



Grant County
PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT
Excellence in Service and Leadership

Priest Rapids Fish Forum

Wednesday, 3 August 2016

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

Stephen Lewis, USFWS

Bob Rose, YN

Doris Squeochs, Wanapum

Jason McLellan, CCT

Mike Clement, Grant PUD

Tracy Hillman, Facilitator

Patrick Verhey, Chad Jackson, WDFW

Breean Zimmerman, WDOE

Aaron Jackson, Carl Merkle, CTUIR

Keith Hatch, BIA

Chris Mott, Grant PUD

Orlene Hahn, Grant PUD

ATTENDEES

Pat Wyena, Wanapum

Patrick Verhey, WDFW

Chris Mott, Grant PUD

Nathan Buck, Wanapum

Breean Zimmerman, WDOE

Steve Hemstrom, Chelan PUD (via phone)

Tracy Hillman, Facilitator

Mike Clement, Grant PUD

Bob Rose, Yakama (via phone)

Jason McLellan, CCT (via phone)

Doris Squeochs, Wanapum

Tom Skiles, CRITFC (via phone)

Donella Miller, Yakama (via phone)

Orlene Hahn, Grant PUD

Action Items:

1. Tracy Hillman will send the PRFF's responses to the Columbia Basin White Sturgeon Program questionnaire to the PRFF attendees for final review and editing. Tracy will then send the final responses to Paul Anders.

I. Welcome and Introductions

II. Agenda Review

- A. **Additional Agenda Items** – If time allows at the end of the meeting, the Forum will review and respond to the Columbia Basin White Sturgeon Hatchery Program questionnaire from Paul Anders.

III. Approve June Meeting Notes – 1 June 2016 Meeting Minutes were reviewed and approved.

A. Review Action Items from June Meeting

1. Orlene Hahn will upload the juvenile sturgeon release video to YouTube and send the link to Tracy Hillman, who will forward the link to the PRFF. **Complete**; the video can be found at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DmDGrlDzGk>

2. Tracy Hillman will contact the RRF and see if the RRF Pacific Lamprey Subgroup can meet jointly with the PRFF Subgroup to discuss appropriate lamprey passage metrics. **Complete.**
3. Tracy Hillman will send out a Doodle Poll asking members to identify dates for the Pacific Lamprey Subgroup Meeting. **Complete.**

IV. Update on White Sturgeon Management Plan (WSMP)

- A. **Update on Juvenile Rearing** – Chris Mott stated that all fish from the 6x6 spawning matrix are doing well. They are growing, surviving, and will be moved to 10-foot rearing tanks soon.
- B. **Larvae Collection** – Patrick Verhey provided the following table of data on larval collection in the lower Columbia River:

Sampling effort				White sturgeon catch					
				Free embryos		Early larvae		Total	Catch / hour
Set type	# of days or nights	Set duration	Live	Dead	Live	Dead			
Bonneville									
53 daytime sets	10	mean	14.5 hrs						
101 overnight sets	20	range	(5.7-49.7) hrs	—	—	—	—	—	—
154 total sets		total	2,233.5 hrs	31	3	177	13	224	0.100
The Dalles									
17 daytime sets	4	mean	15.9 hrs						
30 overnight sets	10	range	(6.2-25.0) hrs	—	—	—	—	—	—
47 total sets		total	747.6 hrs	5	3	34	2	44	0.059
Combined									
70 daytime sets	10	mean	14.9 hrs						
131 overnight sets	20	range	(5.7-49.7) hrs	—	—	—	—	—	—
201 total sets		total	2,981.1 hrs	36	6	211	15	268	0.090

He said larvae were collected from sites in Bonneville Pool, including several sites across from the marina and a few sites upstream and downstream from the Hood River Bridge. Catches have dropped off substantially. Jason McLellan stated that sampling likely started too late and that may be the reason for the low number of larvae collected. Jason recommended an earlier start to larvae collection. Collection should begin shortly after water temperatures reach 14°C. Tom Skiles asked why the decision was made to only sample The Dalles and Bonneville pools and not Wanapum. Jason stated that although there is some potential in the Wanapum Reservoir, the productivity isn't there at this time.

Donella Miller stated that the Yakama Nation successfully captured larvae, with catches of about 10-40 larvae per day. She noted that the catch rates were not large enough to support a hatchery program.

- C. **Update on Monitoring Activities in June** – Chris Mott reported that they are gearing up for juvenile index monitoring. He stated that there is agreement among mid-Columbia monitoring efforts to standardize protocols. This includes standardized sampling methods and gear. Chris said Grant PUD has ordered their monitoring gear and it should be here by next week. He noted that they will sample with two different hook sizes. Juvenile index monitoring will start in September and is projected to take 2-3 weeks. There will be two boats sampling in Wanapum Reservoir and one boat in the Priest Rapids Reservoir. Any CRITFC fish collected during monitoring will be analyzed for stomach contents.

- D. **Diet Surveys Conducted in June** – Chris Mott reported that they have not yet summarized the diet analysis work. He indicated that they collected a total of 20 sturgeon during the spring and early summer survey periods. Of these, they sampled nine fish for stomach contents. They found a wide variety of items in stomachs including misc. fish, mussels, clams, juvenile lamprey, and salmonids.

Mike Clement reported that the electrofishing boat used to conduct northern pikeminnow surveys shocked a six-foot-long sturgeon about three miles upstream from Crescent Bar. He indicated this was the first time that any sturgeon had been collected with their electrofishing gear. It was an untagged wild fish. Because the fish died, they examined its stomach contents. They found misc. mollusks and 125 fully intact (and ~30 partially digested) juvenile lamprey consisting of at least three different age classes in its stomach (see photo of consumed juvenile lamprey below). The capture of a sturgeon with electrofishing gear in shallow water is especially unusual given that the surveys were conducted during the daytime.



- E. **Update on Sturgeon Fishing in the Priest Rapids Project Area** – Patrick Verhey reported that the catch per unit effort (CPUE) in the project area has been low. He said a total of 681 sturgeon have been captured. Of these, 292 were harvested, 283 were released because they were too small to retain, and 106 were released because they were too large to retain. The overall CPUE is about 0.035 sturgeon (see table below). The projected number of CRITFC fish in the project area is about 3,000 to 4,000 sturgeon.

Estimated total fishing effort and catch for the Upper Columbia Sturgeon Fishery July 1, through July 31, 2016.												
Section	Anglers	Angler Hours	Total Sturgeon	Sturgeon			Chinook Caught	Sockeye Caught	Steelhead Released	Other Caught	% Harvest of Total Catch	Sturgeon CPU
				Harvested	Undersized Released	Oversized Released						
537	2,058	11,173	382	153	178	51	0	0	0	0	40.00%	0.034
539 (1)	796	6,208	290	139	104	46	0	0	0	0	48.00%	0.046
539 (2)	246	1,657	8	0	0	8	0	0	0	0	0.00%	0.005
Total	3,099	19,039	681	292	283	106	0	0	0	0	42.91%	0.035

Tom Skills asked if CPUE was based on all angler efforts or only anglers targeting sturgeon. Patrick stated that CPUE was based only on the sturgeon fishery. Tom asked if the 292 fish harvested were actual fish observed in the creel or an extrapolated estimate. Patrick did not know but thought they were extrapolated estimates. The fishery will continue through September. WDFW will provide more information in the future.

- F. **Other White Sturgeon Items** – The Forum reviewed and responded to the Columbia Basin White Sturgeon Hatchery Program questionnaire that Paul Anders sent to members. Paul and others intend to use the information (and information from other hatchery programs) to prepare a presentation for the 2016 NASPS meeting. Tracy Hillman will send the populated questionnaire to meeting attendees to edit responses. Tracy will then send the completed questionnaire to Paul.

V. Update on Pacific Lamprey Management Plan (PLMP)

- A. **Adult Lamprey NNI Update** – Tracy Hillman stated that the Pacific Lamprey Subgroup will meet tomorrow (4 August) at the Grant PUD office in Wenatchee. The purpose of the subgroup meeting is to identify fish passage metrics, how those metrics are measured, and how NNI is calculated. The RRF Pacific Lamprey Subgroup will join the meeting.

B. Adult Lamprey Monitoring

- **Adult tagging and Collection** – Mike Clement reported that they activated the HDX PIT-Tag monitoring systems on 1 May. There is no current update on what has been detected from downstream releases. There were a few fish detected from previous year's releases.

Grant PUD began trapping adult lamprey on 19 July and as of yesterday they have collected all the adult lamprey needed for their tagging and study efforts this year (250 adult lamprey). This basically mirrors last year's efforts. Yesterday, Grant PUD began fishing the traps for Chelan PUD's monitoring program. Chelan PUD needs about 200-250 adult lamprey for the Rocky Reach passage efficiency study. After Chelan PUD receives their fish, Grant PUD will trap about 50 additional adult lamprey for Douglas PUD's study. Mike indicated they are fishing four mechanized traps.

Bob Rose indicated that about 40,500 adult lamprey have been counted at Bonneville Dam and about 3,040 have been counted at Priest Rapids Dam.

- C. **Update on Regional Lamprey Technical Workgroup Meeting held in June** – An update on the Mid-Columbia Lamprey Workshop was given. Members noted that the workshop was well attended and constructive. Final notes from the workshop have been distributed. Coordination among the three PUDs was an important topic during the workshop.

- D. **Other Pacific Lamprey Items** – None

VI. Next Meeting: 7 September 2016 – Grant PUD Natural Resources Wenatchee Office.