



Grant County  
**PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT**  
*Excellence in Service and Leadership*

**Priest Rapids Fish Forum  
Meeting**

**Wednesday, 1 May 2019  
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**PRFF REPRESENTATIVES**

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Steve Lewis, USFWS  
Ralph Lampman, Bob Rose, YN  
Pat Wyena, Wanapum  
Kirk Truscott, Jason McLellan, CCT  
Mike Clement, Chris Mott Grant PUD  
Tracy Hillman, Facilitator

Patrick Verhey, Laura Heironimus, WDFW  
Breean Zimmerman, WDOE  
Aaron Jackson, Carl Merkle, CTUIR  
Keith Hatch, BIA  
Tom Skiles, CRITFC/CTUIR  
Erin Harris, Grant PUD

**ATTENDEES**

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Kirk Truscott, CCT  
RD Nelle, USFWS  
Pat Wyena, Grant PUD (Via Phone)  
Tom Skiles, CRITFC (Via Phone)  
Donella Miller, YN (Via Phone)  
Tracy Hillman, Facilitator

Chris Mott, Grant PUD  
Jason McLellan, CCT (Via Phone)  
Breean Zimmerman, WDOE (Via Phone)  
Laura Heironimus, WDFW (Via Phone)  
Mike Clement, Grant PUD

**Action Items:**

- Members will send text for the white sturgeon memo to Tracy Hillman by Friday, 10 May 2019.
- Tracy Hillman will compile all the information for the white sturgeon memo and send it to the PRFF for review before the PRFF 5 June meeting.

- I. **Welcome and Introductions** – Tracy Hillman welcomed everyone and participants introduced themselves.
- II. **Agenda Review** – Members reviewed and approved the agenda with the addition of an update on the Pacific Lamprey Regional Implementation Plan and an update on northern pike suppression efforts in Lake Roosevelt.
- III. **Review April Meeting Notes** – The April 2019 Meeting Minutes were reviewed and approved.
  - A. **Action Items from April Meeting:**
    1. CCT will identify their PRFF policy representative. **Complete. Kirk recommended sending the white sturgeon memo to Randy Friedlander and Kary Nichols.**
    2. Tracy Hillman will send the memo outline to the PRFF and members assigned to write sections of the memo will send those sections to Tracy. **Ongoing.**

IV. **White Sturgeon Management Plan**

- A. **Update on Juvenile Rearing and Tagging** – Donella Miller reported that they recently marked and tagged fish and all fish are doing well. She said there have been no losses following marking and only one fish shed its PIT tag. She indicated she will start tempering the fish tomorrow with a temperature change of 2°C per day. Donella reported they tagged 2,656 juvenile sturgeon of which about 1,770 will be released into Wanapum Reservoir and about 890 in Priest Rapids Reservoir. No fish from maternal groups that tested positive for autopolyploidy were tagged. They plan to release the fish on Tuesday, 7 May.

- B. **Autopolyploidy Update** – Donella Miller reported that last month they collected blood from a sample of fish and sent the samples to UC Davis for spontaneous autopolyploidy (12N) testing. Some juveniles from two maternal groups tested positive for 12N. As noted earlier, these fish were not marked and will not be released into the Project Area.

Given that the Rocky Reach Fish Forum will discuss the possible release of some 12N fish into Rocky Reach Reservoir (unlike at the Yakama Nation Sturgeon Hatchery where maternal groups have not been blended or mixed, sturgeon at Columbia Basin Hatchery have been mixed and therefore it may not be possible to separate 12N fish from 8N fish), Tracy Hillman asked the PRFF if they are comfortable with some 12N fish released upstream from the Priest Rapids Project Area.

- WDFW: Laura Heironimus indicated that she is concerned that the release of some 12N fish could affect future generations of sturgeon and the long-term viability of the population, including lower Columbia River populations.
- GPUD: Mike Clement and Chris Mott said they would not want any 12N fish released into the Columbia River because of the potential effects of 12N fish on future population viability.
- CCT: Jason McLellan noted that because of the unknown effect of 12N fish on future population structure, we need to be conservative and release no or very few 12N fish.
- USFWS: Steve Lewis said they are not comfortable with the release of 12N fish because of the potential effects on population viability.
- Wanapum: Pat Wyena said they are not comfortable with the release of 12N fish.
- YN: Donella Miller said she needs more information. The fish on station at Columbia Basin Hatchery need to be tested. These results will inform a release strategy.

- CRITFC: Tom Skiles indicated that he also needs additional information but in general agrees with a conservative release strategy.

Tracy said he will share with the RRFF that the PRFF generally recommends a conservative approach to releasing 12N fish in the Rocky Reach Reservoir. This is because some 12N fish may end up in the Priest Rapids Project Area or areas below the Project Area.

- C. **Broodstock Collection in 2019** – Chris Mott reported that they will collect sturgeon broodstock during 15-28 May. The collection efforts will be similar to last year and Grant PUD will coordinate with Chelan PUD and ODFW. Crews will fish downstream from McNary Dam and will work to collect a 6x6 matrix. PUD crews will work with ODFW to help ODFW collect a 15x15 matrix for their tagging study. Specific details are as follows:
- 1) PUDs will provide two guide boats and crew and ODFW will provide one set-lining boat and crew.
  - 2) The PUD guide boats and ODFW set-lining boat will fish until both the PUDs and ODFW have the necessary number of fish. PUDs need a 6x6 matrix (12 sturgeon) and ODFW needs a 15x15 matrix (30 sturgeon) for a total of 42 sturgeon.
  - 3) Because both parties need similar size/stage fish, they will alternate who gets which fish (e.g., first fish captured goes to PUDs, second to ODFW, third to PUDs, etc.). If one group has filled their total for a particular sex/stage fish, the other group would get the option for that fish with the original group retaining the option on the next fish of the correct sex/stage. For example, if ODFW have tagged 15 males and another male is caught on ODFW's "turn," that fish and subsequent males could be given to the PUDs with ODFW retaining the next captured female.

Chris added that the PUDs have committed to a 14-day fishing effort (14 days x 2 boats = 28 boat days). That is, they will fish for 14 days even if they secure their 6x6 matrix before the 14-day period has ended.

- D. **Three-Year Check-In with Policy Committee** – Tracy Hillman reported that he received information from Golder and Grant PUD for some sections of the white sturgeon memo. Tracy described the information he has received for the memo. For comparisons with information from the Project Area, Laura Heironimus may be able to provide densities and growth information from sampling efforts between McNary and Bonneville dams. She will check with Chad Jackson on exactly what information Chad would like to see in the memo. Jason McLellan will provide information on survival and density information from their early monitoring efforts in Lake Roosevelt. Jason and Laura will also provide some information on uncertainties in monitoring methods; e.g., effects of gear saturation on estimates and the fact that faster growing or larger juvenile sturgeon do not recruit to the gear. Tracy said he would like all the information for the memo by Friday, 10 May. He will then prepare the draft memo and send it to the PRFF for review before the June PRFF meeting.
- E. **Other White Sturgeon Items** – None.

## V. Pacific Lamprey Management Plan

**Update on Pacific Lamprey Adult Trapping in 2019** – Mike Clement reported that Grant PUD will follow the same trapping schedule as last year. He said they start trapping when they see about 50 adult lamprey at Priest Rapids Dam, which is usually about one month after adults are detected at Bonneville Dam. RD Nelle asked if the adult lamprey collected during the first three weeks of trapping could be used for the Douglas PUD program; adults collected during the last three weeks of trapping would be for the Grant PUD program. Mike said he is okay with trapping adult lamprey first for Douglas PUD and then for Grant PUD. He said this needs to be well coordinated. Kirk Truscott asked about the possibility of alternating trapping between the Grant PUD program and the Douglas PUD program on a

daily or weekly cycle. Mike said this will be much more difficult to coordinate and will affect the scheduling of Grant PUD crews.

- A. **Regional Implementation Plan** – RD Nelle said there was a recent presentation by the Army Corps of Engineers on lamprey passage. He added that he needs to convene experts to develop the mid-Columbia mainstem implementation plan. He said this is only for the mainstem, not the tributaries. Members thought it would be useful to use the PUDs' Pacific Lamprey Management Plans to inform the mainstem implementation plan. RD will set up a meeting soon.

Mike Clement noted that the Army Corps of Engineers will add adult lamprey plating (lamprey sidewalks) in the fishways at John Day Dam. This will be similar to what was completed at Priest Rapids Dam.

- B. **Other Pacific Lamprey Items** – None.

VI. **Northern Pike**

**Northern Pike Removal in Lake Roosevelt** – Mike Clement and Jason McLellan reported that the tribes and others will begin northern pike suppression efforts in Lake Roosevelt. Cumulative removal efforts will equate to about 500 nets for the first week of suppression efforts. Additional suppression will occur following the first week of work. The hub for the suppression effort will be Kettle Falls Marina. NPCC, BPA, and others will visit the suppression efforts on Thursday, 9 May. If anyone wants to attend, please contact Jason before next week.

- VII. **Next Meeting:** The next PRFF meeting will be on Wednesday, 5 June 2019 at the Grant PUD Natural Resources Office in Wenatchee, WA.