



Grant County
PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT
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Priest Rapids Fish Forum

Wednesday, 4 May 2016

9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Grant PUD, 11 Spokane St., Suite 205B, Wenatchee, WA

Call-In Number: 1-800-977-8002, Bridge: 7422882

MEETING MINUTES

PRFF REPRESENTATIVES

Stephen Lewis, USFWS

Bob Rose, YN

Doris Squeochs, Wanapum

Jason McLellan, CCT

Mike Clement, Grant PUD

Orlene Hahn, Grant PUD

Patrick Verhey, Chad Jackson, WDFW

Pat McGuire, WDOE

Aaron Jackson, Carl Merkle, CTUIR

Keith Hatch, BIA

Chris Mott, Grant PUD

Tracy Hillman, Facilitator

ATTENDEES

RD Nelle, USFWS

Pat Wyena, Wanapum

Mike Clement, Grant PUD

Bob Rose, YN

Kirk Truscott, CCT (for lamprey discussion)

Steve Lewis, USFWS

Tracy Hillman, Facilitator

Chad Jackson, WDFW (via phone)

Doris Squeochs, Wanapum

Pat McGuire, WDOE

Patrick Verhey, WDFW

Tom Skiles, CTUIR (via phone)

Chris Mott, Grant PUD

Orlene Hahn, Grant PUD

Action Items:

1. Chris Mott will send Tracy Hillman a video of the juvenile sturgeon release to share with the Forum.
2. The PRFF will review the draft 2016 sturgeon monitoring plan and send comments to Chris Mott by 1 June 2016.
3. Chris Mott will provide dates to the PRFF when broodstock spawning occurs. Members are encouraged to help with stirring eggs.
4. Bob Rose to write a draft SOA to address adult Pacific lamprey NNI.
5. Tracy Hillman will send out the final Agenda for the ASWG Pacific Lamprey Workshop.

I. Welcome and Introductions

II. Agenda Review

A. **Additional Agenda Items** – No new agenda items were provided.

III. Approve April Meeting Notes – 6 April 2016 Meeting Minutes were reviewed and approved.

A. Review Action Items from April Meeting

1. Chris Mott will distribute the 2016 Draft Sturgeon Monitoring Plan to the PRFF – **Completed.**
2. The Pacific Lamprey Subgroup will meet on 12 April 2016 at 9:00 am in the Grant PUD Wenatchee office to address all comments and edits in the draft proposed NNI document – **This occurred and the Subgroup sent a Final Draft proposed NNI document to the PRFF.**
3. Doris Squeochs to check with Nez Perce staff regarding outplanting of juvenile Pacific lamprey. **Doris said she spoke with her contacts at the Nez Perce Tribe and the outplanting was a simple test to see if juvenile lamprey would work for recolonization. She reported that there was no documentation, but juveniles appear to be surviving and growing.**

IV. Update on White Sturgeon Management Plan (WSMP)

- A. **Update on Juvenile Rearing and Release (Mott and Miller)** – Chris Mott provided a summary on juvenile tagging and release. Juvenile sturgeon were released into the Project Area on 28 April 2016. All fish were loaded into Grant PUD transport tanks. Fish destined for Wanapum Reservoir were loaded into the large fish truck in the morning. Half of the fish destined for Priest Rapids were loaded into the adult transport tank in the morning and the remaining half in the afternoon. Five PIT tags were shed and given to Blue Leaf staff. No fish died during or after PIT tagging. One fish died during acoustic tagging. That tag was placed into another fish. Based on growth data, it appears the fish released this year were larger than in past years. All fish looked good and healthy and there were no fish health issues or abnormal mortalities among any of the family groups. Release sites were at Frenchman Coulee boat launch for the Wanapum pool and in the Wanapum tailrace for the Priest Rapids pool. Chris will send Tracy Hillman a video of the release to share with the Forum members.
- B. **Update on Diet Sampling (Mott)** – Chris Mott reported that so far there has been one week of sampling to collect CRITFC fish for stomach analysis. This survey represents sampling before smolt migration. To date, 15 fish have been caught and five CRITFC fish were sampled for diet contents. Some of the items found in the stomachs included smolts (e.g., sockeye), clams, mussels, crayfish, and some lamprey ammocoetes. One sturgeon had ten lamprey ammocoetes in it (caught below Rock Island Dam). Tentatively, sampling will resume on 6-10 June. Sampling is focusing on presence, absence, and proportions of items in stomachs.
- C. **Larvae and Broodstock Collection (Jackson and Mott)** – Broodstock collection will begin on 16 May and last for ten days. Broodstock collection will be a joint effort with Chelan PUD. Blue Leaf will be on the ground controlling the collection like last year. The 16th is based on maintenance work on wells at Marian Drain. Grant and Chelan PUDs will be staffing boats.

For larvae collections, WDFW is completing the final contracting steps with the PUDs. Both Grant and Chelan PUDs are contracting with WDFW to collect larvae. Collection will occur in both Bonneville reservoir and The Dalles reservoir during early June through July. Sampling will include both day and night sets. Some of the same sites sampled in the past will be sampled this year (USGS sites). In addition, WDFW will explore sampling new sites.

- D. **Review Monitoring Plan for 2016 (Mott)** – Chris Mott reviewed the 2016 Monitoring Plan. Primary work will be on juvenile indexing that will be done this fall. Grant PUD is trying to find ways to increase the catch of tagged fish. Capturing more tagged fish will increase the precision of growth and survival data. They are also looking at various types of gear to use to help save time and effort in trying to get more lines into the water. The suggestion was made to focus on the Wanapum reservoir and transfer those results to Priest Rapids reservoir. The focus will be on using a setline placed at >15 m depth. Sampling will occur in the same reservoir sections as in the past. There will be 90 overnight sets per section. Grant PUD intends to repeat the sampling in new sites after Golder completes their surveys. Golder will finish in September and Grant PUD in October. The Forum was asked to have comments on the study plan back to Chris by 1 June 2016.

Bob Rose asked Grant PUD to sit down with Golder and the other PUDs to consider standardizing gear and sampling methods. This will increase the ability to share and compare data among the PUDs. Bob asked if the monitoring data collected will answer the policy-level questions. Chris indicated that monitoring is set up to answer the policy-level questions.

- E. **Other White Sturgeon Items (All)** – Chris Mott said that Donella Miller could use some help with stirring eggs during broodstock spawning. Chris will provide dates to the Forum.

V. Update on PLMP

A. NNI Update (Hillman)

- **Final Proposed Draft Recommendations Report** – Tracy Hillman stated that the Pacific Lamprey Subgroup met and addressed all the comments and edits in the draft proposed NNI document. The final draft document was then sent to the PRFF. Tracy stated that the document is a listing of possible actions that can be implemented to address adult NNI. The document is a living document and therefore it can be updated with new information.
- **Next Steps** – Bob Rose suggested that the next step should be to submit draft SOAs for PRFF consideration. Another option he suggested was to include all actions identified in his spreadsheet and vote on the entire package. Tracy Hillman described Grant PUD's original proposal that was presented to the PRFF in June 2015. Grant PUD offered a couple options for achieving NNI. Those options would include modifications to the current Agreement. Kirk Truscott stated that the Colville Tribes will not agree to any changes to the current Agreement. Mike Clement said Grant PUD would be willing to decouple adult NNI from juvenile NNI, but that would mean the annual contribution of \$117,000 per year would not be available because it was predicated on juvenile survival studies. Mike said that Grant PUD is open to looking at the proposed NNI actions items that were most appropriate and defining NNI. Bob suggested that it is important to start adult translocation. This is important because it will get fish into the tributaries. Mike suggested that Grant PUD would prefer adult NNI definition be for the life of the license, but Grant PUD would be open to what makes the best biological sense. Tracy summarized the discussion and noted that parties can use the existing information to identify adult NNI and offer possible actions to address adult NNI.

- B. **ASWG Pacific Lamprey Workshop (Rose)** – Tracy Hillman reported that the PRFF has been invited to a Pacific Lamprey Workshop sponsored by the Aquatic Settlement Working Group (ASWG). The workshop will be held on 8 June from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm in East Wenatchee at Douglas PUD. Bob Rose said the purpose of the workshop is to identify critical uncertainties associated with poor conversions and passage through reservoirs. The workshop will focus on Rocky Reach Reservoir and passage at Wells Dam. Results from the workshop can be used to

adjust future study plans. In addition, results may be useful to the PRFF in helping them address conversion rates through the Priest Rapids Project Area. Tracy Hillman will send the final agenda to the PRFF as soon as it is available.

- C. **Results from Regional Pacific Lamprey Conservation Team Meeting (Rose and Nelle)** – RD Nelle said they had a successful meeting and developed a draft document that is currently out for review. The document identifies threats and possible actions to address the threats within tributaries (not the mainstem Columbia River). The next task is to find funding for the actions. Bob Rose indicated that the document is an assessment unit plan that will be part of the Regional Implementation Plan.
- D. **Other Pacific Lamprey Items (All)** – Mike Clement indicated that a Doodle was recently sent out for a meeting of the Pacific Lamprey Technical Workgroup. The date proposed for the meeting was early June.

Mike indicated that he received word from Blue Leaf that some of the adult lamprey tagged last year have started moving. So far, Blue Leaf has counted three fish passing Priest Rapids Dam. Mike had the PIT-tag detectors turned on effective Monday, 2 May 2016.

VI. Next Meeting: 1 June 2016 – Grant PUD Natural Resources Wenatchee Office