



Grant County
PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT
Excellence in Service and Leadership

Priest Rapids Fish Forum

Wednesday, 5 April 2017

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

Doris Squeochs, Wanapum

Breean Zimmerman, WDOE (via phone)

Jason McLellan, CCT (via phone)

Bob Rose, YN (via phone)

Tracy Hillman, Facilitator

RD Nelle, USFWS

Chad Jackson, WDFW (via phone)

Donella Miller, YN (via phone)

Chris Mott, Grant PUD

Tom Skiles, CRITFC (via phone)

Action Items:

1. WDFW or YN will provide the PRFF with biological information on sturgeon caught by the Yakama Nation during their tribal commercial fishery in the project area.
2. Chad Jackson will let Tracy Hillman know what the managers decide regarding collection of sturgeon broodstock from the McNary Dam tailrace this year. Tracy will then share the decision with the PRFF.
3. Tracy Hillman will discuss with John Ferguson (Chair of the Aquatic Settlement Work Group) the possibility of giving Daniel Deng (PNNL) more time to discuss lamprey tag development during the Pacific Lamprey Regional Passage Workshop.

- I. **Welcome and Introductions**
- II. **Agenda Review** – Members reviewed and approved the draft agenda.
- III. **Approve March Meeting Notes** – 1 March 2017 Meeting Minutes were reviewed and approved with edits.
 - A. **Review Action Items from March Meeting**
 - 1. Mike Clement will discuss with Grant PUD's AIS biologist the inclusion of shoreline surveys in their aquatic invasive species surveys. **Ongoing; Grant PUD is currently considering the inclusion of shoreline surveys.**
 - 2. WDFW or the Yakama Nation will provide the PRFF with biological information on sturgeon caught by the Yakama Nation during their tribal commercial fishery in the project area. **Ongoing; a report from the YN should be available soon.**
 - 3. Mike Clement will let the PRFF know the date for the Priest Rapids adult fishway tour. **Complete.**
 - 4. Tracy Hillman will coordinate with the RRF on a joint meeting to discuss Pacific lamprey NNI. **Complete; the joint meeting will be on 3 May at the Grant PUD Wenatchee Office.**
 - 5. Tracy Hillman will coordinate with the ASWG chair on a regional Pacific lamprey coordination workshop. **Complete; the Workshop will be on 13 April at Douglas PUD.**
 - 6. The PRFF will review the 2016 draft white sturgeon annual report and send comments to Chris Mott by 8 March 2017. **Complete; the final report was submitted to FERC.**
 - 7. The PRFF will review the 2016 draft aquatic invasive species report and send comments to Carson Keeler by 27 March 2017. **Complete.**

IV. **Update on WSMP**

A. **Update on Juvenile Rearing**

Chris Mott reported that juvenile sturgeon at Marion Drain are doing well and their growth is comparable to that measured last year at this time. He said they tagged fish last Tuesday through Thursday (28-30 March) and noted that the fish look healthier than last year (i.e., fish this year had less fin deformity than last year). All fish were scute marked and PIT tagged. A total of 32 fish received acoustic tags. Depending on water temperatures, juvenile sturgeon will be release in 2-3 weeks. As before, a total of 1,250 juvenile sturgeon will be release into Priest Rapids Reservoir (in the Wanapum Tailrace) and 2,000 will be released into Wanapum Reservoir (at Frenchman Coulee). Chris commented that there is less avian predation on juveniles released at these locations.

B. **2016 Annual Report and 2017 Activities**

Chris Mott indicated that the 2016 draft annual report was sent to the PRFF for comments on 6 February 2017. Comments were due to Chris on 8 March 2017. No comments were received. Therefore, the report was finalized and submitted to FERC. Chris said that sampling in 2017 will be similar to 2016.

C. **2017 Broodstock Collection**

Chad Jackson reported that prospects for collecting broodstock and larvae look good this year. He indicated the lower river co-managers recently discussed the collection of broodstock for the PUD sturgeon hatchery programs. He said Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) expressed concern about mining mature adults from the McNary Dam tailrace (John Day pool) and they would prefer no fish be removed from the John Day Pool this year. The reason is because the higher flows this year may increase the probability of natural recruitment. That is, higher flows tend to be associated with high natural recruitment. Given that there has been no natural recruitment in John Day Reservoir since 2012, ODFW prefers that the fish spawn naturally in the tailrace. The co-managers share ODFW's views on maximizing natural spawning in John Day Pool, but believe it is okay to collect some brood (enough to satisfy the 18 half-sibling requirement identified in the SOA). Chad said the managers will reconvene next week to finalize a decision on broodstock collection. After the meeting, Chad will report the results to Tracy Hillman, who will forward the information to the PRFF.

There was discussion about what happens if broodstock cannot be collected from McNary tailrace. Chad said the co-managers discussed the possibility of collecting broodstock from Bonneville Pool or Hanford Reach. Forum members were not convinced that this was a good idea. Given the flow conditions this year and the difficulty with collecting mature sturgeon in Bonneville Pool, they thought it would be nearly impossible to collect broodstock from Bonneville Pool this year. Chad said that WDFW supports collecting the 12 broodstock from McNary tailrace. He will report back to the Forum after the managers next meeting.

D. **Update on Yakama Nation Sturgeon Fishery in Priest Rapids Project Area**

Chad Jackson reported that he has not yet received the report from the Yakama Nation (YN) on their winter sturgeon fishery in the Priest Rapids Project Area. Once that report is available, he or the YN will share it with the PRFF.

Chad indicated that he received an email from the YN stating that they are planning another tribal fishery this spring in the project area. It will be another setline fishery and is proposed to occur from 31 March to 6 May.

E. **Other White Sturgeon Items**

None.

V. **Update on PLMP**

A. **Pacific Lamprey NNI Estimation**

Tracy Hillman reminded the group that both the PRFF and RRFF will meet jointly on Wednesday, 3 May to discuss adult lamprey NNI. The meeting will be at the Grant PUD conference room in Wenatchee. Chelan PUD agreed to take the notes for the joint meeting. Both Grant and Chelan PUDs will give presentations that describe results from their respective adult lamprey studies. Members will then discuss ways to calculate adult lamprey passage success, if it is possible to do

additional treatments within the fishways to improve passage success, and how to calculate NNI. Tracy will prepare an agenda for the joint meeting.

B. Regional Workshop

Tracy Hillman reported that he sent to the PRFF the final agenda for the Pacific Lamprey Regional Passage Workshop, which will be held at Douglas PUD on Thursday, 13 April from 10:00 am to 3:30 pm. The objectives of the workshop are to:

1. Present general overviews of studies conducted in 2016 at Mid-Columbia projects (approach behavior, entrance efficiency, ladder passage efficiency, adult fallback, reservoir transit, and survival) to inform the discussion of passage hypotheses; the workshop will focus primarily on hypotheses that pertain to poor conversion through the Rocky Reach reservoir and other reservoirs, if applicable.
2. Discuss the current passage hypotheses with a goal of finding common perspectives on key hypotheses.
3. Outline plans for 2017 studies.
4. Outline plans for 2018 and 2019 studies.
5. Discuss the need for a rolling, 3-year action plan for addressing passage uncertainties and population rebuilding goals at a broader scale that can be discussed with policy representatives.

Tracy noted that Daniel Deng (PNNL) will give a presentation on lamprey tag development. Members requested that Daniel be given more than 30 minutes for his presentation. They asked that he be given at least an hour for his presentation, questions, and answers. Tracy said he will discuss this with John Ferguson (Chair of the Aquatic Settlement Work Group). In addition, during the afternoon, Bob Rose will briefly discuss adaptive management within the licenses. Bob noted that there is a lot of overlap among licenses regarding adaptive management. Finally, there will be time to discuss how information gaps and hypotheses will be addressed, and, if necessary, how to develop a rolling three-year action plan to facilitate study planning and implementation.

C. Other Pacific Lamprey Items

None.

VI. Next Meeting: 3 May 2017 – Grant PUD Natural Resources Wenatchee Office