



Priest Rapids Coordinating Committee Meeting

FINAL APPROVED MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, September 26, 2018

9:00 am

Wanapum HOB, Room 107

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 (Via Phone)
Erin McIntyre, Admin Ass't, GPUD
Chad Jackson, WDFW

Jim Craig, USFWS
Curt Dotson, GPUD
Tom Skiles, CTUIR
Peter Graf, GPUD
Kirk Truscott, CCT

Decisions made during July 25, 2018 Meeting

1. None
-

MEETING MINUTES

- I. SAFETY BRIEFING** - Completed
- II. Welcome and Introductions**
- III. Agenda Review (D. Rohr)** – No additions
- IV. Meeting Minutes (D. Rohr)**
 - A.** July 25, 2018 Meeting - Approved
 - B.** August 29, 2018 Webinar Conference Meeting – Under development

V. Action Items from August 29, 2018 Meeting (D. Rohr)

- A.** Skiles and Rohr will continue a review NNI Funding Guidance Document and Fund Management regarding path forward options and considerations. Completed
- 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 as finalized. Completed

VI. Discussion - NNI Funding Request, “Non-Native Predator Recruitment Reduction – Phase I”, Geoff McMichael, Mainstem Fish Research (K. Murdoch)

- A.** Review/Update of October 24, 2016 McMichael Contract – Committee members reviewed the contract and noted a final report was required upon completion of the contract.
- B.** Review of Current NNI Funding Request and PRCC Questions – Murdoch commented that McMichael was not aware of the required written report outlined in the October 24, 2016 contract. Rohr noted that additional questions from committee members were forwarded to Murdoch to share with McMichael. Accordingly, Murdoch informed committee members that McMichael will submit a report prior to the October PRCC meeting, the report will include answers to the current committee questions plus completion of the required report outlined in the October 24, 2016 contract. This will be an agenda item for discussion during the October 24, 2018 PRCC meeting. Additionally, Dotson posed a question related to the current Orca Task Force Report that included a request for funding of a proposed study that is similar to the McMichael proposal. The requested funding of Orca Task Force was for \$200,000, Dotson asked if that was the McMichael study and might McMichael be requesting funding to match the PRCC NNI Funding request. Murdoch requested Dotson send the information to her and she will discuss it with McMichael then report back.

VII. Presentation and NNI Funding Request, RTR / OSU (C. Dotson) - Ken Collis and Allen Evans from Real Time Research attended the meeting to review and discuss some preliminary findings regarding the predation study they have been working on in 2018 that was funded by the PRCC, plus they also presented a proposal titled “Implementation and Evaluation of the Inland Avian Predation Management Plan, 2019” related to continuing their predation study work next year. While a Draft Report of their 2018 work is not due until January 2019, Collis and Evans thought it valuable to present some of the key findings for PRCC to review at this time since there has been a lot of interest in the work being done in 2018, particularly from folks at BPA, NOAA, USACE, and CRITFC.

Collis and Evans reviewed the information contained within the Preliminary Findings Report (dated September 13, 2018) and answered questions posed by PRCC members. The preliminary findings information focused on the predation currently

being experienced by UCR steelhead, primarily by Caspian terns, including the large area of predation impacts. After extensive review of the Preliminary Findings Report, it was noted that additional review and discussion will occur after completion of the 2018 Study Draft Report is shared in January with PRCC members.

Additionally, Collis and Evans reviewed their NNI Funding Proposal that outlined studies proposed to be undertaken in 2019. They commented that funding for avian predation issues is declining in the region. The life of a Caspian tern is over 20 years. The terns need food supply, open ground to build their nests, a safe area from ground predators, the Columbia Basin provides this. As discussion continued, committee members asked questions regarding varying methods used to deter avian predation. Outlined in the proposal is a listing of Project Objectives, including Objective 1 – Passive nest dissuasion at managed Caspian tern colonies in the CRP (Columbia River Plateau) region, Objective 2 – Active nest dissuasion at managed Caspian tern colonies in the CRP region, Objective 3 – Action effectiveness monitoring of the IAPMP (Inland Avian Predation Management Plan), and Objective 4 – Assess predation impacts of other unmanaged piscivorous colonial water bird species in the CRP region. Related Tasks and requested funding amounts for each are listed under each Objective. Collis and Evans reviewed the objectives and tasks in detail and committee members continued their discussion. In conclusion, committee members decided to continue their review of the proposal offline and discuss the proposal further during the next PRCC meeting of October 24th. Dotson commented on timing of the work to be done, specifically addressing Task 1.2, “Test the feasibility of vegetation planting and woody debris as a long-term and sustainable passive nest dissuasion action for managed terns on Goose Island in Potholes Reservoir (management feasibility study)”. He stated if task 1.2 is to be approved for funding, preparation will need to begin within the next several weeks and therefore a near term decision is needed for this specific task. Accordingly, Dotson requested a conference call to be scheduled within the next several days to address task 1.2. In conclusion, committee members agreed to a conference call on October 9th to address task 1.2, and the remaining objectives and tasks would be discussed during the next meeting on October 24th.

VIII. Discussion - NNI Funding Guidance Review and Discussion (T. Skiles) - Skiles and Rohr commented they have met offline to discuss this subject further, including a possible path forward. After brief discussion, it was concluded that Skiles and Rohr will continue their offline discussion and report back at the next meeting.

IX. Priest Rapids Dam Spillway Work Update (C. Dotson) – Dotson commented that Grant is waiting on approval from the Washington, D.C. FERC office to begin raising the reservoir level. Grant plans next Tuesday to begin raising the reservoir at a rate of 6”/hour once FERC approval is received to reach full by Wednesday October 3rd. Approval from FERC is anticipated to be received this week.

X. Update – Consultation with PRCC Regarding the Priest Rapids Right Bank Embankment Project (C. Dotson) – Grant is waiting on permits. The 30-day

review period is expected to begin once the permits are received which is anticipated around the middle of October.

XI. Potpourri (D. Rohr)

- A. Endangered Salmon Predation Prevention Act (Sea Lions) – SB 3119 -** Last update received was Friday September 20th. No activity.
- B. UCSRB – Request received for them to attend the October PRCC meeting and discuss the draft hydro report they are preparing.** The same information will be presented to the HCP CC next month, and conclusion reached that PRCC members can also participate by WebEx Conference as desired. Rohr and Ferguson have discussed and coordinated details.

XII. GENERAL UPDATES

- A. Avian Predation Activities (C. Dotson) –** RTR has made a proposal to the UCACE to develop a synthesis report on work done during previous years. The USACE has proposal funding for syntheses report on previous year's work. This would be a compilation of what is occurring in both the lower and upper Columbia River areas. The data collected and contained within the synthesis report would be expected to provide valuable information of the big-picture for the region.
- B. FCRPS BiOp – Corps/BOR Avian Predation Management in Columbia Plateau Region (C. Dotson) –** No additional information, see agenda item VII above.
- C. Estimating the Survival of Juvenile Spring Chinook in Lake Wenatchee (placeholder) (D. Rohr) –** This is a discussion item for the PRCC Hatchery Subcommittee. The primary focus of the discussion relates to the 2026 target date for the White River. This subject is on their agenda for the next meeting.
- D. Review of Outstanding NNI Funded Projects**
 - 1. Continued Support for Upper Columbia Fish Screen Monitoring Program (C. Jackson) –** Rohr reported that Danny Didricksen is currently out of the office for an extended period of time on personal leave. He may return in October and Rohr will contact him to schedule a future update.
 - 2. Lower Wenatchee Instream Flow Enhancement Project Phase II (C. Jackson, D. Rohr) –** The internal 6 months water rights' review is continuing. Rohr will keep the committee members advised as additional information become available.
 - 3. Predator Fish Recruitment Reduction (K. Murdoch) –** See agenda item VII above.
 - 4. Northern Pike Removal in Lake Roosevelt (K. Truscott) –** Truscott shared that 2018 data has been received and 1600 northern pike have been removed so far. 435 have been included in the reward program. There are 4 different age classes ranging from

small fish up to 25 pounds. These fish are voracious eaters and they eat a variety of other fish. Truscott shared that 1600 is about one-third of the number collected in 2017, and while it may be that the number of northern pike are being overall reduced, it is also expected that the air quality (smoke from fires in the area) and hot weather conditions may also have reduced the work effort involved.

5. **Satellite Telemetry of Caspian Terns (C. Dotson)** – No new information.
6. **Evaluation of Caspian Tern Management to Reduce Predation on ESA-listed Salmonids in the Columbia Plateau Region (C. Dotson)** – See agenda item VII above.
7. **2018 Northern Pikeminnow Fishing Derby, Wanapum Reservoir, September 21-23 (C. Dotson)** - Last weekend 95 anglers participated and caught 1,037 fish with an average weight of .58 lbs. Last year included 94 anglers with 1,700 fish caught with an average weight of .43 lbs. last year. Accordingly, fewer Pikeminnow were caught this year but they were larger.

XIII. Committee Reports (D. Rohr) – Distributed electronically.

XIV. Qtrly NNI and Habitat Funds Report (D. Rohr) – Distributed electronically.

XV. Next Meeting (D. Rohr) – Wednesday, October 24, 2018, 9:00 am, Wanapum Dam HOB, Room 107

XVI. Review of November and December Meeting Schedules (D. Rohr) – Rohr reviewed the November and December meeting schedules. The conclusion was to meet on November 28th and possibly December 18th if necessary, including possibly scheduling a Webinar Conference for the December meeting.

Action items for September 26, 2018 meeting

1. Murdoch will continue discussion with McMichael regarding questions involved with the Predator Fish Recruitment Reduction Proposal.
2. Rohr will schedule a conference call for October 9th to discuss Task 1.2 of the 2019 Avian Predation Study Proposal from RTR, see agenda item VII above.
3. Rohr will contact Didricksen regarding scheduling an update report at an upcoming PRCC meeting.

--END--