



Grant County
PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT
Excellence in Service and Leadership

Priest Rapids Coordinating Committee Meeting Conference Call

FINAL APPROVED MEETING MINUTES

Monday, February 4, 2019

9:30 am

Conference call

PRCC Representatives

Scott Carlon, Justin Yeager (Alt), NMFS	Jim Craig, USFWS
Keely Murdoch, Bob Rose (Alt), YN	Kirk Truscott, Casey Baldwin (alt), CCT
Chad Jackson, P. Verhey (Alt) WDFW	Tom Skiles, CTUIR
Curt Dotson, Peter Graf (Alt), GPUD	Erin Harris, Admin Ass't, GPUD
Denny Rohr, D. Rohr & Assoc, Facilitator	

PRCC Meeting Attendees

Curt Dotson, GPUD	Jim Craig, USFWS
Keely Murdoch, YN	Tom Skiles, CTUIR
Scott Carlon, NMFS	Peter Graf, GPUD
Kirk Truscott, CCT	Denny Rohr, D. Rohr & Assoc
Chad Jackson, WDFW	Erin Harris, GPUD
Holly McLellan, CCT	

Decisions Items for February 4, 2019 Conference Call

1. PRCC No Net Impact Funds Project Specification Sheet, dated December 17, 2018, received from Holly McLellan, Colville Confederated Tribes, Project Title "Northern Pike removal in Lake Roosevelt", funding request up to \$275,000 (\$75,000/2019, \$100,000/2020, and \$100,000/2021) was approved.

MEETING MINUTES

I. Welcome and Introductions

PRCC Conference Call
Meeting Minutes Final Approved
February 4, 2019

II. Agenda Review (D. Rohr) – Rohr added a discussion of questions relative to the McMichael “Non-Native Predator Recruitment Reduction – Phase I” Project (See agenda item IV below).

III. NNI Funding Request – Proposal for “Northern Pike Removal in Lake Roosevelt” (K. Truscott) – Rohr commented that this subject was discussed during the PRCC meeting of January 23, 2019. Questions remained unanswered during that meeting and Truscott agreed to follow up with Holly McLellan, CCT, Project Sponsor, to obtain answers to those questions. Furthermore, committee members agreed to convene a conference call on Monday, February 4, 2019 to consider the proposal and NNI Funding request.

Truscott sent email to PRCC members dated February 1, 2019 with a listing of the questions and answers that remained unanswered during the January 23rd meeting, as follows:

(Email from Truscott with answers to the January 23rd questions)

- 1) Grant PUD (Question) - Is there a commitment in 2020 and 2021 for the \$470K from the Spokane Tribes, and if not, how do we expect to back-fill the shortfall, and if we don't back-fill the funding loss for 2020 and 2021, how effective is the program anticipated to be?**

H McLellan (Answer): The Spokane Tribe has re-allocated funds from an ongoing BPA project (White Sturgeon three step review process) to fund their portion of the project for three years. This does not affect the Colville Tribe. The CCT has committed \$400,000 a year with BPA funds, plus I am working to secure BIA funding every year, which requires me to submit a proposal every year.

Timeline is a 3-year commitment and they are all committed.

- 2) Grant PUD (Question) - Is the \$100K for 2019 inclusive of the current contract of \$25K (i.e is Grant PUD on the hook for an additional \$100K or \$75K)?**

H McLellan (Answer): \$75,000 for this year (2019); \$100,000 the other two years (2020, 2021).

- 3) Yakama Nation (YN) (Question) - The proposal is for 3 years, so who funds the program at the 2019-2021 level after 2021? Do we anticipate a reduction in funding needs after 2021 and who is going to fund the effort?**

H McLellan (Answer): We plan to re-evaluate the program in 2-3 years. If the program still requires intense suppression all year, then we will look for assistance to continue funding it. If we have reduced the Pike population to a level that only requires maintenance suppression, then we may not need the additional funding anymore. This happened with the Kalispel Tribe in the Pend Oreille River. They were able to reduce their program effort after 5 years to just maintenance suppression. Our success or failure is unknown at this time. At this time, we are trying to pool our funding and keep the effort high all year long to contain the problem. If this strategy works, then we can reduce our effort in 5 years. Conversely, if the data indicates that we are not successful, then we will need to re-evaluate our strategy and our goal. Maybe Pike suppression in Lake Roosevelt may not be feasible. If that is the case, we would not ask for more funding either. We felt like a three year ask was appropriate with all of the unknowns. We would like three more years of information to help guide future efforts.

After additional discussion, PRCC **approved** the NNI Funding request for up to \$75,000 in 2019, \$100,000 in 2020, and \$100,000 in 2021.

IV. NNI Funding Request, “Non-Native Predator Recruitment Reduction – Phase I”, Geoff McMichael, Mainstem Fish Research (K. Murdoch, D. Rohr) – Rohr outlined the questions before the committee explaining that the \$128,000 NNI Funding request for this proposal was affirmed as approved in the December 11, 2018 PRCC meeting, subject to the McNary Group contributing \$128,000 in matching funds. Dotson commented the contract to fund this project is being prepared and will be finalized soon. However, during the January 23, 2019 meeting, Truscott raised a question and shared information he had received that the federal parties may not be willing or able to provide drafting to fluctuate reservoir levels in the McNary pool which is one of the objectives required in this proposal. Skiles shared that he had also been made aware of the same information and questions by CRITFC staff. Committee members commented that this information could impact the decision to fund this proposal. Accordingly, after discussion, there was agreement during the January 23rd meeting that Truscott and Skiles would follow up on the questions raised and information received and discuss their findings with Murdoch. Murdoch was to then follow up with McMichael and others involved and report back to the PRCC members for further discussion during today’s meeting.

Accordingly, Murdoch discussed the email she had distributed to the PRCC dated February 4, 2019, which included information regarding her follow up with McMichael. She stated further that the information some PRCC members had been made aware of and that raised some questions came out of a different and separate process (FCRPS Draft EIS) and was not directly related to the McMichael

Proposal. She further commented the information was specific to the FCRPS Draft EIS and not the McMichael Proposal.

Moreover, results from the McMichael Proposal, which the PRCC is cost sharing, will inform the FCRPS EIS process better on how to use WSE (Water Surface Elevation) changes as a management tool to reduce non-native predators. This information will ultimately be useful in the alternatives covered in the FCRPS EIS.

Most of the scenarios being modeled are within the top 3-foot range but modeling the full 5 feet makes sense to provide context and valuable information should the federal action agencies decide that brief/scheduled short-term drops into the lower 2 feet of the normal operating range for McNary Reservoir are warranted.

Murdoch said that McMichael has been very busy preparing to do the work and time is of the essence right now. The contract with the McNary Mitigation Fund is already in place and he has applied for his Scientific Collection Permit. He is still waiting on the contract from Grant but cannot delay the preparations as the work needs to start next month in anticipation of walleye spawning around March 1.

Accordingly, after further discussion, PRCC members were satisfied that their questions had been answered and agreed to proceed with the approved proposal. Dotson will follow up with the contract being delivered to McMichael for funding.

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