



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

**Priest Rapids Coordinating Committee**  
**FINAL MEETING MINUTES**

Wednesday, April 27, 2016

SeaTac Radisson Hotel

9:00 am – 1:30 pm

**PRCC REPRESENTATIVES**

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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

**PRCC CONFERENCE CALL ATTENDEES**

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Scott Carlon, NMFS

Bob Rose, YN (by phone)

Jeff Korth, WDFW

Curt Dotson, GCPUD

Orlene Hahn, GCPUD, Executive Assistant (by phone)

Steve Dearden, VP, Whoosh Innovations

Michael Porter, YN

Jim Craig, USFWS

Kirk Truscott, CCT (by phone)

Tom Skiles, CTUIR

Tom Dresser (Alt), GCPUD (by phone)

Brian Nordlund, Fish Passage Engineering

Geoff McMichael, Mainstem Fish Research

Denny Rohr, D. Rohr & Assoc, Facilitator

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**Action Items from March 23, 2016 PRCC Meeting:**

1. **Avian Predation Activities** (C. Dotson) – The draft avian report regarding satellite-tagged birds (terns) is out. Rohr will send out the report again to the Committee. **(Completed)**
2. **Amended 2014 and Draft 2015 Survival Study Reports** (C. Dotson) – Currently undergoing PRCC review and comment period, closing COB, March 23, 2016. Dotson commented on Truscott's comments and the Committee asked for Truscott's comments to be put in a new document and that document to be sent back out for review by the Committee. A new comment period will be established. **(PRCC discussion to continue)**
3. **(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) – Rohr to send another copy to Korth. **(Completed)**

**FINAL MEETING MINUTES**

**I. Welcome and Introductions**

- II. Agenda Review** (D. Rohr) – 1.) Dresser and Korth requested discussion of extending Contract 601-8H regarding the Upper Columbia Fish Screen Monitoring Program **(See Agenda Item XI below)**, and 2.)

Dotson requested discussion and consideration of an NNI Funding Proposal regarding the June 21, 2016 Sub-yearling Workshop (**Included in Agenda Item X below**).

- III. **Meeting Minutes Approval** (D. Rohr)
  - A. March 23, 2016 meeting minutes **APPROVED**
- IV. **Action Items Review from March 23, 2016 meeting** (D. Rohr) – See above
- V. **Review of Logistics of May 25, 2016 PRCC Meeting at Wanapum Dam** (D. Rohr) – The main meeting will be at Wanapum Dam in the new Hydro Office Building (HOB) in Room 118 starting at 9:00 a.m. Rohr informed the Committee there will be a tour of Fishtown and the related activities, a viewing and explanation of the repair activities surrounding the Wanapum fracture, a viewing of the Wanapum Bypass, and other things the Committee may request. There will not be enough time available to also tour Priest Rapids Dam facilities. Lunch will be provided at the HOB. Aaron Penrose and/or Lisa Pelly (Trout Unlimited) is scheduled to come and discuss the Methow Valley Irrigation District (MVID) project and the Lower Wenatchee Instream Flow Enhancement Project Phase II. Carlon reiterated he will not be able to attend this meeting. Korth also commented that he is planning to have Andrew Murdoch, WDFW, attend the next meeting to discuss an NNI Funding Proposal.
- VI. **(9:30 am) NNI Funding Proposal – Predator Fish Recruitment Reduction – Michael Porter, YN; Geoff McMichael, Mainstem Fish Research** (B. Rose, D. Rohr) – McMichael and Porter presented and discussed the NNI Funding Proposal dated April 18, 2016 titled “Larval/Age-0 Predator Fish Recruitment Reduction”. Bob Rose is the listed PRCC Project Liaison. McMichael stated they propose to develop and test a management action intended to reduce predation losses of juvenile salmonids downstream of the Priest Rapids Project. They will take a phased approach to determine whether well-timed WSE (water surface elevation) manipulations will reduce the recruitment success of larval walleye in McNary Reservoir. The funding request of the PRCC is \$176,729, with contributions from other sources of \$31,005, for a total cost of \$207,734. The project would be divided into 3 phases beginning in 2016 and concluding with a final report by December 31, 2018. Committee members asked many questions and discussed the proposal in some detail. Included in the discussion was the question of potential cost sharing with the McNary Group which is involved with the McNary Mitigation Fund. No decisions were made and further discussion is to take place, including the cost share questions regarding possible involvement and cost share with the McNary Group. Some Committee members also have involvement with the McNary Group, and they will pursue potential cost sharing and report back at the next meeting or before where additional discussion will take place.
- VII. **Affirm Reports Finalized** (D. Rohr) – Rohr affirmed the finalization of the 2015 PRP Activities Report and the 2015 PR Operation TDG Report.
- VIII. **(10:30 am) Whooshh Fish Transport System (WFTS) Presentation – Bryan Nordlund** (D. Rohr) – Brian Nordlund, Fish Passage Engineering, and Steve Dearden, Whooshh VP, made a presentation describing the scheduled Whooshh Test that is tentatively scheduled to take place at the Priest Rapids (PR) OLAFT in June of 2016. Nordlund stated that the goal is to confirm that experimental fish passage technology performs equal to conventional technology, in terms of safe, timely and effective fish passage. Nordlund’s Power Point presentation included descriptions of the planned activities at the PR OLAFT to test for safe passage, timely passage, and effective passage, a discussion of previous tests that have been completed, and some of the results to date. Additional tests are being considered and designed at other locations for future experiments with the continued goal of developing a successful fish passage system. Nordlund stated the PR OLAFT test will include about 700 adult sockeye to be PIT tagged with half of them being handled by the Whooshh system and the other half serving as a control (i.e. going completely thru the OLAFT system, back to the fish ladder)
- IX. **Review / Update of Draft 2015 Survival Study Report (New Close of Comment Date)** (C. Dotson, D. Rohr) – Comment was given by Dotson to the Committee that Blue Leaf is continuing to work on finalizing this report by incorporating comments received from Truscott into the original draft document. Truscott’s

comments are being highlighted so Committee members can see what edits have been made, and the draft report will be distributed to the Committee for further review and discussion. After the next draft report is distributed, a new close of comment date will be established.

- X. **Review of June 21/22 Sub-yearling Workshop and Coordinating Committees Meetings** (C. Dotson, D. Rohr) – Dotson and Rohr reviewed the latest Sub-yearling workshop draft agenda that had been distributed to the Committee members for their review. The schedule and logistics for the workshop and the Committees meeting the day after the workshop were outlined for clarity. Additionally, Dotson presented and discussed the NNI Funding proposal, dated April 27, 2016, he had submitted for consideration by the Committee. The NNI Funding request was for up to \$15,000 to cover expenses related to the workshop, including charges for the conference room, lunches, and workshop presenters. After discussion, the Committee approved the request for up to \$15,000 subject to approval of Rose who had left the meeting prior to the approval by the other Committee members. Rohr will contact Rose for his approval. (Note: after the meeting concluded, Rohr contacted Rose and received his concurrence with the Committee decision of approval. **Accordingly, the funding request was approved.**)
- XI. **Request for 6 Month Extension of Time for Contract 601-8H, UC Fish Screen Monitoring Program** (D. Rohr) – Korth and Dresser, project sponsors, are requesting a 6 month extension of time (with no NNI funding increase) for contract 601-8H, UC Fish Screen Monitoring Program. The 6 month time increase would create a new contract end date of June 30, 2017 which would also match the end date for contract 601-16H, Mid-Columbia River Intake Screen and Diversion Assessment. PRCC Committee action on January 27, 2016 extended the end date of both contracts with no additional NNI funding, but through oversight, the two end dates were not made to be the same. Korth and Dresser would like to rectify that oversight by extending 601-8H by 6 months to match the 601-16H end date of June 30, 2017. **Approved.**
- XII. **Updates**
- A. **Avian Predation Activities** (C. Dotson) – Dotson reported on the weekly updates that are sent out regarding the monitoring activities of the OSU/RTR folks at Goose and Crescent Islands and also spot checks (for terns) that they do within the Columbia Plateau – related to loafing and nesting sites. Dotson also highlighted the fact that the John Day reservoir elevation has been such that the available (tern) nesting habitat at the Blalock Islands complex is similar to that seen in 2015 and that the amount of tern activity/nesting this year is at the same level as was seen in 2015, even though the problem (tern nesting) with the lower reservoir elevation was discussed amongst the IAPWG folks last fall. Dotson also reported that the smolt PIT tagging activities at RI Dam by RTR was on-going and that the condition of this year's steelhead smolt was better than that seen in 2015.
- B. **Hatchery Activities** (T. Dresser) –
1. **Carlton Acclimation Facility** – Grant PUD continues to work on several necessary corrective modifications. Restroom facilities, hot water wash and insulation over a water distribution line(s) is necessary to prevent freezing.
  2. **Nason Creek Acclimation Facility** – As previously report, the water intake structure (cone screen) was damaged as a result of several high water events between Oct 2015 and February 2016. Grant PUD is in the process of designing a new intake screen – a cylinder screen with a backwater flush. A temporary backup system is also being developed for short-term use/backup supply. Grant PUD is working on the permitting process to assure that work can be completed in the July – September 2016 timeframe. This is on a critical time schedule, as fish (~225,000) will be on station in October 2016.
  3. **Priest Rapids Hatchery Modifications** – Several modifications are also slated to be completed during the 2016 outage schedule (center channel, incubation floor drains, outside drains and paving, etc.). A contract or is on board and current timeframe is to have work completed by September 2016.
  4. **Penticton Hatchery** – No updates.

- C. **Hatchery Permits: Sec 10 Consultation/Summer Chinook, Sec 7 Consultation/Bull Trout** (T. Dresser) - NOAA Fisheries have issued draft permits for review for the Methow spring Chinook programs.
- D. **2016 Survival Study** (C. Dotson) – Study season is underway.
- E. **2016 Spill Update** (C. Dotson) – Spill began at Wanapum on April 12<sup>th</sup>, a little earlier than expected due to warm temperatures and high flows; PR spill began on April 13<sup>th</sup>.
- 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) – Comment period closed April 1, 2016.
  - 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) – Ongoing
  - 3. **Upper Columbia Fish Screen Monitoring Program Phase I - II Contract Extension** (J. Korth) – No additional update; See agenda item XI above.
  - 4. **Mid-Columbia River Intake Screen and Diversion Assessment (2014-15)** (T. Dresser) – Nothing new to report.
  - 5. **Lower Wenatchee Instream Flow Enhancement Project Phase II** (J. Korth) – Aaron Penvose and/or Lisa Pelly with Trout Unlimited are being scheduled to attend the May meeting to discuss.
  - 6. **Methow Valley Irrigation District (MVID) Instream Flow Improvement Project** (T. Dresser) – Aaron Penvose and/or Lisa Pelly with Trout Unlimited are being scheduled to attend the May meeting to discuss.
- XIII. **Committee Reports** (D. Rohr) – Reports sent out to Committee.
- XIV. **Quarterly NNI and Habitat Funds Report (placeholder for information when available)** (D. Rohr) – nothing new to report.
- XV. **Next Meeting** (D. Rohr) – May 25, 2016, Spring Tour at Wanapum Dam.

**Actions Items from April 27, 2016 Meeting:**

- 1. Committee members involved with the McNary Group Mitigation Fund will seek more information regarding potential cost sharing and report back for continued discussion at or before the next PRCC meeting on May 25<sup>th</sup>; discussion of the Predator Fish Recruitment Reduction proposal will continue at the next meeting.
- 2. The Draft 2015 Survival Study Report will be distributed to the Committee when Blue Leaf completes the editing; a new close of comment period for review will be established.