



Priest Rapids Coordinating Committee Meeting

FINAL APPROVED MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, December 15, 2020

1:00 pm

Microsoft Teams

PRCC Representatives

Scott Carlon, Justin Yeager (Alt), NMFS
Keely Murdoch, Brandon Rogers (Alt), YN
Chad Jackson, P. Verhey (Alt) WDFW
Curt Dotson, Peter Graf (Alt), GPUD
Denny Rohr, D. Rohr & Assoc, Facilitator

Jim Craig, USFWS
Kirk Truscott, Casey Baldwin (alt), CCT
Tom Skiles, CTUIR
Erin Harris, Admin Ass't, GPUD

PRCC Meeting Attendees

Curt Dotson, GPUD
Keely Murdoch, YN
Chad Jackson, WDFW
Tom Skiles, CTUIR
Scott Carlon, NMFS - Absent

Peter Graf, GPUD
Denny Rohr, D. Rohr & Assoc, Facilitator
Erin Harris, GPUD
Jim Craig, USFWS
Kirk Truscott, CCT

Decisions made during the December 15, 2020 meeting

1. November 24, 2020 meeting minutes were approved with the edit from Murdoch to be included.
2. Committee members approved contracting (change order to current contract) with RTR to attend future PRCC-BOR meetings, subject to concurrence from Scott Carlon who was absent from the meeting.

MEETING MINUTES

- I. Welcome and Introductions** – Rohr welcomed everyone.
- II. Agenda Review** – No additions were made to the agenda.
- III. Meeting Minutes**

- A. November 24, 2020 – Approved by all committee members with the following additional comments and edit from Murdoch:
“Please add the following to **Agenda Item V**, Murdoch also discussed the research paper recently distributed by WDFW on steelhead overshoots, and how the current methodology of measuring adult survival would not include the survival of the overshoots in the reach. She felt it was important to make sure the survival of all adults passing through the project reach was considered.”

IV. Review of Actions Items from November 24, 2020 Webinar Conference –

- A. Rohr to reach out to Talmadge Oxford and Scott Hoefer, BOR staff, to share agenda items for the December 8th PRCC-BOR meeting. Rohr will send the agenda out to members next week. **Completed**
- B. Murdoch and Jackson will update committee members at the December 15th meeting on legal review of SSSA language and 91% Combined Survival Estimates for Covered Species. **Completed**

V. Review of December 8, 2020 meeting with BOR -

- A. **Discussion** – Rohr asked meeting members to share their thoughts on the 12/8/2020 PRCC/BOR meeting. Rohr also shared a follow up meeting will be scheduled for mid-January. He asked if there were any other participants to add to the January meeting? Dotson shared some of his review of the BOR’s actions on their requirements, stating that he feels that the BOR did not meet their BiOp requirements for avian predation at Goose Island, and he also has concerns that same results might be seen in 2021. Skiles shared his questions and comments about the avian predation language in the FCRPS BiOp.
- B. **Next Meeting Discussion** - Additional participants were discussed including Real Time Research (RTR) consultants Ken Collis and Allen Evans.
- C. **Real Time Research participation and funding discussion** – Dotson shared Real Time Research could participate in future PRCC/BOR meetings and invoice the PRCC committee for their time to do so. Dotson also shared some cost estimates for their time to attend the meetings and share their data and reports, plus potential future funding for additional research and requests that could come from it. Dotson shared that RTR was a part of the original IAPMP project. Committee members approved contracting, via a change order to their present contract with the PRCC, with RTR to attend future PRCC-BOR meetings, subject to concurrence from Carlon who was absent from the meeting.

VI. 91% Combined Survival Estimates for Covered Species.

- A. Update of YN, WDFW legal review – Murdoch and Jackson both shared they do not have any updates from their legal counsel, and both expect to share updates at the January 2021 meeting. Graf shared some slides of data on wild/hatchery fish conversion rates and passage, which was in response to request/question from Truscott about representation of the adult run-at-large. Graf will send the slides to committee members for their review.

- VII. Estimating the Survival of Juvenile Spring Chinook salmon in Lake Wenatchee, WA – Geoff McMichael** - Murdoch shared this is a revision of past proposals. It is similar with the 2020 versions and differs in removing some rearing data. NOAA life cycle model was included in the prior proposal, and new updated methods to estimate survival will be used in this version. The proposal includes collaboration of the YN and Geoff McMichael, plus WDFW Large Lake Research Division will also assist. Smaller tags and sample size calculations will provide a more precise survival. Murdoch asked members to review the new proposal and she shared that Geoff McMichael will attend the January 2021 meeting. Rohr asked about a decision timeline, and Murdoch shared they would like work to begin in Spring 2021 and a quick decision turnaround is preferred.
- VIII. Potpourri** - Skiles shared he spoke with CRITFC staff about sea lion activities in the lower Columbia River area. He shared that 5 sea lions have been removed and the project team has plans to resume removal efforts in April 2021. The removal efforts are aimed at both California and stellar sea lions. The team involved in this activity had expected to remove more than 5 sea lions, however the wildfires in the area and Covid-19 condition reduced their work and numbers. Skiles commented the permit for this project is for a 5-year period and they are in year-3. The first 3-years of funding is from NOAA fisheries and additional funding is under review by the project participants.

UPDATES

- IX. Avian Predation Activities** – No additional comments were made.
- X. FCRPS BiOp – Corps/BOR Avian Predation Management in Columbia Plateau Region** – No updates.
- XI. Review of Outstanding NNI Funded Projects**
- A. **Continued Support for UC Fish Screen Program**– Rohr stated that he and Jackson have been in communications with Danny Didricksen, WDFW, and he will attend the January 2021 meeting to provide an update.
 - B. **Lower Wenatchee Instream Flow Enhancement Project Phase II**– No new additional information.
 - C. **“Non-Native Predator Recruitment Reduction – Phase I”**– No new updates.
 - D. **“Northern Pike Removal in Lake Roosevelt”**– Truscott commented that crews continue to pursue Northern Pike and he will provide an update at the January 2021 meeting.
 - E. **(Placeholder) 2020 Quincy Valley Tourism Association Northern Pikeminnow Fishing Derby (moved to 2021 due to Covid-19) (C. Dotson)**- No update
 - F. **Avian Predation on ESA-listed Juvenile Salmonids on the Mid-Columbia River, 2020, Real Time Research**– Dotson stated the final report is under development.

G. (Placeholder) Barkley Irrigation Co Permanent Point of Diversion, Completing Implementation of the Permanent Solution – Rohr informed committee members that this project is on hold for further review in the Spring of 2021

XII. Committee Reports – Rohr distributed committee reports electronically to members.

XIII. NNI and Habitat Funds Report, Q3, 2020 – Reports have been distributed electronically to committee members.

XIV. Next Meeting – January 26, 2021, 1:00, TEAMS Webinar Meeting

Action Items from December 15, 2020 meeting

- A. Graf will distribute slides of data on wild/hatchery fish conversion rates and passage to committee members for their review.
- B. Rohr will contact Carlon regarding committee vote to approve RTR attending PRCC-BOR meetings
- C. Murdoch edit to November 24, 2020 meeting minutes will be incorporated by Harris and Rohr.