



Priest Rapids Coordinating Committee Meeting

FINAL APPROVED MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, April 28, 2020

1:00 pm

Microsoft Teams

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 - Absent
Tom Skiles, CTUIR
Chad Jackson, WDFW

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

Decisions made during April 28, 2020 meeting

1. March 24, 2020 meeting minutes approved.
2. Request for Time-Extension to 2021, Non-native Predator Recruitment Reduction contract – Phase 1, approved.

Meeting Minutes

- I. **Welcome and Introductions** – Rohr welcomed everyone on the call
- II. **Agenda Review (D. Rohr)** – Added additional item XII, White River Supplementation Program.
- III. **Meeting Minutes (D. Rohr)**

A. March 24, 2020 - Approved

IV. Review of Actions Items from March 24, 2020 Webinar Conference (D. Rohr)

1. ACTION: Rohr will send the 2013 PRCC NNI Funding Guidance Document to the Habitat SC. **Completed**
2. ACTION: Rohr will communicate with Dotson and Skiles regarding ongoing activities associated with avian predation in 2020 and keep PRCC members advised. **Completed**
3. ACTION: Rohr will send the Final 2019 G. McMichael Predator Recruitment Report to the PRCC members. **Completed**
4. ACTION: Dotson will send the Final Annual P&I Report to Rohr for distribution. Report was distributed directly to PRCC committee members from D. Firestone, GCPUD. **Completed**

V. Priest Rapids Right Embankment Improvement Project (PRREIP) - Supplemental EA, Tom Dresser (C. Dotson) –

Tom Dresser shared a PPT presentation (attached) and discussed an addendum to the original work plan that he presented to the PRCC in 2019. Dresser stated that FERC has requested Grant PUD to file a supplement to its draft EA to include more details related to potential environmental impacts as it relates to road usage and access. The Project Plan is to construct a new, permanent structure landward of the right embankment of Priest Rapids Dam to improve seismic stability. Work would occur in the dry at and immediately adjacent to the existing right embankment of the dam. Grant PUD contractors will use the road access for heavy equipment and the installation of a batch plant and rock crushers involved with the project work. Discussions have taken place between the private and federal landowners on the best path forward to process this work on the access road, and DOE (Ecology) asked FERC to provide an updated traffic plan. The environmental effects associated with the road access work are expected to be minimal and consistent with what was described in the draft EA for the PRPEIP. There is also a Cultural piece that needs to be reviewed. Accordingly, Environmental Affairs is working on the revegetation piece and Grant currently has staff collecting seeds for the rehabilitation on 4 acres. Dresser requested review and comment by PRCC committee members, and committee members agreed to provide any comments they may have to Dresser by close of business of Tuesday, May 12, 2020. Jim Craig asked if the USFWS will be included on review of the supplemental information and Dresser confirmed that they would be, and he would follow up with Craig on who at the USFWS is doing the review.

VI. Update on Upper Columbia Fish Screen Program, Danny Didricksen (C. Jackson) Due to the Covid-19 issue, presentation postponed to a future date.

VII. Request for Time-Extension: Non-native Predator Recruitment Reduction – Phase 1 (K. Murdoch, D. Rohr) Due to the Covid-19 issue, project sponsor Geoff McMichael and crews are unable to get on the water to do the field work for this predator study. Accordingly, McMichael is requesting a time-extension for this project to May of 2021. It was also noted that the Wasco Group is co-funding this project and they have approved the time-extension request provided

to them. After discussion, PRCC members approved the time-extension request. Rohr will notify McMichael of the approval.

VIII. UPDATE: Avian Predation Activities (T. Skiles, C. Dotson) Tom Skiles shared that CRITFC provided comments to the CRSO DEIS regarding avian predation which were shared with Curt Dotson. Dotson stated that terns have started showing up at Goose Island, and BOR's contractor, Wildlife Services of USDA, is doing the work of dissuasion and monitoring at Goose. No actual numbers regarding terns present and/or nesting activities have been received outside of a one-line email that reads: terns have showed up. RTR received "essential work" status from the Washington State Governor's office, so they can do their field work. PIT tagging of steelhead smolts at the Rock Island smolt indexing site is taking place. Pit tags have been sewn on the different colony sites to assist with tag detection efficiencies. This work was completed prior to the Governor's "stay home stay safe" order. Skiles asked if we've heard from RTR folks about monitoring around Goose Island? Dotson reported that they have only monitored Friday, Saturday, Sunday of this past week. They got a week and half late start due to having to acquire "essential work" status, but they are in place for the rest of the season. Rohr shared a thank you to Dotson for helping get RTR approval for essential work.

IX. Review of 2013 PRCC NNI Funding Guidance Document (D. Rohr) – At the previous meeting of March 24th, Rohr asked PRCC members to read the NNI Funding Guidance Document and come to the April meeting prepared to discuss it. Accordingly, Rohr asked for questions and comments about the Document. Craig shared he has read it for the 3rd or 4th time. Graf shared that reading the "funding section" of the document was informative. Further, he stated it appeared there was to be more discussion between the Habitat SC and PRCC members on projects that are effective and worth-while and it might be a time to communicate with the Habitat SC. Rohr shared he has had discussion to get together once a year for such a meeting, but there has been a lack of interest by the committees in doing so. Rohr informed the members that he is also having this same discussion with the Habitat SC at the next meeting. PRCC members had no additional questions or comments.

X. 2020 Fish Spill (C. Dotson, D. Rohr)

A. Affirmation of 2020 Fish Spill Representatives, C. Dotson, S. Carlon, J. Craig - Rohr shared he contacted Scott Carlon and Jim Craig and requested they continue in 2020 as Fish Spill Representatives and they agreed to stay on for another year. Curt Dotson will also continue as the Grant representative.

B. Update of Current Activities – Dotson informed the committee that fish-spill started April 19th at Wanapum Dam and the 20th at PR.

XI. Potpourri (D. Rohr)

A. Alligator Gar – Yakima River Delta – Jackson shared that most committee members were on an earlier HCP call wherein the catch and confirmation by WDFW staff of apparently two Alligator Gar in the Yakima River Delta was

discussed. Jackson stated that the permit for the fisherman who caught them was for carp only and did not allow for any by-catch; therefore, the fish were returned to the river. WDFW changed the permit to allow the fisherman to keep Alligator Gar if they again were caught. Fishermen from both WDFW and the YN attempted to catch some of the fish but were unsuccessful. WDFW will continue to monitor the situation.

B. Copy of Final Annual P&I Report Distributed – The final report was distributed directly to committee members by D. Firestone, GCPUD.

XII. White River Supplementation – Tracy Hillman, PRCC Hatchery Subcommittee (HSC) facilitator, shared with Rohr that during the HSC meeting of April 21st, there was discussion of the role of the HSC in the White River Supplementation Program. Moreover, the HSC concluded they feel this subject is presently in the PRCC Committee's court. Rohr shared the information and there was no questions, comments, or additional discussion.

GENERAL UPDATES

XIII. Avian Predation Activities (C. Dotson) – Nothing further to discuss.

XIV. FCRPS BiOp – Corps/BOR Avian Predation Management in Columbia Plateau Region (C. Dotson) Nothing to report.

XV. Review of Outstanding NNI Funded Projects

A. Continued Support for UC Fish Screen Program (C. Jackson) – No further updates.

B. Lower Wenatchee Instream Flow Enhancement Project Phase II (C. Jackson, D. Rohr) Nothing new to report.

C. “Non-Native Predator Recruitment Reduction – Phase I” (K. Murdoch) Nothing additional to report.

D. “Northern Pike Removal in Lake Roosevelt” (K. Truscott) – Truscott stated the water level is low in Lake Roosevelt and therefore not much activity, plus the Covid-19 issue is affecting the work to be done.

E. 2020 Quincy Valley Tourism Association Northern Pikeminnow Fishing Derby (C. Dotson) - Still on hold. Consideration being given to possibly moving the Derby to the fall. Dotson will keep PRCC advised.

F. Avian Predation on ESA-listed Juvenile Salmonids on the Mid-Columbia River, 2020, Real Time Research (C. Dotson) - Nothing additional to report.

XVI. Committee Reports (D. Rohr) – Rohr sent committee reports out via email to all PRCC members.

XVII. NNI and Habitat Funds Report (D. Rohr) - Q1 is currently being reviewed and should be sent out soon.

XVIII. Next Meeting – Tuesday, May 26, 2020, 1:00 pm, MS TEAMS meeting format is being anticipated due to COVID-19.

Action Items from April 28, 2020 meeting

1. Committee members agreed to provide any comments they may have to Dresser by close of business of Tuesday, May 12, 2020 regarding the Right Bank Embankment Project.
2. Dotson will keep PRCC advised of scheduling of 2020 Quincy Valley Tourism Association Northern Pikeminnow Fishing Derby.

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