

Priest Rapids Fish Forum

Wednesday, 1 March 2017

9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Grant PUD, 11 Spokane St., Suite 205B, Wenatchee, WA

Call-In Number: 1-800-977-8002, Bridge: 7422882

MEETING MINUTES

PRFF REPRESENTATIVES

Steve Lewis, USFWS Patrick Verhey, Chad Jackson, WDFW

Bob Rose, YN Breean Zimmerman, WDOE

Pat Wyena, Doris Squeochs, Wanapum Aaron Jackson, Carl Merkle, CTUIR

Jason McLellan, CCT Keith Hatch, BIA

Mike Clement, Grant PUD Chris Mott, Grant PUD

Tracy Hillman, Facilitator Erin McIntyre, Grant PUD

ATTENDEES

Mike Clement, Grant PUD RD Nelle, USFWS

Steve Lewis, USFWS Chad Jackson, WDFW (via phone)

Breean Zimmerman, WDOE (via phone) Patrick Verhey, WDFW

Jason McLellan, CCT (via phone) Erin McIntyre, Grant PUD

Chris Mott, Grant PUD Marcie Clement, Chelan PUD (via phone)

Bob Rose, YN (via phone) Tracy Hillman, Facilitator

**Action Items:**

1. **Mike Clement will discuss with Carson Keeler (Grant PUD’s AIS biologist) the inclusion of shoreline surveys in their aquatic invasive species surveys.**
2. **Chad Jackson will provide the PRFF with biological information on sturgeon caught by the Yakama Nation during their tribal commercial fishery in the project area.**
3. **Mike Clement will let the PRFF know the date for the Priest Rapids adult fishway tour.**
4. **Tracy Hillman will coordinate with the RRFF on a joint meeting to discuss Pacific lamprey NNI.**
5. **Tracy Hillman will coordinate with the ASWG chair on a regional Pacific lamprey coordination workshop.**
6. **The PRFF will review the 2016 draft white sturgeon annual report and send comments to Chris Mott by 8 March 2017.**
7. **The PRFF will review the 2016 draft aquatic invasive species report and send comments to Carson Keeler by 27 March 2017.**
8. **Welcome and Introductions**
9. **Agenda Review –** Members reviewed and approved the draft agenda. Tracy reminded members that the 2016 draft aquatic invasive species report was sent to the Forum on 27 February 2017 and comments are due to Carson Keeler by 27 March 2017.
10. **Approve January Meeting Notes –** 4 January 2017 Meeting Minutes were reviewed and approved with edits.
    1. **Review Action Items from January Meeting (All)**
       1. Mike Clement will discuss with Grant PUD’s AIS biologist the inclusion of shoreline surveys in their aquatic invasive species surveys. **Ongoing**
       2. Chris Mott will check with Golder on why diet sampling does not occur in the spring. Chris will also check with Chelan PUD on how they plan to sample fish for diet in the spring. **Complete**
       3. Steve Lewis will contact the Yakama Nation to get more information on the tribal commercial fishery in the project area. Steve will find out about fishing locations, set-line soak times, diet analysis, tag recoveries, and incidental take. **Ongoing**
       4. Erin McIntyre will reserve a conference room for the Pacific Lamprey Subgroup meeting, which is scheduled for Thursday, 23 February 2016. **Complete**
       5. Tracy Hillman will prepare an agenda for the Pacific Lamprey Subgroup meeting. **Complete**
       6. Mike Clement will let the PRFF know the date of the Priest Rapids adult fishway tour. **Ongoing; because of weather conditions, the fish ladder was dewatered last week.**
11. **Update on WSMP**
    1. **Update on Juvenile Rearing**

Chris Mott reported that juvenile sturgeon at Marion Drain are doing well and their growth is comparable to that measured last year at this time. He indicated that Donella Miller will be sampling fish today.

* 1. **Annual Report and 2017 Activities**

Chris Mott indicated that the 2016 draft annual report was sent to the PRFF for comments on 6 February 2017. Comments are due to Chris on 8 March 2017. Attached to the annual report is the 2017 study plan. Sampling in 2017 will be similar to 2016. Chris indicated that they have not finalized the location for collecting adult broodstock. Chad Jackson noted that it will likely be downstream from McNary Dam. He (Chad) will let the PRFF know as soon as possible.

* 1. **Update on Yakama Nation Sturgeon Fishery in Priest Rapids Project Area**

Chad Jackson reported that the Yakama Nation (YN) captured about 130 sturgeon from the Priest Rapids Project Area during their tribal commercial fishery. The fishery ended on 21 January. WDFW will request these data and share it with the PRFF.

* 1. **Other White Sturgeon Items**

None.

1. **Update on PLMP**
   1. **Pacific Lamprey NNI Estimation**

Tracy Hillman said that because Grant PUD was unable to attend the Pacific Lamprey Subcommittee meeting last week, the meeting was cancelled and will need to be rescheduled. Tracy asked if he should send out another Doodle poll. Bob Rose suggested having it during the April or May PRFF meeting. Members present agreed that the May meeting of the PRFF would be devoted to addressing NNI (i.e., how it is measured and estimated). The PRFF asked Tracy to coordinate this meeting with the RRFF. Because both Forums have similar NNI goals, it is convenient to hold a joint PRFF/RRFF meeting to discuss NNI.

* 1. **Regional Workshop**

Tracy Hillman stated that he has been coordinating with John Ferguson (Chair of the Aquatic Settlement Work Group or ASWG) on the Pacific Lamprey Workshop. The goal of the workshop is to coordinate monitoring activities among the three groups (PRFF, RRFF, and ASWG). Tracy asked for possible agenda topics. The Forum provided the following:

* Describe what studies the PUDs propose to do in 2017. This includes when, where, and how they intend to conduct their studies. We can then discuss how to coordinate the studies.
* Identify proposed or possible studies to be conducted post-2017 (long-term planning).
* Discuss the linking of monitoring results and studies across the three groups.
* Identify lamprey studies conducted downstream (e.g., Corps studies) that may contribute to or benefit upstream studies.
* Update on tagging technology by Daniel Deng (PNNL).
* Identify and discuss hypotheses that may fill data gaps (starting with a discussion on the five hypotheses identified by the ASWG).

The PRFF agreed that the workshop should be similar to the one convened last year with the ASWG taking the lead. They are also okay with the workshop occurring on the day of an ASWG meeting.

Mike Clement indicated that Grant PUD does not intend to collect, mark, or tag adult lamprey in 2017. However, they will continue to maintain and operate their HD PIT-tag detection systems throughout 2017. This will allow them to track adult lamprey that are PIT-tagged in the lower Columbia River. Grant PUD will continue to track the fish that were tagged with active tags in 2016. This will give the PUD three years of information from active tags. Mike also indicted that they can provide the Warm Springs Tribes with tags if they need them to increase the number of fish tagged downstream.

* 1. **Annual Report and 2017 Lamprey Monitoring Activities**

Mike Clement reported that the 2016 annual report was sent to the group on 24 January 2017 and comments were due to him on 24 February 2017. Steve Lewis asked if he could send his comments to Mike by the end of the week. Mike agreed. Mike indicated that the report will be sent to Ecology next week.

Mike said that he, Rod O’Connor, and Julie Maenhout will give a presentation on lamprey passage during the April meeting. Mike noted that cumulative adult lamprey passage is at or above 73-75%.

* 1. **Other Pacific Lamprey Items**

RD Nelle reported that the region needs to complete Pacific lamprey implementation plans for the mainstem by June. He added that the five-year update to the assessment will start in April 2017. This report is due late summer.

Bob Rose asked about projected flows for the Columbia River. Mike responded that they should be near normal based on hydrologic data from the North Okanagan Plateau. Mike also noted that water temperatures this year are about 2-3 weeks behind long-term average temperatures.

1. **Next Meeting: 5 April 2017 – Grant PUD Natural Resources Wenatchee Office**