



Grant County **PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT**

Priest Rapids Fish Forum

Wednesday, April 2, 2014

9:00 – 11:30

Grant PUD Wenatchee Office

Audio: 1-800-977-8002 Bridge: 7422882

PRFF Members

Stephen Lewis, USFWS
Bob Rose, YN
Carl Merkle, Umatilla Tribe
Tom Dresser, GCPUD
Aaron Jackson, CTUIR

Patrick Verhey, WDFW
Keith Hatch, BIA
Pat McGuire, WDOE
Mike Clement, GCPUD
Jason McLellan, CCT

Attendees:

Patrick Verhey, WDFW
Aaron Jackson, CTUIR (via phone)
Pat McGuire, WDOE
Jim Powell, Freshwater Fish (Via phone)
Donna Miller, YN (Via phone)
Tom Dresser, GCPUD (Via phone)

Doris Squeochs, Wanapum
Tom Skiles, CRITFC (Via phone)
Matt Howell, CCT (via phone)
Paul Grutter, Golder (Via phone)
Mike Clement, GCPUD
Debbie Williams, GCPUD

Distributed Items:

1. PRFF Protocols Final 10-29-12
2. Juvenile Sturgeon Release Number for 2014
3. Grant PUD WSMP Juvenile Stocking 2014 Letter 03.18.14
4. Grant PUD Benthic Community Surveys - Draft 03.21.14
5. WDFW White Sturgeon Standardized Fish Health Protocol March 2014 – Draft
6. Dispute Resolution Letter to Ecology 04.20.14
7. PRFF BY13 WS Release Impasse Letter - CCT 03.12.14
8. YN White Sturgeon Stocking Justification Letter – Final
9. CRITFC Umatilla Sturgeon Letter
10. Wanapum White Sturgeon
11. Juvenile Sturgeon Release Number for 2014
12. WDFW 2014 PRFF Dispute Resolution Position Letter
13. GCPUD IFPOP 03.21.2014

14. WAN P4 Update PRFF 04.02.2014
15. Framework for Concurrence PRFF-RRFF 04.01.2014
16. 04.02.2014 Joint Letter and Attachment to NOAA-FERC

Final Meeting Minutes

- A. **Welcome and Introductions**
- B. **Agenda Review** – Wanapum Dam update was added to the agenda.
- C. **Action Items Review** – March 5, 2014 – All Action Items were complete.
- D. **Meeting Minutes Approval** – March 5, 2014 meeting minutes have not been distributed, expect them with the April meeting minutes.
- E. **Wanapum Dam Spillway Pier No.4 – Status Update** – Dresser presented a PowerPoint presentation “Wanapum Dam Spillway Monolith 4, Interim Fish Passage Operation Plan & Reservoir Surveys.” An independent Board of Consultants will be the governing board for all decisions related to the repair. An independent Forensic Investigation Team has also been formed to identify the root cause of the fracture.

A drill team is currently drilling 4" investigative holes at varying depths into the Wanapum Dam Spillway Pier Monolith No. 4 as part of the examination of the fracture found at 485'. Water levels were lowered to 541'-545' in an effort to stabilize the monolith. The monolith has settled into a safe position with the crack essentially closed. A larger platform will be constructed on the monolith to support workers and their equipment. Drilling is expected to take about three to four weeks. The drilling will help determine the geometry of the fracture and how far it reaches into the monolith. Grant PUD hopes to reach a 562' forebay level by May. All piers will be investigated for structural integrity.

Temporary Mitigation- Subgroups have been developed for each of the five categories: Cultural Resources, FERC Communications, Fish Passage, Shoreline Closures, and Irrigators.

Modifications to the Wanapum Left Bank Fish Ladder are being made. Electric pumps are currently being installed in the fish ladder in order to pump 40 cfs into the weir box that will be located at the opening to the forebay. A flume will be attached to the weir box in order to minimize the drop to the forebay. Modifications will also be made to accommodate lamprey passage. Engineers are confident that ladder modifications will be in place by April 15th, which is the start of the spring Chinook salmon run. Dresser received a call from FERC regarding the interim fish plan yesterday; he expects to see something from FERC next week. Downstream fish-passage features can operate under the low-reservoir conditions.

The Off Ladder Adult Fish Trap (OLAFT) will be used to trap and haul fish around Wanapum Dam. A flume system will be utilized for a water to water fish transfer to the truck. Engineers hope to have the ability to sort fish at the OLAFT by April 15th. Fish densities are based on a 14 pound fish. Nordlund suggested the truck be moved parallel to the OLAFT so fish are not damaged during the transfer. Plans call for six trucks to be used for trap and haul; WDFW offered two more if needed. PRCC members agreed that trap and haul be utilized while determining if spring Chinook are utilizing the ladder. In order to determine if the ladder is successful, proof of concept needs to be discussed and determined. The question of how much proof is needed in order to determine that the ladder is working and trap and haul isn't necessary? Fish would be off-loaded at either Rocky Ford Coulee or the Kirby Billingsley

Hydro Park above Rock Island Dam. Korth said a backup plan is needed incase trap and haul has to be conducted exclusively.

Temporary PIT arrays are being installed at Wanapum. In an effort to gather passage information quickly, Grant PUD would like to PIT-tag 2000 fish at Bonneville Dam in order to get passage information proving that ladder modifications are working. Historic data points will be used for passage comparison purposes.

Hydro Operations will have 9 units available to run turbines between 8-15 kcfs by April 12th. Wanapum Dam fish mode upper limit is 15.7 kcfs. Modeling shows that as the net head on the turbine is decreased, the range for fish survival expands. Six spillways are expected to be available at Wanapum by April 1st. Turbine and spillway passage combined will pass between 340-360 kcfs (280 kcfs spillway passage) of river flow.

Grant PUD will continue to prioritize work as well as continue to meet the requirements contained within the FERC License, NOAA & USFW Biological Opinions, 401 Certification, Hanford Reach Fall Chinook Protection Plan and Priest Rapids Salmon and Steelhead Settlement Agreement, without interruption.

Water Quality is being monitored at 12 temporary locations, as well as at Fixed Monitoring sites.

Weekly high level briefing calls regarding the Wanapum Fracture will be held each Monday morning at 8:00 a.m. Dresser invited all PRFF members to participate. He noted that press releases are being sent out weekly, Grant PUD's website is updated as needed, and that private meetings are being held upon request. Dresser encouraged all PRFF members to contact their PRCC representatives for up to date information.

F. Update on Pacific Lamprey Management Plan

1. **NNI Update** – The Yakama Nation, Grant PUD, and others will meet to discuss Pacific lamprey assessments and recovery actions for NNI. They will work to determine what the conceptual framework will look like. The overarching concept will allow for continued conservation geared toward natural and supplemental production of lamprey.
2. **Lamprey Regional Implementation Planning Process** – Local experts will meet in April or May to fill out templates for the Pacific Lamprey Regional Implementation Planning process.
3. **Update on Juvenile Lamprey Sampling** – Clement reported that as soon as the banks of the river had stabilized and considered "safe" after the drawdown, Blue Leaf Environmental started juvenile lamprey sampling in the Wanapum Reservoir. Data gathered will be incorporated in the Benthic Study Plan. Both ammocoetes and macrophthalmia were observed.

G. Update on White Sturgeon Management Plan

1. **Juvenile Rearing and Health at Marion Drain** – Juvenile sturgeon rearing at Marion Drain, Chelan Falls, and Wells hatcheries are growing at a normal rate. Samples of juvenile sturgeon from Marion Drain are being analyzed for iridovirus in Olympia. Results should be available soon. Samples from Columbia Basin and Chelan Falls hatcheries have been analyzed and are negative for iridovirus.
2. **Update on Dispute Resolution and Stocking Decision for 2014** – Because the voting parties of the PRFF were unable to reach consensus on the number of juvenile sturgeon to release in the Project Area in 2014, the voting members elected to initiate the dispute

resolution process as defined in Article VI of the Final Priest Rapids Fish Forum Protocols. Except for the USFWS, voting parties submitted letters to the Chair of the PRFF stating the reasons for the dispute and their respective positions on the dispute. The Chair then submitted a letter to Ecology indicating that the voting parties have elected to use the dispute resolution process. As dictated by the protocol, a subcommittee was set up to resolve the dispute. The subcommittee will meet on Friday, 11 April. They will prepare a report that describes their recommendation for resolving the dispute. The report will be sent to the PRFF Chair, who will then forward it to the PRFF. The PRFF will review the report and approve or reject the recommendation by the subcommittee.

3. **WSMP Standardized WSIV Protocol** – WDFW shared their proposed White Sturgeon Fish Health Plan with the PRFF. WDFW asked for comments on the plan. Comments are due to WDFW by 7 May.
 4. **Broodstock Collection** – Broodstock collection will begin in late May. Grant PUD is funding broodstock collection downstream from Rock Island Dam and an additional boat in the McNary tailrace to augment CPUD's efforts. It is expected that adult sturgeon should be aggregated because of the low reservoir levels in Wanapum reservoir.
 5. **Juvenile Release Strategy/Options** - Juvenile sturgeon will be tagged beginning on 14 April. Although the total number of juvenile sturgeon to release in 2014 has not yet been determined, there will be at least 4,332 sturgeon released. Therefore, at least 3,336 juveniles will be released in Wanapum Reservoir and at least 996 will be released into the Priest Rapids Reservoir. Releases will likely occur around 6 May.
- H. **Study Plan to Assess Effects of Wanapum Drawdown on Benthics** – Grant PUD provided the PRFF with a draft plan to assess stranding of benthic organisms in Wanapum Reservoir due to water level reductions. The plan describes a rigorous sampling design that will assess effects of the reservoir reduction on benthic communities both on land (dewatered areas) and in water. Grant PUD indicated that sampling began when it was safe for the biologists to conduct the surveys. Biologists have identified stranded fish (including lamprey), mussels, snails, and other benthic organisms along the reservoir. In addition, Blue Leaf Environmental will conduct lamprey ammocoetes surveys when it is safe to do so.
- I. **Next Meeting** – May 7th, 2014 at Grant PUD's Wenatchee, WA office.