



Priest Rapids Coordinating Committee Meeting

FINAL APPROVED MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, November 19, 2019

10:00 am

Wanapum HOB, Room 107

PRCC Representatives

Scott Carlon, Justin Yeager (Alt), NMFS
Keely Murdoch, Brandon Rogers (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 Harris, Admin Ass't, GPUD

PRCC Meeting Attendees

Curt Dotson, GPUD
Keely Murdoch, YN
Scott Carlon, NMFS (Via Phone)
Kirk Truscott, CCT
Chad Jackson, WDFW (absent)
Mike Tonseth, WDFW

Jim Craig, USFWS
Tom Skiles, CTUIR (Via Phone)
Peter Graf, GPUD
Denny Rohr, D. Rohr & Assoc, Facilitator
Erin Harris, GPUD

Decision made during November 19, 2019 meeting

1. Committee approved a 50/50 split of \$1250 each with the PRCC Habitat Subcommittee for the January UCSRB Science Conference sponsorship.
2. Stemilt Screen Project Land-Owner Agreement was approved, contingent on Jackson Concurrence who was absent from the meeting.

MEETING MINUTES

I. Safety Briefing – Curt Dotson

- II. Welcome and Introductions**
- III. Agenda Review (D. Rohr) – No Additions.**
- IV. Meeting Minutes (D. Rohr)**
 - A. Affirmed final approval of August 28, 2019 meeting minutes
 - B. September 25, 2019 Meeting – New draft distributed that included edits received. Committee will provide additional review and comments to Rohr.
 - C. October 23, 2019 Conference Call – Ongoing and will be distributed to committee members for review.
- V. Review of Actions Items from October 25, 2019 Conference Call/Meeting (D. Rohr)**
 - 1. Rohr will follow up with PRCC Habitat SC regarding UCSRB Science Conference sponsorship funding.
 - 2. Rohr will discuss status of the Stemilt Screen Project Land-Owner Agreement with C. Jackson and seek concurrence of approval.
 - 3. Murdoch will follow up with “path forward” information regarding Lake Wenatchee activities.
- VI. UCSRB Science Conference Sponsorship (D. Rohr) – Several PRCC members will be attending. PRCC Habitat Subcommittee agreed to sponsor \$2500 for the conference and requested PRCC approval to use NNI Funds. After committee discussion, PRCC members final decision was approval of a 50/50 split of \$1250 from each committee with approval to fund \$1250 from the NNI Fund, contingent upon approval of Jackson who was absent from today’s meeting. Rohr will discuss with PRCC Habitat Subcommittee.**
- VII. Avian Predation 2020 (C. Dotson) – Dotson reviewed a proposal received from Real Time Research (RTR) titled “Avian Predation on ESA-listed Juvenile Salmonids on the Mid-Columbia River, 2020”. Dotson also commented that the 2019 report stated there was a 50% reduction of the Caspian Terns on the Columbia Plateau. RTR staff last year were on the island 7 days a week doing ground hazing and still 20 Tern eggs were laid in the area. Dotson stated he has been in communications with BOR and their proposal for 2020 is hazing on Goose Island 2 days a week, with one of those hazing days used as monitoring tern activity in the Potholes area. BOR has budgeted \$150,000 for 2020 and stated they don’t want to get into a program they’ll have to keep putting money into. The Vegetation pilot study that was conducted in 2019 on Goose Island was not successful. Part of the problem, which was not anticipated, was water drip lines being moved around by gulls and new/young plant growth being eaten by geese. Dotson suggested BOR consider co-funding a project with PRCC for a 7 day per week hazing of terns on Goose Island and their answer was no. BOR**

stated they need to prove they can do it with two days a week dissuasion and if it doesn't work, they will discuss it with NOAA.

The 2020 RTR proposal under discussion includes an NNI funding request for \$382,987 which represents a 62% decrease in proposed costs for 2020 compared to 2019 due to cost sharing with USACE, BPA, and BOR to support the program. Committee members further discussed details of the BOR's \$150,000 budget figure and the RTR proposal for additional avian predation monitoring and evaluation in the area of Goose Island and the Columbia Plateau. Dotson also commented that the BOR contact person for this project is retiring March 2020, and no new contact name has yet been received. Truscott commented he would like to have RTR do their monitoring of the BOR program for 2020 and if the BOR program for 2020 shows poor results, he would like to have consideration of a proposal next fall for placing LWD (large woody debris) on the island for 2021. Accordingly, committee members all agreed to further review, discussion, and consideration of Truscott's comments. Committee members concluded the discussion by requesting the RTR proposal be placed on the December meeting agenda as a Decision Item. Also, RTR is available to attend the next meeting if committee members so desire. Committee members agreed to notify Rohr if they want RTR in attendance at the next meeting, and Carlon and Skiles commented that would not be necessary in their opinion. (The RTR Proposal is Attachment 1).

VIII. Committee Review and Discussion of Lake Wenatchee Activities Regarding White River Spring Chinook Juvenile Migration (D. Rohr) -) - It was noted that the PRCC had discussed this subject during the September 25th meeting but several committee members were absent from the October 23rd meeting and a detailed discussion did not occur. Accordingly, after continued review on October 23rd, there was agreement to have a thorough discussion during the November 19th meeting when all members are expected to be present.

Accordingly, with Jackson absent, Mike Tonseth (WDFW), joined Murdoch and Truscott with comments and explanation from the co-managers of a possible path forward. They noted that different ideas have been discussed previously and there is a need to connect the dots from the prior approaches. Additionally, they felt that part of the reason there was not agreement to the RFP that was discussed was because it wasn't clear what information was needed or how it would be used. Therefore, they felt that interaction with Jeff Jorgenson (NOAA) was needed to confirm what information he needs to do Life Cycle Modelling work to address data gaps identified.

Discussion continued with committee members' questions, comments, and opinions, including a question of what related information is to be presented at the January UCSRB Science Conference, details of the 2026 White River decisions to be made, questions from the PRCC Hatchery Subcommittee that had been developed, the September 25th meeting with Jeff Jorgenson to review the Hatchery Subcommittee questions, what might a new White River program look like and comment that the last captive brood program failed, understanding

limited life cycles helps recovery in the Wenatchee Basin, and the differences of opinion that the small working group identified when working on possible development of an RFP.

Graf commented there is a clear difference in data needs among the committee members. This is a long-standing issue with differences of opinion and PRCC pursuit runs into the same stumbling blocks. He commented that he doesn't have questions or data needs related to Jorgenson's model, and if there is a proposal and funding needs to be reviewed, then they should be brought to the PRCC for consideration. He felt Jorgenson was clear during his September 25th discussion and presentation to the committee members and he didn't have any additional questions. Murdoch feels the committee already agreed to the RFP but missed the step of the data that Jorgenson needs to run his Life Cycle Model to answer the committee's questions. Truscott commented on the differences of opinion the small working group had when working on trying to develop an RFP. Graf shared that the PIT tag data is sufficient, and if other committee members want or need more detailed data than PIT tags provide, then they should pursue it. Committee members also discussed the pros and cons of doing an acoustic tag study and voiced differences of opinion as to the need and benefit.

The discussion concluded with the co-managers agreeing to distribute their proposal in writing to the committee for review and discussion at the next meeting, including a list of draft questions to be considered for distribution to Jeff Jorgenson.

IX. Potpourri (D. Rohr)

- A. 2019 AFEP Conference, December 3, 4, PNNL Labs, Richland was reviewed.

GENERAL UPDATES

- X. Avian Predation Activities (C. Dotson)** – See information above
- XI. FCRPS BiOp – Corps/BOR Avian Predation Management in Columbia Plateau Region (C. Dotson)** – No additional information
- XII. Committee Review and Discussion of Lake Wenatchee Activities Regarding White River Spring Chinook Juvenile Migration (D. Rohr)** – See information above
- XIII. Review of Outstanding NNI Funded Projects**
- A. **Continued Support for UC Fish Screen Program (C. Jackson)**
1. Stemilt Screen Project Land-Owner Agreement – Approved contingent on Jackson Concurrence.
- B. **Lower Wenatchee Instream Flow Enhancement Project Phase II (C. Jackson, D. Rohr)** – No new information

- C. **“Non-Native Predator Recruitment Reduction – Phase I” (K. Murdoch)** – No additional information
 - D. **“Northern Pike Removal in Lake Roosevelt” (K. Truscott)** - Crews are continuing to work through the month of November.
 - E. **2020 Quincy Valley Tourism Association Northern Pikeminnow Fishing Derby (C. Dotson)** – No new information.
- XIV. Committee Reports (D. Rohr)** - distributed
- XV. NNI and Habitat Funds Report for Q3 (D. Rohr)** - distributed
- XVI. Next Meetings (Please Note Date/Time Change) (D. Rohr)** – December 17, 2019, 1:00 pm, Grant PUD Wenatchee Office.

Action Items from November 19, 2019 Meeting

1. Rohr will follow up with PRCC Habitat SC regarding UCSRB Science Conference sponsorship funding.
2. Rohr will discuss status of the Stemilt Screen Project Land-Owner Agreement with C. Jackson and seek concurrence of approval.
3. Co-managers will follow up with “path forward” information regarding Lake Wenatchee activities.

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