



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

## Priest Rapids Coordinating Committee

### WEBINAR CONFERENCE

Wednesday, November 22, 2017

9:00 am

(Webinar Information Will Be Distributed by Separate Email)

#### PRCC Representatives

Scott Carlon, Justin Yeager (Alt), NMFS  
Keely Murdoch, Bob Rose (Alt), YN  
Chad Jackson, P. Verhey (Alt) WDFW  
Curt Dotson, Tom Dresser (Alt), GCPUD  
Denny Rohr, D. Rohr & Assoc, Facilitator

Jim Craig, USFWS  
Kirk Truscott, Casey Baldwin (alt), CCT  
Tom Skiles, CTUIR  
Erin McIntyre, Admin Ass't, GCPUD

**Attendance:** Scott Carlon, Kirk Truscott (absent), Keely Murdoch, Jim Craig, Tom Dresser, Curt Dotson, Tom Skiles, Chad Jackson, Pat Wyena, Erin McIntyre (absent), Denny Rohr.

### Final Approved Meeting Minutes

- I. **Agenda Review (D. Rohr)** - Dotson requested agenda addition to discuss timing of the report of agenda item VIII (E)(6) below, "Satellite Telemetry of Caspian Terns".
- II. **Meeting Minutes (D. Rohr)** – October 25, 2017 meeting – Rohr received verbal approval from Truscott post-meeting, and other members all gave approval as presented. Dotson abstained due to not being present at the Oct. 25<sup>th</sup> meeting.
- III. **Action Items Review from October 25, 2017 meeting (See List Below) (D. Rohr)** – All action items listed below were completed and/or received additional discussion during today's meeting.
- IV. **Update and Review of 2017 Steelhead Survival Study Report (C. Dotson)** – Rohr commented he had sent electronic copies of the Skalski Report and the Blue Leaf Environmental Report to all PRCC members for their review with a listed close of comment date of Monday, December 18<sup>th</sup>. Today Rohr requested the close of comment date be changed to December 13<sup>th</sup> to coincide with the next scheduled PRCC meeting. All members agreed to this change, and Rohr will alert Truscott since he was absent from today's meeting. Dotson also mentioned that the 2017 steelhead survival study is year-3 of "3 consecutive years of survival studies" – 2015, 2016, and the 2017 study, and that an SOA will be presented regarding

the three years of steelhead survival studies as meeting the steelhead performance standard for the PR Project.

**V. Review, Update, and Discussion: Grant PUD Coho Mitigation (T. Dresser, K. Murdoch) –** Rohr commented that he was informed the PRCC Hatchery Subcommittee has discussed SOA 2017-06, Goals and Standards for the Yakama Nation Coho Program and Ongoing PRCC HSC Engagement in the Program, but a vote has not yet been taken. However, a conference call of the Hatchery SC is to be scheduled soon to have a vote completed prior to the next PRCC meeting. Accordingly, if the SOA is approved by the Hatchery SC, it also requires approval by the PRCC, and that consideration will take place at the December PRCC meeting. Coho discussion continued with Dresser commenting that Grant and Yakama Nation staff continue to meet and the next meeting is scheduled for Friday, December 15<sup>th</sup>. He stated they have had good discussion and sharing of collective interests, and the meetings have been positive. He also stated that SOA 2007-16 expires the end of the year, and there may be a need to revisit and/or craft a new SOA in its place. Murdoch agreed the staff discussions have been productive.

**VI. Update Discussion of Estimating the Survival of Juvenile Spring Chinook in Lake Wenatchee (S. Carlon, D.Rohr) –** Carlon is continuing to check with Jeff Jorgenson, NMFS, regarding life cycle modeling of Spring Chinook and the application of Grant PUD PIT tag data in the model. Some questions of the data possibly not including subyearlings and/or wild fish is a question that Carlon will pursue with Jorgenson. Accordingly, Carlon will have follow up discussions with Jorgenson and discuss further at the December meeting. Additionally, Dotson stated it is his understanding that 2016 and 2017 PIT tag data is now also available. Accordingly, Dotson will follow up with Grant staff and contact Carlon with answers to what he finds out. Additional discussion to take place at the next PRCC meeting.

**VII. Potpourri – (D. Rohr) –** Rohr commented that Vernita Bar redd surveys have been taking place and reports received from Peter Graf, Grant PUD. Rohr stated he distributes the reports to PRCC members upon receipt and he encouraged everyone to ask any questions that may come to mind.

#### **VIII. GENERAL UPDATES**

- A. Avian Predation Activities (C. Dotson) – the AFEP meeting is scheduled for November 28 and 29 in Richland. Dotson and Skiles indicated they would be attending. Carlon also commented that Gary Fredricks, NMFS, will be retiring near the end of the year, and Carlon will be taking over the avian responsibilities covered by Fredricks. Additionally, Dresser commented on continuing avian depredation permit activities taking place. He is continuing to discuss obtaining a depredation permit from USFWS, but USFWS is indicating there are some legal perspectives that may inhibit the issuance of a permit because juvenile steelhead survival standards are now being met. Dresser pointed out that the Caspian Tern population in the area is cyclic, so it is important to continue to monitor their activities and population numbers in the area. Dresser will continue discussion with USFWS and keep the PRCC members advised.
- B. Spill Report (C. Dotson) – Dotson reported that spill for adult fallback ended November 15<sup>th</sup>. Therefore, only inadvertent spill will be occurring.
- C. Hatchery Activities (T. Dresser) – nothing new.
  - 1. Carlton Acclimation Facility
  - 2. Nason Creek Acclimation Facility
  - 3. Priest Rapids Hatchery Modifications

4. Penticton Hatchery
- D. Hatchery Permits: Sec 10 Consultation/Summer Chinook, Sec 7 Consultation/Bull Trout. (T. Dresser) – nothing new.
- E. Review of Outstanding NNI Funded Projects
  1. Continued Support for Upper Columbia Fish Screen Monitoring Program (C. Jackson) – no update.
  2. Lower Wenatchee Instream Flow Enhancement Project Phase II (C. Jackson) – no update.
  3. Methow Valley Irrigation District (MVID) Instream Flow Improvement Project (T. Dresser) – no update.
  4. Predator Fish Recruitment Reduction (B. Rose, K. Murdoch) – no update.
  5. Northern Pike Removal in Lake Roosevelt (K. Truscott) – no update.
  6. Satellite Telemetry of Caspian Terns (C. Dotson) – Dotson stated that OSU and Real Time Research has requested the timing of their final report be extended from April, 2018 to December, 2018 to provide adequate time to analyze the data to be reviewed and reported upon. Dotson stated he will discuss the subject in more detail at the December meeting, but he did want committee members to be aware of the request and to be thinking about it.

**IX. NNI and Habitat Contracting Process.** Grant PUD staff reported that future contracts let for NNI and Habitat Projects will need to include specific insurance coverage requirements based on the type of activity that is conducted. The contractor will be required to obtain and maintain continuously a policy or policies of insurance with insurance companies. The Grant PUD risk management and procurement business units will determine the required insurance for each contract.

**X. Committee Reports (D. Rohr)** – Rohr has electronically distributed committee reports to members.

**XI. Qtrly NNI and Habitat Funds Report – 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter (D. Rohr)** – no new information.

**XII. Next Meeting – Wednesday, December 13<sup>th</sup>, Meeting or Webinar Conference, to be discussed (D. Rohr)** – after committee discussion, it was decided to meet in person on Wednesday, December 13<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 am at the Wanapum HOB, Room 107.

**Action Items from November 22, 2017 Meeting:**

1. Carlon will follow up with Jeff Jorgenson, NMFS, regarding Lake Wenatchee activities.
2. Dotson will follow up with P. Graf regarding 2016 and 2017 Lake Wenatchee PIT Tag data.