



Priest Rapids Coordinating Committee Meeting

FINAL APPROVED MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, June 22, 2021

1:00 pm

ZOOM Webinar

PRCC Representatives

Scott Carlon, Justin Yeager (Alt), NMFS
Keely Murdoch, Brandon Rogers (Alt), YN
Chad Jackson, P. Verhey (Alt) WDFW
Curt Dotson, Peter Graf (Alt), GCPUD
Denny Rohr, D. Rohr & Assoc, Facilitator

Jim Craig, USFWS
Kirk Truscott, Casey Baldwin (alt), CCT
Tom Skiles, CTUIR
Erin Harris, Admin Ass't, GPUD

PRCC Meeting Attendees

Curt Dotson, GPUD
Scott Carlon, NMFS - Absent
Chad Jackson, WDFW
Tom Skiles, CTUIR -Absent
Kirk Truscott, CCT – Absent
David Welch, Kintama
Tom Dresser, GPUD

Keely Murdoch, YN
Denny Rohr, D. Rohr & Assoc, Facilitator
Erin Harris, GPUD
Jim Craig, USFWS
Peter Graf, GCPUD
Erin Rechisky, Kintama

Decisions Made During Tuesday, June 22, 2021 Meeting

1. Not Approved – “Comparative Survival of Snake River Spring Chinook Smolts in Multiple Migration Regions and Implications for Upper Columbia River Chinook Salmon Conservation Proposal”

Meeting Minutes

- I. **Welcome and Introductions** – Rohr welcomed everyone.
- II. **Agenda Review** –Rohr added discussion of PRCC facilitator position under agenda item “VI. New PRCC Facilitator Position”.

III. Meeting Minutes

- A. Affirm approval received from Tom Skiles of April 23, 2021, draft minutes. – Approved
- B. May 25, 2021, draft minutes – Murdoch requested additional time for review; Rohr will follow up with Skiles who was absent from today's meeting; Carlon did not attend May 25th meeting; Truscott approved May 25th with email to Rohr; Craig, Dotson, Jackson approved today.

IV. Review of Actions Items from May 25, 2021, Meeting –

- 1. SOA 2021-03, Methodology used to Calculate the Combined (juvenile/adult) Survival Estimates for the Priest Rapids Project - Truscott and Dotson will talk offline to provide clarity; Grant will discuss internally, and Dotson will get back to committee members with a summary of that discussion; Rohr will conduct an email vote accordingly. - **Grant PUD removed this SOA vote via email notice 6/9/2021**
- 2. Rohr will move forward to contact and discuss monthly reporting suggestions with BOR. - **Ongoing**
- 3. Rohr will place July meeting date on agenda for additional discussion at June meeting. - **Completed**
- 4. Dotson will provide an update of the results of the Quincy Valley Tourism Association Northern Pikeminnow Fishing Derby at the next meeting in June. - **Completed**

- V. (1:15 pm) **DECISION ITEM** – “Comparative Survival of Snake River Spring Chinook Smolts in Multiple Migration Regions and Implications for Upper Columbia River Chinook Salmon Conservation Proposal”, Presentation by David Welch, Erin Rechisky, Kintama – Rohr welcomed Erin Rechisky and David Welch to share their NNI funding request proposal presentation on Comparative Survival of Snake River Spring Chinook Smolts in Multiple Migration Regions/Implications for upper Columbia River Chinook Salmon Conservation by Kintama. Welch and Rechisky shared their presentation to committee members. Graf asked about the relationship between time or distance and the survival decay curve. Graf asked if a week shorter in the hydrosystem would translate to a week sooner at North Vancouver Island. Welch shared that fish swim at a fairly constant speed, and the time will be comparable over the years. He also shared that there are three habitat survival cycles: hydro, early and later ocean survival. And he agreed with Graf that if we cut down the time by a week in the hydro system, we add a week to the ocean, and whether it's early or late ocean arrival hasn't been determined. Graf asked Welch about the bar charts for survival by season at entry to the estuary. Welch shared timing is an issue when smolts arrive and possible poor adult returns, however for those figures the tagging was at Bonneville and were small sample sizes. Murdoch asked if delaying the fish by delaying one less week is based solely on time in the ocean? She questioned if survival in the ocean is solely based on time in the ocean vs. migratory route. Welch shared that survival of sequence and points of time is something he agrees with. Murdoch asked about entry time in the ocean vs. entry time in the river as adults. Welch shared that adult returns is generally more of a fixed time but he was uncertain if that has been formally tested. Rohr excused Welch and

Rechisky from the meeting and committee members discussed the proposal further. Dotson shared they haven't gone through the data-analysis, and in looking at their proposal this equates to another option for consideration in addressing fish survival. **Rohr called for the vote on the proposal which included a \$115,000.00 funding request. Committee members vote: Not Approved.**

VI. New PRCC Facilitator Position - Rohr will be leaving the committee and this transition created a new facilitator position. Rohr shared he has had some discussed with Murdoch and Donella Miller of the Yakama Nation. Accordingly, Rohr called on Murdoch to share her thoughts regarding selection of a new facilitator. Murdoch shared the Yakama Nation is concerned how the Settlement Agreement states that the PRCC shares in the selection of a new facilitator and Grant PUD shall fund. She discussed how the PRCC committee members did not have a roll in the selection of a new facilitator. Murdoch said the process error is what concerns them more than who Grant PUD selected. She shared the PRCC Committee members should have been made aware of and been part of the process to find and choose a new PRCC Facilitator. Dresser thanked Keely for being direct and sharing this concern. He also shared he had the PRFF process in his mind and how their decision making to select a facilitator has always been without the committee. He shared that he and Rohr have been discussing this for about 6 months and the two of them agreed that Bryan Nordlund would be the best fit. Dresser shared he had reached out to a few facilitators who declined and that he knows Bryan Nordlund is willing and has 15-20 years of time working with Grant and committee members and knows our requirements. Dresser said Nordlund is a problem solver and a good communicator, and his actions is his word and what he has brought to the table speaks for itself. Dresser shared that all of Nordlund's hydro experience is one of the reasons they chose him. He recalled when Denny Rohr was selected without a committee group process. And he stated how the Hatchery committee never went through a committee selection process with any of their three facilitators. Chad Jackson shared he understands and agrees with Murdoch and suggests as the committee and Grant goes forward, we have a 6-month, one year, or a year and half check in to make sure the facilitator is doing well going forward. Dresser said it's not the committee and Grant, but it's one committee. Plus, he shared how Nordlund has experience that ultimately is good for this committee and he will work for this committee. Craig shared he feels this will be a good outcome with Bryan Nordlund. Rohr asked if everyone is okay with Bryan Nordlund. Murdoch shared the lack of process is what concerns her as it wasn't respected. She also stated that over the last year she feels we've gone over a very difficult path going forward and it's a trend she is seeing, and therefore the process concerns her. She commented that as a committee, we must correct this. Murdoch suggested that the committee all meet with Nordlund, and that his role/work is on a trial period. Jackson suggested that committee members be given an opportunity to evaluate Nordlund's facilitation of the committee. Murdoch suggested crafting an SOA to describe the process moving forward. Dresser shared the PRCC will need to come up with a process they are

comfortable with and craft an SOA that everyone agrees with. He notified members that he wants this done as soon as possible and does not want to have language arguments. Murdoch offered to draft the SOA. Murdoch asked what professional facilitation experience Bryan Nordlund has had including conflict resolution. Dresser shared he doesn't have a lot of facilitation experience and his work with varying solutions has proven his conflict resolution abilities. He also shared none of the past or current facilitators have had professional facilitation training. **ACTION: Murdock volunteered to develop a draft SOA for committee member's review.**

VII. (Withdrawn from Consideration) DECISION ITEM – SOA 2021-03, Methodology used to Calculate the Combined (juvenile/adult) Survival Estimates for the Priest Rapids Project – Rohr sent notice of removal of this item to committee members via email 6/9/2021.

VIII. Avian Predation Reports

A. Review and Discussion of BOR Avian Predation Report – Rohr reported he has not received a monthly report from the BOR for June. He also shared the BOR has a new Fish & Wildlife supervisor, Sarah Fesenmyer, who is currently with NOAA and will start her new position with BOR around July 6th.

IX. 2021 Spill Report – Dotson shared the current spill program is ongoing.

X. Discussion of July Meeting Date (HCPCC changing meeting date) – Murdoch shared the July meeting of the HCPCC will be held on Thursday, 7/23/2021. Rohr suggested keeping PRCC meeting at its normal date and time on Tuesday, July 27th, and committee members agreed.

UPDATES

XI. Avian Predation Activities – Nothing additional

XII. FCRPS BiOp – Corps/BOR Avian Predation Management in Columbia Plateau Region – No update.

XIII. Review of Outstanding NNI Funded Projects

A. Lower Wenatchee Instream Flow Enhancement Project Phase II – Rohr stated there is no new information to report.

B. “Non-Native Predator Recruitment Reduction – Phase I” – Nothing new to report on this project. However, Murdoch shared she will email a Geochemical Analysis of Walleye/Bass Report, and although not directly related, it does have good information included.

C. “Northern Pike Removal in Lake Roosevelt” - no update.

D. **(Placeholder)** 2020 Quincy Valley Tourism Association Northern Pikeminnow Fishing Derby (moved to 2021 due to Covid-19) -- Dotson sent out a link to committee members that shares the [success of the 2021 pikeminnow derby](#).

- E. Avian Predation on ESA-listed Juvenile Salmonids on the Mid-Columbia River, 2021, Real Time Research – Dotson reported that RTR is continuing to monitor the Goose Island/Potholes area, as scoped in their NNI contract. RTR’s weekly monitoring reports have been shared with BOR. Two new small tern colonies have been established on Goose Island this season, along with the issues regarding their flagging arrays on the island – with no response from BOR staff. The success (reducing of terns) seen from the work on Goose Island has gone down since work started in 2014. Crescent Island had no avian colonies since the dissuasion activities started in 2015, and now there are gull and tern nests on Crescent Island. Rohr shared he will follow up with the BOR and keep committee members advised.
- F. **(Placeholder)** Barkley Irrigation Co Permanent Point of Diversion, Completing Implementation of the Permanent Solution – Rohr shared there are no changes and that the Habitat Subcommittee is following up on this.
- G. **Committee Reports** – email distribution
- H. **NNI and Habitat Funds Report 2021 Q1** – Harris reported she is working with accounting to review reports for correct invoicing and closing old contracts.

XIII. Next Meeting – July 27, 2021, 1:00, ZOOM Webinar Meeting

Action Items from June 22, 2021 meeting

- Murdoch will develop a draft SOA for committee members to review regarding PRCC Facilitator Selection Process.