C. Dotson)** - Carlon shared his ongoing conversation with Lynn Krasnow, NMFS, who noted that Michael Tehan does not agree with any reduction in avian management in the Columbia Plateau. Lynn is reviewing the draft Synthesis Report.
- X. Update and Review of the White River Spring Chinook Mitigation 2026 Decision Framework (D. Rohr)** – See agenda item VI above.
- XI. Review of Outstanding NNI Funded Projects**
- A. Continued Support for UC Fish Screen Program (C. Jackson) – See agenda item V above.
  - B. Lower Wenatchee Instream Flow Enhancement Project Phase II (C. Jackson, D. Rohr) – Rohr commented this project is to increase flow in the lower Wenatchee River with a pressurized system. An internal water rights review initiated by their attorney has resulted in some delay. It appears the project might be back on track with funding from an additional source. Rohr will keep members advised as more information is received.
  - C. “Non-Native Predator Recruitment Reduction – Phase I” (K. Murdoch) – Ongoing, no additional information. A final report will be developed by January 31, 2020.
  - D. “Northern Pike Removal in Lake Roosevelt” (K. Truscott) – Information was distributed with the monthly PRFF Report.
  - E. 2020 Quincy Valley Tourism Association Northern Pikeminnow Fishing Derby. Approved and ongoing.
- XII. Committee Reports (D. Rohr)** – Graf shared the Hanford Reach Fall Chinook redd counts just started and the first survey was performed last Sunday with future surveys to be performed over the next few Sundays. Graf sends out reports that are distributed to committee members when received. Committee members should contact Graf directly with questions.
- XIII. NNI and Habitat Funds Report (D. Rohr)** – Erin Harris will follow up on status of the Q3 report.
- XIV. Next Meetings (Please Note Date/Time Changes) (D. Rohr)** – November 19, 2019, 9:00 am, Wanapum Dam, HOB, Room 107; December 17, 2019, 1:00 pm, Grant PUD Wenatchee Office.

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