



Grant County
PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT
Excellence in Service and Leadership

Priest Rapids Fish Forum

Wednesday, 7 December 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

Steve Lewis, USFWS

Bob Rose, YN

Pat Wyena, Doris Squeochs, Wanapum

Jason McLellan, CCT

Mike Clement, Grant PUD

Tracy Hillman, Facilitator

Patrick Verhey, Chad Jackson, WDFW

Breean Zimmerman, WDOE

Aaron Jackson, Carl Merkle, CTUIR

Keith Hatch, BIA

Chris Mott, Grant PUD

Erin McIntyre, Grant PUD

ATTENDEES

Mike Clement, Grant PUD

Paul Grutter, Golder (via Phone)

Breean Zimmerman, WDOE (via phone)

Donella Miller, YN (via phone)

Tracy Hillman, Facilitator

Erin McIntyre, Grant PUD

Marcie Clement, Chelan PUD (via Phone)

Chris Mott, Grant PUD

Richard Visser, WDFW (via Phone)

Chad Jackson, WDFW (via phone)

Jason McLellan, CCT (via phone)

RD Nelle, USFWS

Orlene Hahn, Grant PUD

Bob Rose, YN (via Phone)

Tom Skiles, CRITFC (via Phone)

Action Items:

1. Mike Clement will discuss with Grant PUD's AIS biologist the inclusion of shoreline surveys in their aquatic invasive species surveys.
2. Tracy Hillman will send a Doodle Poll to the PRFF and RRFF to find a date in January or February for the Pacific Lamprey Subgroup Meeting.
3. PRFF will send their thoughts to Mike Clement on what should be included in the Pacific lamprey monitoring results presentation.

I. Welcome and Introductions

II. Agenda Review

- A. **Additional Agenda Items** – RD Nelle asked to provide a short presentation on a vertical wet wall lamprey passage system.

III. Approve October Meeting Notes – 5 October 2016 Meeting Minutes were reviewed and approved.

A. Review Action Items from October Meeting

1. Tracy Hillman will include time on the November agenda to discuss how Pacific lamprey NNI should be defined. **Complete**
2. Tracy Hillman will ask the RRFF if the RRFF Pacific Lamprey Subgroup can meet with the PRFF Pacific Lamprey Subgroup in November or December to discuss how NNI should be defined. **Complete – RRFF Pacific Lamprey Subgroup agreed to meet with the PRFF Subgroup in January or February.**

IV. Sampling for Aquatic Invasive Species

A. Presentation on Sampling Invasive Species

Richard Visser, WDFW, gave a presentation on “Adding Shoreline Surveys for Zebra/Quagga Mussel Early Detection Monitoring” (see Attachment 1). Richard summarized methods used to sample and detect Zebra and Quagga mussels. Monitoring includes the use of artificial substrates, vertical and horizontal plankton tows, shoreline sampling, and water quality monitoring. This work is conducted throughout the state including sampling within the Priest Rapids Project Area. He shared with the Forum some of the results from past monitoring across the state and described why shoreline surveys are important. He said shoreline sampling is a proven detection method, there is no cost for equipment or analyses, it takes about 10 minutes to conduct, and the methods are standardized. Richard ended the presentation by showing pictures of some of the artificial substrates that invasive species colonize. These substrates are easy to identify during shoreline surveys.

Marcie Clement asked if calcium levels are high enough in the Columbia River to support large populations of invasive mussels. Richard thought they were. Mike Clement indicated that he will discuss the addition of shoreline surveys with Grant PUD’s AIS biologist. Mike noted that intensive macroinvertebrate surveys in Wanapum pool following the Wanapum Dam fracture found no evidence of invasive mussels other than Corbicula.

V. Update on White Sturgeon Management Plan

A. Update on Juvenile Rearing

Chris Mott reported that the juvenile sturgeon at Marion Drain are doing well and growing. Mike Clement added that the fish are of average size for this time of year.

B. Presentation on 2016 Juvenile Indexing Activities

Paul Grutter with Golder gave a presentation on white sturgeon monitoring within the Priest Rapids Project Area in 2016 (see Attachment 2). Paul described methods and results associated with side-scan sonar investigations, juvenile sturgeon mark-and-release results, acoustic tagging results, and juvenile sturgeon index monitoring. Paul concluded that side-scan sonar monitoring is not effective at enumerating sturgeon in the Project Area; fin deformity for brood year 2015 fish was less than for previous releases; tagged sturgeon tended to move upstream, few entrained (12%), and some were eaten by birds; juvenile index sampling gear effectively captured sturgeon 30-70 cm fork length; recapture rates were sufficient to estimate population size; and index data can be used to estimate survival rates.

When asked about the cost of side-scan sonar, Paul indicated that the cost of the scanner is about \$35K- \$40K; renting the equipment is far cheaper. Paul indicated that underwater video would not work well because of water clarity. He noted that a DIDSON may work, but it is very

expensive. Jason McLellan noted that acoustic sampling allows one to survey a larger area in a shorter time period. When asked about the size of fish consumed by birds, Paul indicated fish captured by birds ranged from 25-30 cm.

C. Update on Sturgeon Fishery in the Priest Rapids Project Area

Chad Jackson, WDFW, described the results from the sturgeon fishery in the Priest Rapids Project Area in 2016. During the period July through November, a total of 27,449 angler hours captured 997 sturgeon. A total of 383 sturgeon were harvested, while 481 were captured and released because they were too small and 133 were captured and released because they were too large. The average catch per unit effort was 0.0363 sturgeon/hour. Chad indicated that WDFW will evaluate the fishery and determine when the fishery will open in 2017.

D. Other White Sturgeon Items – None.

VI. Update on Pacific Lamprey Management Plan

A. Pacific Lamprey NNI Criteria

Tracy Hillman reviewed the discussion from the October PRFF meeting about reconvening the Pacific Lamprey Subgroup to address NNI. Specifically, the Forum would like the Subgroup to define NNI in terms of passage success. That is, how will NNI be calculated and what passage success target will be used as the upper threshold. Tracy reported that the RRFF Pacific Lamprey Subgroup agreed to meet jointly with the PRFF Subgroup, as both Forums have similar requirements. Tracy agreed to send a Doodle Poll to the PRFF and RRFF to find a date for the joint Subgroup meeting. Tracy will try to find a suitable date in January or February for the meeting.

B. Adult Lamprey Monitoring Update

Mike Clement noted that there was little movement of tagged lamprey in November. He said about 85% of the acoustic-tagged fish passed the project area. This is consistent with past years. He added that he is coordinating with both Chelan and Douglas PUDs. He said that both Grant and Douglas PUDs conducted acoustic tagging studies this year; Chelan PUD did not. It was noted that about 121,633 adult lamprey were counted in fishways at Bonneville Dam in 2016. Mike said that Blue Leaf Environmental will prepare a report and presentation on lamprey monitoring work to date. He said there are about 5-6 years of PIT-tag studies and about 2.5 years of acoustic-tag studies. He asked the PRFF what they would like to see in the presentation. The Forum indicated that they will send their thoughts to Mike, but, at a minimum, they would like to see how the work to date has addressed the objectives in the Pacific Lamprey Management Plan. Blue Leaf will give the presentation during the March PRFF meeting. Finally, Mike indicated that he will schedule a tour of the fish ladders in February.

C. Update on the CRITFC Lamprey Proposal

Bob Rose indicated that they have a couple of sections to complete (adaptive management and climate change) before they submit the proposal to the Northwest Power and Conservation Council. Bob thought they would have the proposal to the Council by mid-winter.

D. Fish ladder outage update

Mike Clement stated that Grant PUD will begin taking fish ladders out of service beginning this week (12 December). Fish crews will sweep the ladders for fish and any fish collected in the ladders will be checked for tags and released upstream from the dams. Mike indicated that about

9-14% of tagged adult lamprey are still in the ladders. These fish will be released in the reservoirs where they can overwinter.

E. Other Pacific Lamprey Items

RD Nelle gave a short presentation on a vertical wet wall lamprey passage system that is being tested at Prosser Dam on the Yakima River (see Attachment 3). RD described the design and structure of the passage system. He noted that two passage systems have been installed at Prosser Dam on the Yakima River. These are currently being "seasoned" and the Yakama Nation will monitor the capture of any adult lamprey in the systems. RD noted that the Bureau of Reclamation funded the structures. A pump currently waters the system. Future designs may include gravity fed systems. He indicated that the systems are portable.

VII. Next Meeting: 4 January 2017 – Grant PUD Natural Resources Wenatchee Office.