



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

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

Wednesday, May 25, 2016

9:00 am

Wanapum Dam Hydro Office Building – HOB-118 Conference Room

**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 MEETING ATTENDEES**

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Jim Craig, USFWS

Jeff Korth, WDFW

Curt Dotson, GCPUD

Denny Rohr, D. Rohr & Assoc., Facilitator

Andrew Murdoch, WDFW

Bob Rose, YN

Tom Skiles, CTUIR

Orlene Hahn, GCPUD

Tom Dresser (Alt) GCPUD

Geoff McMichael, Mainstem Fish Research, LLC

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**Action Items from April 27, 2016 PRCC 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.

**FINAL MEETING MINUTES**

- I. Welcome and Introductions
- II. Agenda Review (D. Rohr) – Nothing added
- III. Meeting Minutes Approval for April 27, 2016 (D. Rohr) – Approved subject to Kirk Truscott.
- IV. Action Items Review from April 27, 2016 meeting (D. Rohr) - Action items will be discussed during today's meeting.
- V. SharePoint Information and Education (O. Hahn) – SharePoint was discussed.
- VI. Discussion: NNI Funding Proposal – “Factors Influencing the Survival of Juvenile Spring Chinook Salmon in Lake Wenatchee, WA”, Andrew Murdoch, WDFW (J. Korth) – Andrew Murdoch provided a “Factors Influencing the Survival of Juvenile Spring Chinook Salmon in Lake Wenatchee,

WA" presentation to the PRCC Committee. The stated problem is the abundance of the most productive smolts (based on SAR numbers) in the Wenatchee Basin is limited by unknown factors in Lake Wenatchee including predation and habitat. Smolt survival in the lake maybe the limiting factor for their life stage. Murdock said that the justification for this proposal is that the proposed action (looking at predation issues) is needed to address a life stage survival bottleneck regardless of the hatchery program decision in 2026. However, depending on the effectiveness of the proposed action, the resulting management action may serve a reasonable and prudent alternative for hatchery mitigation, as laid out in the White River Decision Tree found in the memo from the PRCC Hatchery sub-committee dated February 1, 2016. Objectives of the proposed study include determining the rearing distribution, habitat, and growth of the sub-yearling spring Chinook; estimate the survival by life history strategy to the outlet of Lake Wenatchee; estimate the distribution and abundance of predators in Lake Wenatchee; estimate predation rates by species on sub-yearling and yearling spring Chinook in Lake Wenatchee; identify, implement and evaluate management actions that would result in an increase in spring Chinook survival. Methods include looking at prey, predators and survival. For prey: (i.e. Chinook smolts) determine rearing distribution, Littoral, pelagic or both, densities, size distributions and diet by habitat type and electrofishing and snorkeling surveys. For predators: seasonal distribution by electrofishing and netting, diet by gastric lavage or dissection, stable isotope analysis and bioenergetics modeling and abundance by CJS estimate for an open population. For smolt survival: by life history type acoustic tags inserted at smolt trap, estimate reach specific survival to identify survival bottleneck and predator/prey overlap by tagging predators with acoustic tags and 3D acoustic array delineate temporal and spatial overlap of predators and prey. Rohr we will be in touch with Murdock after the Committee's discussion.

- VII. Discussion / ACTION ITEM: NNI Proposal – Predator (Walleye) Fish Recruitment Reduction (B. Rose) –** Discussion took place regarding this proposal for NNI funding. The Committee felt that this is a good project to consider and needs to get done, but a key question of who should be funding such a study (in the McNary reservoir) was discussed. Funding questions included the location of the study and the McNary Fund, the Federal BiOp RPAs that are related to predatory fish studies, and also funding by the USACE through their SRG process. Another suggested option was to defer the evaluation by a year (to secure other funding sources) but get questions answered over the course of this year. PRCC is to provide a list of questions for Geoff McMichael to answer by telephone conference at the June meeting.
- VIII. ACTION ITEM: SOA 2016-02, GBT (Gas Bubble Trauma) Monitoring of Smolts at the Priest Rapids Project (C. Dotson) –** This SOA is requesting that from this point (2016) forward, Grant PUD is not required to look at smolts for the purpose of monitoring signs of GBT. Rose had concern about using the phrase "never again" in the SOA and Dotson suggested to use "suspended" instead of "not required any more" in the language of the SOA. Korth suggested to have some language that would define the parameters regarding TDG saturation which would trigger the GBT monitoring again. Dotson said that the District could not respond quickly enough to get a gatwell dipping crew hired and in place quick enough to capture the flow event, but that the fixed sites would see the TDG levels and that Rock Island and McNary Dams are still monitoring smolts for signs of GBT. After the dialog, Korth felt that "the parameters he was suggesting were not needed within the SOA. Skiles asked if the fixed locations have ever been challenged. Dresser stated that this was discussed during the WADOE 401 Certification meetings with multi-stakeholders. Dotson to change the language on the SOA using "suspended unless reinitiated by the PRCC". **Approved, subject to Truscott.**
- IX. ACTION ITEM: SOA 2016-03, Schedule for Conducting Survival Evaluations – Yearling Chinook, Sockeye and Steelhead (C. Dotson) –** This SOA is requesting that the survival check-in schedule for

yearling Chinook and sockeye be moved out from a 5 year check-in to a 10 year check-in cycle. Rose requested some more time to think about this over the next 1-2 months. This SOA will be discussed at the next meeting in June.

- X. **Review / Update of Draft 2015 Survival Study Report (New Close of Comment Date)** (C. Dotson, D. Rohr) – Currently being worked on.

XI. **Updates**

- A. **Avian Predation Activities** (C. Dotson) – Terns on Lake Lenore. There is a new tern colony forming on an island in North Potholes with 85 birds and 33 nests. The new colony was found due to data coming in from a satellite-tagged tern. Dotson did tell the Corps and Oregon State in planning for next year, that the PRCC is not planning on budgeting for this project (tern monitoring) any further.
- B. **Hatchery Activities** (T. Dresser) – Nothing new to report.
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) – A draft section 10 has been provided to the 3-PUD's for review and comments have been provided back to NOAA Fisheries.
- D. **2016 Survival Study – In Progress** (C. Dotson) – The last fish release (#22) via helicopter took place this morning. All smolt tagging ended the day before. The only remaining aspect of the study is the collecting of the tagged smolts data.
- E. **2016 Spill Update** (C. Dotson) - Ongoing
- F. **NNI Funded Projects**
1. **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
  2. **Upper Columbia Fish Screen Monitoring Program Phase I - II Contract Extension** (J. Korth)
  3. **Mid-Columbia River Intake Screen and Diversion Assessment (2016-17)** (T. Dresser)
  4. **Lower Wenatchee Instream Flow Enhancement Project Phase II** (J. Korth) – getting close to being finished. Rohr asked committee members to let him know if there was an interest in a field trip to this project?
  5. **Methow Valley Irrigation District (MVID) Instream Flow Improvement Project** (T. Dresser) – getting close to being finished. Rohr asked committee members to let him know if there was an interest in a field trip to this project?
  6. **Agrilaser – Autonomic (Green Laser) for Caspian Tern Deterrent** (C. Dotson) – Nothing new to report.

- XII. **Committee Reports** (D. Rohr) – Dresser stated that the Quincy Valley Tourism Association (QVTA) completed their Northern Pikeminnow derby this past weekend on Wanapum Reservoir (May 20-

22). There were 76 total anglers. Forty-six anglers removed a total of 1,227 Pikeminnow over the ~2 day event. The cumulative total weight was 1615 lbs. Average of fish removed was around 1.3 pounds. To date, QVTA spent a total of \$18,647.30 of the \$25,000 approved by the PRCC. The remaining balance is \$6,352.70.

**XIII. Quarterly NNI and Habitat Funds Report** (placeholder for information when available) (D. Rohr) – No new information.

**XIV. Next Meetings:**

A. **June 21, 2016** Sub-yearling Workshop, SeaTac Red Lion Hotel (9:00 am)

B. **June 22, 2016** PRCC Meeting, SeaTac Radisson Hotel (1:00 pm)

**XV. 12:00 LUNCH** Catered

**XVI. 1:00 – Wanapum Dam Tour**

A. **Fish Town Tour/Activities** – Activities associated with the survival study (i.e. fish surgeries and helicopter releases) were already completed (due to an earlier study start date – due to timing of the steelhead out-migration), so no tour of fishtown was done. Tagging was all completed yesterday.

B. **Explanation/Viewing of Wanapum Fracture Area with Grant PUD Hydro Engineering** – Dotson stated that spillgate re-seal contract work is presently taking place so things are totally covered up at this time by plywood flooring, so there was no tour done. Dotson gave a presentation that Ian Hunter, Grant PUD, had presented at the time of the incident, that gave an over-view of the fracture and those measures used to repair it.

C. **Wanapum Bypass Viewing** – No tour done.

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