



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

## Priest Rapids Coordinating Committee

### FINAL MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, January 27, 2016

9:00 am

SeaTac Radisson Hotel

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#### PRCC REPRESENTATIVES

Scott Carlon, Justin Yeager (Alt), NMFS

Bob Rose, YN

Jeff Korth, C. Andonaegui (Alt), P. Verhey (Alt) WDFW

Curt Dotson, Tom Dresser (Alt), GCPUD

Denny Rohr, D. Rohr & Assoc, Facilitator

Jim Craig, USFWS

Kirk Truscott, CCT

Tom Skiles, CTUIR

Orlene Hahn, GCPUD, Executive Assistant

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#### PRCC MEETING ATTENDEES

Scott Carlon, NMFS

Bob Rose, YN

Jeff Korth, WDFW

Curt Dotson, GCPUD

Denny Rohr, D. Rohr & Assoc, Facilitator

Jenni Novak, WDFW

Tom Dresser (Alt) GCPUD (via phone)

Jim Craig, USFWS

Kirk Truscott, CCT (via phone)

Tom Skiles, CTUIR (via phone)

Orlene Hahn, GCPUD, Executive Assistant (via phone)

Danny Didricksen, WDFW

Larry Dominguez, WDFW

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#### Action Items from December 15, 2015 PRCC Meeting:

1. **2015 Juvenile Steelhead and Sockeye Survival & Behavior Evaluation** – Korth was not in attendance at the meeting but Rohr was to contact him after the meeting regarding his concurrence with the committee members' decisions. Rohr hoped to have some answers from Korth by the end of the week.
2. **2016 Study Proposal for NNI Funding – "Evaluation of Caspian Tern Management to Reduce Predation on ESA-Listed Salmonids in the Columbia Plateau Region"** – The Study Proposal was approved by the committee, subject to agreement from Korth. Rohr will contact Korth after the meeting. Dotson to notify the proposers once he hears from Rohr after Rohr speaks with Korth.

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#### FINAL MEETING MINUTES

I. **Welcome and Introductions**

II. **Agenda Review** (D. Rohr) – No additions to the Agenda.

III. **Meeting Minutes Approval** (D. Rohr)

A. Affirmation of Email Approval for October 28, 2015; November 17, 2015 - **APPROVED**

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- B. Approval of December 4, 2015; Approval of December 15, 2015 – Carlon was ok with the December meeting minutes. The other members requested more time to review. **Rohr to send out an email vote for approval from the rest of the Committee.**

**IV. Action Items Review** – from December 15, 2015 (D. Rohr)

- A. Affirmation was noted of J. Korth's approval of Committee decisions to use the Hanford 1 & 2 detection arrays for recalculation of the 2014 steelhead survival study data, calculation of the 2015 steelhead survival study data, and calculation of the 2016 study survival data, plus the Committee decision of approval for NNI funding of the proposal for "2016 Evaluation of Foraging Behavior, Dispersal, and Predation on ESA-listed Salmonids from the Upper Columbia River by Caspian Terns Displaced from Managed Colonies in the Columbia Plateau Region", presented by OSU/RTR.

**V. Presentation to Provide Updates for NNI Funded Screen Projects Listed Below** – Danny Didricksen, WDFW (J. Korth, T. Dresser) – Danny Didricksen and Jenni Novak from WDFW gave a presentation regarding a proposal for Contract 601-8H Phase I and Contract 601-8H Phase II. Danny reviewed Operations & Maintenance. Jenni reviewed a variety of projects in 2014-2016 – Peshastin, Chiwawa, Clear Creek-1000 Trails, Goat Creek (projects that are completed) and Upper Wolf Creek, Frazer Creek, Icicle and City of Leavenworth (projects that they are currently pursuing).

Questions were asked by Committee members to Danny and Jenni on the above presentation and proposal related to Contract 601-8H. Rohr clarified that the 601-8H proposal was for a time extension only to extend Contract 601-8H to December 31, 2016, and there was no increase in the existing NNI funding amount. Jenni and Danny also confirmed that it was only for an extension of time, all funding would be from existing funding. Jenni said that 80% has been a cost share and why they are asking for contract extensions is to stretch the existing dollars.

Discussion also took place among the Committee members regarding that part of the presentation related to Contract 601-16H presented by Danny and Jenni. Rohr clarified with the Committee that this included consideration of extending the time and moving the contract "work boundaries" from the present Priest Rapids Project to now be expanded to go above Rock Island on 601-16H, "Mid-Columbia River Intake Screen and Diversion Assessment". The proposal is to extend 601-16H by 2 years to June 30, 2017 as things are done during construction seasons, and there would be no increase in funding. The Committee noticed the proposal for 601-16H was an old document that the proposal was submitted on and the Committee agreed that this document had all the necessary information but that it will need to be updated by Danny. The Committee also recommended that these funds are not an indefinite funding source for long term maintenance of these sites. Dotson stated outside funding came in to bring these sites up to code but now they (the individual irrigators) need to maintain them. Korth stated he already spoke with Danny and Jenni as they were exiting the meeting. Korth will make sure that the message gets relayed to them that this is not indefinite funding. Rose proposed seeing if contracting with an outside consultant to do the programmatic funding would be possible. The Committee felt this would cost more money. Korth suggested asking the other PUDs to contribute as well and maybe ask Cascade Fish Enhancement Group (Jason Lundgren) folks to put a package together and cost share. **Committee APPROVED both proposals for NNI Funded Projects 601-16H and 601-08H as described above.**

**VI. ACTION ITEM** – NNI Funded Project Proposal, "Mid-Columbia River Intake Screen and Diversion Assessment (2016)" – (Proposal Distributed to PRCC for Review) (J. Korth, T. Dresser) – See discussion in agenda item V above regarding 601-16H, "Mid-Columbia River Intake Screen and Diversion Assessment". The proposal includes extending the area of coverage on the main stem Columbia River and tributaries above Rock Island Dam. **Proposal approved.**

**VII. ACTION ITEM** – NNI Funded Project Proposal, "Quincy Valley Chamber of Commerce and Quincy Valley Tourism Association Northern Pikeminnow Fishing Derby, 2016" – (Proposal Distributed to

PRCC for Review) (T. Dresser) – Dresser reviewed details of the proposal with the Committee stating it was a funding request for \$25,000 which is the same as years 2011, 2012 and 2013. This year the derby is set to take place on May 20-22, 2016. This will be the 4<sup>th</sup> Derby if it is approved. There was no derby last year because of the drawdown as a result of the Wanapum Fracture incident. Each year 1,000-1,200 fish have been caught. **APPROVED by the Committee using NNI Fund 601.**

- VIII. Approval of “Amended Study Plan for the Estimation of Juvenile Steelhead Survival through the Priest Rapids Project in 2016”** (C. Dotson) – Rohr stated that Dotson has completed the amendments to the 2016 Study Plan as agreed upon by the Committee, but the Committee still needs to go on record approving the study plan. The basic change in the study plan was to move the "goal posts" to the lower monitoring stations at the Hanford 1&2 sites, and also increase test fish and the number of data loggers downstream. The question was asked do we apply this to the 2014 study? Dotson reminded the Committee that this was discussed at the December 15<sup>th</sup> meeting and the understanding was the Committee approved both 2014 and 2015, and that Korth approved all the actions listed via email communications he had with Rohr shortly after the December 15<sup>th</sup> meeting. **APPROVED by the Committee.**
- IX. Wanapum Fish Bypass – 15kcfs vs 20kcfs Flow Level** (C. Dotson) – The Committee discussed Dotson’s proposal regarding 15 kcfs vs. 20 kcfs. The request to the Committee is to repeat what was done in 2015 in 2016. Grant feels there is an opportunity in 2016, based on Skalski’s recommendation, to collect more data to increase the statistical power of the data set to see if there is a difference in the FPE of the WFB between the two flow volumes. The Committee members voiced being uncomfortable with changing prior to meeting survival standards. **The proposal was NOT APPROVED by the Committee.**
- X. Priest Rapids Fish Mode Operations** (C. Dotson) – Dotson presented information to the Committee regarding Fish Mode Operations and Non-Fish Mode Operations. The existing emergency contingency was discussed where we have three opportunities to use it. The reason for the contingency was that in 2011 Grant was not able to be part of the needed emergency source of power because of the Fish Mode restrictions. That is why an emergency SOA was requested and approved by the Committee. Rohr is to get a copy of the emergency SOA to the Committee for their updated review. The Committee felt that based on the conversation in today’s meeting the proposal needs to be reworked and redesigned. Dotson agreed that he could look at the alternate approaches as discussed by the Committee and bring it back again at a future time.
- XI. Potpourri** (D. Rohr) – Rohr had no update information.
- XII. Updates**
- A. Inland Avian Predation Activities** (C. Dotson) – Dotson stated that there is a USFWS person out of Portland who deals with water birds asking for our data. Dotson spoke with Dan Roby, OSU, who told the USFWS person that he needed to get permission to share this information because Roby collects the data, but it is not his data. Dotson asked the Committee if they are comfortable with providing this data to the USFWS person, which would include satellite data and PIT tag data including data that goes into the 2015 report. Dotson is to provide follow-up information to the Committee regarding the request. There was approval by the Committee to provide the information to USFWS.
- B. Hatchery Activities** (T. Dresser) - Fish on station are good and healthy. Staff are working on various items in order to get fish off station. Thanks to WDFW staff for all their help.
1. Carlton Acclimation Facility
  2. Nason Creek Acclimation Facility
  3. Priest Rapids Hatchery Modifications
  4. Penticton Hatchery

- C. **Hatchery Permits: Sec 10 Consultation/Summer Chinook, Sec 7 Consultation/Bull Trout** (T. Dresser) – Holding pattern. Waiting for consultation with USFWS to be finished.
- D. **Amended 2014 and Draft 2015 Survival Study Reports** (C. Dotson) – They are being drafted at this time. Dotson will provide a copy via email so everyone has an opportunity to preview the draft report prior to February's meeting, and he will provide hard copies at the February meeting also.
- E. **Sub-yearling Workshop** (D. Rohr) – Discussion took place about the upcoming workshop. The date is set for June 21 or June 22. There was some discussion about attendees and keeping it to the Committee Members and maybe some other people within their entities. There was a conference call of a subgroup last Monday talking about what is hoped to get out of the workshop. A subcommittee was formed and will be working on the Agenda for the workshop. Rohr reminded the Committee of the SOA approved December 15th that says this Committee would work on this workshop prior to May 2016, and the Committee agreed the current schedule of holding a workshop on June 21 or 22 would meet the requirements of the SOA. Rose suggested Rohr send out a joint email to form a chain of comments of what everybody would like to see included in the the workshop. Rohr stated the subgroup is working on this and he will provide updates to the Committee as the process moves forward.
- F. **NNI Funded Projects**
  - 1. (2015) Real Time Research / Oregon State University – "Evaluation of Foraging Behavior, Dispersal, and Predation on ESA-listed Salmonids from the Upper Columbia River by Caspian Terns Displaced from Managed Colonies in the Columbia Plateau Region" (C. Dotson) – This document is being drafted and we should receive a copy soon.
  - 2. (2016) Real Time Research / Oregon State university – "Evaluation of Caspian Tern Management to Reduce Predation on ESA-Listed Salmonids in the Columbia Plateau Region" (C. Dotson) – **Approved**
  - 3. Upper Columbia Fish Screen Monitoring Program Phase I Contract Extension – Danny Didricksen, WDFW (J. Korth) – **Proceeding**
  - 4. Upper Columbia Fish Screen Monitoring Program Phase II – Danny Didricksen, WDFW (J. Korth) – **Proceeding**
  - 5. Mid-Columbia River Intake Screen and Diversion Assessment (2014-15) – Danny Didricksen, WDFW (T. Dresser) – **Proceeding**
  - 6. Lower Wenatchee Instream Flow Enhancement Project Phase II (J. Korth) – **Proceeding**
  - 7. Methow Valley Irrigation District (MVID) Instream Flow Improvement Project (T. Dresser) – **Proceeding**

**XIII. Committee Reports** (D. Rohr) – Rohr distributed by email.

**XIV. Quarterly NNI and Habitat Funds Report through December 31, 2015** (D. Rohr) – Rohr informed the Committee that the Year End Report has not yet been completed. Additionally, he informed the Committee that the annual deposits to be made into each fund would take place on February 15<sup>th</sup>. The new deposits are as follows: NNI Fund 601 \$1,967,449.75, Habitat Supplemental Fund 602 - \$1,040,995.86, and Habitat Fund 603 - \$371,867.070.

**XV. Next Meeting** - February 24, 2016, SeaTac Radisson Hotel (D. Rohr)

**Action Items from January 26, 2016 PRCC Meeting:**

- 1. Approval of December 4, 2015; Approval of December 15, 2015 – Carlon was ok with the December meeting minutes. **Rohr to send out an email vote for approval from the rest of the Committee.**

2. **Priest Rapids Fish Mode Operations** (C. Dotson) – Rohr is to get a copy of the emergency SOA to the Committee.
3. **Inland Avian Predation Activities** (C. Dotson) – Dotson stated that there is a USFWS person out of Portland who deals with water birds asking for our data. Dotson is to provide follow-up to the Committee regarding the request. There was approval by the Committee to provide the information to USFWS.
4. **Amended 2014 and Draft 2015 Survival Study Reports** (C. Dotson) – Dotson will provide a copy via email so everyone has an opportunity to preview the draft report prior to February's meeting and will provide hard copies at the February meeting.