



Grant County
PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT
Excellence in Service and Leadership

Priest Rapids Coordinating Committee Meeting

FINAL APPROVED MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, September 25, 2019

10am

Wanapum Dam HOB, Room 107

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
Keely Murdoch, YN
Scott Carlon, NMFS
Kirk Truscott, CCT
Chad Jackson, WDFW
Jeff Jorgenson, Research Fish Biologist
Tracy Hillman, BioAnalysts (Via Phone)

Jim Craig, USFWS
Tom Skiles, CTUIR (Via Phone)
Peter Graf, GPUD
Denny Rohr, D. Rohr & Assoc, Facilitator
Erin Harris, GPUD
Todd Pearsons, GPUD
Mike Tonseth, WDFW

Decisions made during September 25, 2019 meeting

1. Approved SOA 2019-01, Schedule of Conducting Sub-yearling Summer Chinook Survival Evaluations.
2. Made several decisions as outlined below relative to G. McMichael contract questions for HFA 601-33H, Non-Native Predator Recruitment, Phase 1 Activities.
3. Made decisions of more information needed of the Land-Owner Agreement before including Stemilt Screen Project relative to HFA 601-28, Upper Columbia Basin Screening Contract.
4. Approved Quincy Valley Tourism Association Fishing Derby and NNI funding request for \$25,000.

Meeting Minutes

- I. **Safety Briefing** - completed
- II. **Welcome and Introductions**
- III. **Agenda Review (D. Rohr)** – no additions
- IV. **Meeting Minutes (D. Rohr)**
 - A. July 24, 2019 Meeting – Approved contingent on Craig and Murdoch approval
 - B. August 28, 2019 Meeting – Under development
- V. **Review of Actions Items from August 28, 2019 Meeting (D. Rohr)**
 - A. Rohr will follow up on Decision Items with Murdoch who was absent from the meeting. - **Complete**
 - B. Dotson will follow up on Avian Predation letter to NMFS. - **Complete**
 - C. SOA 2019-01 will be a Decision Item for September meeting. - **Complete**
 - D. Rohr will follow up with details of Jeff Jorgenson participation in September meeting. -**Complete**
- VI. **(10:00 am) Jeff Jorgenson, Research Fish Biologist (S. Carlon)** – Jeff Jorgenson, Research Fish Biologist under contract with NMFS, was introduced by Scott Carlon. Jorgenson has been involved with NOAA since 2010 working on Wenatchee River Basin Spring Chinook Salmon Life-cycle Modeling. He commented that he is one team out of several that does model work throughout the Columbia River Basin. His model is one of two models that NOAA has developed for Wenatchee Spring Chinook, the other being a PIT-tag driven life-stage model. Jorgenson was invited to give a presentation to the PRCC with some emphasis on work taking place in the White River and also Lake Wenatchee relative to life cycle modelling as related to both adult and juvenile spring Chinook migration and related survival. Jorgenson commented he had received a list of questions from the PRCC Hatchery Subcommittee identifying areas of interest relative to the modeling work he participates in, including White River Spring Chinook life cycle modeling and Lake Wenatchee juvenile migration and survival. Jorgenson explained his current involvement in development of the Columbia River System Operation EIS as related to the next FCRPS Bi-Op. He further explained they are trying to understand different options and population responses. Jorgenson detailed the life-stages in the model and the transitions from each life-stage to the next. He reviewed several of the parameters that are included in a modeling application including pre-spawn mortality and predation. He detailed the calibration process where unknown or uncertain values are determined by fitting the model to observed data and how hatcheries effects are modeled using PNI. Model outputs including variables such as spawning adults,

smolts, productivity, VSP criteria, etc. Jorgensen concluded his presentation by explaining the current direction of the model which is to understand the behavior of parr and their transition to fall or summer 'movers' or 'stayers' and survival to yearling smolts. Committee members asked questions about the details of life-cycle modeling including how juvenile survival affects subsequent life-stages, if density dependence is part of the model, if a calibration process could be applied to juvenile survival, and the application of PIT-tags to estimate survival. Jorgenson commented that the direction he is taking the model is to understand the parr to smolt transitions and survivals and the carrying capacity of the lake to rear juvenile fish. Rohr questioned if committee members are currently focused on Lake Wenatchee juvenile survival or on the broader question of White River Spring Chinook mitigation program --what are the questions we are focusing upon? Murdoch suggested that the committee decide what questions we would like the life cycle model to address as it relates to providing an 'independent review panel' and the PRCC Hatchery Subcommittee information to evaluate restarting a hatchery program in the White River. Jorgenson can then verify what data is needed to complete the model and we can then finish developing the RFP we previously agreed to. After continued comment and discussion, Rohr requested committee members send him their questions in preparation for the next PRCC meeting and Lake Wenatchee activities review and discussion, including proposal of path forward. Jorgenson will send Rohr a copy of the power point presentation information and Rohr will distribute to committee members and others attending today's meeting.

VII. (Decision Item) SOA 2019-01, Schedule of Conducting Sub-yearling Summer Chinook Survival Evaluations (P. Graf) – A copy of the draft SOA 2019-01 was discussed at July and August meetings. Additional editing as suggested by committee members was provided after the August meeting and distributed to committee members for their review. After discussion, committee members approved SOA 2019-01. Rohr will distribute a final copy with completed date included to committee members.

VIII. (Decision Item) Discussion of G. McMichael August 16th Report in reference to HFA 601-33H, Non-Native Predator Recruitment Contract, Phase 1 Activities (D. Rohr)

REVIEW OF DECISIONS: McMichael provided a written project update, dated August 16, 2019, in which he provided some updated study results and a proposed path forward. Accordingly, discussion and voting activities took place regarding this subject during the August 28, 2019 PRCC meeting, subject to concurrence by Murdoch who was not in attendance for the meeting. Committee members present on August 28th agreed with McMichael's email of August 16th that hydrodynamic modelling of water surface elevation drops is not warranted and to not continue with the study. Additionally, there was further review and discussion on August 28th of the August 16th project update with particular review upon the "Proposed path forward" recommendations received from McMichael. After discussion on August 28th, votes were taken relative to several questions in the proposed path forward, including 1) consideration of performing some specific

microchemistry work (**not approved**), provide an in-person presentation on the full study results at the November 2019 PRCC meeting (**not approved**), prepare a draft report and final data set by December 31, 2019 (**approved**), and complete a final report by January 31, 2020 (**approved**). All agreed a Change Order to the funding contract would need to be made to reflect all changes taking place. After the August 28th meeting, Rohr contacted Murdoch for discussion and to receive concurrence with the committee decisions made with the exception of the micro-chemistry as Murdoch wanted to understand why McMichael felt that was important and what the analysis entailed. Murdoch also questioned whether the proposed re-analysis of species had been discussed in the committee, since that element of the path forward was not mentioned. Murdoch had questions she wished to discuss with McMichael and subsequently with committee members, and therefore Rohr placed the subject on the September 25th PRCC meeting agenda for further discussion.

At the September 25th meeting, Murdoch provided clarification regarding McMichael's proposed path forward regarding revisiting species ID, presence/absence, and using otolith microchemistry to see if it can be determined whether the juvenile walleye originated in the Snake River or Columbia River. Murdoch also learned from McMichael that the microchemistry work would be done by PNNL at no additional cost and she recommended the microchemistry work be completed. Murdoch also clarified that revisiting the species ID / analysis was part of the QC process and recommended that continue as well. After discussion, committee members agreed to having the no cost microchemistry work completed by PNNL and having the results included in McMichael's final report. Additionally, Murdoch concurred with the other committee decisions of August 28th as listed above and she will follow up with McMichael on the final committee decisions that occurred.

- IX. (Decision Item) No-Cost Change Order to HFA 601-28, Upper Columbia Basin Screening Contract (C. Jackson)**
- A. Update of approved Change Order for contract time extension – The committee approved Change Order for extension of time is currently going through processing in the contracting department at Grant PUD. The new contract end-date will be December 31, 2020.
 - B. Stemilt Screen Project – Land-Owner Agreement – The need for a written agreement describing the work to be done by the landowner was requested of WDFW during the August 28th PRCC meeting. This request must be completed prior to committee consideration of moving forward with replacing the Colockum Project with the Stemilt Screen Project. Jackson commented that D. Didricksen has been made aware of this request and he is following up accordingly. Rohr will keep this subject on meeting agendas as a placeholder for follow up.
- X. PRCC Letter to NMFS Regarding Columbia Plateau Avian Predation Activities in 2020 FCRPS BiOp (C. Dotson, D. Rohr) – As requested during**

the August 28th meeting, Dotson reviewed with committee members the 2019 FCRPS Interim BiOp regarding Columbia Plateau avian predation activities and the related requirements to be fulfilled by the USBOR. He further reviewed and described that the USBOR did not fulfill their obligations. Committee members discussed how to proceed and to ensure more activity by the USBOR. Dotson has conversed with NOAA to make them aware of this issue and further discussions are planned. Carlon commented that the NOAA attorney is apparently planning to discuss the issue with the USBOR attorney. Skiles commented that CRITFC has sent a letter to the USFWS, U.S. Department of the Interior, regarding “Management of Piscivorous Water Birds in the Columbia River Basin”. Comments were voiced that follow up of the BiOp Action Items need to occur or we are left with a plan but with no actions. Dotson will continue to follow up with NOAA and USBOR staff.

- XI. 2020 Quincy Valley Tourism Association Northern Pikeminnow Fishing Derby (C. Dotson)** – Dotson provided review of a request for funding in the amount of \$25,000 for a 3-day Northern Pikeminnow fishing derby from the Quincy Valley Tourism Association. This is the same derby that the PRCC has funded for \$25,000 over the past few years. After discussion, the funding request was approved for \$25,000 from the NNI Fund. Dotson will notify the sponsors of the committee approval.
- XII. Potpourri (D. Rohr)** – nothing additional
- XIII. Avian Predation Activities (C. Dotson)** – no additional discussion.
- XIV. FCRPS BiOp – Corps/BOR Avian Predation Management in Columbia Plateau Region (C. Dotson)** – no additional discussion.
- XV. Update and Review of the White River Spring Chinook Mitigation 2026 Decision Framework (D. Rohr)** – no additional discussion.
- XVI. Review of Outstanding NNI Funded Projects**
 - 1. Continued Support for UC Fish Screen Program (C. Jackson) – no additional discussion.
 - 2. Lower Wenatchee Instream Flow Enhancement Project Phase II (C. Jackson, D. Rohr) – no additional information.
 - 3. “Non-Native Predator Recruitment Reduction – Phase I” (K. Murdoch) – no additional discussion.
 - 4. “Northern Pike Removal in Lake Roosevelt” (K. Truscott) – Truscott reported that 341 Northern Pike were caught last week.
- XVII. Committee Reports (D. Rohr)** – Distributed via e-mail
- XVIII. NNI and Habitat Funds Report (D. Rohr)** - Q2 has been distributed and Q3 will be distributed soon.

XIX. Next Meeting (D. Rohr) – After discussion, due to the upcoming holiday schedules, committee members approved revising the meetings to November 19th, 9:00 am, Wanapum Dam HOB and December 17th, 1:00 pm, Grant PUD Wenatchee office.

Action items from September 25, 2019 Meeting

1. All committee members will send questions to Rohr in preparation for next PRCC meeting and Lake Wenatchee activities review and discussion, including proposal of path forward.
2. Rohr will follow up with information regarding Lake Wenatchee activities.
3. Rohr will distribute Final Approved copy of SOA 2019-01.
4. Murdoch will follow up with McMichael on PRCC decisions of path forward for “Non-Native Predator Recruitment Reduction Project” activities.
5. Jackson will follow up with D. Didricksen regarding WDFW Screening Project and No-Cost Change Order plus details related to Stemilt Screen Project and Land-Owner Agreement.
6. Rohr will contact K.Geris, HCP CC, regarding November and December meeting schedules.

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