



Grant County
PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT
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**Priest Rapids Fish Forum
Meeting
Conference Call**

**Wednesday, 4 April 2018
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Call-In Number: 1-800-977-8002, Bridge: 7422882**

MEETING MINUTES

PRFF REPRESENTATIVES

Steve Lewis, USFWS
Bob Rose, YN
Pat Wyena, 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
Tom Skiles, CTUIR
RD Nelle, USFWS
Patrick Verhey, WDFW
Pat Wyena, Wanapum
Tracy Hillman, Chair

Chris Mott, Grant PUD
Erin McIntyre, Grant PUD
Ralph Lampman, YN
Kirk Truscott, CCT

Action Items:

1. Steve Lewis will add Wanapum to the invasive species action plan's participation list. He will also provide updates to the PRFF on the status of the draft action plan.
2. Ralph Lampman will provide the PRFF with the NOAA Fisheries study plan to model the effects of contaminants in the Hanford Reach on juvenile and adult Pacific lamprey.

- I. **Welcome and Introductions** – Tracy Hillman welcomed everyone to the Priest Rapids Fish Forum (PRFF or Forum) conference call. Participants introduced themselves.
- II. **Agenda Review** – Members reviewed and approved the draft agenda with the addition of a Pacific lamprey agenda item.
- III. **Approve March Meeting Notes** – The March 2018 Draft Meeting Minutes were reviewed and approved during the meeting.
 - A. Action Items from the March Meeting:
 1. Steve Lewis will add Wanapum to the invasive species action plan's participation list. He will also provide updates to the PRFF on the status of the draft action plan. **Ongoing.**
 2. PRFF members will review the draft Aquatic Invasive Species Annual Report and provide comments to Carson Keeler by 29 March 2018. **Complete.**
 3. PRFF members will review the draft Pacific lamprey annual report and provide comments to Mike Clement by 9 March 2018. **Complete.**
 4. PRFF members will review the draft white sturgeon annual report and provide comments to Chris Mott by 14 March 2018. **Complete.**
 5. Tom Skiles will work with Blaine Parker on finding data for white sturgeon captured in the tribal harvest in the Priest Rapids Project Area for the period 2017-2018. **Complete. Tom sent 2017 PIT-tag data to Tracy Hillman (see Attachment 1).**
 6. Mike Clement will send numbers and timing of adult lamprey captured at Priest Rapids dam in 2017 to Ralph Lampman. **Complete. Ralph provided a summary on trap efficiencies (see Attachment 2). Rather than estimate efficiencies on a daily basis, members thought it may be more useful to estimate them on a rolling three-day basis or over the entire trapping period.**
- IV. **White Sturgeon Management Plan**
 - A. **Broodstock Collection** – Chris Mott provided a summary of the recent collaboration among the PUDs, WDFW, ODFW, CRITFC, YN, and Blue Leaf on collecting white sturgeon broodstock downstream from McNary Dam this year. He said that ODFW plans to conduct a two-year, white sturgeon, spawning behavior study beginning in 2018. They (ODFW) were reluctant to allow broodstock collection downstream from McNary Dam because they were afraid it would interfere with their behavior study, which relies on acoustic tags. For their study, ODFW plans to capture and tag 30 adult sturgeon per year. These fish will be tracked using about 15 acoustic receives within the tailrace. Given this, the PUDs were thinking that they would be fishing for broodstock downstream from John Day Dam. However, based in part on the efforts of Laura Heironimus (WDFW) and Steve Parker (YN), the parties were able to coordinate work that benefits all parties. The plan is to take a collaborative approach to broodstock capture in McNary tailrace and acoustic tagging for the behavior study. Blue Leaf, PUDs, and ODFW will pool resources to simultaneously capture fish. Fish needed for broodstock and for tracking will be taken from this joint effort. The intent being that everyone receives the fish they need when and where they need them but hopefully quickly enough to limit the effects on the spawning behavior study. Specific details are as follows:
 - 1) Blue Leaf/PUDs will provide two guide boats and crew and ODFW will provide one set-lining boat and crew.

- 2) Blue Leaf/PUDs will provide surgeons who will stage all fish and implant acoustic transmitters in fish for the ODFW study.
- 3) Fishing will commence when water temperatures reach 13°C. This will likely be around the 2nd or 3rd week of May.
- 4) The two Blue Leaf/PUD guide boats and ODFW set-lining boat will fish until both the PUDs and ODFW have the necessary number of fish. PUDs need 6x6 matrix (12 sturgeon) and ODFW needs 15x15 matrix (30 sturgeon) for a total of 42 sturgeon.
- 5) Because both parties need similar size/stage fish, they will alternate who gets which fish (e.g., first fish captured goes to PUDs, second to ODFW, third to PUDs, etc.). If one group has filled their total for a particular sex/stage fish, the other group would get the option for that fish with the original group retaining the option on the next fish of the correct sex/stage. For example, if ODFW have tagged 15 males and another male is caught on ODFW's "turn," that fish and subsequent males could be given to the PUDs with ODFW retaining the next captured female.

Chris added that the PUDs have committed to a 14-day fishing effort (14 days x 2 boats = 28 boat days). That is, they will fish for 14 days even if they secure their 6x6 matrix before the 14-day period has ended. Effort will end, however, if they successfully capture all 42 fish before the end of the 14-day period. As a final note, Chris said they will not attempt to collect sturgeon larvae this year. The behavior work conducted by ODFW can be used by the Forum to determine where to collect larvae in the future.

- B. **Other White Sturgeon Items** – Chris Mott said they will mark and tag juvenile sturgeon at Marion Drain next week. The current plan is to release the fish into the Project Area on 2 May.

V. Priest Rapids Dam

- A. **Update on Priest Rapids Dam Operations** – Mike Clement reported that contractors continue to drill into the spillway monoliths to determine leakage at Priest Rapids Dam. He said they increased the number of drill crews to two and they will be drilling into all 22 monoliths. They estimate it will take about two months to complete the work. Mike said the Priest Rapids Reservoir will be held to operating elevations between 484.5 to 481.5 feet, which is within the lower end of the normal operating range. The maximum reservoir elevation is 488.0 feet. Grant PUD will be able to maintain flows necessary for fall Chinook in the Hanford Reach. When asked why they are drilling into Priest Rapids Dam, Mike said given what happened at Wanapum Dam, they were asked to evaluate the leakage at Priest Rapids Dam. The drilling work will help them identify the source of the leakage and help them determine a fix. Mike reassured everyone that there is no threat to life or property and Priest Rapids Dam will continue to generate electricity and operate as usual.

VI. Pacific Lamprey Management Plan

- A. **Juvenile Lamprey Research in the Hanford Reach** – RD Nelle asked if anyone knows about a possible juvenile lamprey study being conducted in the Hanford Reach this year. Mike Clement responded that he is not aware of any juvenile lamprey research in the Hanford Reach. Ralph Lampman noted that there are adult studies being conducted in the Columbia River to assess passage at Bonneville and McNary dams. He also added that NOAA Fisheries may be modeling the effects of contaminants in the Hanford Reach on juvenile and adult lamprey. However, to the best of his knowledge, there is no sampling occurring in the Reach. Mike Clement asked if NOAA has a study plan that can be shared

with the Forum. Ralph indicated that he will try to get the study plan and share it with the Forum.

- B. **Other Lamprey Items** – Tracy Hillman reported that Breean Zimmerman reviewed the Pacific Lamprey SOA approved by the PRFF last month and found it to be “not inconsistent” with the 401 WQ Certification.

VII. Next Meeting: 2 May 2018 at the Grant PUD Natural Resources Wenatchee Office. Tracy will poll everyone to see if a May meeting is necessary.

Attachment 1

PIT-Tag Files from the White Sturgeon Tribal Fisheries within the Priest Rapids Project Area, 2017

AVID/FECAVA/ISO
Reader ID 800338 @16011309595119
Initialized as: Data Saver
Settings: q:\$K112I datasavr.c 1.61
Last cleared @17010411075724
Current timestamp @17121911212855
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3D9.1C2DF56CEE@17020711373201
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Attachment 2

Pacific Lamprey Trap Efficiencies from Ralph Lampman

Mostly 25-45% if we are looking at just the same day numbers.

Date	PRD Same Day #	PRD Previous Day #	PRD Ave #	RW	RE	LW	LE	Total	Efficiency (Same Day)	Efficiency (Previous Day)	Efficiency (Average)
7/25/2017	459	678	569	0	0	10	0	10	2.2%	1.5%	1.8%
7/27/2017	700	291	496	88	35	15	20	158	22.6%	54.3%	31.9%
7/28/2017	366	700	533	86	42	0	23	151	41.3%	21.6%	28.3%
8/1/2017	630	803	717	82	26	17	26	151	24.0%	18.8%	21.1%
8/3/2017	654	682	668	103	56	1	23	183	28.0%	26.8%	27.4%
8/8/2017	422	541	482	35	40	10	26	111	26.3%	20.5%	23.1%
8/9/2017	346	422	384	54	26	13	28	121	35.0%	28.7%	31.5%
8/15/2017	425	156	291	96	54	13	31	194	45.6%	124.4%	66.8%
8/17/2017	556	513	535	83	36	6	15	140	25.2%	27.3%	26.2%
-	-	-	-	627	315	85	192	1219	31.0%	40.3%	32.0%

