



Grant County
PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT
Excellence in Service and Leadership

Priest Rapids Coordinating Committee Meeting

FINAL APPROVED MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, July 24, 2019

10am

Wanapum HOB, Room 118

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, GPUD

PRCC Meeting Attendees

Curt Dotson, GPUD
Keely Murdoch, YN
Scott Carlon, NMFS (absent)
Kirk Truscott, CCT (absent)
Chad Jackson, WDFW
Geoff McMichael, Mainstem Fish Research

Jim Craig, USFWS
Tom Skiles, CTUIR
Peter Graf, GPUD
Denny Rohr, D. Rohr & Assoc, Facilitator
Erin Harris, GPUD
Pat Wyena, Wanapum

Decision made during July 24, 2019 meeting

1. Meeting minutes:
 - a. Affirmed approval of May 10, 2019 Conference Call
 - b. Affirmed approval of May 29, 2019 Meeting
 - c. Approved June 26, 2019 Meeting subject to Murdoch approval

MEETING MINUTES

I. Safety Briefing – Dotson conducted the safety briefing.

II. Welcome and Introductions

- III. **Agenda Review (D. Rohr)** – No additions.
- IV. **Meeting Minutes (D. Rohr)**
- A. (Affirmation) May 10, 2019 Conference Call – **Approved**
 - B. (Affirmation) May 29, 2019 Meeting – **Approved**
 - C. June 26, 2019 Meeting – **Approved subject to Murdoch who was not in attendance. Rohr will follow up with Murdoch.**
- V. **Review of Actions Items from May 29, 2019 Meeting (D. Rohr)**
- A. Murdoch will follow up with Geoff McMichael for July meeting update - **Completed.**
 - B. Jackson will follow up with D. Didricksen regarding discussion of possible no cost change order to Fish Screen contract HFA 601-28H - **Completed.**
 - C. Dotson will follow up on draft letter to NMFS for committee review regarding Columbia Plateau avian predation activities. - **Completed.**
- VI. **(10:00 am) Update Presentation Regarding HFA 601-33H, Non-Native Predator Recruitment Reduction Contract, Phase 1 Activities, Geoff McMichael (K. Murdoch)** - Geoff McMichael presented a power point update report regarding the Predator Recruitment Reduction Project. During the presentation, Dotson asked for the purpose to look for fish in areas where there is no apparent impact from McNary reservoir fluctuations. McMichael responded that understanding where they are coming from is of value, plus it might provide additional information or opportunities to try something different with the modelling work to be done. This is an important area for fall chinook and McMichael stated he is trying to understand where predators are produced between the PR Dam and McNary Dam. McMichael commented that he expects field data to be available to present to the PRCC within a little over a month. After McMichael presents the data to committee members, he will begin to run the modelling tests of McNary Dam Reservoir fluctuations. He commented the modelling activity will take 2-3 months and he is expecting it to go through February 2020. McMichael prefers to next complete a report in writing to distribute to the PRCC or to present in person at a PRCC meeting. If it's clear cut that the modeling doesn't work, he commented it would probably not be necessary to present a report in person. There was further discussion that Orca Task Force funding by the Washington State Legislature was included in the WDFW budget for a 3-year period and may be available for additional funding for this project. However, Jackson pointed out it is not clear how the legislators intended the funding to be used so everything is currently on hold. Jackson will look further into this funding question. In conclusion, PRCC will review a written report if/when received from McMichael and decide if an in-person presentation is desired, plus if modelling is warranted or not. There was also discussion that communicating with the co-funding Wasco Group may be warranted and Rohr will follow up.
- VII. **Review of HFA 601-28, Upper Columbia Basin Screening Contract (C. Jackson)** – Jackson discussed a WDFW request for a No-Cost Change Order for a Time Extension of HFA 601-28H to December 31, 2020, plus adding the

Stemilt Project to the list of work to be completed. The Specification Sheet for HFA 601-28H has a list of the screen projects but Jackson is not sure if they are in a prioritized listing. Accordingly, where the Stemilt Project would be prioritized and fit into the list is questionable. Jackson will follow up with that question. PRCC members questioned the value of the Stemilt Project and asked Jackson to have Danny Didricksen provide that information and also compare it to other projects on the list as to comparative value. In conclusion, PRCC will address the Change Order request and the inclusion or not of the Stemilt Project at the August meeting after more information is received from Didricksen. There was additional discussion of questions from the June 26th PRCC meeting regarding the refurbishment of the Chiwawa, Transfer Ditch, and Batie Site gantries with plasticoat painting. It was noted that these are not new tasks to be performed but are included in the current funding agreement. Jackson reported the Chiwawa gantry painting will be painted, but upon further inspection the other two gantries are not in need of painting. He also pointed out the \$45,000 budgeted amount needed for the painting will be most likely be completed at a considerably reduced amount.

VIII. Discussion of PRCC Draft Letter to NMFS Regarding Columbia Plateau Avian Predation Activities in the 2019-2020 (interim) FCRPS BiOp (C. Dotson) – Dotson drafted a letter for PRCC consideration and Rohr distributed the draft via email just this morning to all committee members. In the draft letter, Dotson reviewed the 2019-2020 NOAA Fisheries FCRPS Biological Opinion emphasizing the lack of fulfilling any avian management work in 2019, along with including any additional avian predation work for the Columbia Plateau area. Additional information received is that the 2020 FCRPS BiOp will also include minimal avian predation activities in the Columbia Plateau area. The draft 2020 FCRPS BiOp will be released in February 2020 with a final expected to be released in September 2020. Committee members were of the feeling that a letter from PRCC may be helpful in pointing out the lack of work to take place in the Columbia Plateau area. Members commented that the past 5-6 years of intensive work included a lot of funding from the PRCC NNI Fund, and a lack of funding activity being included in the 2020 FCRPS BiOp will result in having to start over with avian predation activities in the area. **Action:** Committee members will review the draft letter and send their edits to Dotson and Rohr. After editing, Rohr will forward the letter to Ritchie Graves, NOAA.

IX. Discussion of Sub-yearling Summer Chinook Survival Evaluations (C. Dotson, P. Graf) - Graf commented that a presentation was given at HCP CC meeting the day before by Rebecca Buchanan, from the John Skalski office, and not much has changed from 2016, when the sub-yearling workshop was conducted. After review and discussion, the focus was on Graf using the current SOA 2016-04, with basically the same language and some updates including a deferral to 2025. **Action:** Graf will send out a new draft SOA for review at the August meeting with the understanding that it will be voted upon at the September meeting.

X. Potpourri (D. Rohr) – No report

GENERAL UPDATES

- XI. Avian Predation Activities (C. Dotson)** – RTR Reports and IAPMP Reports are available. RTR reports are being distributed weekly, including the recent report which identified the end of the Caspian Tern nesting season which begins in mid-March and runs through July.
- XII. FCRPS BiOp – Corps/BOR Avian Predation Management in Columbia Plateau Region (C. Dotson)** – No additional information
- XIII. Update and Review of the White River Spring Chinook Mitigation 2026 Decision Framework (D. Rohr) – (Placeholder)** -- Jeff Jorgenson, NMFS, is scheduled to attend the September PRCC Meeting. Murdoch commented this subject has been discussed in the PRCC Hatchery Subcommittee meeting and she shared with them that Jorgenson would be attending the PRCC meeting in September. Accordingly, some Hatchery SC members would like to attend. Additionally, the Hatchery SC members are preparing questions they would like presented to Jorgenson for discussion. Rohr will follow up with Tracy Hillman, Hatchery SC chair, regarding details of the September meeting and the questions being prepared.
- XIV. Review of Outstanding NNI Funded Projects**
- A. Continued Support for UC Fish Screen Program (C. Jackson) – Nothing additional.
 - B. Lower Wenatchee Instream Flow Enhancement Project Phase II (C. Jackson, D. Rohr) - Nothing new.
 - C. Evaluation of Caspian Tern Management to Reduce Predation on ESA-listed Salmonids in the Columbia Plateau Region – Time Extension to July 31, 2019 (C. Dotson) – Report has been distributed to committee members by email.
 - D. “Non-Native Predator Recruitment Reduction – Phase I” (K. Murdoch) –No additional information.
 - E. “Northern Pike Removal in Lake Roosevelt” (K. Truscott) – Nothing new to report. Some results are included in Lake Roosevelt newsletter.
- XV. Committee Reports (D. Rohr)** –No meetings in July.
- XVI. NNI and Habitat Funds Report (D. Rohr)** E. Harris will check on status of Q2 report.
- XVII. Next Meeting (D. Rohr)** – Wednesday, August 28, 2019, 10:00 am, Wanapum Dam, HOB, Room 107

Action Items from July 24, 2019 Meeting

1. Murdoch will notify Rohr by email of review of June 26th draft meeting minutes.
2. Jackson will follow up with D. Didricksen regarding Stemilt screen project justification and no cost change order to contract HFA 601-28H.

3. Graf will follow up with preparation of SOA related to Summer Chinook Survival Evaluations.
4. Dotson / Rohr will follow up with drafting of avian predation/BiOp letter to NMFS

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