



Priest Rapids Coordinating Committee Meeting FINAL APPROVED MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, December 11, 2018

9:00 am

Grant PUD Wenatchee Office

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), GCPUD
Denny Rohr, D. Rohr & Assoc, Facilitator

Jim Craig, USFWS
Kirk Truscott, Casey Baldwin (alt), CCT
Tom Skiles, CTUIR
Erin Harris, Admin Ass't, GCPUD

PRCC Meeting Attendees

Curt Dotson, GCPUD
Keely Murdoch, YN
Scott Carlon, NMFS (Via Phone)
Kirk Truscott, CCT
Chad Jackson, WDFW (Via Phone)

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

Decision made during December 11, 2018 meeting

1. After discussion, committee member voted to approve extending the Study Report due date to March 31, 2019 as requested by Real Time Research regarding the Multiyear Synthesis Report of PRCC-funded Avian Predation Study Results.
2. Committee members approved the NNI Funding for Task 3.3 and Task 4.2 of RTR's 2019 funding proposal as discussed (see agenda item X below for details).

MEETING MINUTES

I. SAFETY BRIEFING - Completed

II. Welcome and Introductions

III. Agenda Review (D. Rohr) – Dotson added a discussion of the Grant PUD Draft 5-Year Total Gas Abatement Plan.

IV. Meeting Minutes (D. Rohr)

- A. (Affirmation) August 29, 2018 Webinar Conference Meeting - Approved
- B. September 26, 2018 Meeting – Under development
- C. October 24, 2018 meeting – Under development

V. Action Items from October 24, 2018 Meeting (D. Rohr)

- A. Murdoch and Rohr will follow up with G. McMichael - Completed
- B. Rohr will schedule November 5, 2018 Conference Call to address Tasks 3.2, 3.3, 4.1, 4.2 of RTR/OSU 2018 Inland Avian Predation Management Plan. - Completed

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

- A. K. Truscott and C. Jackson approval of NNI Funding Request (both absent from voting during October 24th meeting). Verbal approval received by Rohr from Truscott and Jackson to approve, NNI Fund, up to \$128,878.
- B. PRCC approval of matching funds request to the McNary Mitigation Group. By PRCC conference call of November 26, 2018, committee members present approved McMichael seeking matching funds of \$128,878 from the McNary Mitigation Group as the request for matching funds to the National Fish and Wildlife Federation was denied. J. Craig, C. Jackson, and K. Truscott were absent from the November 26th PRCC conference call but had given Rohr verbal approval prior to the call.

VII. (Affirmation) Quincy Valley Tourism Association 2019 Fishing Derby - PRCC Approval of NNI Funding Request - (November 26, 2018 PRCC Conference Call) – D. Rohr – In 2018 the Quincy Valley Tourism Association (QVTA) Fishing Derby was held in September. QVTA would like to change the 2019 date of the Derby back to May as has been previously done. QVTA has a board meeting scheduled for December 3, 2018 and would like to know and confirm if NNI funding of up to \$25,000 is available for the May 2019 Derby. This is the same dollar amount as received for their previous fishing Derbies. QVTA has determined that a better volunteer turnout was experienced during the May fishing Derbies than was experienced in the Derby last September. Carlon noted that NOAA feels Grant is benefitting from this fishing Derby, and they prefer the funding come from Grant rather than the NNI Fund. After continued discussion, committee members voted to approve the NNI Funding request of up to \$25,000 for the May 2019 QVTA Fishing Derby.

VIII. DECISION ITEM – OSU/RTR Request for Time Extension for OSU’s portion of the Multiyear Synthesis Report of PRCC-funded Avian Predation Study Results. (C. Dotson) – The current due date for the Study Report to PRCC is January 31, 2019. OSU/RTR has requested the due date be extended to March 31, 2019. After discussion, committee member voted to approve extending the Study Report due date to March 31, 2019 as requested.

- IX. DECISION ITEM – Request for NNI Funding Participation of USACE Synthesis Report (C. Dotson)** – The USACE is requesting NNI funding for development of their involvement in the Synthesis Report that is under development. ODFW (Oregon Dept of Fish & Wildlife), BPA, and NOAA have also been approached with funding requests from the USACE. Dotson presented and discussed an outline of the 7 tasks to be considered for funding. Committee members discussed the 7 tasks and agreed to give the request consideration. Dotson was asked to contact the USACE and others and let them know that the PRCC would consider possibly co-funding involvement. Committee members agreed to continue the discussion at the next PRCC meeting on January 23, 2019.
- X. Discussion (with possible action) on Avian Predation Monitoring in 2019 regarding PIT-tags. (C. Dotson)** -- Dotson requested a reconsideration of how to approach Tasks 3.3 and 4.2 included in the proposal titled “Implementation and Evaluation of the Inland Avian Predation Management Plan, 2019”, dated September 24, 2018 and received from Real Time Research (RTR), due to new information received regarding PIT tag work in the lower river and possible operational changes at John Day Dam. These 2 tasks were not approved after committee discussion during the PRCC conference call of November 5, 2018. The new proposal for consideration regarding the work to be done as outlined in Task 3.3 includes continuing with tagging 7,000 steelhead at Rock Island. Of the 7,000 steelhead to be tagged, the Fish Passage Center (FPC) (thru their Smolt Monitoring Program) will PIT-tag 4,000 fish in their normal tagging operation (no cost to the PRCC), plus Chelan PUD (CCPUD) will PIT-tag the remaining 3,000 steelhead smolts, including supplying the PIT tags, for up to \$10,000 in labor costs with funding to come from the NNI Fund. RTR will use these 7,000 steelhead smolts in their predation rate analyses. It was discussed that the FPC and CCPUD use different criteria regarding which fish they tag as compared to the criteria and detail that RTR has used in past years. This was acceptable to the PRCC. Task 3.3 will be looking at predation by Caspian tern colonies. With these changes to the original Task 3.3, the “new” Task 3.3 would reduce the price from \$291,801 down to \$109,545, with an additional \$10,000 (plus tags) being awarded to Chelan PUD for the tagging of 3,000 smolts. Additionally, Task 4.2 will remain the same as outlined in the September 24, 2018 RTR proposal (predation analysis by all colonial water-birds species) for up to \$106,846 from the NNI Fund. After discussion, committee members approved the NNI Funding as outlined and discussed for Task 3.3 and Task 4.2.
- XI. NNI Fund Re-Calculation Report (C. Dotson)** – Grant presented both a memorandum and a PowerPoint that discussed the updating of the(hatchery) production numbers that are used in Table 1 of the Salmon and Steelhead Settlement Agreement (SSSA), which is used in the calculating of the annual contribution to the NNI Fund. The production numbers that were used for the Table when the SSSA was written were the BAMP numbers from 1998. Since that time, and in accordance with the SSSA (sec. 13.1.2), the PRCC Hatchery sub-committee re-calculated production levels in 2013 (SOA 2012-01). Following the hatchery re-calculation, Table 1 of the SSSA should have been updated to reflect current production numbers. Grant mentioned that based on the re-calculated production numbers, Grant has actually been “over-paying” into the NNI Fund for the past 5 years, but would not be seeking reimbursement of those over-paid dollars due to the fact that it was Grant’s responsibility to make the linkage between the recalculation of hatchery production numbers and the Table 1 of the SSSA, and they did not until now. Going forward, NNI payments will apply the current hatchery production numbers and will again be updated after the 2023 hatchery re-calculation.
- XII. Update – Consultation with PRCC Regarding the Priest Rapids Right Bank Embankment Project (C. Dotson)** – No new information to discuss.

XIII. (Addition to Agenda) Grant PUD Draft 5-Year Total Gas Abatement Plan (C. Dotson) – Dotson informed committee members that the Draft Plan will be sent to them electronically over the next few days and a 30-day comment period will begin. Dotson asked for the committee members to review and provide any comments they may have.

XIV. Potpourri (D. Rohr)

- A. Sea Lions – SB 3119 – Bill has been approved by the Senate and will be forwarded to the President for consideration.
- B. Orcas Task Force Recommendations – Sent to the Governor for budget consideration.
- C. Vernita bar redd counts information – P. Graf updated the committee.
- D. AFEP Conference in Portland, November 27, 28 – Several committee members attended and provided report information.

XV. GENERAL UPDATES

- A. **Avian Predation Activities (C. Dotson)** – See agenda items above, nothing additional to report.
- B. **FCRPS BiOp – Corps/BOR Avian Predation Management in Columbia Plateau Region (C. Dotson)** – no new information.
- C. **Estimating the Survival of Juvenile Spring Chinook in Lake Wenatchee (placeholder) (D. Rohr)** – discussion taking place in PRCC Hatchery SC.
- D. **NNI Funding Guidance Review and Discussion (T. Skiles)** – nothing new to report.
- E. **Review of Outstanding NNI Funded Projects**
 - 1. **Continued Support for UC Fish Screen Monitoring Program (C. Jackson)** – Meeting presentation report was received from D. Didricksen, WDFW.
 - 2. **Lower Wenatchee Instream Flow Enhancement Project Phase II (C. Jackson, D. Rohr)** – Nothing new to report.
 - 3. **Predator Fish Recruitment Reduction (K. Murdoch)** – see agenda discussion above.
 - 4. **Northern Pike Removal in Lake Roosevelt (K. Truscott)** – Truscott reported that 8,649 have been removed from 2015 to the present. November 2018, they were found to be within 10 miles of Grand Coulee Dam. The area of detection is 160 kilometers, and for reference, the distance from Grand Coulee Dam to Rocky Reach Dam is 199 kilometers.
 - 5. **Evaluation of Caspian Tern Management to Reduce Predation on ESA-listed Salmonids in the Columbia Plateau Region (C. Dotson)** – no additional information.

XVI. Committee Reports (D. Rohr) – no meetings in December.

XVII. Qtrly NNI and Habitat Funds Report (D. Rohr) – 3rd Quarter report has been distributed to committee members.

XVIII. Next Meeting (D. Rohr) – (To Be Discussed) Wednesday, December 26, 2018, 9:00 am, Wanapum Dam HOB, Room 107 – Committee members decided the next meeting would be January 23, 2018. All agreed for Rohr to convene a conference call if something urgent arose that needs committee attention.

Action Items from December 11, 2018 meeting

1. Dotson will contact the USACE and others and let them know that the PRCC would consider possibly co-funding involvement in the Request for NNI Funding Participation of USACE Synthesis Report.
2. Rohr will place USACE Synthesis Report on the agenda for January 23, 2019 for continued discussion.

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