



## Priest Rapids Coordinating Committee Meeting

### FINAL APPROVED MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, June 26, 2019

10am

Wanapum Dam HOB, Conf. Room 118

#### **PRCC Representatives**

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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, GPUD

#### **PRCC Meeting Attendees**

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Curt Dotson, GPUD  
Keely Murdoch, YN  
Patrick Wyena, GPUD & Wanapum  
Danny Didricksen, WDFW  
Denny Rohr, D. Rohr & Assoc, Facilitator  
Erin Harris, GPUD  
Kirk Truscott, CCT (absent)

Jim Craig, USFWS  
Tom Skiles, CTUIR  
Peter Graf, GPUD  
Jenni Novak, WDFW  
Chad Jackson, WDFW  
Scott Carlon, NMFS (absent)

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#### **Decisions made during June 26, 2019 meeting**

1. April 24, 2019 meeting minutes approved

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### **Meeting Minutes**

- I. **SAFETY BRIEFING** – Completed
- II. **Welcome and Introductions**

**III. Agenda Review and Additions (D. Rohr)** - Graf will share a follow-up on the HCP CC sub-yearling meeting from 6/25/2019.

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

April 24, 2019 Meeting - Approved

May 10, 2019 Conference Call – Rohr will request approval via e-mail.

May 29, 2019 Meeting – Rohr will request approval via e-mail.

**V. Review of Actions Items from May 29, 2019 Meeting (D. Rohr)**

1. Carlon will follow up with Jeff Jorgenson, NMFS, regarding White River Spring Chinook Mitigation 2026 Decision Framework. **Completed**
2. Rohr will follow up with Danny Didricksen regarding presenting an update at the June 26th meeting of the UC Fish Screen Monitoring Program. Completed

**VI. Discussion of PRCC Letter to NMFS Regarding Including Columbia Plateau Avian Predation Activities in 2020 FCRPS BiOp (C. Dotson)** – Dotson shared that Grant PUD has great concern in that the 2019 FCRPS Interim BiOp doesn't require any actions of the federal Action Agencies (mainly USBOR in this case) for the management of avian predation on salmonid smolts by Caspian terns residing in the Columbian Plateau – predominantly the tern activity in the Potholes area, (i.e. Goose Island and the surrounding area). As can be seen via the reports of the PRCC NNI Fund, PRCC is paying for all the avian predation management activities taking place in the Potholes region. The federal action agencies aren't doing anything in this area along these lines in 2019 and most likely won't be doing anything during the 2020 smolt and avian seasons, since the "new" BiOp isn't due out until Sept. 2020, after the smolt and avian seasons have ended. Dotson proposed that a letter be sent from the PRCC to NMFS regarding this lack of action or responsibility by the federal Action Agencies as being unacceptable in light of the past 5 years of intense effort and dollars spent to manage Caspian terns in this area, and how their completely turning their backs on this issue is backwards progress. NMFS needs to address this subject with the Action Agencies USBOR and direct them to accept their responsibility for the avian predation issue. Updates have been received from Real Time Research (RTR) stating that there is still a fidelity by the Caspian terns to Goose Island in the Potholes looking for the opportunity to nest, and currently as the water level has been dropping at Goose Island, tern eggs have been laid (and removed). Dotson feels a letter from this committee would carry a lot of weight. The letter could state PRCC concerns with the federal agencies lack of action or responsibility in 2019 plus the same occurring in 2020 and beyond. The letter could include recommendations on funding to get something moving forward. Skiles commented that a letter should also include implementation and management action items. Dotson continued that the letter should be fast-tracked as the drafting of the 2020 BiOp is occurring now. Dotson wondered if the federal agencies are thinking it's not their responsibility and they are letting it fly under the radar. Previous BiOps speak of doing avian predation and the

locations identified, but now they state that “they’ll keep an eye on it”. Asking them “why” is a question that is fair to pose. To date, there have been no solid answers when trying to get more information and explanation, but it would be difficult for them to say they aren’t aware of it. All the prior work will be for naught unless dissuasion is continued as terns are long lived and will return to their previous nesting areas. Dotson commented that the recent Goose Island plantings funded by the PRCC to promote dissuasion is going well. Wyena also commented that the recent ISAB Report supports continued dissuasion and encouraged committee members to review it. After continued discussion, PRCC members present approved the drafting of a letter for consideration to be sent to NMFS. Dotson will follow up with a draft letter for further review and discussion at the July 24<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**VII. (10:30 am) Update Presentation from D. Didricksen/WDFW Regarding Continued PRCC/NNI Funding Support of UC Fish Screen Monitoring Program (C. Jackson, D. Rohr)** – Danny Didricksen, WDFW and Jenni Novak, WDFW gave a power point update of the NNI Funded Upper Columbia Fish Screen projects. Projects that were discussed included Tandy-Peshastin Creek, Twisp Power; Stemilt Creek, Icicle Fish Screens, and Icicle Creek Pump Screens. Committee members asked questions throughout the presentation. It was noted that the NNI Funding Agreement 601-28H is scheduled to terminate September 30, 2019. Accordingly, Didricksen commented that some funding will remain at the September 30,2019 end date and he is requesting a no-cost contract change order to complete the work anticipated. Jackson will work with Didricksen and bring details for the requested change order to the July 24<sup>th</sup> PRCC meeting for committee discussion and consideration. Skiles asked if WDFW receives funding also from other sources and Jackson stated funding also received from BPA plus state and local sources. Skiles asked if the PRCC Habitat Subcommittee (HabSC) provided funding and Rohr commented the HabSC is not providing funding for these projects.

**VIII. Potpourri (D. Rohr)**

1. NWPCF Fish & Wildlife Program Amendments – Rohr informed the committee that the draft program will be released in July for public review and comment.
2. Geoff McMichael Presentation to PRCC at July 24<sup>th</sup> Meeting – Murdoch confirmed this would occur.
3. Sea Lions – Rohr informed the committee that a permit requesting additional lethal take has been requested. WDFW confirmed this is correct.

**IX. (Addition to Agenda) Subyearling Follow-Up (P. Graf)** - Graf distributed copies of SOA 2016-04 (Subyearling Survival Study Schedule) and stated that Chelan’s HCP Coordinating Committee and the PRCC are working towards addressing the timeline of subyearling survival studies detailed in SOA 2016-04. The SOA requires the committees to take action by September. Graf stated that he hopes to address the SOA in the coming months. At the July HCP meeting,

Lance Keller, Chelan PUD, discussed and distributed information on the tags currently available. Dotson shared the handout and vander pamphlets related to the tags. The take-away was batteries are improving and tags are getting smaller. The FCRPS survival studies are using the latest JSAT injectable tags, which can be used on fish greater than 95 mm. The 'lamprey tag' ELAT, is still being developed by Battelle. The ELAT will be nearly the size of a PIT-tag. Craig stated that despite tag improvements, challenges remain due to the variable life history of subyearling in the Upper Columbia, such as delayed migration in the reservoirs. Murdoch stated that subyearling captured in the juvenile bypass systems are likely active migrants. Graf replied that at the last subyearling summit he and Tom D. from USFWS described a diverse migration behavior of subyearlings using PIT detections at Rocky Reach and McNary where some fish migrated directly to McNary while others were much slower and arrived at McNary in November. Committee members stated that the plan is to continue discussion in the HCP with the July meeting to cover statistical models with a presentation from John Skalski. Thereafter the committee will address updating SOA 2016-04.

### **GENERAL UPDATES**

- A. Avian Predation Activities (C. Dotson)** – RTR weekly reports are being distributed to committee members.
  - B. FCRPS BiOp – Corps/BOR Avian Predation Management in Columbia Plateau Region (C. Dotson)** – Nothing additional to report.
  - C. Update and Review of the White River Spring Chinook Mitigation 2026 Decision Framework (D. Rohr)** - Jeff Jorgenson, NMFS, attendance at PRCC Meeting (S. Carlon) – Rohr informed the committee that Jorgenson is not available to attend a PRCC meeting until September. Rohr will discuss details with Carlon who was unable to attend today's meeting.
  - D. Review of Outstanding NNI Funded Projects**
    - 1. Continued Support for UC Fish Screen Monitoring Program (C. Jackson)  
No further update
    - 2. Lower Wenatchee Instream Flow Enhancement Project Phase II (C.Jackson, D. Rohr) - No update
    - 3. Evaluation of Caspian Tern Management to Reduce Predation on ESA-listed Salmonids in the Columbia Plateau Region – Time Extension to July 31, 2019 (C. Dotson) – No update
    - 4. “Non-Native Predator Recruitment Reduction – Phase I” (K. Murdoch) – Geoff McMichael will attend in July.
    - 5. “Northern Pike Removal in Lake Roosevelt” (K. Truscott) – No Update
- XI. Committee Reports (D. Rohr)** – Rohr distributed committee reports via email.
- XII. NNI and Habitat Funds Report (D. Rohr)** – Waiting for Q2 to be sent from Grant PUD.

**XIII. Next Meeting (D. Rohr) – Wednesday, July 24, 2019, 10:00 am, Wanapum Dam, HOB, Room 107**

**Action Items from June 26, 2019 Meeting**

1. Dotson will prepare a draft letter for PRCC consideration regarding the 2020 FCRPS BiOp and avian predation activities in the Columbia Plateau.
2. Jackson will work with Didricksen and bring details for the requested change order to the July 24<sup>th</sup> PRCC meeting for committee discussion and consideration.
3. Rohr will follow up with John Ferguson regarding Skalski attending HCPCC July meeting and advise committee members.
4. Rohr will follow up with Carlon regarding scheduling of Jeff Jorgenson's attendance at the September 25<sup>th</sup> PRCC meeting.
5. Murdoch will follow up with Geoff McMichael regarding his attendance at the July 24<sup>th</sup> meeting.

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