



Grant County
PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT
Excellence in Service and Leadership

Priest Rapids Fish Forum

Wednesday, 4 January 2017

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

Steve Lewis, USFWS

Bob Rose, YN

Pat Wyena, Doris Squeochs, Wanapum

Jason McLellan, CCT

Mike Clement, Grant PUD

Tracy Hillman, Facilitator

Patrick Verhey, Chad Jackson, WDFW

Breean Zimmerman, WDOE

Aaron Jackson, Carl Merkle, CTUIR

Keith Hatch, BIA

Chris Mott, Grant PUD

Erin McIntyre, Grant PUD

ATTENDEES

Mike Clement, Grant PUD

Steve Lewis, USFWS

Breean Zimmerman, WDOE (via phone)

Erin McIntyre, Grant PUD

Rod O'Connor, Blue Leaf (via phone)

Tracy Hillman, Facilitator

RD Nelle, USFWS

Chad Jackson, WDFW (via phone)

Doris Squeochs, Grant PUD

Chris Mott, Grant PUD

Julie Maenhout, Blue Leaf (Via Phone)

Action Items:

1. Mike Clement will discuss with Grant PUD's AIS biologist the inclusion of shoreline surveys in their aquatic invasive species surveys.
2. Chris Mott will check with Golder on why diet sampling does not occur in the spring. Chris will also check with Chelan PUD on how they plan to sample fish for diet in the spring.
3. Steve Lewis will contact the Yakama Nation to get more information on the tribal commercial fishery in the project area. Steve will find out about fishing locations, set-line soak times, diet analysis, tag recoveries, and incidental take.
4. Erin McIntyre will reserve a conference room for the Pacific Lamprey Subgroup meeting, which is scheduled for Thursday, 23 February 2016.
5. Tracy Hillman will prepare an agenda for the Pacific Lamprey Subgroup meeting.
6. Mike Clement will let the PRFF know the date of the Priest Rapids adult fishway tour.

I. Welcome and Introductions

II. Agenda Review

III. Approve December Meeting Notes – 7 December 2016 Meeting Minutes were reviewed and approved with edits.

A. Review Action Items from December Meeting

1. Mike Clement will discuss with Grant PUD's AIS biologist the inclusion of shoreline surveys in their aquatic invasive species surveys. **Ongoing.**
2. Tracy Hillman will send a Doodle Poll to the PRFF and RRFF to find a date in January or February for the Pacific Lamprey Subgroup Meeting. **Complete – The Subgroup will meet on Thursday, 23 February 2017 at the Grant PUD Wenatchee Conference Room.**
3. PRFF will send their thoughts to Mike Clement on what should be included in the Pacific lamprey monitoring results presentation. **Ongoing; will be completed today.**

IV. Update on WSMP

A. Update on Juvenile Rearing

Chris Mott reported that there are no new updates on juvenile sturgeon rearing at Marion Drain.

B. Monitoring Update

Chris Mott stated that Golder is finishing the annual report. He indicated that he will receive the report from Golder in about two weeks. Grant PUD will review the report internally and then they will send it to the PRFF in February. The report is due to Ecology on 30 March.

C. 2017 Sturgeon Monitoring Activities

Chris Mott indicated that the 2017 Monitoring Plan will be attached to the annual report prepared by Golder. He said monitoring activities in 2017 will be similar to activities conducted in 2016. Monitoring will include juvenile sturgeon index monitoring and evaluation of movement, diet analysis, broodstock collection, and larvae collection. Larvae sampling will occur in most of the same locations as last year. However, WDFW will explore collecting larvae downstream from McNary Dam. If WDFW decides to sample downstream of McNary Dam, they would then discontinue sampling in one of the lower reservoirs, most likely John Day Reservoir. Mike noted that WDFW will propose another recreational fishery in the project area for CRITFC sturgeon. When asked about seasonal diet sampling, Mike indicated that Grant PUD is not required to do diet sampling, but does so as a result of the SOA and opportunistically when staff collect a CRITFC-origin fish. Chris Mott said he will check with Golder about why diet sampling has not occurred during spring. Tracy Hillman recommended that Chris contact Lance Keller with Chelan PUD. Chelan PUD will conduct spring diet sampling in 2017.

D. Other White Sturgeon Items

Mike Clement reported that the Yakama Nation is conducting a tribal commercial fishery this winter in the project area. The fishery opened on 8 December 2016 and was set to close on 24 December. However, the Yakama Nation extended the fishery from 25 December 2016 to 21 January 2017. The Yakama Nation is harvesting sturgeon from the same slot limit as did the recreational fisheries in the project area. Chad Jackson indicated that the tribe has captured about 63 sturgeon so far. Chad stated that there are four to six tribal fishers and he believes each fisher is fishing one set line with a maximum of 100 hooks (9/0 minimum size) per line. Steve Lewis asked how long the set lines are soaked before they are retrieved. Mike and Chad did not know.

Steve said he will contact Roger Dick with the Yakama Nation to find out about fishing locations, set-line soak times, diet analysis, tag recoveries, and number of incidental species captured (e.g., bull trout). Chris Mott noted that it is very important to have information on any tagged fish captured. Unreported removal of tagged fish will show up as natural mortality in the monitoring program. Although the PRFF has no management authority and has no intention of offering management recommendations, they support the removal of CRITFC sturgeon from the project area. The PRFF is concerned that these fish will spawn in the project area, possibly creating a genetic bottleneck.

V. Update on PLMP

A. Pacific Lamprey NNI Estimation

Tracy Hillman stated that the best day for the Pacific Lamprey Subgroup meeting is Thursday, 23 February 2017 from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. This date will work well because most of the analyses on Pacific lamprey monitoring data will be completed by then. Erin McIntyre will try to reserve the Grant PUD Wenatchee Conference Room for the meeting. Tracy noted that the RRFF Subgroup will meet jointly with the PRFF Subgroup. The PRFF identified three primary issues they would like the Subgroup to address. Those include (1) what is the current adult passage rate and how will it be calculated (e.g., mean, median, etc.); (2) what is the upper standard or target adult passage rate (e.g., 95%); and (3) what if any actions can be implemented in the fishways to increase adult passage rates. Tracy will prepare an agenda for the subgroup meeting as we get closer to the meeting date.

B. Discussion of Cumulative Passage Results Presentation Format

Tracy Hillman asked Mike Clement if he received any feedback from the PRFF on what they would like to see in the Pacific lamprey cumulative analysis presentation. Mike indicated that he had not received any feedback. Tracy asked members present to share what they would like to see in the presentation. Members indicated that the presentation should be similar to last year's and it should address the objectives and questions in the Pacific Lamprey Management Plan. Tracy opened the presentation from last year and walked members through each slide. Members noted that in addition to fallback, they would like to see information on dropback, which may help identify bottlenecks within the adult fishways. Rod O'Connor indicated that he will try to include this information, but he noted the behavior of adult lamprey is quite variable. Adult lamprey can reside in the fishway for long periods of time before moving. This behavior does not necessarily mean there is a bottleneck in the fishway. Mike stated the presence of adult sturgeon in the fishway appears to affect the behavior of adult lamprey. Members also want to see results from the 2016 sampling and a cumulative analysis of 2010 through 2016 data. Mike indicated that all the monitoring data, 2010-2016, were collected after lamprey modifications were made to the fishways. Rod said the presentation will include the following:

1. Description of the fishways and how conditions within the fishway have changed over time.
2. Tables showing 2016 results and cumulative 2010-2016 results (tables include passage rates, passage time, etc.).
3. Evaluation of dropback and fallback by year.
4. Description of the distribution of fish that passed the projects.
5. Identification of "cross-over;" i.e., fish that passed through a given fishway, fell back, and reascended another fishway at the same project.

6. Next steps

C. 2017 Lamprey Monitoring Activities

Mike Clement reported that Grant PUD intends to maintain and operate their HD PIT-tag detection systems throughout 2017. This will allow them to track adult lamprey that are PIT-tagged in the lower Columbia River. Grant PUD will continue to track the fish that were tagged with active tags in 2016. This will give the PUD three years of information from active tags. Mike said that in 2015, 75% of the adult lamprey with active tags moved upstream from Rock Island Dam. In 2016, 80% of the tagged fish moved upstream from Rock Island Dam. Mike stated that Grant PUD does not plan to tag adult lamprey in 2016.

D. Fish Ladder Tour

Chris Mott reported that Grant PUD will take down the left-bank fishway at Priest Rapids Dam on 2 February. It takes three to four days to dewater the fishway. The right-bank fishway at Priest Rapids Dam will operate while the left-bank is out of service. Mike Clement reported he will schedule a tour of the left-bank fishway in late February. Mike will send the Forum a notification identifying the date of the tour.

E. Other Pacific Lamprey Items

Mike Clement reported that Grant PUD is nearing completion of the 2016 Pacific lamprey report. The report will be sent to the PRFF for review in mid-January. After the document is finalized, Grant PUD will send it to Ecology and then to FERC.

VI. Update on Bull Trout

Mike Clement stated that the final Bull Trout report was sent to Ecology. He also noted that Chris Mott will take over bull trout monitoring in 2017. Finally, RD Nelle agreed to give a presentation on size and age structure of bull trout in the Columbia River. This will likely occur in March or April.

VII. Next Meeting: If necessary, the next PRFF meeting will be on 1 February 2017 at the Grant PUD Natural Resources Wenatchee Office.