



Priest Rapids Coordinating Committee Meeting

FINAL APPROVED

Wednesday, August 29, 2018

9:00 am

CONFERENCE CALL

PRCC Representatives

Scott Carlon, Justin Yeager (Alt), NMFS
Keely Murdoch, Bob Rose (Alt), YN
Chad Jackson, P. Verhey (Alt) WDFW
Curt Dotson, Peter Graf (Alt), GPUD
Denny Rohr, D. Rohr & Assoc, Facilitator

Jim Craig, USFWS
Kirk Truscott, Casey Baldwin (alt), CCT
Tom Skiles, CTUIR
Erin McIntyre, Admin Ass't, GPUD

PRCC Meeting Attendees

Denny Rohr, D. Rohr & Assoc, Facilitator
Keely Murdoch, YN
Pat Wyena, Wanapum Tribe
Scott Carlon, NMFS
Curt Dotson, GCPUD
Chad Jackson, WDFW (absent)

Jim Craig, USFWS
Tom Dresser, GCPUD
Tom Skiles, CTUIR
Peter Graf, GCPUD
Erin McIntyre, Admin Ass't, GCPUD
Kirk Truscott, CCT (absent)

MEETING MINUTES

Decisions Made during August 29, 2018 Meeting

1. Meeting minutes for May 23, 2018 and June 27, 2018 are approved as final.

I. Welcome and Introductions

II. **Agenda Review (D. Rohr)** - Nothing new was added.

III. Meeting Minutes (D. Rohr) –

- A. Affirmation of Approval for May 23, 2018 Meeting and June 27, 2018 Conference Call – Rohr affirmed the email vote of approval for May 23, 2018 and June 27, 2018 and both are approved as final.

B. Approval of July 25, 2018 Meeting – Under development

IV. **Action Items from July 25, 2018 Meeting (D. Rohr) –**

- A. Skiles and Rohr will review NNI Funding Guidance Document and Fund Management regarding path forward options and considerations. – On going.
- B. Murdoch will share questions posed by committee members for Geoff McMichael to address. – Completed.
- C. Committee members will contemplate additional questions for G. McMichael and send to Rohr. Completed

V. **DECISION ITEM – NNI Funding Request, “Non-Native Predator Recruitment Reduction – Phase I”, Geoff McMichael, Mainstem Fish Research (K. Murdoch)** – Murdoch shared that McMichael answered the questions that had been posed by committee members during the July PRCC meeting, and he followed up with email that Rohr distributed to all. The 4 referenced questions and answers are the following:

1) Are there any known conflicts with the proposal that would make implementation impossible, such as juvenile bypass operations or requirements for the Columbia River Systems Operations (CRSO)?

(Ans) No known conflicts that would make implementation impossible. The workgroup that met 4 times over the past year spent quite a bit of time on this - going back to folks in their organizations (Corps, BPA, NOAA, etc...) and there were no absolute roadblocks to conducting the action. In fact, The Corps said it would be possible to use the full 5 feet - which was good news.

2) If you were to apply for funding for the first phase, are there cost-share opportunities which could be applied for and reasonably secured?

(Ans) There may be a cost share opportunity with the National Fish and Wildlife Federation on a proposal I have been encouraged to submit related to the southern resident killer whales. That program requires a 1:1 cost share. With Phase 1 costs being about \$290k, it would be a \$145k split. If I could get the PRCC to commit to 'their half' before the NFWF proposal is due (8/20), then I might stand a chance of getting to do the first phase in 2019.

3) Have you had any indication that if this action were implemented BPA would look for compensation for lost revenue?

(Ans) Because the duration of the drops is so short, and BPA has been very supportive of the concept to date - I do not expect that they would be hunting for money for this.

4) Any foreseeable impacts to cultural resources with changing WSE (water surface elevation)?

(Ans) No. The 5 feet is current within the normal operating pool of the reservoir.

Additionally, Murdoch added that McMichael is continuing to discuss possible funding with BPA, but no decisions have yet been made. Dotson referenced the proposal from McMichael with a funding request of \$10,000 that was approved by the PRCC in 2016 which was to address questions regarding the feasibility of using water surface elevation changes to reduce recruitment of non-native salmonid predators, plus McMichael was to work on the development of a work group for follow up with the USACE and others on the feasibility of the proposal. Dotson commented that McMichael was to provide a final report to the PRCC which has not yet been received. Murdoch will follow up with McMichael on the status of the report. Rohr will distribute a copy of the NNI funding contract that contains the questions to be answered in a final report by McMichael. Also, committee members raised some additional questions which Murdoch and Rohr will compile and distribute to McMichael. Rohr also requested committee members email prior to the next PRCC meeting any additional questions they have that need to be answered by McMichael. Rohr next referenced information received from Graf regarding the Yakima Science and Management Conference held in June 2018 wherein there was discussion of the Yakima Delta Project which includes related information to the McMichael proposal, including information regarding possible removal of the Bateman Island Causeway. Graf reviewed the information and additional questions were raised by committee members. After discussion, it was concluded that additional questions precluded a vote of this proposal, and Murdoch and Rohr will collate and provide the additional questions to McMichael.

- VI. **NNI Funding Guidance Review and Discussion (T. Skiles)** – Skiles commented that he has reviewed the NNI Funding Guidance Document and some questions surfaced in his mind. He continued that the document spells out the purpose and process for NNI funding, but it does not appear to explain a priority of funding process. Since the NNI Fund has a limit to the total dollar amount, he felt it important to review and discuss the document further. Skiles has questions for discussion, including priority of selecting projects, the involvement of the PRCC Habitat Subcommittee and what other funding sources were available to them, how are projects brought to the PRCC for consideration, and so forth. Rohr explained the structure, process, and funding involved with the PRCC Habitat Subcommittee and how they operated. Committee members commented about their interpretation of the use and process of the PRCC NNI Fund. After additional discussion, it was concluded that additional review and discussion would be of value. Accordingly, Skiles and Rohr will work offline to further outline an approach for further review and discussion, and Rohr will continue to include this subject for discussion on future meeting agendas.

- VII. **Goose Island Field Trip Report (C. Dotson)** – Last week, Dotson participated in a tour of Goose Island with Real Time Research, BOR, USACE, and Grant PUD staff involved in Grant Vegetation Program activities. A question that remains to be answered is what happens with Goose Island avian dissuasion activities when the 2014 FCRPS BiOp ends in December 2018. Concern exists that without some continued dissuasion activities, the birds will return. While NOAA will have an interim BiOp in place the end of 2018, information received by Dotson indicates that funding for dissuasion activities will not be available in 2019. Information from the BOR has indicated they will be considering adding vegetation, but funding will not be available in 2019. One of the purposes of the Goose Island field trip was to survey the results of a recent program of spreading seeds to grow vegetation, and it was clear during the tour that the program had failed. Suggestion was made to consider planting 4-6 inch vegetation plugs. The concern is that without some dissuasion activities, the birds will return. After committee members discussion, there was conclusion that Real Time Research will be attending the September PRCC meeting and review and discussion can continue at that time
- VIII. **Priest Rapids Dam Spillway Work Update (C. Dotson)** – The drilling of 230 holes in the grout gallery has been completed and instruments to monitor any slippage or water movement are in place. FERC is reviewing Grant's current request to raise the reservoir level back to normal operating range.
- IX. **2018 PRP Spill Report (C. Dotson)** – Juvenile fish spill has ended (Aug. 17 for WAN and Aug. 18 for PRD) and adult fall-back spill will continue until November 15th at both dams
- X. **PPT Presentation from Tom Dresser, GCPUD – Consultation with PRCC Regarding the Priest Rapids Right Bank Embankment Project (C. Dotson)** - Tom Dresser presented power point information to explain the Priest Rapids Dam Right Bank Improvement Project. Grant received a request from FERC to consult with the PRCC on this Project. The listed Project Purpose and Background included the following:
- In 2007, Grant, Chelan and Douglas PUD's jointly conducted a Probabilistic Seismic Hazard Assessment in coordination with FERC, to evaluate the ground shaking hazard that could affect each hydroelectric facility.
 - Analysis indicates that the current embankment meets or exceeds stability guidelines for normal and flood loading conditions. Failure would only be possible during a large seismic event.
 - During an extreme earthquake event, liquefaction could lead to the loss of strength of the embankment soils causing the dam to settle or deform which could result in an uncontrolled release of water from the reservoir.
 - At the request of FERC (in 2015), the District hired a Board of Consultants to assess how the embankments at Priest Rapids Dam would perform, both during and after an earthquake.

- District also has assembled a team of geotechnical engineers to design remediation measures to the right embankment at Priest Rapids Dam.
- 90% design drawings completed.

Furthermore, Dresser reviewed the list of potential project impacts to the Wanapum Band, cultural resources, access to historic areas, job site safety, salmon and steelhead, resident fish, water quality, botanical and terrestrial, and dust, noise, vibration, plus private landowner and access and federal landowner and access. He also explained the tentative schedule which included today's project overview presentation to the PRCC, plus an upcoming 30-day comment period for the PRCC to review the Environmental Assessment Report. Dresser commented that if anyone is interested in more engineering details, he can set that up with Grant engineering staff. He asked that as this project goes forward, please let Dotson or Graf know if more details are desired. Ultimately a FERC order will come out with a list of what needs to be done. A construction award is expected in May 2019 with work to begin June 2019. Committee members asked questions and Dresser provided answers as Dresser went through the presentation. In conclusion, Rohr will keep committee members advised when the Report is received and the timing of the review and 30-day comment period.

XI. **Potpourri (D. Rohr) -**

- A. Endangered Salmon Predation Prevention Act (Sea Lions) – SB 3119 – Rohr stated that no action has yet to take place with this Bill.

XII. **GENERAL UPDATES**

- A. Avian Predation Activities (C. Dotson) – Reports being developed.
- B. FCRPS BiOp – Corps/BOR Avian Predation Management in Columbia Plateau Region (C. Dotson) – Carlon reported that work is continuing on the interim FCRPS BiOp.
- C. Estimating the Survival of Juvenile Spring Chinook in Lake Wenatchee (placeholder) (D. Rohr) – On going.
- D. Review of Outstanding NNI Funded Projects
 1. Continued Support for Upper Columbia Fish Screen Monitoring Program (C. Jackson) – WDFW and/or their screen shop may receive funding involved with the Governor's Orcas Task Force. More to follow as this process moves forward.
 2. Lower Wenatchee Instream Flow Enhancement Project Phase II (C. Jackson, D. Rohr) - Under review with Habitat SC.
 3. Predator Fish Recruitment Reduction (K. Murdoch) – See agenda item V above.
 4. Northern Pike Removal in Lake Roosevelt (K. Truscott) – Fewer Northern Pike were taken in August 2018 than August 2017. The

heavy smoke from forest fires may have kept fishermen off the water.

5. Satellite Telemetry of Caspian Terns (C. Dotson) – See Avian Predation Activities above.
6. Evaluation of Caspian Tern Management to Reduce Predation on ESA-listed Salmonids in the Columbia Plateau Region (C. Dotson) – See Avian Predation Activities above.
7. 2018 Northern Pikeminnow Fishing Derby, Wanapum Reservoir, September 21-23 (C. Dotson) – Coming up next month.

XIII. Committee Reports (D. Rohr) - Distributed via email.

XIV. Qtrly NNI and Habitat Funds Report (D. Rohr) – The draft report distributed last month has been filed as final with no changes.

XV. Next Meeting – Wednesday, September 26, 9:00 am, Wanapum Dam HOB, Room 107 (D. Rohr)

Action Items from August 29, 2018 Meeting

1. Murdoch and Rohr will collate and provide the additional questions to McMichael, and Rohr requested committee members email additional questions to him for distribution as they arise.
2. Accordingly, Skiles and Rohr will work offline to further outline an approach for further review and discussion, and Rohr will continue to include this discussion on future meeting agendas
3. Rohr will keep committee members advised when the Environmental Assessment Report for the PR Right Embankment Improvement Project is received and the timing of the 30-day comment period.

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