



Grant County
PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT
Excellence in Service and Leadership

Priest Rapids Coordinating Committee

Wednesday, March 29, 2017
Wanapum Dam HOB, Room 117
9:00 am – 3:00 pm

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, Casey Baldwin (Alt.) CCT

Tom Skiles, CTUIR

Erin McIntyre, GCPUD

PRCC Meeting Attendees

Jim Craig, USFWS

Curt Dotson, GCPUD

Denny Rohr, D. Rohr & Assoc., Facilitator

Tom Dresser, GCPUD

Bob Rose, YN – called in

Tom Skiles, CTUIR

Scott Carlon, NMFS

Erin McIntyre, GCPUD

Casey Baldwin, CCT

Kirk Truscott, CCT

Final Approved Meeting Minutes

- I. Welcome and Introductions
- II. Agenda Review (D. Rohr) – No additions.
- III. Meeting Minutes Review: (D. Rohr)
 - A. October 12, 2016 conference call, November 16, 2016 meeting, December 7, 2016 conference call are all approved. December 13-14, 2016 meetings; January 25, 2017 conference call; January 31, 2017 meeting; February 27, 2017 meeting are still a work in progress.
- IV. Action Items Review from February 27, 2017 meeting (D. Rohr) – Completed.
- V. **DECISION ITEM:** NNI Proposal – Northern Pike Removal in Lake Roosevelt (K. Truscott; C. Baldwin) – CCT provided a revised proposal dated March 3rd. Proposal request was for \$25K for a single year. GPUD had a question regarding what mechanical removal meant. Mechanical removal in the context of this proposal means electrofishing, gill netting, etc. GPUD also asked about what other entities are involved via funding (WDFW, BPA, others). CCT responded WDFW is participating in removal, while others such as BPA, Chelan PUD, American Fisheries Society and tribes are providing dollars. CTUIR asked a question about how will effectiveness be monitored? CCT responded that it would be through standardized

surveys and catch per net or hour. GPUD stressed the importance that the PRCC and its PRCC Policy members need to keep this on their radar and actively participate to ensure that there is a sustained effort to seek funding from sources other than the Mid-C PUD's. GPUD stressed that we already have an example of this as it relates to Caspian tern predation.

WDFW provided their vote by email to D. Rohr, dated March 28, 2017 with the following statement.

WDFW casts the following votes for the following March 29, 2017 PRCC meeting agenda Decision Items:

NNI Proposal – Northern Pike Removal in Lake Roosevelt. WDFW votes to approve the NNI funding proposal request (March 3, 2017 submittal date) submitted by Casey Baldwin. Although the proposed work is located well upstream of Grant PUD's PR project, WDFW feels the threat as represented in the proposal is considerable and the request for funding reasonable in light of that threat. Also, the NNI fund request of \$75,000 covering 3 years of removal, is used to leverage funding for a total project cost of \$507,129.

PRCC members present voted to approve the proposal for 3 years for a not-to-exceed amount of \$75K. **PROPOSAL APPROVED.**

- VI. **DECISION ITEM:** NNI Proposal – Satellite Telemetry of Caspian Terns – An Evaluation of Management to Reduce Predation on ESA-Listed Salmonids in the Columbia Plateau Region (C. Dotson) – GPUD discussed the difference between the December 14 and revised March 6, 2017 NNI proposal. GPUD and others have stressed concern that there is a further need to continue to monitor the remaining "live" satellite tags and develop consumption estimates on salmonids at known colonies. The revised proposal was for a total of \$185,747.

WDFW provided their vote by email to D. Rohr, dated March 28, 2017 with the following statement.

WDFW casts the following votes for the following March 29, 2017 PRCC meeting agenda Decision Items:

NNI Proposal – Satellite Telemetry of Caspian Terns – An Evaluation of Management to Reduce Predation of ESA-Listed Salmonids in the Columbia Plateau Region. WDFW votes to approve the NNI funding request proposed in the revised and reduced scope-of-work in the 2017 Caspian Tern study proposal, submittal date March 6, 2017. WDFW does this while taking the position that funding research from the NNI Fund, even if the goal is to use the information obtained to eventually improve juvenile Project smolt survival, is not an appropriate use of these funds. WDFW approves the scaled-down, 2 Task, \$185,747, 2017 NNI funding request because we believe there is value in completing the tracking of the 24 Caspian terns with the still functioning satellite-tags (Task #1). We also agree it is reasonable and beneficial to continue the recovery of PIT tags in 2017 and to then conduct the analysis of predation rates on salmonid smolts (Task #2).

In response to the WDFW statement that research funding from the NNI Fund being an inappropriate use of these funds, Grant cited several examples wherein NNI funds have been used in the past to fund PRCC approved research projects. Grant stated It is their opinion that the efforts to continue to monitor and collect information to reduce predation on ESA-listed

salmonids in the Columbia Plateau Region by avian predation, such as Caspian terns, is well within the prevue for NNI funding.

PRCC members present voted to approve the proposal for up to \$185,747. **PROPOSAL APPROVED.**

GPUD also informed the PRCC that GPUD would be seeking support (letters) from the PRCC and PRCC-Policy members as it relates to the lethal take of Caspian terns at the Priest Rapids Project. GPUD is also seeking support on a letter that will go to the USCOE and USBOR requesting that they fully implement all the measures identified based on the criteria within the Inland Avian Action Plan.

- VII. **Update** – 2017 Steelhead Survival Study (C. Dotson) – GPUD provided an updated Draft study plan. The only change was the redistribution of tags at the release locations. Study is expected to begin 3rd to 4th week of April. GPUD will begin gatewell dipping the week of April 10th to determine run-timing.
- VIII. **Grant PUD Coho Mitigation** (T. Dresser) – No updates.
- IX. **2017 Spill Representatives** (C. Dotson) – CTUIR (Tom Skiles) and Yakama Nation (Bob Rose) will be the 2017 Spill representatives along with Curt Dotson (GPUD).
- X. **POTPOURRI** (D. Rohr)
 - A. Final GCPUD 2017 Total Dissolved Gas Abatement Plan – filed with FERC.
 - B. Pinniped news story – Rohr reviewed the story which outlined the number of pinnipeds in the lower Columbia River area and related activities.
 - C. Discussion of May hydro tour activities – Rohr requested PRCC member's thoughts and ideas for the Wanapum / Priest Rapids tour to take place in May.
- XI. **UPDATES**
 - A. Avian Predation Activities (C. Dotson) - 2016 Draft Report #3 sent out. Wrapped up before the field study. Comments and edits are to be submitted to Curt the week of April 10-14.
 - B. Hatchery Activities (T. Dresser) – No Updates.
 - 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). The Methow spring Chinook Section 10 permit was received from NOAA-Fisheries.
 - D. Review of NNI Funded Projects
 - 1. (Final Report Update) -- 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)
 - 2. Upper Columbia Fish Screen Monitoring Program Phase I - II Contract Extension – (J. Korth) – No Updates.

3. Mid-Columbia River Intake Screen and Diversion Assessment (2016-17) – (T. Dresser) – After discussion occurred, PRCC requested that WDFW provide a status update on work progress to date.
4. Lower Wenatchee Instream Flow Enhancement Project Phase II – (J. Korth) – After discussion occurred, PRCC requested that Trout Unlimited provide a status update on work progress to date.
5. Methow Valley Irrigation District (MVID) Instream Flow Improvement Project (T. Dresser) – After discussion occurred, PRCC requested that Trout Unlimited provide a status update on work progress to date.
6. Predator Fish Recruitment Reduction (B. Rose) – A total of \$10K via the NNI fund was provided to support this project. Time for completion was extended to December 2017. Regional discussions are occurring on this project.
7. Quincy Valley Chamber of Commerce / Tourism Association – 2017 Northern Pikeminnow Fishing Derby (T. Dresser) – Derby scheduled for May 19-21, 2017. GPUD reported PRCC concern to QV-Chamber over the limited number of anglers participating last year. NOAA-Fisheries indicated that it is becoming difficult to continue to support this project.

XII. Committee Reports (D. Rohr) – Rohr distributed by email.

XIII. Qtrly NNI and Habitat Funds Report (D. Rohr) – Nothing to report.

XIV. Next Meeting – Wed, April 26, 2017, Wanapum HOB Conf Rm 107 (D. Rohr)

Action Items from March 29, 2017 meeting:

- Rohr to contact WDFW and request updates on NNI funded screening projects.
- Rohr to contact Trout Unlimited and request updates on NNI funded projects.

Decisions from March 29, 2017 meeting:

- NNI Proposal to fund Northern Pike Removal in Lake Roosevelt for up to \$75,000 over 3 years was approved.
- NNI Proposal to fund Satellite Telemetry of Caspian Terns for up to \$185,747 was approved.

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