

Priest Rapids Coordinating Committee

FINAL APPROVED MEETING MINUTES

Friday, April 27, 2018

CONFERENCE CALL

1:00 pm

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
Erin McIntyre, Admin Ass't, GCPUD

Denny Rohr, D. Rohr & Assoc, Facilitator
Pat Wyena, Wanapum
Tom Skiles, CTUIR
Peter Graf, GCPUD

Decisions Made in April 27, 2018 Meeting

--None--

Meeting Minutes

- I. **Welcome and Introductions** - Rohr welcomed committee members.
- II. **Agenda Review (D. Rohr)** – No additions to the agenda.
- III. **Meeting Minutes (D. Rohr)** – March 28, 2018 meeting; April 9, 2018 Conference Call – Meeting minutes are under development.
- IV. **Action Items (D. Rohr)** –
 - A. **NNI Funding Request - Evaluation of the Northern Pikeminnow Program in the Priest Rapids Project, 2018, Kyle Hatch, Blue Leaf Environmental** – Rohr

will schedule a WebEx conference in the next couple of weeks and the PRCC will address this proposal to make a final decision. **Completed**

- B. **Discussion of Tagging Summer Chinook in the Entiat River** – Carlon will follow up and report back. **Completed**
- C. **USvOregon Information** - Rohr will distribute US v Oregon information received from Skiles to PRCC members. **Completed**
- D. **Northern Pike Information** - Rohr will distribute Northern Pike information received from Wyena to PRCC members. **Completed**
- E. **May 23rd PRCC Meeting Activities** - PRCC members will let Rohr know if there is anything of particular interest to tour on the day of the May 23rd PRCC meeting. **Completed**
- F. **Q1 NNI and Habitat Funds Report** - McIntyre will check on status prior to April 25th meeting. **Completed**

V. 2018 PRP Spill Report (C. Dotson) – Dotson, Murdoch and Craig are the 2018 spill representatives. Fish spill started at Wanapum on 4/17, and Priest Rapids on 4/18. Dotson commented that Fish Mode for the Wanapum and Priest Rapids turbines also starts at the same time.

VI. May 23, 2018 PRCC Meeting / Schedule / Planning / Checking In (D. Rohr) – There were no responses received from committee members regarding items of interest for touring of Wanapum and PR fish facilities on May 23rd.

VII. Priest Rapids Dam Spillway Work Update (C. Dotson) – Dotson updated the committee on the work taking place. The leakage is coming from a bonding joint and no cracking has occurred as happened in 2014 at Wanapum Dam. Drilling to track the leakage is expected to be completed by the end of June and follow up decisions would be made after drilling is completed. Skiles asked about reservoir drawdown levels and would there be any potential affects upon attraction flows for the juvenile bypass system operations. Dotson commented that the FERC normal operating range is 481.5 - 484.5 with a minimum range of 480. Currently the reservoir is down to 480.5 with the expectation it would go no lower. The question was asked about the minimum level for the fish bypass operation, and Dotson commented that the bypass system would always be watered up for the FERC operating range.

VIII. Potpourri (D. Rohr) –

- A. **FCRPS BiOp Activities** – Dotson commented that Judge Simon removed the December 31, 2018 new BiOp requirement. The new date has been extended to the end of the NEPA process in 2021-22. Dotson questioned if the RPAs in the 2014 BiOp will continue as written, and specifically will the RPA regarding avian predation continue. Dotson's conversations with USACE and BOR representatives have concluded the USACE and BOR may have no funding to continue avian predation mitigation activities after 2018. This would affect the Columbia Plateau Region and particularly Goose Island, Crescent Island, etc.
- B. **Sea Lion Legislation and Related Activities** – Rohr stated that HR 2083 was introduced in Congress to address sea lion predation in the lower Columbia River. Sea lion predation has increased over the past several years and is having an effect upon salmon, steelhead,

lamprey, and sturgeon, including predation occurring on Upper Columbia Spring Chinook. There is a lot of bi-partisan support for the Bill, plus the Governors of Washington, Oregon, and Idaho are offering support as well. Rohr will continue to monitor.

- C. **Hanford Reach Activities** – Graf commented the high flows being experienced through the Hanford Reach is helpful for emergence activities over the next several weeks. Weekend peak flows are kept high with a baseline / critical flow level of 60 kcfs.

IX. GENERAL UPDATES

- A. Avian Predation Activities (C. Dotson) – Weekly reports are now being received from the USACE regarding the IAPMP and distributed to committee members.
- B. Estimating the Survival of Juvenile Spring Chinook in Lake Wenatchee (D. Rohr) – Ongoing activity.
- C. Review of Outstanding NNI Funded Projects
 - 1. Continued Support for Upper Columbia Fish Screen Monitoring Program (C. Jackson) – The quarterly update from WDFW was rescheduled for the May 23rd PRCC meeting. Jackson commented that Danny Didricksen is not available for the May meeting and Jenni Novak will make the presentation in his place.
 - 2. Lower Wenatchee Instream Flow Enhancement Project Phase II (C. Jackson, D. Rohr) – Rohr informed the committee members that the PRCC Habitat Subcommittee (HSC) addressed this subject during their April 12th meeting. This project has been moving very slowly for an extended period of time. Sponsors for this project were asked to attend the April 12th HSC meeting and provide an update of project activities. The HSC was informed the irrigators involved have decided to perform an internal water audit which will take approximately 6 months to complete. Accordingly, the HSC have placed a hold on the project funding and will reevaluate this project after the conclusion of the audit.
 - 3. Methow Valley Irrigation District (MVID) Instream Flow Improvement Project (T. Dresser, K. Truscott) – This project is now completed. Dave Duvall, GCPUD HSC representative, will be closing the contract. Dotson will touch base with Duvall.
 - 4. Predator Fish Recruitment Reduction (K. Murdoch) – Murdoch provided a brief status update of the project. After discussion, it was concluded that Murdoch would contact McMichael regarding attending the July 5th PRCC meeting to provide further information. BPA funding for this project appears to not be available.
 - 5. Northern Pike Removal in Lake Roosevelt (K. Truscott) - No new information regarding this project. Graf commented that he attended the Lake Roosevelt Forum wherein this subject was discussed. He stated it was an interesting meeting and presentations are posted online for review. Graf commented there were 2 presentations by representatives from Alaska. The representatives stated Northern Pike is native in part of the state and a lot of eradication work is done to try and control them. They commented the impacts can be dire once they become established, and they need the right kind of habitat to thrive. Apparently, they favor heavily vegetation areas and avoid large open areas.
 - 6. Satellite Telemetry of Caspian Terns (C. Dotson) – No updates.
 - 7. Evaluation of Caspian Tern Management to Reduce Predation on ESA-listed Salmonids in the Columbia Plateau Region (C. Dotson) – Ongoing activity.

8. 2018 Northern Pikeminnow Fishing Derby – Wanapum Reservoir (C. Dotson) – Placeholder.
- X. Committee Reports (D. Rohr)** – Rohr distributed electronically prior to the meeting.
- XI. Qtrly NNI and Habitat Funds Report (D. Rohr)** Unencumbered Funds: NNI Fund 601 - \$5.2M, Habitat Fund 602 – \$6M, Habitat Fund 603 – \$1.8M. Total is \$13M.
- XII. Next Meeting** – Wednesday, May 23, 9:00 am, Wanapum Dam HOB, Room 107 (D. Rohr)

Actions items from April 27, 2018 meeting

1. Murdoch will contact McMichael about attending July PRCC meeting to provide an update regarding “Predator Fish Recruitment Reduction” activities.

--END--