



Priest Rapids Coordinating Committee Meeting

Conference Call

FINAL APPROVED MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, January 23, 2019

9:00 am

PRCC Representatives

Scott Carlon, Justin Yeager (Alt), NMFS
Keely Murdoch, Bob Rose (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, GCPUD

PRCC Meeting Attendees

Curt Dotson, GCPUD
Keely Murdoch, YN
Tom Skiles, CTUIR
Peter Graf, GPUD
Kirk Truscott, CCT
Pat Wyena, Wanapum Tribe

Jim Craig, USFWS
Erin Harris, Admin Ass't, GPUD
Scott Carlon, NMFS (Absent)
Chad Jackson, WDFW
Denny Rohr, D. Rohr & Assoc, Facilitator
Patrick Verhey, WDFW

Decisions Items from January 23, 2019 Meeting

1. Meeting minutes as listed below under agenda item IV were approved.
 2. Future PRCC meetings will begin at 10:00 am instead of the previous start time of 9:00 am.
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MEETING MINUTES

I. Safety Briefing

II. Welcome and Introductions - Rohr welcomed those on the call and everyone introduced themselves.

III. Agenda Review (D. Rohr) - No new additions.

IV. Meeting Minutes (D. Rohr) – All approved.

- A. September 26, 2018 Meeting
- B. October 9, 2018 Conference Call
- C. October 24, 2018 Meeting
- D. November 5, 2018 Conference Call
- E. November 26, 2018 Conference Call
- F. December 11, 2018 Meeting

V. Action Items from December 11, 2018 Meeting (D. Rohr)

- 1. Dotson will contact the USACE and others and let them know that the PRCC would consider possibly co-funding involvement in the Request for NNI Funding Participation of USACE Synthesis Report. **Completed**
- 2. Rohr will place USACE Synthesis Report on the agenda for January 23, 2019 for continued discussion. **Completed**

VI. UPDATE - NNI Funding Request, “Non-Native Predator Recruitment Reduction – Phase I”, Geoff McMichael, Mainstem Fish Research (K. Murdoch, D. Rohr) -

The \$128,000 NNI Funding request for this project was affirmed as approved in the December 11, 2018 PRCC meeting, subject to the McNary Group contributing \$128,000 in matching funds. Dotson commented the contract to fund this project is being prepared and will be finalized soon. Truscott today raised a question and shared information he had received that the federal parties may not be willing or able to provide drafting to fluctuate reservoir levels in the McNary pool which is one of the objectives required in this proposal. Skiles shared that he had also been made aware of the same information and question by CRITFC staff. Committee members commented that this information could impact the decision to fund this proposal. **ACTION:** After discussion, there was agreement that Truscott and Skiles would follow up on the question raised and information received and discuss their findings with Murdoch. Murdoch will follow up with McMichael and others involved and report back to the PRCC members for further discussion.

VII. UPDATE – Request for NNI Funding Participation of USACE Synthesis Report (C. Dotson) – Dotson stated he is continuing to check on funding activity regarding the funding participation of other parties, including BPA, but he has no new information. **ACTION:** Dotson will continue to monitor and keep PRCC committee members advised. Rohr will keep this subject on the agenda for further review and discussion.

VIII. Update – Consultation with PRCC Regarding the Priest Rapids Right Bank Embankment Project (C. Dotson) – Dotson informed the committee members that Grant PUD is continuing to work on this project and moving towards finalization. **ACTION:** Dotson will continue to keep PRCC members advised.

IX. NNI Funding Request – Proposal for “Northern Pike Removal in Lake Roosevelt” (K. Truscott) – Rohr commented that this proposal was received from Truscott and distributed to committee members one day prior to the meeting, and Truscott recognizes the short notice and time for committee members review. Accordingly, Truscott will today explain the proposal, and if committee members would like additional time for review, he is requesting a near term conference call be scheduled for consideration of the proposal and the NNI Funding request.

Truscott explained that the NNI Funding request is for \$300,000 over three years (2019, 2020, 2021) to help fund Northern Pike removal from Lake Roosevelt. As described in the December 17, 2018 NNI Funds Project Specification Sheet, “Northern Pike have colonized the entire 240 km of Lake Roosevelt from Grant Coulee Dam to the Canadian border, including the Spokane, Kettle and Colville river arms. Active removal conducted since 2015 have eliminated approximately 8,649 Northern Pike. Nonetheless, Northern Pike are continuing to move downstream at a rate of about 30 km per year. In the fall of 2018, a Northern Pike was captured 10 km upstream of Grand Coulee Dam during a co-manager reservoir wide gill net survey. The Colville Tribe would like to collaborate with Grant PUD to help slow the downstream spread of Northern Pike into the mid-Columbia River”.

Other funding contributors as listed in the Spec Sheet include CCT BPA Accord, CCT Funds, Chelan PUD (proposal submitted), CCT BIA Grant, and the Spokane Tribe. Dotson noted that the Spokane Tribes are listed as contributing \$470,000 in 2019 and asked if they are also committed to provide funding in 2020 and 2021? **Truscott will follow up on this question.** Craig asked if Douglas PUD had been approached to participate in funding? Truscott commented that Douglas has been contacted in the past and they have declined participation. Truscott further stated that Douglas PUD does not have an NNI Fund account and tribal funding is done directly, plus they are performing surveys in the Wells Dam reservoir regarding possible Northern Pike activity. Dotson asked if the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) was approached to participate in funding? Truscott responded that BOR, along with BPA and the USACE, is a participant as part of the Accord Funding listed. Murdoch asked if this activity could be included as an RPA (Reasonable and Prudent Alternative) in the Federal BiOp? Truscott responded that this has been requested but with no success, but the request will continue. Murdoch expressed concern as to what funding would be available after 2021 and who is going to fund the effort? **Truscott will follow up on this question.** Dotson asked about the NWPCC (Northwest Power and Conservation Council) recommendation to BPA to fund a 5-year Northern Pike removal program. Truscott responded that BPA is included in the Accord funding activity, and the NWPCC did not ask for additional funding but expected BPA to fund within their existing budget. Dotson commented that the NNI Fund is currently involved in a CCT Northern Pike removal program for \$75,000/year over three years (2017, 2018, 2019), with \$25,000 remaining for 2019. Dotson questioned if the remaining \$25,000 for 2019 will be considered as part of the 2019 funding request? **Truscott will follow up on this question.** Dotson asked if there has been any consideration given to possibly increasing the fishermen’s sport reward removal program \$600 limit? Truscott responded there are no plans to change the \$600 ceiling as it is involved in an IRS taxes activity.

ACTION: Truscott will follow up with Holly McLellan, Project Sponsor, for answers to the three highlighted questions identified and report back to the PRCC committee members. All agreed for Rohr to schedule a conference call on Monday, February 4th, 9:30 – 10:30 am for additional discussion and funding consideration.

X. Potpourri (D. Rohr)

- A. Sea Lions – SB 3119 – Passed Senate and Signed by President –** Rohr informed the committee members as an fyi that he attended the NWPCC meeting last week in Portland and some activities are beginning to take place as a result of S.3119. At the NWPCC meeting, WDFW requested and received NWPCC approval to recommend funding of \$50,000 to BPA for a new barge and cages to contain the sea lions that are to be captured. Lethal removal of sea lions as detailed in S.3119 will begin soon.

XI. GENERAL UPDATES

- A. Avian Predation Activities (C. Dotson) –** Dotson commented he is waiting for Bureau of Reclamation to follow through with their commitment to participate in dissuasion activities in 2019 on Goose Island. Dotson will continue to monitor this activity and keep the PRCC advised.
- B. FCRPS BiOp – Corps/BOR Avian Predation Management in Columbia Plateau Region (C. Dotson, S. Carlon) –** The 2014 FCRPS BiOp was to end December 31, 2018 and Dotson questioned the current status. Truscott commented the 2014 BiOp will continue until a new BiOp is completed.
- C. Estimating the Survival of Juvenile Spring Chinook in Lake Wenatchee (placeholder) (D. Rohr) –** Elizabeth McManus, PRCC Hatchery SC facilitator sent a memo to Rohr outlining the hatchery committee discussion of this subject. Rohr distributed the memo to the PRCC. Murdoch commented that activities regarding this subject are currently on hold at the Hatchery SC as NOAA has not yet provided comments since they are not working due to the Government Shutdown. Jackson will review the McManus Memo and review offline with Rohr. More to follow.
- D. NNI Funding Guidance Review and Discussion (T. Skiles) –** No new information.
- E. Review of Outstanding NNI Funded Projects**
- 1. Continued Support for UC Fish Screen Monitoring Program (C. Jackson) –** Rohr will follow up off line with Jackson to discuss this activity and communications with Danny Didricksen.
 - 2. Lower Wenatchee Instream Flow Enhancement Project Phase II (C. Jackson, D. Rohr) –** Rohr communicating with Penvose of Trout Unlimited regarding the status of this project. More to follow.
 - 3. Northern Pike Removal in Lake Roosevelt (K. Truscott) –** Truscott provided and update regarding the sports reward catch numbers and related activities.

4. Evaluation of Caspian Tern Management to Reduce Predation on ESA-listed Salmonids in the Columbia Plateau Region (C. Dotson) – No new update

XII. Committee Reports (D. Rohr) – No January meetings were held.

XIII. Qtrly NNI and Habitat Funds Report (D. Rohr) - Waiting for year-end report and will distribute when received, which is expected to be in the next couple of weeks.

XIV. Next Meeting (D. Rohr) – Wednesday, February 27, 2018, 10:00 am, Wanapum Dam HOB, Room 107 – Rohr asked committee members if they had any objections to changing the starting times of future PRCC meetings from 9:00 to 10:00 am. There were no objections and future meetings will be scheduled to begin at 10:00 am.

Actions Items from the January 23, 2019 Meeting

1. Regarding the McMichael “Non-Native Predator Recruitment Reduction – Phase I” proposal, after committee discussion, there was agreement that Truscott and Skiles would follow up on the question and information received regarding federal entities willingness, or lack thereof, to fluctuate McNary reservoir levels. They will discuss their findings with Murdoch who will follow up with McMichael and others involved and report back to the PRCC members for further review and discussion.
2. Dotson will continue to monitor and keep PRCC committee members advised of activities regarding the funding participation of other parties, including BPA, in the USACE Synthesis Report. Rohr will keep this subject on the agenda for further review and discussion.
3. Dotson will continue to keep PRCC members advised of Grant PUD’s work and schedule regarding consultation activities with PRCC of the PR Right Bank Embankment Project.
4. Truscott will follow up with Holly McLellan, Project Sponsor of the Lake Roosevelt Northern Pike Removal proposal, for answers to the three highlighted questions identified and report back to the PRCC committee members. Rohr will schedule a conference call on Monday, February 4th, 9:30 – 10:30 am for additional discussion and funding consideration.
- 5.

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