



Grant County
PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT
Excellence in Service and Leadership

Priest Rapids Coordinating Committee

Wednesday, October 26, 2016

Grant PUD Wenatchee Office

11 Spokane Street, Suite 205B

9:00 am

PRCC Meeting 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

PRCC Meeting Attendees

Jim Craig, USFWS

Curt Dotson, GCPUD

Denny Rohr, D. Rohr & Assoc., Facilitator

Tom Dresser, GCPUD

Tom Skiles, CTUIR

Scott Carlon, NMFS

Orlene Hahn, GCPUD

Pat Wyena, GCPUD (via telephone)

Final Approved Meeting Minutes

Action Items from September 28, 2016 PRCC Meeting:

1. Rohr mentioned that the semi-annual project tour to Canada is taking place on October 12-13, 2016. If any of the PRCC are interested in attending he needs to know by the end of the month which is this Friday, September 30, 2016. Pat Wyena stated he was interested in going. **Rohr will notify Habitat SC member Chris Fisher who is coordinating tour details.**
2. **ACTION ITEM:** SOA 2016-04, Decoupling Sub-yearling from Steelhead Performance Standard and Linking to Yearling Chinook for Purpose of Calculating NNI Funding (C. Dotson) – Rohr is to schedule a couple different one hour calls prior to October 18th and anyone can attend according to Rose. **COMPLETED**
3. **2016 Spill Schedule (C. Dotson)** – Dotson stated that the adult fall back spill at PR and WD is in place until November 15, 2016. Rohr is to remove this item from the Agenda. **COMPLETED**
4. **Agrilaser – Autonomic (Green Laser) for Caspian Tern Deterrent (C. Dotson)** – Dotson stated that we did not spend the money so this is unencumbered at this time. Rohr is to remove this item from the Agenda. **REMOVED**
5. **Predator Fish Recruitment Reduction (B. Rose)** – There is a contract that is in place. Rohr is to go to Geoff McMichael and ask when a good time would be for him to come and talk to the PRCC. **Rose felt it might work better in the spring to have Geoff McMichael come and talk to the PRCC.**
6. **Quarterly NNI and Habitat Funds Report (D. Rohr)** – Orlene to send an email asking when the next quarterly report might be expected. Patti Dietmeyer, GCPUD responded after the meeting with the Q2 report via email. **RECEIVED.**

- I. **Welcome and Introductions**
- II. **Agenda Review (D. Rohr)** – Dotson added a Grant PUD Coho Mitigation discussion. See item IX below.
- III. **Meeting Minutes Approval: Affirm email approval received of August 24, 2016 minutes; Request approval of September 28, 2016 minutes (D. Rohr)** – The August 24th meeting minutes were approved. The September 28th meeting minutes were approved subject to Rose, Korth, Skiles and Truscott's approval via email to Rohr.
- IV. **Action Items Review from September 28, 2016 meeting (D. Rohr)** – All Action Items are complete or will be discussed further during today's meeting.
- V. **ACTION ITEM: SOA 2016-04, Decoupling Sub-yearling from Steelhead Performance Standard and Linking to Yearling Chinook for Purpose of Calculating NNI Funding (C. Dotson)** – Rohr scheduled a PRCC conference to discuss SOA 2016-04 that took place on October 12, 2016. On that conference call, a vote was called for regarding the approval of SOA 2016-04. The SOA was not approved (1-5). A working document titled "PRCC Conditions for SOA sub-yearling survival surrogates dated October 14, 2016" was distributed by Rohr to the PRCC by email that was a result of the conference call. See Attachment 1. This document was primarily developed by Korth and Rose. A lengthy discussion took place during today's meeting regarding this document. Carlon was not sure about the explanation of Option 3 – "Half the baby" – something between yearlings and steelhead. Dresser stated that the Committee really needs to look at the project standard of care wording in the Settlement Agreement and would like to know if the committee is all on the same page as to what the standard of care is. The whole Committee needs to interpret it the same way. Regarding adaptive management, as stated in section 4.3 of the SSSA, Dotson stated that there is well over a decade of studies of science in place. It is based on all this new science/data that has been collected within the PR Project that Grant submitted SOA 2016-04. There has been NNI contribution for 11 years now. Craig stated NNI was expected to go away and not be permanent. Dotson stated "appropriate", in reference of whether to use steelhead or yearling Chinook as a "surrogate" for sub-yearling Chinook doesn't fit into the discussion – what SOA 2016-04 is proposing is that yearling Chinook is a "closer" surrogate for representing sub-yearling survival in the PR Project than steelhead are. It was stated that we presently don't have the science (i.e. technology) to get a Project-wide survival estimate on sub-yearling Chinook, for the purpose of NNI funding calculations, so we are looking for an interim measure (in the near term) to use solely for NNI funding calculations. Dotson - We don't have a project wide survival study on sub-yearlings. The dams on the Snake River and lower Columbia River (i.e. the Federal dams) are only using "concrete" survival estimates for measuring performance of smolt passage. Carlon rejected SOA 2016-04 because they didn't want to use any surrogates to "represent" sub-yearling Chinook. Dotson presented study data from the PR Project that estimated sub-yearling Chinook "concrete" survival for the years 2001-03. The question was asked, do we do another study at the concrete? Rohr suggested perhaps we do all this that we are discussing stating it is interim until we get the knowledge needed to do a project wide study and then apply the standard. Craig stated the proposal is a change in the interim until a reservoir study can be done. Skiles said he is in favor of an interim agreement but what would the interim agreement look like. Skiles stated that he has been advised by his office to "slow walk it". They are uncertain what the new (federal) BiOp will look like. There could be some interactions between the new BiOp. Skiles is seeing the "splitting the baby" concept as an interim proposal. There is a negotiated policy decision to make. Dresser stated all members of the Committee have to take an individual risk. Dresser thanked Skiles for discussing what he is working with at his policy level. The Committee needs to decide what to do in the interim and what that something will look like. The options were discussed: (1 & 2) Dotson maybe just have to do a concrete study. Skiles

suggested that it may result in pinning it to a moving target. Dotson stated that a concrete study may be the way to get data. Dotson handed out a draft SOA regarding sub-yearling "concrete" survival estimate for purpose of calculating NNI funding. (Attachment 1(a)). He also discussed the 2009 sub-yearling pilot study that estimated a PR Dam concrete survival estimate of 94.28%, and referenced it back to the concrete sub-yearling survival estimates the federal dams are seeing – 93%. Dotson discussed the Draft PRCC – SOA 2016-XXa that he handed out, and he noted the 6 bullets in the Draft SOA, which is an interim measuring for calculating NNI funding for sub-yearlings, until we are able to conduct a valid Project-wide survival study on sub-yearlings. The Summary talks about the Federal criteria for conducting sub-yearling survival studies. 2001, 2002, 2003 at WD 0.9467 and at PRD 0.8908. Times those two numbers and you get 0.9188. (3) Half the baby – Dotson – Grant would say "No". Skiles - throwing science out the window with this one. No intention of visiting interim plan every year. (4) Negotiated cut from current NNI funds – Carlon – these are unrefined thoughts. There is an action item with a question to John Skalski of how to determine the numbers. Carlon and Skiles have to go back and work through these with their offices. Rohr – get some answers on this and put it in Korth and Rose's hands. **ACTION ITEM: Carlon to call Rose, Korth and Truscott to give them a brief of how this discussion went and where we got to so that by the November meeting they would have something to propose to the Committee. Additionally, Rohr is to schedule a JFP call to discuss this further. Dotson will talk to John Skalski.**

- VI. **Discussion of SOA 2016-05, Schedule for Conducting Sub-yearling Summer Chinook Survival Evaluations (C. Dotson, D. Rohr)** – This same document was handed out at the last meeting and was e-mailed out by Rohr on October 5, 2016 to the Committee. Dotson handed out a copy during this meeting as well of SOA 2016-05v2. See Attachment 2. Dotson stated that the yellow highlight in the document was taken out of Chelan's SOA. Grant and Chelan SOAs now say the same thing. Rohr suggested calling for a vote, but committee members wanted more time to review as a few questions remained. Skiles suggested some edits on wording asking to have "project area" and "if technology comes about" wording added to the SOA. **ACTION ITEM: Dotson is to make edits per Skiles, Carlon and Craig's comments. Dotson will have these edits ready before the next meeting for distribution to committee members for review.**
- VII. **ACTION ITEM: Close of Comment for Draft 2015 Steelhead / Sockeye Survival Study Report (D. Rohr)** – Rohr called for a vote. Carlon, Craig, Dotson, and Skiles gave their approval. **ACTION ITEM: Rohr to get Rose, Korth and Truscott's vote via email.**
- VIII. **ACTION ITEM: NNI Funding Proposal – "Factors Influencing the Survival of Juvenile Spring Chinook Salmon in Lake Wenatchee, WA", Andrew Murdoch, WDFW (J. Korth)** – Rohr has talked to Korth. Korth did not have any new information. The Committee was asked if they have any questions about this project in Lake Wenatchee. Dotson handed out a document titled "Survival through the Lake: Hatchery Fish" to the Committee as an FYI, stating that these were the reported numbers and studies that he was referencing in his dialog with Andrew M. (WDFW) at the Sept. PRCC meeting. See Attachment 3. Skiles stated that a few meetings ago the Committee talked about someone talking to F&W. Craig stated that there is the regulatory aspect that could be renegotiated. Dresser reminded the Committee that the NNI fund was not setup to gather information on bull trout. Carlon said that he talked to the Science Center about this. He suggested that if the Agencies want the information maybe they could fund it. He stated his mind is kind of changing regarding using money out of a fund that is not really meant for this. **ACTION ITEM: Dotson will send Rohr an electronic copy for distribution and to particularly Korth, Truscott and Rose.**

IX. **Grant PUD Coho Mitigation (T. Dresser, C. Dotson)** – Dresser provided a presentation titled “PRCC Coho Mitigation.” See Attachment 4. This presentation is intended to provide the PRCC with the history and background for the existing SOA that the PRCC approved in 2007 and is sent to expire on December 31, 2017. For transparency sake, Dresser indicated that Grant has been meeting with the Yakama Nation since March to move an SOA forward; which was similar to the same process used in 2007. However, both Grant and YN believed that it was time for the topic to be introduced to the PRCC. Dresser stated that the PRCC will need to walk through the SOA and determine what items need to stay within the PRCC for decision making and what items need to be sent to the PRCC-Hatchery Subcommittee to develop recommendations/options for the PRCC to decide upon. Or maybe some other technical body appointed by the PRCC. Dresser stated that a key item for consideration is the use of a surrogate, as has been used and approved by virtually the same people on this committee in the HCP process. Another key item is the development and initiation of an evaluation of the coho mitigation program, as it is a specific requirement within the current SOA. Dresser indicated that coho needs to be a standing agenda item for the PRCC and that Grant would provide further details/thoughts at the next meeting (November 16, 2016). Grant also mentioned that Grant staff would provide a presentation on a document titled “Comparison of Juvenile Survival of Chinook Salmon, Sockeye Salmon, Steelhead and Coho Salmon Releases through the Grant Project, 2010-2015.” See Attachment 5. **ACTION ITEM: Rohr to work with Dresser on this between now and November PRCC meeting. The Committee is to review the handouts and be ready to discuss at the November meeting. Rohr will distribute electronic copies to all committee members.**

X. Updates

- A. **Avian Predation Activities (C. Dotson)** – OSU Avian Group will be presenting at AFEP on November 29-30, 2016 in Portland and will be giving a summary of the whole year. Updates from the 2016 season will also be presented to the the Inland Avian Predation Working Group on Dec. 8th, 2016 (meeting agenda and location are currently being finalized).
- B. **Hatchery Activities (T. Dresser)**
1. **Carlton Acclimation Facility** – Nothing new to report.
 2. **Nason Creek Acclimation Facility** – Intake screen damage last year. The project is complete. A backup system is being put in in case the main screen fails which will be done mid-November. There are some issues with the variable frequency drive. Fish should be on station today (11/26) or tomorrow (11/27). There will be over 200,000 fish.
 3. **Priest Rapids Hatchery Modifications** – Completed or near completion. There is still some cleanup to be done in the incubation building due to concrete work.
 4. **Penticton Hatchery** – Nothing new to report.
- C. **Hatchery Permits: Sec 10 Consultation/Summer Chinook, Sec 7 Consultation/Bull Trout. (T. Dresser)** – Nothing new to report.
- D. **2016 Survival Study (C. Dotson)** – The Committee will receive a report in November at the next PRCC meeting.
- E. **Review of 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)**
– No Updates
 4. **Lower Wenatchee Instream Flow Enhancement Project Phase II – (J. Korth) – Ongoing**
 5. **Methow Valley Irrigation District (MVID) Instream Flow Improvement Project (T. Dresser) – No Updates.** (Geoff McMichael in the spring)
 6. **Predator Fish Recruitment Reduction (McMichael Report in Spring, 2017) (B. Rose) – No Updates**
- XI. **Committee Reports (D. Rohr) – See Attachment 6 titled “PRFF Briefing Report” dated October 12, 2016 received from Tracy Hillman, PRFF facilitator (the FCWG did not meet in October).**
- II. **Quarterly NNI and Habitat Funds Report (D. Rohr) – Rohr distributed the report to PRCC members by email. The unencumbered amounts existing in each fund, including, as of June 30, 2016 are as follows:**
- A. No Net Impact Fund 601 - **\$4,173,172**
 - B. Habitat Supplemental Fund 602 - **\$3,816,623**
 - C. Habitat Fund 603 - **\$915,976**
- XII. **Total Unencumbered Balance for all PRCC Funds - \$8,905,772.**
- XIII. **Next Meeting – November 16, 2016 @ 9:00 a.m., Grant PUD Office, 11 Spokane Street, Suite 205B, Wenatchee.** A policy meeting is set for **November 8, 2016** at HOB at Wanapum Dam 9:30-Noon. The December meeting will be held on **December 14, 2016 @ 9:00 a.m., Grant PUD Office, 11 Spokane Street, Suite 205B, Wenatchee.**

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4. **ACTION ITEM: NNI Funding Proposal – “Factors Influencing the Survival of Juvenile Spring Chinook Salmon in Lake Wenatchee, WA”, Andrew Murdoch, WDFW (J. Korth) -** Dotson will send this handout –(Attachment 3 – “Survival through the Lake: Hatchery Fish for FYI to the Committee”) to Korth, Truscott and Rose.
5. **Grant PUD Coho Mitigation (T. Dresser, C. Dotson) -** Rohr to work with Dresser on this between now and the November PRCC meeting. The Committee is to review and be ready to discuss at the November meeting.