



Grant County
PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT
Excellence in Service and Leadership

Priest Rapids Coordinating Committee

FINAL MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday / Wednesday, June 21 / 22, 2016

SeaTac

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

TUESDAY, JUNE 21, 2016

SUBYEARLING WORKSHOP

SeaTac Red Lion Hotel

9:00 am – 4:30 pm

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 22, 2016

PRCC MEETING

SeaTac Radisson Hotel

Final Meeting Minutes

11:00 am - PRCC / HCP CC Combined Meeting

12:30 pm – Regularly Scheduled PRCC Meeting

PRCC MEETING ATTENDEES

Jim Craig, USFWS

Jeff Korth, WDFW

Curt Dotson, GCPUD

Kirk Truscott, CCT

Denny Rohr, D. Rohr & Assoc., Facilitator

Bob Rose, YN

Tom Skiles, CTUIR

Scott Carlon, NMFS

Tom Dresser (Alt) GCPUD

Action Items from May 25, 2016 PRCC Meeting:

1. **NNI Funding Proposal – “Factors Influencing the Survival of Juvenile Spring Chinook Salmon in Lake Wenatchee, WA”, Andrew Murdoch, WDFW (J. Korth)** – Rohr we will be in touch with Murdoch after the Committee’s discussion.
2. **NNI Proposal – Predator Fish Recruitment Reduction (B. Rose)** – PRCC is to provide a list of questions for Geoff McMichael to answer by telephone conference at the June meeting.
3. **SOA 2016-02, GBT (Gas Bubble Trauma) Monitoring of Smolts at the Priest Rapids Project (C. Dotson)** – Dotson to change the language on the SOA using the wording “suspended unless reinitiated by the PRCC”.

Final Meeting Minutes

- I. **Welcome and Introductions**
- II. **Agenda Review (D. Rohr)** – No additions were made to the agenda.
- III. **Meeting Minutes Approval for May 25, 2016 (D. Rohr)** – Approvals were received from several committee members and some requested more time for review. Rohr accepted the approvals given and will work offline with those requesting more review time in order to keep the approval process moving.
- IV. **Action Items Review from May 25, 2016 meeting (D. Rohr)** – All Action Items will be discussed further during today’s meeting.
- V. **Affirmation of Approval: SOA 2016-02, GBT (Gas Bubble Trauma) Monitoring of Smolts at the Priest Rapids Project (D. Rohr)** – Following discussion during the May 25th PRCC meeting, Rohr reported he has received final approval from Truscott of SOA 2016-02 including the suggested revision agreed upon at the May 25th meeting. Accordingly, as outlined in his email to the PRCC dated June 8, 2016, SOA 2016-02 is approved.
- VI. **Review / Update of Draft 2015 Steelhead / Sockeye Survival Study Report (New Close of Comment Date) (C. Dotson, D. Rohr)** – Volume 1 of the draft report was previously distributed to the PRCC for their review. During the ensuing discussion of Volume 1, questions and comments surfaced and edits were requested to be made. Next, Volume 2 was distributed to the PRCC by email of June 10th with the requested edits included. Accordingly, after discussion during today’s meeting, committee members agreed upon a close of comment date for Volume 2 to be July 27th which is the next regularly scheduled PRCC meeting.
- VII. **Discussion: NNI Funding Proposal – Predator Fish Recruitment Reduction (B. Rose)** – Discussion continued regarding this proposal which was first presented to the PRCC for consideration during the April 27th PRCC meeting. Committee members continued to express some interest in the proposal, but questions and comments continue to surround the subject of responsibility for the predator fish of concern, plus the related funding that would be required. The continued opinion of some members was that the WASCO Group associated with McNary Dam operations and/or the Corps of Engineers may have some interest in this proposal. It was again pointed out that several PRCC members work with individuals within their respective offices that serve on the Governing Board of the WASCO Group. PRCC members agreed that these respective Governing Board members would be contacted for discussion of the proposal and to gauge their interest. Accordingly, discussion will continue at the next PRCC meeting on July 27th.

- VIII. Discussion: NNI Funding Proposal – “Factors Influencing the Survival of Juvenile Spring Chinook Salmon in Lake Wenatchee, WA”, Andrew Murdoch, WDFW (J. Korth)** – Discussion continued regarding this proposal which was first presented to the PRCC during the May 25th PRCC meeting. Discussion took place and several questions were raised, including questions related to the “TAKE” of Bull Trout and the permit requirements with USFWS; a comment to perhaps consider starting with a full blown pikeminnow program for a couple of years and maybe that would suffice to solve the problem; what other management plans are in place that relate to this proposal; can this proposal actually be completed within a three year timeframe; can other incremental approaches be employed; what are the White River chinook priorities and how would this relate to recovery. Korth agreed to discuss these and additional questions and comments with Murdoch regarding the proposal. Rohr will follow up with Korth as to how to proceed with the proposal, including the possibility of having Murdoch attend the July 27th meeting for further discussion.
- IX. SOA 2016-03, Schedule for Conducting Survival Evaluations – Yearling Chinook, Sockeye and Steelhead (C. Dotson)** – This Statement of Agreement was distributed to PRCC members by email of May 12th for discussion at the May 25th PRCC meeting. During that meeting, additional review time was requested and the SOA was to be considered for approval at the next PRCC meeting on June 22nd. The SOA was discussed during today’s meeting and all members gave approval with Rose requesting additional time for review. However, additional discussion resulted in several members requesting some modifications be made to the Statement section of the SOA to provide clarity to the action being requested. Dotson agreed to make the modifications and the revised SOA will be distributed to all members for final review and consideration.
- X. Updates**
- A. Avian Predation Activities (C. Dotson)** Nothing new to report
- 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)** – Nothing new to report
- D. 2016 Survival Study – In Progress (C. Dotson)** – Study has been completed and data is being compiled for preparation of a draft report for PRCC review.
- E. 2016 Spill Schedule and Activities (C. Dotson)** – Nothing new to report
- 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) – Ongoing
 3. Mid-Columbia River Intake Screen and Diversion Assessment (2016-17) – (T. Dresser) – Ongoing
 4. Lower Wenatchee Instream Flow Enhancement Project Phase II – (J. Korth) – Ongoing

5. Methow Valley Irrigation District (MVID) Instream Flow Improvement Project (T. Dresser) – Ongoing
6. Agrilaser – Autonomic (Green Laser) for Caspian Tern Deterrent (C. Dotson) – Nothing new to report.

XI. **Committee Reports (D. Rohr)** – No reports for June.

XII. **Quarterly NNI and Habitat Funds Report – 1st Quarter, 2016 (D. Rohr)** – Rohr distributed the report to PRCC members by email. He reviewed the unencumbered amounts existing in each fund, including, as of March 31, 2016

A. No Net Impact Fund 601 - \$4,141,841

B. Habitat Supplemental Fund 602 - \$3,731,192

C. Habitat Fund 603 - \$912,991

D. Total Unencumbered Balance for all PRCC Funds - \$8,786,024.

XIII. **Next Meeting** – July 27, 2016, SeaTac Radisson, 9:00 am

Action Items from June 22, 2016 PRCC Meeting:

1. All committee members agreed upon a close of comment date for Volume 2 of the Draft 2015 Steelhead / Sockeye Survival Study Report to be July 27th.
2. PRCC members agreed that their respective Governing Board members of the WASCO Group would be contacted for discussion of the Predator Fish Recruitment Reduction proposal and to gauge their interest.
3. Korth agreed to discuss identified questions and comments with Murdoch regarding the Lake Wenatchee NNI proposal. Rohr will follow up with Korth as to how to proceed with the proposal, including the possibility of having Murdoch attend the July 27th meeting for further discussion.
4. Dotson agreed to make modifications to SOA 2016-03 and it will be distributed to all members for final review and consideration.