



Grant County
PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT
Excellence in Service and Leadership

Priest Rapids Coordinating Committee Meeting

FINAL APPROVED MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, June 27, 2018

9:00 am

CONFERENCE CALL

Priest Rapids Coordinating Committee Members

Scott Carlon, Justin Yeager (Alt), NMFS
Keely Murdoch, Bob Rose (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 McIntyre, Admin Ass't, GCPUD

PRCC Meeting Attendees

Jim Craig, USFWS
Kirk Truscott, CCT
Tom Skiles, CTUIR
Peter Graf, GCPUD
Denny Rohr, D.Rohr & Assoc, Facilitator

Keely Murdoch, YN
Chad Jackson, WDFW
Curt Dotson, GCPUD
Erin McIntyre, GCPUD

MEETING MINUTES

Decision made during June 27, 2018 meeting

1. Meeting minutes approved for the April 27, 2018 conference call.

I. Safety Briefing (C. Dotson) – (Placeholder)

- II. **Welcome and Introductions**
- III. **Agenda Review (D. Rohr)** – No additions
- IV. **Meeting Minutes (D. Rohr)** – April 27, Conference Call - approved; May 23, 2018 – under development.
- V. **Action Items from May 23, 2018 Meeting (D. Rohr)** –
 - A. Murdoch will follow up with G. McMichael regarding July 25th presentation of status and update information for Predator Fish Recruitment Reduction project activities. **Completed.**
- VI. **Priest Rapids Dam Spillway Work Update (C. Dotson)** – All holes have been drilled. Monitoring equipment is being installed as directed by FERC, and all data received will be sent to FERC for their review. Currently waiting on FERC to approve raising the forebay level back to normal. Skiles asked about the sluiceway wall. Dotson commented that one section of the sluiceway wall has broken off and is leaning over. The concrete seams were bad. The sluiceway is tagged out and not to be used. When the river flows decrease, Grant will have divers do an inspection. Dotson commented that the wall was built in 2003 during late fall or early winter as part of the testing for design work on the Wanapum Fish Bypass. Dotson commented there was a separation along the seams and the wall fell over.
- VII. **2018 PRP Spill Report (C. Dotson)** – Dotson reported high flows continue to occur but have dropped since last month and spill is still taking place. Wanapum is currently at 226 KCFS and Priest Rapids is at 220 KCFS. A lot of water is still in the river, but 100KCFS below last month. TDG levels are alright now.
- VIII. **Potpourri (D. Rohr)**
 - A. Pinnipeds – HR 2083, SB 1702 – House Resolution 2083 regarding sea lions in the lower river was passed by the house on June 26th and will now go to the Senate for their consideration. Senator Cantwell is very involved in this as well as others. Rohr will keep committee members advised.
- IX. **GENERAL UPDATES**
 - A. Avian Predation Activities (C. Dotson) – Dotson shared that updates are being received electronically from OSU/RTR. Rohr is sharing weekly updates as received from the USACE regarding IAPMP activities. Dotson commented that two different tern eggs have been observed on Goose Island even with daily hazing occurring. Rohr asked if dissuasion must cease once eggs are laid on Goose Island. Dotson commented that the dissuasion permit allows for the collection of up to 100 eggs for Caspian terns only. Sea Gull eggs cannot be disturbed.
 - B. FCRPS BiOp – Corps/BOR Avian Predation Management in Columbia Plateau Region (C. Dotson) – Dotson raised the question

of the current FCRPS BiOp RPAs continuing after 2018, and further commenting that information is limited. Basically, is the window closing regarding funding for avian dissuasion at Goose Island. Dotson also commented that his understanding is that passive dissuasion will be left in place.

- C. Estimating the Survival of Juvenile Spring Chinook in Lake Wenatchee (D. Rohr) – Rohr commented the workgroup review is continuing. Yesterday PRCC meet for 1.5 hours to go over this item. During discussion, it was noted that the PRCC Hatchery Subcommittee (HSC) memorandum for the “Report to the PRCC on the White River Spring Chinook Mitigation 2026 Decision Framework”, dated February 1, 2016, is nearly 2 ½ years old. Accordingly, the decision was made to ask the HSC to update the Report with any new information available, plus address any data gaps that may exist. Rohr will contact HSC facilitator Elizabeth McManus and convey this request.
- D. Review of Outstanding NNI Funded Projects
 - 1. Continued Support for Upper Columbia Fish Screen Monitoring Program (C. Jackson) – Nothing new to report.
 - 2. Lower Wenatchee Instream Flow Enhancement Project Phase II (C. Jackson, D. Rohr) – Rohr commented that the internal water rights review is taking place. The Habitat SC is following this closely. The review is expected to be completed in another 4-5 months.
 - 3. Predator Fish Recruitment Reduction (K. Murdoch) – McMichael is confirmed to attend the July 25th meeting.
 - 4. Northern Pike Removal in Lake Roosevelt (K. Truscott) – Truscott reported that 50 Northern Pike fish heads showed up in the head box in Kettle Falls, fish are being caught, and payments are being made. Rohr reminded committee members of the July 24th Northern Pike 3 hour workshop in Spokane. While registration is requested, there is no fee associated with the workshop.
 - 5. Satellite Telemetry of Caspian Terns (C. Dotson) – Dotson shared a photo of a Caspian Terns with satellite tags. He commented that birds are moving and nesting in other locations.
 - 6. Evaluation of Caspian Tern Management to Reduce Predation on ESA-listed Salmonids in the Columbia Plateau Region (C. Dotson) – See item B above.
 - 7. 2018 Northern Pikeminnow Fishing Derby, Wanapum Reservoir, September 21-23 (C. Dotson) – Placeholder

- X. **Committee Reports (D. Rohr)** – Rohr distributed electronically to committee members.

- XI. **Qtrly NNI and Habitat Funds Report (D. Rohr)** – McIntyre shared that Grant PUD will send out the preliminary report before July 20th with the final to be distributed later in August.
- XII. **Next Meeting** – Wednesday, July 25, 9:00 am, Wanapum Dam HOB, Room 107 (D. Rohr)

Action Items from June 27, 2018 Meeting

1. Murdoch and Rohr will coordinate details of G. McMichael attending July meeting for presentation of status and update information regarding Predator Fish Recruitment Reduction Project activities.

--END--