



Grant County
PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT
Excellence in Service and Leadership

**Priest Rapids Fish Forum
Meeting**

**Wednesday, 5 June 2019
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**

MEETING MINUTES

PRFF REPRESENTATIVES

Steve Lewis, USFWS
Ralph Lampman, YN
Pat Wyena, Wanapum
Kirk Truscott, Jason McLellan, CCT
Mike Clement, Chris Mott Grant PUD
Tracy Hillman, Facilitator

Patrick Verhey, Laura Heironimus, WDFW
Breean Zimmerman, WDOE
Aaron Jackson, Carl Merkle, CTUIR
Keith Hatch, BIA
Tom Skiles, CRITFC/CTUIR
Erin Harris, Grant PUD

ATTENDEES

Kirk Truscott, CCT
RD Nelle, USFWS (Via Phone)
Patrick Verhey, WDFW
Tom Skiles, CRITFC (Via Phone)
Erin Harris, Grant PUD
Tracy Hillman, Facilitator

Chris Mott, Grant PUD
Jason McLellan, CCT (Via Phone)
Ralph Lampman, YN (via phone)
Laura Heironimus, WDFW (Via Phone)
Mike Clement, Grant PUD
Doris Squeochs, Wanapum

Action Items:

- Tracy Hillman will send the white sturgeon memo to the PRFF Policy Committee and request feedback from the Policy Committee by 8 July 2019.

- I. **Welcome and Introductions** – Tracy Hillman welcomed everyone, and participants introduced themselves.
- II. **Agenda Review** – Members reviewed and approved the agenda with the addition of an update on the northern pike suppression efforts in Lake Roosevelt.
- III. **Approve May Meeting Notes** – Draft May Meeting Notes were approved.
 - A. **Action Items from May Meeting:**
 - 1. Members will send text for the white sturgeon memo to Tracy Hillman by Friday, 10 May 2019. **Complete.**
 - 2. Tracy Hillman will compile all the information for the white sturgeon memo and send it to the PRFF for review before the PRFF 5 June meeting. **Complete.**
- IV. **White Sturgeon Management Plan**
 - A. **Update on Juvenile Release** – Chris Mott reported that they released 2,657 juvenile sturgeon into the project area in May. A total of 1,767 juvenile sturgeon at 2.6 fish/lb (174.6 g/fish) were released at Frenchman Coulee (Wanapum Reservoir) and 890 juvenile sturgeon at 2.87 fish/lb (158.2 g/fish) were released into the Wanapum tailrace (Priest Rapids Reservoir). Chris noted that all fish looked good as they were being released.
 - B. **Update on Broodstock Collection** – Chris Mott said they fished for 14 days and captured a total of 93 sturgeon. Broodstock collection occurred on 15 to 24 May and 31 May to 3 June downstream from McNary Dam. A decrease in water temperatures and catch (temps dropped to 12.3°C) caused an interruption in fishing. Although they captured several large sturgeon, most were not ripe. Chris said they retained six males and five females for broodstock. Recall, the goal is to spawn six males and six females (6 x 6 matrix). Working with ODFW, they tagged 15 males, five ripe females, and three F4 females in support of the ODFW study. These fish were released into the reservoir and will be tracked by ODFW. Chris said they will spawn the sturgeon at the Yakama Nation Sturgeon Hatchery on Friday, 14 June. Volunteers are welcome and need to contact Donella Miller. Chris added that one female has an average PI score of 0.13.
 - C. **Three-Year Check-in with Policy Committee** – Tracy Hillman said he compiled all the information he received from members and updated the memo, which will be sent to the PRFF Policy Committee. He sent the draft memo to the PRFF on 29 May asking for edits/comments. Tracy said he received one question from Steve Lewis regarding a missing survival estimate for 2018. Jason McLellan responded that the Cormack-Jolly-Seber model does not calculate a survival estimate for the last sampling period; thus, there will be no survival estimate for 2018.

Tracy thanked all those who contributed to the memo and said he will send the memo to the Policy Committee. He will request that the Policy Committee provide feedback by 8 July. If they agree with the recommendation by the PRFF, which is to proceed with the SOA with no changes, then there will be no Policy Committee meeting. However, if they disagree with the PRFF recommendation, Tracy will schedule a Policy Committee meeting to address any changes or modifications to the SOA.
 - D. **Other White Sturgeon Items** – None.
- V. **Pacific Lamprey Management Plan**
 - A. **Update on Pacific Lamprey Adult Trapping in 2019** – Mike Clement indicated that the HDX systems will be turned on by 24 June at both Wanapum and Priest Rapids dams. He said roughly 50-100 adult lamprey are passing Bonneville Dam per day. When they see about 50 or more adult lamprey per ladder at Priest Rapids Dam, they will begin trapping.

He said this will likely occur at the end of July or early August and depends on the return year. They (Grant PUD) will replace cables on the wenches that are used to raise and lower the traps. Regarding coordination with Douglas PUD and providing them with fish, Mike said there has been some discussion/coordination with Douglas PUD. The Aquatic Settlement Work Group (ASWG) needs to decide the timing, transportation, and release locations for Douglas PUD's program. Coordination will increase once Douglas PUD and the ASWG have a schedule for their translocation efforts. Mike said for the Douglas PUD program, they (Grant PUD) can transport adult lamprey upstream from Rock Island Dam and hand the fish off to Douglas PUD for translocation upstream from Wells Dam. However, it would be less stressful on the fish if Douglas PUD picks up the fish at Priest Rapids Dam.

- B. **Other Pacific Lamprey Items** – Mike Clement and Ralph Lampman reported that the University of Idaho (UI) will tag over 1000 adult lamprey at Bonneville Dam this year. Monitoring systems at Priest Rapids and Wanapum dams will detect these fish as they migrate through the projects and the data will be shared with (UI) as in previous years. Mike also said that the Army Corps of Engineers will evaluate the effectiveness of “lamprey sidewalks” in the fishways at John Day Dam. Lamprey sidewalks are similar to the plating installed at Priest Rapids and Wanapum dams.

VI. **Northern Pike**

Northern Pike Removal in Lake Roosevelt – Jason McLellan and Kirk Truscott reported that the tribes, WDFW, and others (Grant PUD and Chelan PUD participate in this effort) removed 439 northern pike during a week of fishing in Lake Roosevelt in May. A total of 470 net sets from ten boats captured the fish. Removal efforts will continue through the summer with additional effort in July. They will also test the effectiveness of set lines. Kirk showed a photograph of a large gravid female that was captured in the Sanpoil River.

- VII. **Next Meeting:** If necessary, the next PRFF meeting will be on Wednesday, 3 July 2019 at the Grant PUD Natural Resources Office in Wenatchee, WA.