



Grant County
PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT
Excellence in Service and Leadership

**Priest Rapids Coordinating Committee
FINAL MEETING MINUTES**

Wednesday, August 26, 2015
9:00 am

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, CCT
Tom Skiles, CTUIR
Orlene Hahn, GCPUD, Executive Assistant

MEETING ATTENDEES

Scott Carlon, NMFS
Bob Rose, YN (via phone)
Tom Skiles, CTUIR

Jim Craig, USFWS
Jeff Korth, WDFW
Curt Dotson, GCPUD

Denny Rohr, D. Rohr & Assoc., Facilitator

Decision Summary from August 26, 2015 PRCC Meeting

1. Committee members declined the Habitat SC funding request of \$122,487 from the NNI Fund.

Action Items from July 21, 2015 PRCC Meeting

1. Orlene to resend May 27th Meeting Minutes to everyone – these were sent out again via email during the July 21st meeting.
2. Orlene to make sure all meeting minutes have been uploaded for all to have access.
3. A list is to be put together of NNI projects and shared amongst the committees. Rohr found the previous list and will send this out. Everyone is to get back to Rohr with any NNI projects they have in mind.
4. Dotson to send out a link on agenda item VII - NNI Funded Projects reports (1, 2 and 3).
5. Rohr is to talk to the Habitat committee to see what their needs are and if they are okay with the NNI and Habitat Funds Report going to a quarterly schedule.

FINAL MINUTES

- I. **Welcome and Introductions**
- II. **Agenda Review (D. Rohr) - See four additions indicated below.**
- III. **Meeting Minutes (D. Rohr) -**

- A. Final approval received for meeting minutes of March 25, 2015, April 22, 2015, May 27, 2015, and July 21, 2015.
- IV. **Action Items Review from July 21, 2015 Meeting (D. Rohr)** – Discussed and all have been completed or are ongoing. Rohr will keep the committee members advised.
- V. **Previously Defined Protocols – Review and Discussion Regarding PRCC Draft Documents and Information (D. Rohr)** – Rohr discussed the protocols practiced by the PRCC regarding draft documents and information distributed to committee members for their review. Rohr stated that he has clearly been instructed by the PRCC to keep draft documents and information within the committee to allow for committee review, comments, and edits, particularly to avoid the release of inaccurate information. Committee members commented that they sometimes share draft information internally within their own agencies, but comments received internally within agencies should be communicated to their respective PRCC members to be handled as committee member's desire. It was stated that access to final documents and information after committee members' approval is made available through the Grant PUD website, www.gcpud.org.
- VI. **Storage and Retrieval Process for PRCC Documents and Committee Information (D. Rohr)** – Rohr commented that he wanted the committee members to know that this is a work in progress, and additional information and explanation will be forthcoming soon. Korth stated that the related process used by the HCP Coordinating Committee works well, and he suggested some discussion with Douglas PUD (the administrator for the HCP Coordinating Committees storage and retrieval process) may be of value. Rohr was requested to follow up with Douglas PUD, specifically Tom Kahler.
- VII. **Discussion of NNI Funded Projects for 2015 – 16 (D. Rohr)** – Rohr stated that this is an ongoing process as information continues to be identified to be included in a listing of potential NNI funded projects for 2015 and beyond. This information will be shared with the PRCC and the PRCC Habitat Subcommittee soon for review.
- VIII. **(Agenda addition) Road Culverts and Fish Passage (D. Rohr)** – Committee members discussed a recent news release that Rohr had distributed to committee members that addressed road culverts and fish passage. The news release outlined Washington State legislative action being taken to address funding to improve road culverts and fish passage statewide. This continues to be an ongoing problem, particularly regarding funding needed.
- IX. **(Agenda addition) SOA 2011-10, Modification of the Gatewell Dipping Schedule for Wanapum Dam (C. Dotson)** – Dotson addressed SOA 2011-10 with committee members. He referenced language in the SOA that outlined the schedule for gatewell dipping at Priest Rapids Dam. The language references keeping the gatewell dipping schedule in effect at Priest Rapids Dam until the Priest Rapids Fish Bypass is completed and operational. Now that the Priest Rapids Bypass is completed (April 2014) and operational, Dotson informed the committee members that he was going to remove the schedule for gatewell dipping at Priest Rapids Dam, except for securing test fish when needed. He further discussed with committee members if there was a need to develop another SOA that would address the change in schedule. Skiles asked for background explanation of SOA 2011-10, and there was additional committee discussion. Carlon requested additional time to discuss the subject internally at his agency. The committee members agreed there was no need to prepare an additional SOA to address the subject. However, they

requested more time for review, and all agreed to additional discussion at the next PRCC meeting in September.

- X. **(Agenda addition) 2014 Real Time Research Avian Study (C. Dotson)** – Allen Evans, RTR, was in attendance for the meeting at the request of PRCC members to discuss the draft report prepared by Bird Research Northwest (including RTR/Allen Evans) titled *"Draft Report, Avian Predation on Juvenile Salmonids in the Columbia River: A Spatial and Temporal Analysis of Impacts in Relation to Fish Survival"*. More specifically the PRCC members requested Evans to address the August 4, 2015 email from the Fish Passage Center (FPC), with an attached memorandum that included comments about the Draft Report that was sent to numerous parties external to the PRCC. Evans reviewed the FPC email with the PRCC. Further he discussed the Bird Research Northwest (BRNW) memorandum of September 1, 2015 that was distributed to the PRCC which included a point-by-point response to the FPC comments. The PRCC discussed the BRNW memorandum and the FPC email in detail. The PRCC voiced concern and disappointment that the FPC email was distributed to numerous parties, plus the authors of the Draft report were not included or contacted as professional courtesy would dictate. After extended discussion, the PRCC members requested Rohr draft a letter to the FPC, the distribution list of the FPC email, and other interested parties to provide a copy of the September 1, 2015 BRNW memorandum to the PRCC to provide clarification. Evans was also directed to proceed with moving the Draft Report to final status as the PRCC members comment period has concluded.
- XI. **(Agenda addition) NNI Funding Request from Habitat SC (D. Rohr)** – The Habitat SC received a habitat project funding request from Trout Unlimited Washington Water Project for \$122,487. The funding request related to the implementation after the 2015 irrigation season of the previously approved project titled "Lower Wenatchee Instream Flow Enhancement Project Phase II" in regards to instream flow. NNI Funds had been committed by the PRCC to help fund the Phase II project, as well as the Habitat SC committing funds from Habitat Funds accounts as well. The Habitat SC approved the current project request and requested the use of NNI Funds for the proposal. After discussion, the PRCC declined approval to fund the \$122,487 request and suggested the funding come from one of the Habitat Funds accounts.
- XII. **Updates**
- A. Inland Avian Predation Activities (C. Dotson) – Dotson stated that an avian predation workshop in October or November is being discussed, and he will advise when a firm date has been reached. No additional update.
- B. Hatchery Activities (T. Dresser) – No updates.
1. Carlton Acclimation Facility – worked with DOE to get emergency water to fill the tanks
 2. Nason Creek Acclimation Facility – we will be doing the same thing at Nason Creek to fill the tanks from the well system on October 1, 2015
 3. Priest Rapids Hatchery Modifications – ongoing.
 4. Penticton Hatchery – they did not have to recondition wells or drill any new ones. ONA manages this hatchery.
- C. Hatchery Permits (Section 10 for Summer Chinook and Section 7 Consultation for Bull Trout. (T. Dresser) – No Updates.

- D. 2015 Smolt Survival Study (C. Dotson) – Data is still being processed and a draft report will be forthcoming as soon as available, probably at the October PRCC meeting.
1. Fish Mode Evaluation
 2. WFB FPE Evaluation
- E. **NNI Funded Projects**
1. 2014 Real Time Research Avian Study – Including “Comprehensive Assessment of Total Smolt Mortality in Relation to Avian Predation on the Mid and Lower Columbia River: Spatial and Temporal analysis of Reservoir-Specific Smolt Losses” (C. Dotson) – Comment period for the draft report is closed and a final report is forthcoming very soon. See discussion above at agenda item X.
 2. Supplementary Tags and Tagging for Assessment of Predation Losses of Subyearling Chinook Salmon in the Lower Hanford Reach and Upper McNary Reservoir (C. Dotson) – Dotson is following up as to status. More to follow at the September PRCC meeting.
 3. 2015 Real Time Research / Oregon State University – “Evaluation of Foraging Behavior, Dispersal, and Predation on ESA-listed Salmonids from the Upper Columbia River by Caspian Terns Displaced from Managed Colonies in the Columbia Plateau Region” C. Dotson) – This is an ongoing project and reporting data is expecting near the end of 2015.
 4. Upper Columbia Fish Screen Monitoring Program Phase I Contract Extension (J. Korth) – no update.
 5. Upper Columbia Fish Screen Monitoring Program Phase II – (J. Korth) – no update.
 6. Lower Wenatchee Instream Flow Enhancement Project Phase II – (J. Korth) – no update.
 7. Mid-Columbia River Intake Screen and Diversion Assessment (T. Dresser) – no update.
 8. Methow Valley Irrigation District (MVID) Instream Flow Improvement Project (T. Dresser) – no update.
- F. **Committee Reports** (D. Rohr) – Rohr distributed by email to committee members.
- G. **NNI and Habitat Funds Report** (D. Rohr) – The Habitat SC concurred with the PRCC that Quarterly, versus monthly, NNI and Habitat Funds Report would be adequate.

XII. Next Meeting – September 23, 2015, SeaTac Radisson Hotel.

Action Items from August 26, 2015 PRCC meeting

1. Rohr will contact Tom Kahler, Douglas PUD, and discuss the HCP Committees information storage and retrieval process.
2. Rohr will draft a letter to be sent to the Fish Passage Center and others in regards to the August 4th Fish Passage Center email and attached memorandum.
3. Dotson will follow up on the status of the NNI Funded project for the “Supplementary Tags and Tagging for Assessment of predation Losses of Subyearling Chinook Salmon in the Lower Hanford Reach and Upper McNary Reservoir”.