



Priest Rapids Coordinating Committee

FINAL APPROVED MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, May 23, 2018

1:00 pm

Wanapum HOB, Room 107

PRCC Meeting 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 McIntyre, Admin Ass't, GCPUD

PRCC Meeting Attendees

Scott Carlon, NMFS
Keely Murdoch, YN
Chad Jackson, WDFW
Curt Dotson, GCPUD
Jenni Novak, WDFW

Denny Rohr, D. Rohr & Assoc, Facilitator
Pat Wyena, Wanapum
Tom Skiles, CTUIR
Erin McIntyre, Admin Ass't, GCPUD
Kirk Truscott, CCT

MEETING MINUTES

Decision Made in May 23, 2018 Meeting

1. Meeting minutes were approved for March 28th and April 9th, 2018.

- I. **SAFETY BRIEFING (C. Dotson) - completed**
- II. **Welcome and Introductions**
 - A. Agenda Review (D. Rohr) – Carlon requested a discussion of the tailwater elevation at the Wanapum Bypass. Dotson requested a discussion of FCRPS BiOp activities.
- III. **Meeting Minutes (D. Rohr) –** March 28, 2018 meeting minutes approved; April 9, 2018 Conference Call minutes approved; April 27, 2018 Conference Call minutes are a work in progress.
- IV. **Action Items from April 27, 2018 Meeting (D. Rohr) –**
 - A. Murdoch will contact McMichael about attending July PRCC meeting to provide an update regarding “Predator Fish Recruitment Reduction” activities. **Completed**
- V. **Update presentation – “Continued Support of the UC Fish Screen Monitoring Program –Danny Didricksen, Jenni Novak, WDFW (C. Jackson)** - Novak shared the presentation on the UC Fish Screen Monitoring Program with a focus on specific projects, existing structures, new design, and schedules. (1) Icicle Fish Screens Project – this includes new screens for the Icicle Peshastin Irrigation District (IPID) and the City of Leavenworth. BPA is funding the majority of the design work with the expectation of design completion by August. NNI funds are being used for a small portion of the design work. This project also interfaces with the Boulder Field Passage project and several different funding sources are involved. Trout Unlimited is the project manager for the Boulder Field Project, and WDFW is the project manager for the IPID and City of Leavenworth screens projects. The Icicle Work Group, including WDFW, NMFS, Yakama Nation, Chelan County, and others, is also involved in discussions regarding the work to be done for these projects. (2) Tandy Project - construction is planned for this year. The existing bypass is not very fish friendly. 50% design is nearly completed. This project involves excavating the ditch at the point of diversion, installing a new fish screen and headgate, and piping the ditch. (3) Twisp Power Project – design work is currently taking place including design of a headgate. (4) Colockum Project – this project is currently under review for design work to be done. Novak also stated the Cascade Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group is performing a Barrier Assessment Survey of pump screens in the area. Inventory work is being done and prioritization of these projects will take place in the Salmon Recovery Funding Board Process to help identify necessary funding. This is currently an ongoing process. Novak will send a copy of the presentation to Rohr for distribution to committee members.
- VI. **Priest Rapids Dam Spillway Work Update (C. Dotson) –** The contractor is continuing to drill exploratory holes. About 5 holes per day can be completed, and FERC has directed approximately 100 holes to be drilled for inspection. To date, 37 out of the 100 holes have been completed. The expected end date is mid to late June.
- VII. **2018 PRP Spill Report –** A lot of inadvertent spill is occurring due to the high flows being experienced.

VIII. (Addition) Discussion of Tailwater Elevation at Wanapum Dam (S. Carlon) – With the river flows at such a high level, Carlon questioned if that might have some impact on the Wanapum Fish Bypass by raising the tailwater elevation. Dotson outlined the operating status of the Bypass and pointed out that the tailwater elevation is high. Also, he is checking with Iowa, Duncan Hay, and Jacobs Engineering who was the Bypass design team. To his knowledge, no data exists that relates to the Bypass experiencing a significant elevation of the tailwater. Currently the flow is 362 KCFS. Skiles also reported the TDG level at 140% at Wanapum in the tailrace. Dotson commented that the flows are high, spill is high, and TDG is high as well.

IX. Potpourri (D. Rohr)

- A. IAPMP 2017 Report – Rohr distributed this report electronically to committee members.
- B. Pinnipeds in the Lower Columbia River – Rohr reported that an increase in the number of pinnipeds below Bonneville Dam is being experienced.
- C. Columbia River Treaty Negotiations – Rohr reported that negotiations between the U.S. Entity and Canada are scheduled to begin soon.
- D. PRCC Policy Committee Meeting – Rohr reported he is still working on a date for the meeting and he will keep the committee members advised. Besides Policy Committee representatives, all PRCC and PRFF committee members will be invited to attend.

X. GENERAL UPDATES

- A. Avian Predation Activities (C. Dotson) – Weekly reports from the USACE regarding the IAPMP activities plus reports from Real Time Research are being distributed electronically to committee members. Rohr encouraged members to read these reports as they contain current and valuable information regarding avian predation activities.
- B. (Addition) FCRPS BiOp – Corps/BOR Avian Predation Management on Columbia Plateau (C. Dotson) – Dotson commented that House Resolution 3144 that relates to FCRPS scheduling activities has made it through House and now going to the Senate to be considered. Also, Judge Simon has extended the time required for a new FCRPS BiOp to be completed, and Dotson is questioning if the USACE and the BOR have funding available to continue their avian predation work, particularly dissuasion on Goose Island plus other areas in or near the PR Project. Avian predation has a direct impact on the PR Project, and Dotson is questioning if the dissuasion work will continue or will the USACE and BOR stop their work. If there is no dissuasion taking place, the birds will return and there will be increased predation impacts at the PR Project. Dotson requested this subject be kept on the agenda to help with further monitoring and discussion. Carlon commented that NMFS is aware of this question, and he also commented that he doesn't think continued dissuasion is going to happen. Carlon will look into the issue further.
- C. Estimating the Survival of Juvenile Spring Chinook in Lake Wenatchee (D. Rohr) – Review and discussion is continuing. The workgroup identified 3

questions that need to be addressed. Carlon will identify the list of the questions for the workgroup to review and circulate to the workgroup members. Members are optimistic about the increase from 1 to 2 screw traps to now be used, including the hope of increasing the number of test fish to be captured. Murdoch stated that Bryan Ishida is involved with the fish trap operations and available for discussion if needed.

D. Review of Outstanding NNI Funded Projects

1. Continued Support for Upper Columbia Fish Screen Monitoring Program (C. Jackson) – See agenda item VI above.
2. Lower Wenatchee Instream Flow Enhancement Project Phase II (C. Jackson, D. Rohr) - Rohr stated that the Habitat SC is reviewing this project closely. The irrigators involved with this project have decided to do an internal water rights review of their activities. The review is expected to take 6 months to complete, and after completion, the Habitat SC will review the project to determine a path forward.
3. Predator Fish Recruitment Reduction (K. Murdoch) – Murdoch advised the committee that Geoff McMichael is available to attend the PRCC meeting in July. Keely will talk with McMichael and confirm his attendance.
4. Northern Pike Removal in Lake Roosevelt (K. Truscott) – Rohr commented there is a July 24th Northern Pike Workshop being held in Spokane. Rohr alerted committee members that registration for the workshop is being requested. Truscott had no additional update information since last month's PRCC meeting report.
5. Satellite Telemetry of Caspian Terns (C. Dotson) –No new update
6. Evaluation of Caspian Tern Management to Reduce Predation on ESA-listed Salmonids in the Columbia Plateau Region (C. Dotson) - Ongoing
7. 2018 Northern Pikeminnow Fishing Derby – Wanapum Reservoir (C. Dotson) – Will take place in September.

XI. Committee Reports (D. Rohr) – Rohr informed the committee no meetings held this month.

XII. Qtrly NNI and Habitat Funds Report (D. Rohr) – No update information since Q1 Report.

XIII. Next Meeting – Wednesday, June 27, 9:00 am, Wanapum Dam HOB, Room 107 (D. Rohr)

Action Items from May 23, 2018 PRCC Meeting

- A. Murdoch will confirm McMichael's attendance at the July PRCC meeting.

--END--