



Grant County
PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT
Excellence in Service and Leadership

Priest Rapids Fish Forum

Wednesday, 1 June 2016

9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Grant PUD, 11 Spokane St., Suite 205B, Wenatchee, WA

Call-In Number: 1-800-977-8002, Bridge: 7422882

MEETING MINUTES

PRFF REPRESENTATIVES

Stephen Lewis, USFWS

Bob Rose, YN

Doris Squeochs, Wanapum

Jason McLellan, CCT

Mike Clement, Grant PUD

Orlene Hahn, Grant PUD

Patrick Verhey, Chad Jackson, WDFW

Pat McGuire, WDOE

Aaron Jackson, Carl Merkle, CTUIR

Keith Hatch, BIA

Chris Mott, Grant PUD

Tracy Hillman, Facilitator

ATTENDEES

RD Nelle, USFWS (via phone)

Pat Wyena, Wanapum (via phone)

Pat McGuire, WDOE (via phone)

Kirk Truscott, CCT

Chris Mott, Grant PUD

Rod O'Connor, Blue Leaf (via phone)

Tracy Hillman, Facilitator

Chad Jackson, WDFW (via phone)

Mike Clement, Grant PUD

Patrick Verhey, WDFW

Steve Lewis, USFWS

Orlene Hahn, Grant PUD

Jason McLellan, CCT (via phone)

Action Items:

1. Orlene Hahn will upload the juvenile sturgeon release video to YouTube and send the link Tracy Hillman, who will forward the link to the PRFF.
2. Tracy Hillman will contact the RRFF and see if the RRFF Pacific Lamprey Subgroup can meet jointly with the PRFF Subgroup to discuss appropriate lamprey passage metrics.
3. Tracy Hillman will send out a Doodle Poll asking members to identify dates for the Pacific Lamprey Subgroup Meeting.

I. Welcome and Introductions

II. Agenda Review

- A. Additional Agenda Items – No new agenda items were provided.

III. Approve May Meeting Notes – 4 May 2016 Meeting Minutes were reviewed and approved.

- A. Review Action Items from May Meeting

1. Chris Mott will send Tracy Hillman a video of the juvenile sturgeon release to share with the Forum. **Completed. Orlene Hahn will upload the video to YouTube and send the link Tracy Hillman, who will forward the link to the PRFF.**
2. The PRFF will review the draft 2016 sturgeon monitoring plan and send comments to Chris Mott by 1 June 2016. **Complete. Jason McLellan, Paul Grutter, and Chris Mott will conference on Monday, 6 June 2016, to discuss changes to the 2016 monitoring plan. Jason was the only one who provided comments to Chris.**
3. Chris Mott will provide dates to the PRFF when broodstock spawning occurs. Members are encouraged to help with stirring eggs. **Chris Mott did provide the information, but things happened very quickly and there was not much time to notify people. Egg stirring occurred last Friday, 27 May 2016.**
4. Bob Rose to write a draft SOA to address adult Pacific lamprey NNI. **Ongoing.**
5. Tracy Hillman will send out the final Agenda for the ASWG Pacific Lamprey Workshop. **Completed.**

IV. Update on White Sturgeon Management Plan (WSMP)

- A. **Larvae and Broodstock Collection** – Chris Mott reported on the collection of white sturgeon broodstock. He stated that they fished for ten days and collected 11 males and 11 females, which were transported to Marian Drain. The largest female weighed 436 pounds and was 9.5 feet long. Chris indicated that there was more water this year. This made access closer to the dam impossible. In addition, the weather was not the best for collecting broodstock. Nevertheless, broodstock collection was successful.

Chris said they spawned fish on Friday. Broodstock collection successfully resulted in a 6x6 matrix. The sturgeon were injected on Wednesday night and Thursday morning, and by Friday the females were dropping eggs. Donella Miller reported to Chris that everything was cleaned up and eggs were fertilized by 7:00 pm Friday, 27 May 2016. The remaining five females are being kept for backup and will be released back to the river at some later date.

Chad Jackson reported on the upcoming larvae collection, stating that everything is good to go. All contracts have been signed and WDFW is currently scoping the collection sites. Chad said they are a little worried as they are seeing some of the same temperatures as last year, but flows are better this year. If anybody is interested in going out to help with larvae collection they are to contact Chad.

- B. **Monitoring Plan for 2016** – Chris Mott reported that he received comments only from Jason McLellan on the 2016 monitoring plan. Chris, Jason, and Paul Grutter will conference on Monday, 6 June 2016, to discuss revisions to the 2016 monitoring plan.
- C. **Diet Surveys in June** – Chris Mott reported that diet surveys are scheduled for the week of June 6-10, 2016. Stewart Hurd will captain one boat and Grant PUD will have another boat in Wanapum Pool. They are going to try to explore different areas to see if they can find where target sturgeon are holding. Anyone interested in helping with collecting fish for diet analyses should contact Chris.

Chris stated their collection permit allows a lethal take of up to 200 target sturgeon. Chris said he is not sure they will be able to get that many fish because during the first survey one boat fished for five days and caught 15 fish of which only five were able to be sampled for diet contents. Angling techniques are used to collect sturgeon for diet analyses.

Kirk Truscott asked about the recreational fishery on CRITFC sturgeon. Chad Jackson said WDFW is doing an internal review. The next step is to discuss this with the tribal co-managers. They (WDFW) are hoping to open the fishery on 1 July 2016. Jason suggested that any CRITFC fish captured during monitoring should be included in diet sampling.

- D. **Other White Sturgeon Items** – No other sturgeon items were discussed.

V. **Update on Pacific Lamprey Management Plan (PLMP)**

- A. **Adult Lamprey No Net Impact (NNI) Update** – Mike Clement said there was a conference call last week with the Regional Pacific Lamprey Technical Workgroup, Passage Metrics Subgroup. The group discussed the status of their three-phased approach, which was developed about five years ago. Mike said the group is currently working on phase 3, which is to define appropriate lamprey passage metrics. At present, the subgroup has not identified or described appropriate passage metric. Mike said the PLMP indicates that we need to measure passage success, address dam passage to the extent reasonable and feasible, and then address unavoidable effects (NNI). Grant PUD is wanting to work with regional experts on defining appropriate lamprey passage success. Mike indicated that the regional subgroup will meet in Portland on 8 June to further discuss Phase 3. Sadly, this is the same time as the ASWG Lamprey Workshop in East Wenatchee. Therefore, mid-Columbia lamprey biologists will not be able to attend the regional subgroup meeting in Portland.

Because it is unlikely the regional subgroup will identify appropriate lamprey passage metrics anytime soon, members requested that the PRFF lamprey subgroup convene and identify appropriate lamprey passage metrics, how they are measured, and how unavoidable effects (NNI) will be assessed. Members asked Tracy Hillman to contact the RRF and see if the PRFF and RRF lamprey subgroups can convene jointly to discuss lamprey passage. Tracy will then send members a Doodle poll to identify a meeting date for the subgroups.

- B. **Update on Adult Lamprey Monitoring** – Rod O'Connor with Blue Leaf reported that 100 adult lamprey were collected during the peak migration period in July-August 2015. Each lamprey was implanted with a Vemco V7 acoustic tag and a full-duplex PIT tag. There were 30 fish released upstream from Priest Rapids Dam and 70 released upstream from Wanapum Dam. The batteries have now or will soon expire on all the tags that were released last summer. The last ping was detected on 30 May.

Rod said they have redetected 94 of the 100 tagged fish; only six fish are missing (they have not been detected since release). Rod then described the location of the last detections. There were 13 fish last detected entering tributaries; four into the Wenatchee River and nine into the Entiat River, including two fish that entered the Entiat River within the last two weeks. There were 53 fish last detected in the tailrace of the dams including Wanapum tailrace (7 fish), Rock Island tailrace (38 fish), and Rocky Reach tailrace (8 fish). There were 13 fish that were last recorded moving in a downstream direction. Three of these have moved at least 10 miles downstream from the farthest upstream detection location. Rod said they are seeing some exploratory behavior with fish moving downstream that were distributed downstream of Wanapum Dam, Rock Island, and Rocky Reach dams. There was one fish after it was released that went right away to Wells Dam and then turned downstream and was detected near Rocky Reach Dam. This fish was recently detected in the lower Entiat River.

Rod indicated that they ordered another batch of 100 tags and intend to repeat this study in 2016. This year, however, they will try to extend the battery life of the active tags. These "sleep-

mode" tags should last an entire year. Rod stated that the last batch of tags pinged continuously until the end of their battery life. Because fish are not active (moving) in January and February, there is a useless drain on the battery during winter. The new tags that have been ordered are turned on in the summer and then turn themselves off in January-February when there is no movement. Tags turn back on in March when fish are more active. This should provide enough battery life to last through August. The tags are the same size as the tags used in 2015; they are simply programmed differently.

Mike stated that tagging this year will be based on when we start consistently seeing adults approach Priest Rapids. We will then deploy our traps and collect fish. Grant PUD will be collecting fish for Chelan PUD's study this summer as well. Mike said there are already 3,200 lamprey that have passed Bonneville Dam (based on day counts) and it is still early. In addition, there are many that over-wintered in the mainstem. They are going to tag the first 225 for Grant PUD's purposes and then continue to collect fish for Chelan PUD's purposes.

C. **Aquatic Settlement Work Group (ASWG) Workshop** – The ASWG Lamprey Workshop is scheduled for 8 June 2016 at Douglas PUD in East Wenatchee. The Agenda was sent to the PRFF last week.

D. **Other Pacific Lamprey Items** – No other lamprey items were discussed.

VI. **Next Meeting:** If necessary, the next meeting of the PRFF will be on 6 July 2016 at the Grant PUD Natural Resources Wenatchee Office.