



## Priest Rapids Coordinating Committee Meeting

### Final Approved Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, February 23, 2021

1:00 pm

#### PRCC Representatives

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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

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Curt Dotson, GPUD  
Keely Murdoch, YN  
Chad Jackson, WDFW  
Tom Skiles, CTUIR  
Scott Carlon, NMFS

Peter Graf, GPUD  
Denny Rohr, D. Rohr & Assoc, Facilitator  
Erin Harris, GPUD  
Jim Craig, USFWS  
Kirk Truscott, CCT

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- I. **Welcome and Introductions** – Rohr welcomed everyone to the meeting.
- II. **Agenda Review** – The agenda was reviewed with no additions made.
- III. **Meeting Minutes -**
  - A. **January 26, 2021 – consideration of approval-** The meeting minutes are approved with edits provided by Jackson.
- IV. **Review of Actions Items from January 26, 2021 Meeting -**
  1. Carlon will discuss Goose Island and Potholes area avian dissuasion activities within NOAA. – **Completed.** Carlon briefed committee members on his discussion with Ritchie Graves, (Branch Chief, NOAA Fisheries) about BOR activities and FCRPS BiOp requirements. Carlon stated Graves has set this subject as a standing agenda item for their weekly policy meeting. Dotson asked if Lynne Krasnow, NOAA staff, is aware of

the BOR activities. Carlon shared she is aware of this and feels that she, Carlon and Graves will take care of the follow-up required.

2. Rohr will stay in touch with BOR regarding path forward for Goose Island and Potholes area avian dissuasion activities. – **Completed**, Rohr has called Scott Hoefer, BOR, and is waiting for a return call from him.
  3. Murdoch will notify G. McMichael and R. Buchanan of committee decision regarding NNI Funding project proposal. **Completed**.
- V. Review of PRCC-BOR Meetings** – Rohr briefed the committee on the results of the three PRCC-BOR meetings that brought attention to avian dissuasion for new and current BOR staff. Dotson shared the BOR has not yet shared their draft 2020 report and believes they are planning to do the same tasks (hazing twice a week and egg pick up if they are spotted (200 eggs max based on present collection permit from USFWS) during the 2021 through 2024 seasons.

- VI. DECISION ITEM – RTR Proposal “Avian Predation on ESA-listed Juvenile Salmonids on the Mid-Columbia River, 2021”** – Dotson discussed his opinion that the BOR did not meet their BiOp-requirements in 2019 and 2020, and their 2021 plan is to use the same contract/tasks that was used in 2020 through 2024. Dotson suggested approval of this RTR contract will keep Avian Predation dissuasion activities strong and moving in the right direction, with a 3<sup>rd</sup>-party set of eyes on Goose Island and the Potholes area regarding CATE activity in that area and also help with “evaluating” the effectiveness of the BOR’s approach to avian predation management on Goose Island, as required in their BiOp. Murdoch next discussed the Rock Island Dam Smolt Monitoring Program memorandum, dated 2/19/2021, from the Fish Passage Center (FPC) that was distributed to committee members last week. Murdoch shared the memo is a discussion from FPC who wants to suspend the FPC funded smolt monitoring project at the Rock Island Bypass. Murdoch also wants the memo to be shared with the PRCC as there may be implications for the work RTR proposed. Skiles agrees with Murdoch and he asked to postpone today’s vote to allow more time for RTR to review the FPC memo and address committee (PRCC) questions. Skiles asked if the problem noted in the memo is a result from procedures and handling effect at Rock Island or general PIT-tagging effects? It was also asked if these effects are only at Rock Island or does it cover a larger area? Dotson said the FPC memo is comparing apples to oranges, and his reasoning is that 95% of the fish are tagged upstream of RRE are hatchery fish, which has already experienced handling effects prior to being released into the river (sometimes months prior), with the RI group of fish being tagged and released back into the river within 24 hrs., thus experiencing handling effects and the other group (upstream of RRE detection site) does not. Murdoch disagreed that it is an apples-to-oranges comparison, stating the reasons Curt Dotson provided are why the fish tagged at RI may not represent the run at large. Skiles offered a solution in that RTR could provide grading. He also shared RTR does a good job selecting the quantity of fish for daily tagging based on the run-timing of the smolts for the season. Skiles suggested postponing the vote for one week. Jackson proposed holding off on voting today to allow RTR time to review the memo, plus members could vote on tasks 1 and 2 today and hold on tasks 3 and

4. After additional discussion, committee members agreed to postpone today's vote and meet with RTR on Tuesday, March 2nd at 1:00 pm to allow RTR to address committee questions. Rohr asked committee member to email their questions to him and he will forward to RTR along with the FPC memo for their review. Additionally, committee members agreed to vote on the total proposal during the March 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting. **Action:** Rohr will schedule a Zoom webinar meeting for Tuesday, March 2<sup>nd</sup> at 1:00 pm, and Dotson will contact RTR to request their attendance.

**VII. Potpourri** -Nothing added.

### **UPDATES**

**VIII. Avian Predation Activities** -No further discussion.

**IX. FCRPS BiOp – Corps/BOR Avian Predation Management in Columbia Plateau Region** – None.

**X. Review of Outstanding NNI Funded Projects**

**A. Continued Support for UC Fish Screen Program** – None.

**B. Lower Wenatchee Instream Flow Enhancement Project Phase II** – None.

**C. “Non-Native Predator Recruitment Reduction – Phase I”** - None.

**D. “Northern Pike Removal in Lake Roosevelt”** - No new updates.

**E. (Placeholder) 2020 Quincy Valley Tourism Association Northern Pikeminnow Fishing Derby (moved to May 2021 due to Covid-19) (C. Dotson)** Dotson shared Central Washington has moved into Covid phase 2 on 2/14/2021, thus allowing for the possibility of the derby happening this spring. This remains as a place holder.

**F. Avian Predation on ESA-listed Juvenile Salmonids on the Mid-Columbia River, 2020, Real Time Research (C. Dotson)** -Dotson shared the Synthesis Report coming out at the end of the month and that Report information was mailed out to committee members.

**G. (Placeholder) Barkley Irrigation Co Permanent Point of Diversion, Completing Implementation of the Permanent Solution (D. Rohr)** -On hold. Dotson asked Rohr if Barkley is still an open contract? Rohr shared the Habitat Subcommittee is still involved with this project, but it is on hold through springtime when discussion will occur regarding consideration for sale of some included property.

**XI. Committee Reports** – Rohr sent committee reports via email to PRCC committee members.

**XII. NNI and Habitat Funds Report 2021 – February 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Deposits plus Status of Q4 Report** -Dotson shared on 2/15/2021 the following deposits were made: \$420,898.46 was deposited in Habitat Fund 603, \$1,178,000 into Habitat Fund 602, and \$599,007.99 into NNI Fund 601.

**XIII. Next Meeting** – March 2, 2021 ZOOM Webinar meeting, 1:00 pm; regularly scheduled ZOOM Webinar meeting on March 23, 2021, 1:00 pm.

**Action Items from February 23, 2021 meeting**

1. Zoom meeting to be scheduled Tuesday, 3/2/2020 at 1:00 pm for PRCC committee and RTR staff, plus committee members to email their questions for RTR to Rohr asap.