



Priest Rapids Coordinating Committee Meeting

FINAL APPROVED MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, October 24, 2018

9:00 am

Wanapum HOB, Room 107

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 (Via Phone)
Chad Jackson, WDFW (absent)

Jim Craig, USFWS
Erin Harris, Admin Ass't, GPUD
Scott Carlon, NMFS (Via Phone)
Danny Didricksen, WDFW
Denny Rohr, D. Rohr & Assoc, Facilitator

Decisions made during October 24, 2018 meeting:

1. Approval of the proposal received from McMichael dated August 15, 2018, titled "Predator management action development research", which included an NNI Funding request of up to \$128,878, with the contingency that matching funds of \$128,878 must also be received from the National Fish and Wildlife Federation as identified in the proposal.
 2. Affirmed the NNI funding decisions made on October 9, 2018 to approve Task 1.2 of the RTR 2019 Avian Proposal, dated September 24, 2018, of up to \$52,904.
 3. Approved NNI Funding for Task 1.1 up to \$97,747, Task 2.1 up to \$232,697, and Task 3.1 up to \$79,203 of the RTR 2019 Avian Proposal, dated September 24, 2019.
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FINAL MEETING MINUTES

- I. **SAFETY BRIEFING** – Completed
- II. **Welcome and Introductions**
- III. **Agenda Review (D. Rohr)** – No additions or changes
- IV. **Meeting Minutes (D. Rohr)**
 - A. August 29, 2018 Webinar Conference Meeting – Under development
 - B. September 26, 2018 Meeting – Under development
 - C. October 9, 2018 Conference Call – Under development
- V. **Action Items from September 26, 2018 Meeting (D. Rohr)**
 - A. Murdoch and Rohr will follow up with G. McMichael - Completed
 - B. Rohr will schedule October 9th Conference Call - Completed
- VI. **NNI Funding Request, “Non-Native Predator Recruitment Reduction – Phase I”, Geoff McMichael, Mainstem Fish Research (K. Murdoch)** – Rohr commented that a proposal dated August 15, 2018 was received and distributed to PRCC members for review. Additionally, answers to questions posed by PRCC members to McMichael regarding the proposal had been received and distributed to PRCC members. Plus, a final report as the project deliverable of the October 2016 NNI Funding contract has been received and distributed to PRCC members. Accordingly, after review and acceptance of the information received, PRCC members had further discussion and voted to approve the proposal received from McMichael dated August 15, 2018, titled “Predator management action development research”, which included an NNI Funding request of up to \$128,878, with the contingency that matching funds of \$128,878 must also be received from the National Fish and Wildlife Federation as identified in the proposal. Rohr noted he will follow up to secure the votes of Kirk Truscott who came into today’s meeting by conference phone after the vote was taken, and with Chad Jackson as he was unable to attend today’s meeting. Rohr will keep committee members advised. [Editorial Comment: Rohr discussed with both Truscott and Jackson and they voted to approve]
- VII. **Affirmation of NNI Funding Decisions (D. Rohr)**
 - A. **PRCC October 9, 2018 approval to fund Task 1.2 of RTR 2019 Avian Proposal, dated September 24, 2018** – A conference call was held this date to consider Task 1.2 and committee members voted to approve, up to \$52,904 from NNI Fund. Rohr was to follow up with C. Jackson to secure his vote as he was unable to attend the call.
 - B. **C. Jackson concurrence with PRCC vote of October 9, 2018 regarding RTR 2019 Avian Proposal, dated September 24, 2018** – Rohr contacted C. Jackson to secure his vote regarding Task 1.2 and he voted to approve.

VIII. DECISION ITEM - NNI Funding Request – Implementation and Evaluation of the Inland Avian Predation Management Plan, 2019, RTR / OSU (C. Dotson)

Tasks 1.1, 2.1, 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 4.1, 4.2 were discussed and considered for approval by committee members. C. Jackson was unable to attend today's meeting and Rohr will follow up with him regarding voting actions.

Task 1.1 - approved, NNI Fund, up to \$97,747

Task 2.1 - approved, NNI Fund, up to \$232,697

Task 3.1 - approved, NNI Fund, up to \$79,203. PRCC members concluded that work involved with Sprague Island and Crescent Island would be removed from this task which resulted in reducing the requesting funding from \$118,213 to \$79,203.

Tasks 3.2, 3.3, 4.1, 4.2 – discussed and not approved. Questions surfaced and were discussed regarding PIT Tagging activities, including who might be available to do this work and at what cost, removal of Sprague Island and Crescent Island from these tasks, and related possible cost reductions. Dotson, Skiles, and Truscott agreed to work offline and search for answers to the questions and report back. Accordingly, all agreed to a conference call for additional discussion and consideration to be held on Monday, November 5, 2018 at 8:15 am.

IX. Update Presentation of WDFW Screening Projects, Danny Didricksen, WDFW (C. Jackson, D. Rohr)

– The last update was received from Jenni Novak, WDFW, in May 2018. Danny Didricksen, WDFW, attended today's meeting to provide a current update. He commented we are currently in the middle of the fall irrigation season and several hundred juvenile fish have been rescued with screening projects. Didricksen noted that the Sun Mountain screen has been completed, however high flows interrupted the screen operation and created some damage. Accordingly, a current review is underway regarding repair, including discussions with BPA regarding funding.

Didricksen commented that current screen construction activities includes continuation of the Tandy Project on Peshastin Creek. Additionally, a review of future projects as listed in the final WDFW Proposal to PRCC for NNI Funding, dated September 11, 2017, include the Twisp River Power Project, screen site refurbishments, Colockum Creek Project, pump screen compliance work, and the Fort-Thurlow Diversion located on Frazier Creek, a tributary to Beaver Creek and the Methow River.

There was also discussion regarding future NNI funding of screen work and how long can the PRCC continue to contribute funding. Comments were made that perhaps WDFW funding and other funding sources could be identified to be coupled with NNI Funds to lengthen the time of funds to be used for screen projects. PRCC members expressed some thoughts that perhaps PRCC communications with WDFW management might be something to consider. Committee members concluded that additional discussion regarding funding questions should continue after the first of the year.

X. Priest Rapids Dam Spillway Work Update – (C. Dotson) Dotson reported that the Non-failure emergency condition has been lifted by FERC. Ongoing monitoring will continue, and FERC has approved raising the PR reservoir to normal operating levels.

XI. Update – Consultation with PRCC Regarding the Priest Rapids Right Bank Embankment Project (C. Dotson) – Dotson had nothing new to report. Grant compliance staff are still waiting on permits. Dotson will keep the PRCC advised of new information as it is received.

XII. Potpourri (D. Rohr)

A. Sea Lions – SB 3119 – Nothing new to report.

B. Orcas Task Force – Task Force met 2 days last week in Tacoma. They are working on a new draft of recommendations to send to Governor Inslee with a comment period October 24-29th. Final report to go to the Governor on November 26th. Areas of focus and discussion center on prey, contaminants and noise. If there is noise in the water, the Orcas echo system can't locate their food. Any talk about solution? To reduce noise they closed down (rerouting) certain areas. The next meeting of the Task Force is November 6th in Puyallup.

XIII. GENERAL UPDATES

A. Avian Predation Activities (C. Dotson) – No new information.

B. FCRPS BiOp – Corps/BOR Avian Predation Management in Columbia Plateau Region (C. Dotson) - Carlon mentioned the due date for the FCRPS BiOp is being changed from 2021 to 2020.

C. Estimating the Survival of Juvenile Spring Chinook in Lake Wenatchee (placeholder) (D. Rohr) – Rohr has received no new information. Murdoch shared the PRCC Hatchery SC received an update last month and will continue to discuss in December.

D. NNI Funding Guidance Review and Discussion (T. Skiles) – Nothing new to report.

E. Review of Outstanding NNI Funded Projects

1. Continued Support for UC Fish Screen Monitoring Program (C. Jackson) – See agenda item IX above.

2. Lower Wenatchee Instream Flow Enhancement Project Phase II (C. Jackson, D. Rohr) – Internal water rights review with the irrigators is continuing. Rohr will keep PRCC advised.

3. Predator Fish Recruitment Reduction (K. Murdoch) – See agenda item VI above.

4. Northern Pike Removal in Lake Roosevelt (K. Truscott) – No new information.

5. Satellite Telemetry of Caspian Terns (C. Dotson) – No new information.

6. Evaluation of Caspian Tern Management to Reduce Predation on ESA-listed Salmonids in the Columbia Plateau Region (C. Dotson) – No new information.
7. 2018 Northern Pikeminnow Fishing Derby Information (D. Rohr) – Rohr shared that notes of appreciation had been received from anglers.

XIV. Committee Reports (D. Rohr) – Rohr distributed electronically to committee members for their review.

XV. Qtrly NNI and Habitat Funds Report (D. Rohr) – Q3 report was distributed to committee members. Unencumbered Funds are 601 - \$4,989,083, 602 - \$4,977,702, 603 - \$1,706,180 with a total unencumbered of \$11,672,965.

XVI. Next Meeting (D. Rohr) – Wednesday, November 28, 2018, 9:00 am, Wanapum Dam HOB, Room 107, PLUS, Review of November and December Meeting Schedules – Decision was made that due to holiday schedules the November regular meeting will be cancelled, and the next meeting would be held on December 5th.

Action Items from October 24, 2018 Meeting

1. Rohr will schedule a PRCC conference call for Monday, November 5, 2018, 8:15 am.
2. Rohr will follow up after the first of the year with further discussion regarding WDFW screen funding questions.