



Priest Rapids Coordinating Committee Meeting

FINAL APPROVED MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, April 27, 2021

1:00 pm

ZOOM Webinar

PRCC Representatives

Scott Carlon, Justin Yeager (Alt), NMFS	Jim Craig, USFWS
Keely Murdoch, Brandon Rogers (Alt), YN	Kirk Truscott, Casey Baldwin (alt), CCT
Chad Jackson, P. Verhey (Alt) WDFW	Tom Skiles, CTUIR
Curt Dotson, Peter Graf (Alt), GCPUD	Erin Harris, Admin Ass't, GPUD
Denny Rohr, D. Rohr & Assoc, Facilitator	

PRCC Meeting Attendees

Curt Dotson, GPUD	Keely Murdoch, YN
Scott Carlon, NMFS - Absent	Denny Rohr, D. Rohr & Assoc, Facilitator
Chad Jackson, WDFW	Erin Harris, GPUD
Tom Skiles, CTUIR	Jim Craig, USFWS
Kirk Truscott, CCT – Absent	Peter Graf, GCPUD

Decisions Made During Tuesday, April 27, 2021 Meeting

1. No votes or decisions made during the April 27, 2021 meeting.

Meeting Minutes

- I. **Welcome and Introductions** – Rohr welcomed everyone.
- II. **Agenda Review** – Rohr added three additional agenda items; 1) BOR Avian Predation Report (added under item VIII), 2) Draft SOA 2021-03 (added under item V(a) and 3) ISAB Avian update (added to item VIII)
- III. **Meeting Minutes**
 - A. February 23, 2021 with edits. – Approved via email.
 - B. March 2, 2021 with edits. – Approved via email.

C. March 23, 2021 – Scott was absent from March 23 meeting and all other members present gave their approval. Rohr will confirm approval from Truscott.

IV. Review of Actions Items from March 23, 2001 Meeting –

1. Grant to consider edits to SOA 2021-01 and SOA 2021-02. **Completed**
2. D. Rohr to distribute edited SOA's and call for email vote. **Completed**

V. DECISION ITEM – Summary of Email Voting Plus Call for Final Votes for SOA 2021-01 and SOA 2021-02 as Edited

1. PRCC SOA 2021-01 – “Methodology used to Determine Adult Conversion Rates for the Priest Rapids Project”, dated March 10, 2021. Rohr informed the committee that the email vote of SOA 2021-01 as edited was conducted and the SOA was not approved, with NMFS and Grant voting to approve, and CCT, YN, USFWS, CTUIR, and WDFW voting to not approve.
2. PRCC SOA 2021-02 – “Juvenile Salmonid Survival Estimates used to Represent Performance Standards within the Priest Rapids Project”, dated March 10, 2021. Rohr informed the committee that the email vote of SOA 2021-02 as edited was conducted and the SOA was not approved, with NMFS, USFWS, and Grant voting to approve, and CCT, YN, CTUIR, and WDFW voting to not approve.

V(a) Draft SOA 2021-03 – Methodology used to Calculate the Combined (juvenile/adult) Survival Estimates for the Priest Rapids Project – Dotson explained that this SOA is about combined survival rate. Rohr stated the 10-day notice to conduct a vote was not provided, and if all members concur that they would like to vote on this SOA today, they are free to do so. Murdoch shared she has not had time to talk internally with YN staff and is not prepared to vote today. Murdoch said on the first bullet she is not sure if a one-year survival is enough and that in this SOA we have not discussed if three years is more appropriate. Murdoch explained she is not against either one or three years but that it is not something this committee has talked about to agree upon. Murdoch also shared thoughts on the second bullet and requested more clarity. She said the third bullet measures project survival for juveniles, and she would like to use the settlement agreement language to keep the interpretation the same. Murdoch said that discussion is good, and she feels further discussion is warranted. Dotson asked Murdoch to discuss more on her thoughts on the first bullet point. Dotson stated that the intent of the fourth bullet (bullet “d”) was to address the number of years of consecutive “study-years” that would be used to provide a survival estimate for the Project, using the same language used in the SSSA and BiOp for determining a juvenile survival estimate for the PRP Murdoch shared there has not been an in-depth discussion on which language to use. Dotson next shared language that has a minimum of three years. Craig shared the committee deferred the three-year sockeye study. Dotson said that was an exception the committee made for that specific case due to the very-high survival estimates seen the prior two years of studies and that a third year of study was not really warranted, and he feels a case-by-case approach would work here. Murdoch said we are talking about two different topics and that combining

survival rates and suggest if doing juveniles also match up adults. Dotson and Murdoch discussed the question further, and Murdoch stated she would like to provide a bigger sample size for doing a calendar basis vs. a brood year basis study. Rohr commented each member will have time for further review of this SOA and he will place it on the agenda for approval consideration at the next meeting.

VI. 2021 Spill Representatives and Report – Rohr informed the committee he had contacted all committee members and there was concurrence for Carlon, Craig, and Dotson to continue as spill representatives for 2021, plus Carlon and Craig agreed to continuing. Dotson also reported that fish spill began at Wanapum Dam on April 20 and Priest Rapids Dam on April 21.

VII. Potpourri

1. Grant PUD Final Report of 2020 Activities Under PR Hydroelectric Project (P&I Report) – P&I report has been submitted.
2. The CSS annual meeting took place last week and several members of the PRCC attended. Dotson reported this was a presentation of their annual report. He shared they had some difficulties with answering questions being on a virtual event. Dotson also shared that Grant did not agree with some of the answers and points given by some of the CSS staff regarding survival rates and assumptions made by them. Grant is looking for follow up.

UPDATES

VIII. Avian Predation Activities

- A. **USACE Meeting to review Final Avian Synthesis Report, April 14, 2021** – Rohr shared that a review of final avian synthesis report took place at this meeting. Dotson commented the three-hour meeting was well attended and presented. He explained that the report is broken down into chapters by region and by species.
- B. Rohr reviewed the **BOR April 19th Avian Predation Report** received and distributed to committee members.
- A. **ISAB Avian Predation Report** (requested by CRITFC) is a short report of 37 pages. It stems from the RTR paper on avian predation being an additive mortality and the Haeseker paper that came out saying that avian predation is compensatory, resulting in CRITFC asking for the ISAB to review both papers and produce a report on that review. He also reported that Appendix B of the report addressed the topic of using PIT tagged Steelhead smolts from RI Dam for determining avian predation rates and the ISAB did not find any significant issue with using those tagged fish. Dotson shared it is a good, easy to read report that he feels is well done, and he said it is worthwhile to read.

IX. FCRPS BiOp – Corps/BOR Avian Predation Management in Columbia Plateau Region – Nothing new reported.

X.

XI. Review of Outstanding NNI Funded Projects

- B. Lower Wenatchee Instream Flow Enhancement Project Phase II – Nothing new and no changes.
- C. **“Non-Native Predator Recruitment Reduction – Phase I”** Murdoch reported that Geoff McMichael started sampling in the Snake River last week for two days, this week another two days, and future two-day sampling weeks with results to be provided later this summer.
- D. **“Northern Pike Removal in Lake Roosevelt”**– Jackson shared this is an all hands-on group effort scheduled in early May among several agencies.
- E. **(Placeholder) 2020 Quincy Valley Tourism Association Northern Pikeminnow Fishing Derby (moved to 2021 due to Covid-19)** – Dotson shared tentative dates of May 14-16th at Crescent Bar. This is depending on if we are in phase 2 or 3 of the Covid-19 pandemic. Grant County Covid-19 cases are currently on the rise.
- F. **Avian Predation on ESA-listed Juvenile Salmonids on the Mid-Columbia River, 2021, Real Time Research – Project Approved March 2, 2021** – Dotson discussed some of RTR’s predation work occurring for 2021 and said Grant PUD provided feedback to BOR to help with more effective passive dissuasion. Dotson also shared the benefit of the PRCC and BOR sharing/providing information to RTR and that this will hopefully help the BOR to make changes where appropriate to their current avian dissuasion program on Goose Island and the Potholes area.
- G. **(Placeholder) Barkley Irrigation Co Permanent Point of Diversion, Completing Implementation of the Permanent Solution** – Nothing new to report.

XII. Committee Reports– Rohr distributed via email to committee members.

XIII. NNI and Habitat Funds Report 2021 Q1– Q1 report has not yet been distributed.

XIV. Next Meeting – May 25, 2021, 1:00, ZOOM Webinar Meeting

Action Items from April 27, 2021 meeting

- Rohr will include the **Draft SOA 2021-03 – Methodology used to Calculate the Combined (juvenile/adult) Survival Estimates for the Priest Rapids Project** on agenda for approval consideration at the next meeting.