



Grant County
PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT
Excellence in Service and Leadership

**Priest Rapids Fish Forum
Meeting**

**Wednesday, 6 June 2018
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Call-In Number: 1-800-977-8002, Bridge: 7422882**

MEETING MINUTES

PRFF REPRESENTATIVES

Steve Lewis, USFWS
Bob Rose, YN
Pat Wyena, 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 (Via Phone)
Tom Skiles, CTUIR (Via Phone)
Steve Lewis, USFWS
Patrick Verhey, WDFW (Via Phone)
Tracy Hillman, Chair

Chris Mott, Grant PUD
Erin McIntyre, Grant PUD
Ralph Lampman, YN (Via Phone)
Chad Jackson, WDFW (Via Phone)
Doris Squeochs, Wanapum (Via Phone)

Action Items:

1. Steve Lewis will add Wanapum to the invasive species action plan's participation list. He will also provide updates to the PRFF on the status of the draft action plan.
2. Tom Skiles will check with Blaine Parker on numbers of tagged sturgeon captured in the winter tribal fishery.

- I. **Welcome and Introductions** Tracy Hillman welcomed everyone to the Priest Rapids Fish Forum (PRFF or Forum) meeting. Participants introduced themselves. Tracy reported that John Easterbrooks, WDFW, has retired and asked WDFW if there is someone from John's office who should be added to the PRFF distribution list. Chad Jackson requested that Paul Hoffarth be added to the list.
- II. **Agenda Review** - Members reviewed and approved the draft agenda with the addition of a Pacific lamprey agenda item (Tribes Pacific Lamprey Master Plan).
- III. **Approve April Meeting Notes** – The April 2018 Meeting Minutes were reviewed and approved during the meeting.
 - A. Action Items from the April Meeting:
 - 1. Steve Lewis will add Wanapum to the invasive species action plan's participation list. He will also provide updates to the PRFF on the status of the draft action plan. **Ongoing.**
 - 2. Ralph Lampman will provide the PRFF with the NOAA Fisheries study plan to model the effects of contaminants in the Hanford Reach on juvenile and adult Pacific lamprey. **Complete – On 20 April, Troy Baker, NOAA, provided information on aquatic species habitat mapping to better define potential exposure to Hanford-derived contaminants.**
- IV. **White Sturgeon Management Plan**
 - A. **Broodstock Collection** – Chris Mott indicated that broodstock collection efforts successfully collected six females and six males. The PUDs worked with ODFW and successfully captured adult sturgeon for the GPUD and CPUD hatchery programs (12 adults) and for the ODFW tagging study (30 adults). Collection efforts occurred from 14-27 March. For the ODFW tagging study, ODFW tagged 15 M6 males, 10 F5 females, and 1 F3 female. Broodstock were transported to Marion Drain. Chris said the Yakama Nation will begin spawning fish tomorrow (7 June). Five males and five females are ripe and ready for spawning. One female is not yet ripe and appears to have kidney-bean-shaped eggs. The plan is to complete a 5x5 spawning matrix tomorrow, hold the males in chilled water, and wait to see if the sixth female ripens. Chris stated that volunteers are welcome to help with spawning activities at Marion Drain. Spawning will begin around 9:00 am and end around 4:30 pm.
 - B. **Tagging and Release of Juvenile Sturgeon** – Chris Mott reported that they scute marked and PIT tagged 3,224 juvenile sturgeon at Marion Drain on 9-11 April. They also tagged 32 juvenile sturgeon with acoustic tags. The juveniles were released into the project area on 1 May. A total of 1,983 juvenile sturgeon (20 with acoustic tags) were released at Frenchman Coulee (Wanapum Reservoir) and 1,241 juveniles (12 with acoustic tags) into the Wanapum tailrace (Priest Rapids Reservoir). Chris noted that all fish looked good as they were being released.
 - C. **Other White Sturgeon Items** – Chad Jackson noted that there will be no efforts to collect sturgeon larvae in 2018. They (WDFW) may try to collect larvae in 2019. He also said he has not received a proposal from the Yakama Nation for a spring or summer tribal sturgeon fishery in the project area this year. He added that the recreational fishery has been slow. He will provide more information on the recreational fishery (effort and catch) during the next meeting. Tom Skiles will check with Blaine Parker on tagged sturgeon captured in the winter tribal fishery. Finally, Chris Mott stated that Grant PUD will conduct juvenile index monitoring in August and population assessments in September – October 2018.

V. Pacific Lamprey Management Plan

- A. **Adult Lamprey Collection and Coordination** – Mike Clement said he reviewed the past 10 years of passage data and the timing of passage of lamprey and determined the highest percentage of adult lamprey pass Priest Rapids dam during the first three weeks of August. Therefore, Grant PUD is proposing to capture adult lamprey five days per week for three weeks beginning in August. These fish will then be transported and released upstream from Rock Island Dam. Ralph Lampman said he will review Bonneville Dam counts and coordinate with Mike on the date to start trapping at Priest Rapids Dam. Mike indicate that he has been tracking lamprey passage in the Columbia River and noted that 4,000 lamprey have passed Bonneville Dam (and about 50 have passed Wells Dam). Mike said he will work with Ralph on finding the best date to start trapping at Priest Rapids Dam.

Mike reminded the group that Grant PUD intends to capture as many adult lamprey as they can during the three-week period. He added they will install the traps a few days early to “season” the traps. Mike will inform the PRFF when they begin trapping. Ralph indicated that the Yakama Nation will coordinate with Mike on transferring some of the adult lamprey to the Yakama Nation for translocation efforts. Ralph said he will put together a 2018 translocation plan, which should be available for review by next week, 11-15 June.

Steve Lewis asked if Douglas PUD has coordinated with Mike on capturing adult lamprey for their (Douglas PUD) program. Mike said he has not heard from Douglas PUD on this topic since last February. At that time, Douglas PUD was talking about three-weeks of capturing effort. Mike noted that any fish to be collected for Douglas PUD will have to occur before and/or after Grant’s three-week sampling period. Mike stated that Chelan PUD did not request any lamprey this year.

- B. **Pacific Lamprey Master Plan** – Ralph Lampman reported that the Pacific Lamprey Master Plan was reviewed recently by the Independent Scientific Review Panel (ISRP). The plan, which was prepared by CRITFC, Yakama Nation, Umatilla Tribes, and the Nez Perce Tribe, outlines the Tribes’ approach to recovery of lamprey in the region. He said this was step 1 in the Council’s three-step review process. Overall, the ISRP gave the plan a favorable review.

Ralph said the plan describes ongoing and proposed adult translocation and artificial propagation activities, as well as existing and proposed facilities needed to meet artificial propagation objectives. The plan also describes adult translocation and outlines how proposed actions will work together and provide synergy with other actions such as improvements to passage, habitat, and water quality to help meet restoration goals for lamprey in the Columbia River Basin. He said they hope to implement the plan late this year or early next year.

- C. **Other Pacific Lamprey Items** – None.

VI. Priest Rapids Dam

- A. **Update on Priest Rapids Dam Operations** – Mike Clement indicated that crews have almost completed drilling across the spillway. About 230 holes have been drilled to map the leakage. Through pool-elevation management, Grant PUD was able to maintain equal pressure across the dam and tailwater as drilling progressed. Crews are now evaluating the data. Depending on the results from the evaluation, FERC may require pining and grouting to reduce leakage; however, Grant is unsure what FERC will recommend at this time. It is unlikely Grant PUD will have to install tendons like they did in Wanapum Dam. Mike said they were able to hold Priest Rapids Reservoir within the lower end of the normal operating range (elevations between 484.5 to 481.5 feet). He added that there were no flow violations for fall Chinook on the Hanford Reach.

Other Priest Rapids Dam Updates – Steve Lewis stated that during the Wanapum Dam fracture, USFWS consulted with the PUDs on their actions dealing with the fracture. As a result, an emergency Biological Opinion (BO) needs to be prepared. However, because of other pressing issues, the USFWS will not be able to write the BO in a timely manner. Therefore, Steve asked if Grant PUD would be willing to write the emergency BO, given that there are no terms and conditions in the opinion. He said Chelan PUD is writing theirs for Rock Island Dam and wonders if Grant PUD can write the opinion for Wanapum and Priest Rapids dams. The USFWS will review and sign the opinion. Mike said he will discuss this with Tom Dresser.

VII. PRFF Policy Committee

- A. **Proposed Meeting on Friday, 22 June** – Tracy Hillman reported that Denny Rohr is trying to schedule a meeting of the PRCC and PRFF Policy Committee. The goal of the meeting is to review accomplishments and identify necessary next steps. Denny tried to schedule the meeting for Friday, 22 June, but several policy members are unable to make that date. Therefore, Denny will try to find a date later this summer or fall. Tracy said it will be important to have technical members present to answer questions from the policy members.

VIII. Next Meeting: 1 August 2018 – Grant PUD Natural Resources Wenatchee Office