



Grant County
PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT
Excellence in Service and Leadership

Priest Rapids Coordinating Committee Meeting

Monday, February 27, 2017
Wanapum Dam HOB, Room 117
1:00 – 4:00 pm

PRCC Representatives

Scott Carlon, Justin Yeager (Alt), NMFS

Bob Rose, YN

Jeff Korth, C. Andonaegui (Alt), P. Verhey (Alt) WDFW

Curt Dotson, Tom Dresser (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

Jeff Korth, WDFW

Scott Carlon, NMFS

Erin McIntyre, GCPUD

Tom Dresser, GCPUD

Tom Skiles, CTUIR (phone)

Jim Craig, USFWS

Casey Baldwin, CCT

Curt Dotson, GCPUD

Bob Rose, YN (phone)

Final Approved Meeting Minutes

Decisions:

- SOA 2017-01, Designation of Coho Salmon Survival Surrogate, as amended, was approved.
- NNI Fund Contract No. 601-25H (G. McMichael) report deadline was extended to December 31, 2017.

I. Welcome and Introductions

- II. **Agenda Review (D. Rohr)** – Dotson requested a discussion of the Predator Fish Recruitment Reduction Project receiving NNI Funding be added to the agenda.

III. Meeting Minutes Approval: (D. Rohr)

- A. Request for approval of October 12, 2016 conference call; November 16, 2016 meeting; December 7, 2016 conference call; December 13-

14, 2016 meetings; January 25, 2016; January 31, 2016. Work in progress.

- IV. **Action Items Review from January 25 and January 31, 2016 meetings (D. Rohr)** – Action items have been completed or were discussed during today’s meeting.
- V. **Affirmation of Final Decision: Request for NNI Funding, 2017 Avian Predation Study Proposal (D. Rohr)** – Rohr discussed proposal with Korth and Korth voted to not approve. Accordingly, the proposal is not approved.
- VI. **Affirmation of Final Decision: Request for NNI Funding, Feasibility of Collecting Adult Spring Chinook Salmon Using a Fish Wheel or Trap in the Estuary and Lower Columbia River (D. Rohr)** – Rohr discussed proposal with Korth and Korth voted to not approve. Accordingly, the proposal is not approved.
- VII. **Close of Comment Period: 2016 Steelhead Survival Study**
 - A. Blue Report – “Behavior and Survival Analysis of Juvenile Steelhead through the Priest Rapids Hydroelectric Project in 2016” – (C. Dotson) – Rohr stated that the comment period is closed and the Report will be finalized. Baldwin asked what it meant to finalize the Report and does that indicate committee acceptance. Rohr commented that in his opinion, finalizing the Report does mean committee acceptance of the Report as written, and that this information next becomes available to use in determining conclusions for the 2014-2016 Survival Study.
- VIII. **Discussion (Continued): Steelhead Performance Standards (All)** – Steelhead Performance Standards and the resulting annual NNI Fund contribution has been under discussion by the committee for several months (~July 2016 to present). No consensus was achieved among numerous Joint Fishery Party meetings, which did not include participation by Grant PUD.

Due to lack of consensus within the PRCC and an approaching deadline; Grant PUD deposited \$1,061,086.26 into the NNI Account. Grant PUD made this decision to remain in compliance with the requirements included in the Salmon and Steelhead Settlement Agreement (SSSA) and adopted into the FERC License Order for the Priest Rapids Project. NNI contribution calculations were based on 3 consecutive years for the Priest Rapids Development (2014-2016) and 2 consecutive years for the Wanapum Development6), which Grant PUD believed represented the best available science and was in compliance with the SSSA.

PRCC members voiced displeasure with Grant PUD making this determination on their own and they disagreed with the deposit amount. PRCC members stated Grant PUD’s actions were outside established criteria and was a unilateral action by Grant PUD. PRCC discussion focused on the question of acceptance or not of the current 2014–2016 survival study information. Consensus was not reached and discussions will continue.

- IX. **Grant PUD Coho Mitigation (T. Dresser, C. Dotson)** – No discussion or action taken.
- X. **ACTION ITEM: SOA 2017-01, Designation of Coho Salmon Survival Surrogate (C. Dotson)** – Committee members discussed the draft SOA. YN requested the last sentence in the Background section of the draft SOA be removed. All members agreed to the removal of the sentence and draft SOA 2017-01, as amended, was approved.
- XI. **ACTION ITEM: NNI Proposal – “Monitoring for presence/absence of Northern Pike using environmental DNA from Priest Rapids pool to Upper Lake Roosevelt” (C. Baldwin)** – A Specification Sheet proposal was distributed to the committee prior to this meeting. The project description outlined that Northern Pike have colonized portions of Lake Roosevelt and the Kettle River prompting co-managers to implement an active removal program in those areas. Northern Pike are considered a major predation threat to salmonids and early detection is needed to guide further management actions as they emigrate further downstream. The proposed study will collect and analyze water samples for the presence of Northern Pike eDNA at specific locations along the Columbia River, lower reaches of select tributaries and confluences/embayment that are likely places for Northern Pike colonization. A funding request for \$27,247 was included. Additionally, during the meeting Baldwin distributed a Northern Pike Abstract/Letter prepared by the CCT Fish and Wildlife Department that described the details and activities of the Northern Pike program. After extensive committee member discussion, there was agreement to remove the eDNA portion of the study. Baldwin agreed to review and amend the proposal and produce a new Specification Sheet for committee review at the next meeting, including a defined work plan and related budget information.
- XII. **(Agenda Addition) NNI Fund Contract No. 601-25H (G. McMichael)** - McMichael has an NNI contract for \$10,000 regarding reduction of non-native predators in the McNary Dam forebay. McMichael is requesting an extension of time of the report due date to the PRCC to December 31, 2017. All committee members approved.
- XIII. **UPDATES**
- A. Avian Predation Activities (C. Dotson) - No updates
 - B. Hatchery Activities (T. Dresser) – No updates
 - 1. Carlton Acclimation Facility
 - 2. Nason Creek Acclimation Facility
 - 3. Priest Rapids Hatchery Modifications
 - 4. Penticton Hatchery

C. Hatchery Permits: Sec 10 Consultation/Summer Chinook, Sec 7 Consultation/Bull Trout. (T. Dresser)

D. Review of NNI Funded Projects

1. (Final Report Update) -- 2016 Real Time Research / Oregon State university – “Evaluation of Caspian Tern Management to Reduce Predation on ESA-Listed Salmonids in the Columbia Plateau Region” - (C. Dotson) - Ongoing
2. Upper Columbia Fish Screen Monitoring Program Phase I - II Contract Extension – (J. Korth) – No update
3. Mid-Columbia River Intake Screen and Diversion Assessment (2016-17) – (T. Dresser) – No update
4. Lower Wenatchee Instream Flow Enhancement Project Phase II – (J. Korth) – No update
5. Methow Valley Irrigation District (MVID) Instream Flow Improvement Project (T. Dresser) – No update
6. Predator Fish Recruitment Reduction (Report in Spring, 2017) (B. Rose) – See agenda item XII above.
7. Quincy Valley Chamber of Commerce / Tourism Association – 2017 Northern Pikeminnow Fishing Derby (T. Dresser) – No update

XIV. **Committee Reports (D. Rohr)** – Rohr distributed

XV. **Qtrly NNI and Habitat Funds Report (placeholder/when available) (D. Rohr)** – No update

XVI. **Next Meeting** – Wed, March 29, 2017, Wanapum HOB Conf Rm 107 (D. Rohr)

Action Items from February 27, 2017 Meeting:

- Baldwin will amend Northern Pike Specification Sheet and discuss further with committee at next meeting. Rohr will distribute an electronic copy of related abstract distributed by Baldwin during the meeting.