



Grant County
PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT
Excellence in Service and Leadership

Priest Rapids Coordinating Committee Meeting

Wednesday, May 27, 2015
9:00 am
Wanapum Dam Maintenance Center

PRCC 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, Executive Assistant

Attendees

Scott Carlon, NMFS
Jeff Korth, WDFW
Curt Dotson, GCPUD
Denny Rohr, D. Rohr & Assoc., Facilitator

Jim Craig, USFWS
Tom Skiles, CTUIR
Tom Dresser, GCPUD
Orlene Hahn, GCPUD, Executive Assistant

Decision Summary:

1. February 25, 2015 Meeting Minutes were approved.

Action Items:

1. March 25, 2015 Meeting Minutes - Rohr will send out a final draft of the Meeting Minutes to be reviewed by the Committee for approval.
2. April 22, 2015 Meeting Minutes - Rohr send out a final draft of the Meeting Minutes for review by the Committee for approval.
3. Rohr addressed the April 22nd meeting action items and commented that item 1 was completed, and items 2 and 3 were ongoing and being addressed offline by those involved.
4. Rohr will check on meeting schedule for July.

Draft Meeting Minutes

I. Wanapum Dam (WAN) Tour:

The PRCC conducted an onsite tour of the fish husbandry, tagging and release site located at the Wanapum Fishtown located on the right bank of Wanapum Dam. The PRCC also observed a helicopter release operation in the tailrace of Wanapum Dam.

The PRCC also observed gatewell dipping and operation of the WAN Fish Bypass.

At 11:30, the committee traveled to the WMC conference room to conduct its meeting.

II. **Welcome and Introductions** – Rohr welcomed all meeting participants.

III. **Meeting Minutes Approval (D. Rohr)** -

A. Approval for February 25, 2015 -

1. Meeting Minutes were approved.

B. Approval for March 25, 2015 -

1. Rohr read the comments that Truscott had inserted into the draft minutes by email of April 9th. No additional comments were received. At the request of the PRCC members, Rohr will send out a final draft of the Meeting Minutes to be reviewed by the Committee for approval.

C. Approval for April 22, 2015

1. After discussion, Committee Members agreed to have Rohr send out a final draft of the Meeting Minutes for review by the Committee for approval.

PRCC had further discussion regarding Fish Mode operations at Priest Rapids Dam and the Wanapum Fish Bypass operations, as it related to the 15 kcfs flow and 20 kcfs flow test. Korth asked for clarification regarding future fish study to look at fish survival thru the PR turbines when operated above 17.5 kcfs (i.e. Fish Mode upper limit). Grant agreed to provide a draft study plan to the PRCC later this fall for discussion as it relates to smolt survival thru the PR turbines. Dotson reported to the committee that since the suspension of Fish Mode at PRD on May 1st, the turbines have not yet operated above 17.5 kcfs. The committee briefly discussed the email that Skiles had sent to them (see attachment) regarding the amount of flow going thru the WAN Fish Bypass during the 3-day block test. Skiles noted that a number of days had less flow than the targeted 15 or 20 kcfs. Dotson informed the committee that due to lower flows in the river this year, the WAN forebay elevation has been lower than the Bypass design-based forebay elevation of 570.0, and that the flow amount through the bypass is influenced by forebay elevation. There was some brief discussion about the FPAC conference call that took place the week before and the topic of the WFB flow evaluation study – with a possible letter coming from the FPAC to Grant PUD. Further discussion within the PRCC will take place following receiving of the FPAC letter. The group confirmed that the 2015 studies (WFB flow evaluation and PRD FM) should continue forward.

D. Rohr added to the meeting agenda and affirmed for the record that Korth did approve SOA 2015-01, Goat Wall Acclimation Plan, in communication with Rohr after the other Members had approved them at the March 25th meeting subject to Korth's approval.

IV. **Agenda Review (D. Rohr)** - No additions were made to the agenda.

V. **Action Items Review for May 27, 2015 Meeting (D. Rohr)**

Rohr addressed the April 22nd meeting action items and commented that item 1 was completed, and items 2 and 3 were ongoing and being addressed offline by those involved.

VI. **Updates**

A. Inland Avian Predation Activities (C. Dotson) – See attached Columbia Plateau Caspian Tern Satellite Telemetry Study dated May 19, 2015.

B. Sockeye – Dotson informed the committee that there has been a high cull rate for sockeye in this year's study, due primarily to the smolts being too small, and also a small number due to some scale loss and injuries/fungus.

C. Hatchery Activities (T. Dresser) -

1. Carlton Acclimation Facility – All fish have been released from Carlton. Grant PUD is currently in process of reviewing and considering future modifications to the facility (sink, hot water wash and restroom facilities).

2. Nason Creek Acclimation Facility – Drought emergency has been declared for Wenatchee and Methow Basin. Grant PUD is currently reviewing water rights and if possible will fill both Carlton and Nason Creek with well water.

3. Priest Rapids Hatchery Modifications – Grant PUD is planning on additional modifications at the PR Hatchery. This includes addressing a safety issue with the transport tanks and operational fixes at the adult holding facility and floor drains in the incubation building.

4. Penticton Hatchery – 2 million fry from brood year 2014 were originally planned for release in 2015. A mortality event occurred resulting in a loss of 500,000 fry. Thought is that it was the result of bio-fouling with the oxygen system. Releases began on May 20 and it is planned that 1 million fry will be released directly into Shingle creek, while the remaining 500K will be released into the Penticton Channel. ONA is expecting a collection of over 3 million eggs for BY 2015.

D. Hatchery Permits (Section 10 for Summer Chinook and Section 7 Consultation for Bull Trout. (T. Dresser) – Nason Creek in review right now by NOAA.

E. 2015 Smolt Survival Study (C. Dotson)

1. Fish Mode Evaluation – Skiles wanted to know if there was anything more to add. Dotson - Fish mode has been suspended at PR since May 1st. Turbine operations haven't been there.

2. Bypass Operations: See attached email from Skiles dated May 22, 2015 regarding Wanapum Future Unit Bypass.

VII. **NNI Funded Projects**

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) Dotson informed the PRCC that the Final Report has not been finalized yet due to extended review by other agencies whose report the NNI funded study is a part of. The report is the 2014 Annual Report (draft) entitled: Research, Monitoring, and Evaluation of Avian Predation on Salmonid Smolts in the Lower and Mid-Columbia River (Roby, et.al.).

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) See update #1 above.
 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) See update #1 above.
 4. Upper Columbia Fish Screen Monitoring Program Phase I Contract Extension (J. Korth) None
 5. Upper Columbia Fish Screen Monitoring Program Phase II (J. Korth) None
 6. Lower Wenatchee Instream Flow Enhancement Project Phase II (J. Korth) None
 7. Mid-Columbia River Intake Screen and Diversion Assessment (T. Dresser) Danny Didricksen, WDFW, will be scheduled to give an update presentation to the PRCC at an upcoming meeting with specific date to be determined.
 8. Methow Valley Irrigation District (MVID) Instream Flow Improvement Project (T. Dresser) None
- VIII. **Committee Reports (D. Rohr)** - Rohr commented that there were no PRFF or Fall Chinook Working Group meetings this month and therefore no reports.
- IX. **NNI and Habitat Funds Report (D. Rohr)** – Rohr distributed the Report to PRCC members by email. The unencumbered amounts in Fund 601 was \$3.1 million, Fund 602 was \$3.4 million, and Fund 603 was \$615,000.
- X. **Next Meeting** – June 24, 2015; this meeting may be a Webex/Conference Call and Committee Members will be notified accordingly. Members discussed the July meeting dates of the PRCC and the HCP CC as there may be a conflict in scheduling. Rohr will discuss with John Ferguson, HCP CC Chair, and get back to the PRCC.