



Grant County
PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT
Excellence in Service and Leadership

Priest Rapids Coordinating Committee

Wednesday, May 24, 2017

9:00 am – 3:30pm

Meeting Minutes

PRCC Meeting Representatives

Scott Carlon, Justin Yeager (Alt), NMFS
Bob Rose, YN
Tom Skiles, CTUIR
GCPUD Admin Ass't
Denny Rohr, D. Rohr & Assoc, Facilitator

Jim Craig, USFWS
Kirk Truscott, Casey Baldwin (Alt.) CCT
Jeff Korth, C. Andonaegui (Alt), P. Verhey (Alt) WDFW Erin McIntyre,
Curt Dotson, Tom Dresser (Alt), GCPUD

PRCC Meeting Attendees

Jim Craig, USFWS
Curt Dotson, GCPUD
Denny Rohr, D. Rohr & Assoc., Facilitator
Danny Didricksen, WDFW
Bob Rose, YN,

Tom Skiles, CTUIR
Scott Carlon, NMFS
Erin McIntyre, GCPUD
Keely Murdoch, YN
Jenni Novak, WDFW

Final Approved Meeting Minutes

- I. 9:00 am – Wanapum Dam Tour
 - A. PRCC viewed the WFB in operation. No helicopter flight or gatewell dipping observed during the tour due to high winds at the project.

- II. 10:30 am – Regular Meeting Starting Time
- III. Agenda Review (D. Rohr)-No additions to the agenda
- IV. Meeting Minutes Review: (D. Rohr)
December 13-14, 2016 meetings; January 25, 2017 conference call; January 31, 2017 meeting; February 27, 2017 meeting; March 13-15-17, 2017; March 29, 2017 meeting; April 26, 2017. – Work in progress.
- V. Action Items Review from April 26, 2017 meeting (D. Rohr) - Completed
- VI. Bob Rose Information and Comments (B. Rose) – Rose said that he will be phasing out as the YN PRCC representative over the next 2-3 months, and Keely Murdoch will be transitioning

in as the YN representative in his place. Rose said that he will be staying on as the alternate PRCC representative for the YN.

- VII. Grant PUD Coho Mitigation** (C. Dotson) – Rohr distributed email on 5/16/2017 to the PRCC members with an attached Grant PUD White Paper on the Spring Chinook 2014 survival study results. Dotson presented a PowerPoint that showed different aspects (i.e. travel times, development survival rates) seen during the 2014 yearling Chinook survival study and compared them to those seen in other year's yearling Chinook survival studies. The PPT presented displayed data that was also presented in Grant's whitepaper that was sent to the PRCC earlier. Based on the data presented, Grant's position and proposal is that the 2014 yearling Chinook survival estimate of 90.8% for the PR Project is a valid estimate and should be accepted and used as the "5-year" check-in survival estimate for yearling Chinook, even though there was a drawdown of the Wanapum reservoir due to the Wanapum fracture event.

Skiles questioned what the PR reservoir travel rate was for yearling Chinook in 2014. Dotson said that the travel rate seen was the same as previous years, and Dotson commented he can look up the actual amount, if needed. Murdoch asked if Rock Island Dam (RID) was on different operations during the 2014 Wanapum draw down? Was the flow different and reduced a little? Were there any migratory corridor differences? Dotson responded that the turbine operations at RID was different due to the head differential seen on the turbines due to the lower RI tailrace as a result of the lowered Wanapum reservoir. Regarding different flows, "no", RI dam is the same as Wanapum and Priest Rapids dams. They are all "run-of-river" dams meaning whatever flows come down the Columbia River get passed through the dams and continues on down the river. Murdoch commented that she was reluctant to use the 2014 data due its possible affect upon the Coho program and the hatchery production recalculation that is coming up. Dotson said that the drawdown of 28 feet of the Wanapum pool did not have impact on yearling Chinook travel times nor survival rates. Dotson mentioned that Grant did see an affect upon the travel times of steelhead during the 2014 study, and for that reason rejected the 2014 WAN steelhead results. Grant did not see the same impacts to the yearling Chinook. The next "5-year check-in" for yearling Chinook would be in 2019. A question was asked of Murdoch when an estimate for Coho is needed to be used in the hatchery production recalculation process. She said that a number would need to be known by 2021 to calculate the 2022 brood collection for a 2024 release.

At the conclusion of the discussion, the committee decided that more dialogue about this topic is needed. Rose and Murdoch said that they would not be in attendance at the June PRCC meeting. Rohr asked Dotson when Grant needed an answer regarding this question. Dotson said Grant would like to know in the next few months because Grant's contract with the YN for Coho production terminates at the end of this year. Therefore, more discussion will occur at the June PRCC meeting with possibly a Grant SOA in July to address Grant's position and proposal that the 2014 yearling Chinook survival estimate of 90.8% for the PR Project is a valid estimate and should be accepted and used as the "5-year" check-in survival estimate for yearling Chinook.

- VIII. Danny Didricksen/WDFW and Jenni Novak/WDFW – Presentation to provide Update of NNI Funded Screen Projects** (T.Dresser) - Novak presented a PPT that updated some of the screening projects in the upper tributaries. Didricksen presented work being done at an orchard irrigation pumping station in the Priest Rapids forebay. Both of these presentations

were updates on the NNI funded projects related to screening/irrigation projects. Rohr will distribute the power point to PRCC members.

- IX. DECISION ITEM: Quincy Valley Tourism Association – Request to change 2017 Pikeminnow Fishing Derby Dates from June 23-25 to September 22-24 (T. Dresser)**
Truscott and Korth were not in attendance at the meeting but shared with Rohr prior to the meeting a “No” vote on this question due to endangered species fish (Steelhead) numbers peaking in the river during the month of Sept. Dotson asked the question regarding other “fish activities” that take place during Sept. and their impact to steelhead, and also the fact that the derby took place during September in 2011 and there were no reports of steelhead impacted. The reason for the change in the derby dates is due to construction projects still taking place at Crescent Bar during the month of June which results in possible safety issues. Some members are a “Yes” vote, and there was discussion of possibly other dates in July or August instead of moving to September. Committee members had additional questions and directed Rohr to discuss with Truscott and Korth. If Truscott and Korth are comfortable with the questions and answers remaining, Rohr will discuss further with the members and call for a committee vote via email.

MEETING AGENDA ITEMS BELOW WILL BE ADDRESSED AS TIME ALLOWS

(Note: The following items, except for XIII.E.9, were not addressed or discussed due to time constraints)

- X. Discussion Item -- Estimating the Survival of Juvenile Spring Chinook Salmon in Lake Wenatchee, WA (J. Korth)**
- XI. POTPOURRI (D. Rohr)**
A. NNI Funding Guidance Document, dated 12/28/13
- XII. UPDATES**
- A. Avian Predation Activities (C. Dotson) (Weekly Reports being distributed to PRCC members)
- B. Spill Report (C. Dotson)
- C. Hatchery Activities (T. Dresser)
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)
- E. Review of Outstanding 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) – See Agenda Item #6 Above

3. Mid-Columbia River Intake Screen and Diversion Assessment (2016-17) – (T. Dresser) – (See Agenda Item #6 Above)
4. Lower Wenatchee Instream Flow Enhancement Project Phase II – (J. Korth)
5. Methow Valley Irrigation District (MVID) Instream Flow Improvement Project (T. Dresser)
6. Predator Fish Recruitment Reduction (B. Rose) – C. Dotson
7. Quincy Valley Chamber of Commerce / Tourism Association – 2017 Northern Pikeminnow Fishing Derby (T. Dresser)
8. Northern Pike Removal in Lake Roosevelt (K. Truscott)
9. Satellite Telemetry of Caspian Terns (C. Dotson) – Dotson mentioned that the last tern survey showed 121 terns, with 45 nests at Lake Lenore. He also referenced the IAPMP trigger regarding 40 nests at a tern colony resulting in the need to take preventative action. Dotson pointed out that tags from 2016 were recovered from Lake Lenore last year. Dotson also mentioned that the May 17th report of RTR tagging of steelhead smolts at the Rock Island Index Station has identified signs of gas bubble trauma in 21% of the juveniles collected.

XIII. Committee Reports (D. Rohr)

XIV. Qtrly NNI and Habitat Funds Report (D. Rohr)

XV. Next Meeting – Wed, June 28, 2017, Wanapum HOB, Conf Rm 107 (D. Rohr)

XVI. 12:30 pm – Depart for Priest Rapids Dam Tour

- A. PRCC observed the PRFB in operation. No gatewell dipping nor helicopter release due to high winds.

XVII. 2:30 pm (approximate) – End Priest Rapids Tour and Adjourn PRCC Meeting and Activities for the day.

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