



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

## Priest Rapids Coordinating Committee Meeting

Wednesday, April 22, 2015

9:00 am

SeaTac Radisson Hotel

### PRCC Representatives

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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  
Debbie Williams, GCPUD, Administrative Assistant

### Attendees

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Scott Carlon, NMFS  
Bob Rose, YN  
Jeff Korth, WDFW (by Phone)  
Curt Dotson, GCPUD  
Denny Rohr, D. Rohr & Assoc, Facilitator

Jim Craig, USFWS  
Kirk Truscott, CCT  
Tom Skiles, CTUIR  
Tom Dresser, GCPUD

### Decision Summary:

1. PRCC members at today's meeting decided to continue the process of PRCC approval of all Hatchery Subcommittee approved SOAs and asked the facilitator to confirm.
2. PRCC members affirmed that Scott Carlon, Tom Skiles, and Curt Dotson are the 2015 spill representatives.
3. See the PRCC members decisions below, included within agenda items VII(D)(1) and VII(D)(2), regarding the 2015 Smolt Survival Studies.

### Action Items:

1. Rohr will follow up with PRCC members regarding details of the March 27<sup>th</sup> PRCC meeting to be held at Wanapum Dam and include a tour of PR Project facilities.
2. (Placeholder) Carlon and Dresser will do follow up work and prepare an SOA for May or June, 2015 discussion of how to address the 5 year check in language in the Salmon and Steelhead Settlement Agreement.
3. (Placeholder) Rohr will research and develop information regarding avian predation funding that has taken place in the Columbia River Basin, plus funding amounts of those involved (placeholder).

## Meeting Minutes

- I. **Welcome and Introductions** – Rohr welcomed all meeting participants.
- II. **Meeting Minutes Approval (D. Rohr) -**
  - A. Approval for February 25, 2015 -
    1. Meeting Minutes were approved by all subject to further review and approval by Korth.
  - B. Approval for March 25, 2015 -
    1. PRCC requested more time for review and approval. Craig commented on the fact that the original draft meeting minutes did not fully capture the discussion of the proposed testing regarding the 2015 Smolt Survival Studies. Committee members also made a few general comments about the limited details in the original draft meeting minutes of the discussion.
- III. **Agenda Review (D. Rohr) -** No additions were made to the agenda.
- IV. **Action Items Review for March 25, 2015 Meeting (D. Rohr)**
  - A. Rohr will determine if PRCC protocols require that Statement's of Agreement (SOAs) approved by the Hatchery Subcommittee also need to be approved by the PRCC. Previously it appears that all Hatchery Subcommittee approved SOAs were reviewed and approved by PRCC. **The PRCC at today's meeting decided to continue that process and asked the facilitator to confirm.**
  - B. Rohr will distribute a copy of the federal congressional proposal for House Resolution 564: Endangered Salmon and Fisheries Predation Prevention Act. **The information was emailed by Rohr ided to PRCC members.**
  - C. Carlon and Dresser will do follow up work and prepare an SOA for May or June, 2015 discussion of how to address the 5 year check in language in the Salmon and Steelhead Settlement Agreement (placeholder). **Ongoing**
  - D. Rohr will research and develop information regarding avian predation funding that has taken place in the Columbia River Basin, plus funding amounts of those involved (placeholder). **Ongoing**
- V. **Affirmation of 2015 Spill Representatives (D. Rohr) -** The PRCC affirmed that Scott Carlon, Jim Craig and Curt Dotson are the 2015 spill representatives.
- VI. **Potpourri (D. Rohr)**
  - A. Review/Update of PRCC Process Regarding Approval of Hatchery SC Statements of Agreement – **See discussion above under Action Items.**
  - B. Congressional House Resolution 564: Endangered Salmon and Fisheries Predation Prevention Act – **See discussion above under Action Items.**
- VII. **Updates**
  - A. Inland Avian Predation Activities (C. Dotson) - Dotson gave a quick update concerning the Phase 2 implementation of the Inland Avian Predation Management Plan, i.e. additional dissuasion materials at Goose Island & NW Rock and the placing of dissuasion materials at Crescent Island.

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 (Section 10 for Summer Chinook and Section 7 Consultation for Bull Trout. (T. Dresser) - No Updates

D. 2015 Smolt Survival Study (C. Dotson)

1. Fish Mode Evaluation - Substantial discussion and clarification occurred on the "fish mode" evaluation which will be conducted at Priest Rapids Dam during the spring outmigration in 2015. The PRCC membership have several key questions which included, but were not limited to the following: (1) robust data set, (2) appropriate study design, (3) how will data be evaluated, (4) where does this information lead, (5) what is the survival for the turbine units above 17.5 kcfs, (6) what is the percentage of time that turbine units are above "fish mode".

Several PRCC members raised concern over the lack of an appropriate study design that addressed the questions that they had, potential risk to ESA-listed species, and having no empirical data to evaluate on a real-time basis. After further discussion, the PRCC ultimately agreed to the following;

- a. Grant PUD will be allowed to suspend Fish Mode Operations criteria at Priest Rapids Dam for the 2015 Study Period beginning May 1, 2015 and ending June 15, 2015.
  - b. During the study period, data will be collected to define the period (%) of time that flow levels exceeded 17.5 kcfs per turbine unit (i.e. max. Fish Mode operations flow).
  - c. Grant PUD will provide bi-weekly updates to the PRCC on the percentage of time flow levels exceeded 17.5 kcfs per turbine unit (i.e. max. Fish Mode operations flow).
  - d. PRCC members will have the opportunity to reinstate Fish Mode operation criteria at Priest Rapids Dam after reviewing the preliminary report anticipated to be distributed at the September 23, 2015 meeting;
  - e. PRCC members will have the opportunity to request a study be performed in 2016 to determine smolt survival when PRD turbine flow operations exceed 17.5 kcfs.
2. WFB FPE Evaluation - Grant PUD confirmed with the PRCC membership that Wanapum Dam Fish Mode operations criteria will remain in place for the entire salmonid out-migration season. Grant PUD also confirmed and the PRCC agreed that an alternative operation of the Wanapum Fish Bypass (WFB) would be tested on or about May 3, 2015 and end on or about May 29, 2015. Testing would involve alternating flows (20 kcfs & 15 kcfs) through the WFB

on 3-day blocks of time. The goal/objective of the evaluation is to evaluate FPE (Fish Passage Efficiency) between the different flows. Grant PUD committed to provide preliminary information at the September 23, 2015 PRCC meeting.

**VIII. NNI Funded Projects - No Updates**

1. 2014 Real Time Research Avian Study - Including "Comprehensive Assessment of Total Smolt Mortality in Relation to Avian Predation on the Mid- and Lower Columbia River: Spatial and Temporal Analysis of Reservoir-Specific Smolt Losses" (C. Dotson)
2. 2015 Real Time Research / Oregon State University – "Evaluation of Foraging Behavior, Dispersal, and Predation on ESA-listed Salmonids from the Upper Columbia River by Caspian Terns Displaced from Managed Colonies in the Columbia Plateau Region" (C. Dotson)
3. Supplementary Tags and Tagging for Assessment of Predation Losses of Subyearling Chinook Salmon in the lower Hanford Reach and Upper McNary Reservoir (C. Dotson)
4. Upper Columbia Fish Screen Monitoring Program Phase I Contract Extension (J. Korth)
5. Upper Columbia Fish Screen Monitoring Program Phase II (J. Korth)
6. Lower Wenatchee Instream Flow Enhancement Project Phase II (J. Korth)
7. Mid-Columbia River Intake Screen and Diversion Assessment (T. Dresser)
8. Methow Valley Irrigation District (MVID) Instream Flow Improvement Project (T. Dresser)

**IX. Committee Reports (D. Rohr) - Reports were distributed prior to the meeting by Rohr. No additional discussion.**

**X. NNI and Habitat Funds Report (D. Rohr) - No new information available.**

**XI. Next Meeting – May 27, 2015; Details To Be Determined; PRP Spring Tour/Meeting at Wanapum Dam.**