



Grant County
PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT
Excellence in Service and Leadership

Priest Rapids Coordinating Committee
FINAL MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, August 24, 2016
SeaTac Radisson Hotel

PRCC Meeting Representatives

Scott Carlon, Justin Yeager (Alt), NMFS	Jim Craig, USFWS
Bob Rose, YN	Kirk Truscott, CCT
Jeff Korth, C. Andonaegui (Alt), P. Verhey (Alt) WDFW	Tom Skiles, CTUIR
Curt Dotson, Tom Dresser (Alt), GCPUD	Orlene Hahn, GCPUD
Denny Rohr, D. Rohr & Assoc, Facilitator	

PRCC Meeting Attendees

Jim Craig, USFWS	Bob Rose, YN (via telephone)
Jeff Korth, WDFW (via phone)	Curt Dotson, GCPUD
Scott Carlon, NMFS	Kirk Truscott, CCT (via telephone)
Denny Rohr, D. Rohr & Assoc., Facilitator	Orlene Hahn, GCPUD (via telephone)
Tom Dresser, GCPUD	Pat Wyena, GCPUD

Action Items from July 27, 2016 PRCC Meeting:

1. **Meeting Minutes Approval June 22, 2016 (D. Rohr)** – The June 22, 2016 minutes were approved subject to Truscott and Skiles' approval which Rohr will get via email. **Completed**
2. **NNI Funding Proposal – “Predator Fish Recruitment Reduction” (B. Rose)** – Based on a memo dated June 20, 2016 there are 4 questions that would be worked on for the \$10,000. Rohr is to resend Geoff McMichael's 4 question memo out to the PRCC. **Completed and Approved**
3. **Discussion: NNI Funding Proposal – “Factors Influencing the Survival of Juvenile Spring Chinook Salmon in Lake Wenatchee, WA”, Andrew Murdoch, WDFW (J. Korth)** – Rohr will talk with Skiles about this proposal.
4. **ACTION ITEM: Close of Comment for Draft 2015 Steelhead / Sockeye Survival Study Report (C. Dotson, D. Rohr)** – Truscott and Dotson to work offline regarding these questions and comments, and Dotson to send another draft version out with changes highlighted for all PRCC members to view.
5. **ACTION ITEM: SOA 2016-04, Decoupling Sub-yearling from Steelhead Performance Standard and Linking to Yearling Chinook for Purpose of Calculating NNI Funding** - All PRCC members will review and come to the August meeting prepared to discuss this SOA in detail.

DECISIONS made at the August 24, 2016 PRCC Meeting:

1. **AFFIRMATION OF FINAL DECISION: SOA 2016-03, Schedule for Conducting Survival Evaluations – Yearling Chinook, Sockeye and Steelhead (C. Dotson, D. Rohr)** – SOA 2016-03 was not approved.

FINAL Meeting Minutes

- I. **Welcome and Introductions**
- II. **Agenda Review (D. Rohr)** – No additions were made to the Agenda.
- III. **Meeting Minutes Approval for June 21, 22, 2016 and for July 27, 2016 (D. Rohr)** – The June 21st minutes were approved. The June 22, 2016 minutes were approved. The July 27, 2016 minutes were just sent out to the Committee on August 23, 2016. Korth, Dotson, Rose and Truscott approved them. **Rohr will work with the rest of the Committee via email for approval.**
- IV. **Action Items Review from July 27, 2016 meeting (D. Rohr)** – All Action Items will be discussed further during today's meeting.
- V. **Discussion: NNI Funding Proposal – “Factors Influencing the Survival of Juvenile Spring Chinook Salmon in Lake Wenatchee, WA”, Andrew Murdoch, WDFW (J. Korth)** – Korth reviewed how the new Spec sheet has changed. He talked about direct and indirect costs. They were able to come up with almost \$326,000 cost savings (14%). This is for Phase I. See Table below for Proposed Budget for Phase I.

PROPOSED BUDGET (Phase 1)			
ITEM	PRCC NNI REQUEST	SRFB*	TOTAL COST
Labor (project management, labor crew, etc.)	\$645,105	\$390,000	\$1,035,105
Materials and supplies (dry suits, boats, nets, diet analysis, genetic analysis, etc.)	\$185,003		\$185,003
Acoustic receivers and materials	\$302,815		\$302,815
Acoustic tags	\$332,000		\$332,000
Travel and lodging	\$92,662		\$92,662
Surgical training	\$9,442		\$9,442
TOTAL	\$1,567,027	\$390,000	\$1,957,027

*A request for \$130,000 each year will be submitted to the SRFB.

PROPOSED BUDGET (Phase 1)				
ITEM	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total
Labor	\$359,599	\$352,887	\$322,620	\$1,035,105
Materials and supplies	\$69,799	\$60,479	\$54,724	\$185,003
Acoustic receivers and materials	\$166,438	\$85,438	\$50,938	\$302,815
Acoustic tags	\$114,000	\$124,000	\$94,000	\$332,000
Travel and lodging	\$32,661	\$30,876	\$29,125	\$92,662
Surgical training	\$9,442	\$0	\$0	\$9,442
TOTAL	\$751,940	\$653,680	\$551,407	\$1,957,027

ESTIMATED PROJECT BUDGET				
ITEM	Phase 1	Phase 2*	Phase 3	Total
Labor	\$1,035,105	\$96,566	\$140,384	\$1,272,056
Materials and supplies	\$185,003	\$1,493	\$7,013	\$193,509
Acoustic receivers and materials	\$302,815	\$50,938	\$50,938	\$404,692
Acoustic tags	\$332,000	\$94,000	\$94,000	\$520,000
Travel and lodging	\$92,662	\$2,713	\$4,524	\$99,899

Surgical training	\$9,442	\$0	\$0	\$9,442
TOTAL	\$1,957,027	\$245,711	\$296,860	\$2,499,598

*Phase 2 budget doesn't not include the cost of the any proposed management action (TBD during phase 1).

Estimated Timeline: A phased approach will be used for this project. Phase 1 (2017 - 2019) data collection; Phase 2 (2020) Implement management action; Phase 3 (2021) Post-implementation evaluation.

Korth sent out three other documents. (1) White River 2006 Salmon & Steelhead Agreement. spring Chinook. Action 28: A comprehensive monitoring and evaluation program shall be included in the plan that includes monitoring in the natural environment. (2) SOA 2013-01 which came out of the PRCC on February 8, 2013. Item 2 states: Grant PUD will continue to implement the Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) plan for the White River (2020-2026), which was developed by the PRCC HSC and reviewed and approved by FERC on February 7th, 2012 and is currently being updated by the PRCC HSC. Finalization of this update is anticipated in spring 2013. Grant PUD agrees that the PRCC HSC would be responsible for adapting the M&E program to new information. Grant PUD may need to seek FERC approval per license Article 401(b) prior to implementation. Additional data collection beyond that collected as part of the Grant PUD-funded hatchery M&E plan is not the obligation of Grant PUD but may be funded via other sources such as the PRCC's Habitat and No Net Impact accounts, Salmon Recovery Funding (SRF) Board, and/or Bonneville Power Administration. (3) Report to the PRCC on the White River Spring Chinook Mitigation 2026 Decision Framework. On page 2 there are 3 bullets: White River spawning habitat capacity (and trends), Parr tagging and Parr abundance estimates, and Lake Wenatchee predation. These are things we have been considering all along.

Korth would like to have a discussion on this soon. It was decided that a half day workshop was needed. Korth and Rohr will figure out a date before the next PRCC meeting. They will coordinate with Elizabeth McManus, PRCC HSC facilitator, regarding the next HSC meeting and possibly tag this half day workshop on to the afternoon of the next HSC meeting. Korth is looking for a decision by the September PRCC meeting.

VI. **AFFIRMATION OF FINAL DECISION: SOA 2016-03, Schedule for Conducting Survival Evaluations – Yearling Chinook, Sockeye and Steelhead (C. Dotson, D. Rohr)** – Rohr sent an email on August 9, 2016 notifying the Committee that Rose's vote was a "No". Rose discussed the reason for saying "No" with the Committee. Rose stated that it just seems to be that we are still in a very cautious mode about how we want to approach these fish. These agreements were started 10 years ago and now we are wanting to make some big changes 5 years into it. They (YN) are not interested in changing the agreement. Dotson pointed out that the Salmon Settlement Agreement does have a 5 year check-in schedule for evaluating salmonid performance standards, but noted that the agreement (SSSA sec. 15.7.2) states: "...survival estimates shall be adjusted at five-year intervals, or at such frequency as the Parties at that time may decide.", which indicates that the committee has the authority to change the 5 year check-in schedule. **SOA 2016-03 was not approved.**

VII. **ACTION ITEM: Close of Comment for Draft 2015 Steelhead / Sockeye Survival Study Report (C. Dotson, D. Rohr)** – Dotson and Truscott have talked and are still working on these edits and comments. Dresser reminded the PRCC that per the agreement, there is a 30 day comment period where reports are to be reviewed, comments received and then finalization of the report at that time.

VIII. **ACTION ITEM: SOA 2016-04, De-coupling Sub-yearling Chinook from Steelhead Performance Standard and Linking to Yearling Chinook for Purpose of Calculating NNI Funding** – Dotson stated the only thing he has changed in this SOA (2016-04) from last month's PRCC meeting is to correct the misspelling of the Latin name for Chinook, otherwise it has been left the same. Dotson stated there are two questions that need to be answered: (1) Should sub-yearlings be linked to steelhead; and (2) but if not linked to steelhead then to what? Discussion took place at length about the answer to these questions. Dotson stated this is not the perfect answer (the use of a surrogate species for sub-yearlings), but until we can conduct a valid survival study for sub-yearlings, what are we going to do regarding the impacts with the project for sub-yearlings as it relates to NNI fund calculations? . Dotson again posed the first question – is steelhead the appropriate species that sub-yearlings should be linked to? A number of the committee members said that they felt steelhead is not the appropriate linkage. Part of the discussion that took place around this topic, the de-coupling from steelhead, was the impact that such a move would have on NNI funding amounts. The Committee agreed that between now and February there needs to be something in place of what an appropriate process would be. It was decided to schedule a meeting or conference call of just the JFP to discuss this further. JFP is going to get together and talk about this maybe in early October. **Rohr is to work on getting a date set by Doodle poll finalizing a date and the location of the meeting.**

IX. **Updates**

- A. **Avian Predation Activities (C. Dotson)** – Rohr has been sending out updates from OSU. Dotson said that tern nesting is all done. They have seen from the satellite birds that some are already headed to Mexico for the winter. It will probably take 3-5 years to really see some benefits from the ACE's avian management plan – i.e. dissuasion of nesting terns on the Columbia Plateau and we are in year two. Carlon stated that the Corp is interested in picking up some of the activity (i.e. RTR tagging at the RI smolt trap and looking for PIT tags) on this. Korth asked with terns resting and loafing on Goose Island is there a worry that they might nest there next year. Dotson responded in that where the terns have been seen on Goose Island, it is below the normal high water mark and that no dissuasion material can be done below this point on the island because of concern as posing a boat hazard so dissuasion is limited to above the high water marks. Most of the resting or loafing was in the low water area.
- B. **Hatchery Activities (T. Dresser)** – Nothing new to report
1. Carlton Acclimation Facility
 2. Nason Creek Acclimation Facility
 3. Priest Rapids Hatchery Modifications
 4. Penticton Hatchery
- C. **Hatchery Permits: Sec 10 Consultation/Summer Chinook, Sec 7 Consultation/Bull Trout. (T. Dresser)** – Nothing new to report
- D. **2016 Survival Study (C. Dotson)** – Still crunching numbers.
- E. **2016 Spill Schedule (C. Dotson)** – Dotson stated that fish-spill at Wanapum Dam ended on the evening of August 15, 2016 and ended on August 16, 2016 at Priest Rapids Dam based on smolt index numbers from the Rock Island Smolt Index counts. Adult fall-back spill is/will take place until November 15, 2016.

F. NNI Funded Projects

1. **2016 Real Time Research / Oregon State university – “Evaluation of Caspian Tern Management to Reduce Predation on ESA-Listed Salmonids in the Columbia Plateau Region” - (C. Dotson) – Ongoing.**
2. **Upper Columbia Fish Screen Monitoring Program Phase I - II Contract Extension – (J. Korth) – Ongoing**

Dresser reported that Danny Didricksen had been approached by Cascadia Conservation District about participating as a partner in their RCPP funding proposal through NRCS. Basically, under this partnership WDFW may be eligible for a 50% match for future fish screening projects in Chelan County. Dresser stated that Danny was reviewing and seeking approval from his upper management. Dresser acknowledged Danny's hard work on seeking out opportunities for co-funding/matching grants in an effort to make the NNI funds stretch further. Dresser also voiced his support for opportunities such as this, as it was consistent with the guidelines set out by the PRCC.

3. **Mid-Columbia River Intake Screen and Diversion Assessment (2016-17) – (T. Dresser) – Dresser stated that Danny Dickerson has been working with a private landowner on the need to update their intake screen and the landowner was on board. This work will probably start after irrigation season ends.**
4. **Lower Wenatchee Instream Flow Enhancement Project Phase II – (J. Korth) – Ongoing**
5. **Methow Valley Irrigation District (MVID) Instream Flow Improvement Project (T. Dresser) – No Updates.**
6. **Agrilaser – Autonomic (Green Laser) for Caspian Tern Deterrent (C. Dotson) – Dotson stated we were not able to get this in place as birds started nesting three weeks earlier than usual. They looked at putting it in Banks Lank but the birds did not nest there this year. This has been earmarked for funding but there will need to be a discussion about this and whether or not to put the money back in the NNI Fund.**
7. **Predator Fish Recruitment Reduction (B. Rose) – Nothing to report.**
8. **SOA 2011-04 – Dotson commented on this SOA being a Coho program with joint approval. Grant PUD and the Yakama Nation have been working together on this SOA with a contract sunset in 2017. Grant PUD and the Yakama Nation are having dialogue about this SOA.**

- X. **Committee Reports (D. Rohr) – Tracy Hillman sent an email on August 15, 2016 with the PRFF Meeting Progress Report as follows (the FCWG did not meet in August):**

The Priest Rapids Fish Forum (PRFF) met at Grant PUD Natural Resources Office in Wenatchee, WA, on Wednesday, 3 August 2016, from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm.

White Sturgeon Technical Group Updates

- All juvenile sturgeon resulting from the 6x6 spawning matrix are doing well at Marion Drain. They are growing, surviving, and will be moved to 10-foot rearing tanks soon.
- Larval sampling by WDFW within Bonneville and The Dalles pools resulted in a total capture of 268 larvae (a CPUE of 0.09 larvae per hour). The Yakama Nation was able to catch about 10-40

larvae per day. These catch rates are not large enough to support a supplementation program. Poor sampling conditions and a late start to sampling may have affected catch rates this year.

- Grant PUD will begin juvenile sturgeon index monitoring in September. Standardized gear and methods will be used among the different monitoring programs within the mid-Columbia.
- Nine sturgeon were sampled for stomach contents (diet analysis) during the June survey. Although analyses of stomach contents are incomplete, observations during collection indicated that sturgeon are eating various fish, including salmonids and juvenile lamprey, mussels, and clams. One six-foot-long sturgeon contained 125 fully intact juvenile lamprey and about 30 partially digested juvenile lamprey.
- WDFW reported that about 292 sturgeon (CRITFC fish) have been harvested in the recreational fishery within the project area. This equates to a CPUE of about 0.035. The fishery will continue through September.

Pacific Lamprey Updates

- The PRFF Pacific lamprey subgroup met on 4 August to identify and discuss appropriate lamprey passage metrics, how they are measured, and how unavoidable effects (NNI) are measured. Results from this meeting will be discussed with the PRFF in September.
- Grant PUD has successfully collected 250 adult lamprey for their monitoring efforts this year. These fish were tagged and will be used to assess passage of lamprey through the project area. Grant is currently trapping adult lamprey for the Chelan and Douglas PUDs monitoring programs.

Next Steps

The next meeting of the PRFF will be on Wednesday, 7 September 2016 at Grant PUD in Wenatchee, WA.

- XI. **Quarterly NNI and Habitat Funds Report – 1st Quarter, 2016 (D. Rohr)** – Nothing new at this time.
- XII. **Next Meeting** – September 28, SeaTac Radisson Hotel, 9:00 am; HCP will be a conference call in September. Reminder of moving PRCC Meetings to Wenatchee beginning in October.

Action Items from August 24, 2016 PRCC Meeting:

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