



**Priest Rapids Coordinating Committee
Final Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, June 28, 2022
9:00 am**

PRCC Representatives

Scott Carlon, Justin Yeager (Alt), NMFS
Keely Murdoch, Brandon Rogers (Alt), YN
Chad Jackson, P. Verhey (Alt) WDFW
Curt Dotson, Tom Dresser (Alt), GPUD

Jim Craig, USFWS
Kirk Truscott, Casey Baldwin (alt), CCT
Tom Skiles, CTUIR

PRCC Meeting Attendees

Curt Dotson, GPUD
Scott Carlon, NMFS
Chad Jackson, WDFW
Tom Skiles, CTUIR -Via Zoom
Kirk Truscott, CCT - Absent
Bryan Nordlund, FPE (facilitator)

Keely Murdoch, YN
Jim Craig, USFWS - Absent
Tom Dresser, GPUD
Erin Harris, GPUD

Decisions and Approvals Made During June 28, 2022, Meeting

1. **DECISION:** May meeting minutes were distributed by Bryan Nordlund by email on June 8. Comments are due by July 7, 2022. Committee Members Approved the May 24, 2022 meeting minutes.
2. **ACTION:** Survival study preliminary discussions. Curt Dotson will add two to three sentences that describes what each bullet point on the agenda is referring to and share how Grant PUD and the PRCC has done this in the past. He will include details such as river/plant operations, survival standards used, study fish capture/tagging/release methodology, etc. and the possible need for future workshops.
3. **ACTION:** Bryan Nordlund to send SOA 2018-01 and 2019-01 to committee members.
4. **ACTION:** Develop PRCC operations protocols. Bryan Nordlund to send committee members Keely Murdoch's edits and review settlement agreement for committee actions.

Agenda

- I. **Welcome, Announcements and Introductions** – Bryan Nordlund welcomed everyone and shared that Jim Craig and Kirk Truscott could not attend the PRCC meeting today.
- II. **Agenda Review** – Bryan Nordlund asked committee members to provide him their Policy committee members contacts information (phone number and email addresses, minimally). He needs this information to help set up a Policy committee meeting tentatively scheduled sometime in September 2022.
- III. **May Meeting Minutes Approval**
 - A. May 24, 2022, PRCC meeting minutes – May meeting minutes were distributed by Bryan Nordlund by email on June 8. Comments are due by July 7, 2022.
- IV. **Status of Actions Items from May 24, 2022, Meeting**
 - A. Nordlund has followed up with John Ferguson and Douglas PUD to discuss options for future Coordinating Committee meetings. Tentatively, meetings will be held at two locations (Douglas PUD auditorium and Wanapum HOB-107) with virtual access available, and virtual only meetings (poor weather months).
 - B. Follow-up on Corp/BOR Avian Predation Management (Skiles, Carlon and Dotson – work in progress).
- V. **2021 Fish Passage Operations Report**
 - A. ***Update on investigations for fish count discrepancy:***

Updates from Curt and PRCC discussion. - Curt Dotson discussed that the third-party contractor review and testing are ongoing at the Wanapum/Priest Rapids fish count stations. They have found some technical issues with the fish count video monitors and this is being corrected. Curt shared that better awareness has been gained with fish counters reviewing and double checking before they post their counts. Tom Dresser shared he's spoken with craft journeyman, and they reported that they are not seeing fish when they open the crowdors. Tom shared that Grant employs seven on-call Fish Counters. Improvements to deal with issues leading to count inconsistencies have been identified. Fish Counter training has helped, and improvements have been confirmed. Bryan Nordlund asked if Chelan PUD's fish counting equipment and processes are different than Grant PUD's. Tom Dresser confirmed that they are different. For example, Chelan PUD counts mini jacks and Grant does not count the mini jacks. Committee members discussed that this is a high-water level year and fish counts are high this year.

B. Fish ladder inspections:

Tom Skiles performs monthly ladder inspections at the GPUD dams for the fisheries agencies and tribes. Tom skills shared last month he was in person for his inspections and differentials were within safe margins. The month of June he did his inspection virtually, with great inspection results.

C. Fish spill updates:

Spill season has commenced for the juvenile outmigration (April 2022).

D. Fish counts for 2022 (April 15 – June 13)

Project/Life Stage	Spring Chinook	Summer Chinook	Sockeye	Fall Chinook	Steelhead	Coho
Priest Rapids adults	21,091				16	
Rock Island adults	21,529				79	
Priest Rapids jacks	3329					
Rock Island-jacks	3322					

VI. Discussion - Develop PRCC operations protocols (e.g., SOA development, timing, agenda items, presentations etc.)

DRAFT For PRCC input - outline development for PRCC Operations protocols					
General Protocol	Specifics	Initiation timing	Review timing	Comment venue	
Statement of agreement	SOA	after PRCC discussion	per PRCC chosen comment process	Agency letter or PRCC vote	
New PRCC agenda topic	none	anytime	next PRCC	PRCC e-mail	
Meeting protocols	Agenda	7 days after PRCC	next PRCC	verbal or e-mail	
	Minutes	NA	next PRCC	verbal or e-mail	
	Conducting meeting	NA	NA	NA	
Document review	NNI study report	upon completion	30 days	PRCC email	
	Survival study report	upon completion	90 days	Agency letter	
	Draft survival study	upon completion	45 days	PRCC email	
	Joint study (eg. HSC)	upon completion	30 days	PRCC email	
	PRCC generated study	upon completion	30 days	PRCC email	
Voting	Member absent from PRCC meeting	Facilitator follow-up after PRCC	3 days after PRCC	Facilitator e-mail to PRCC	
	General Item	after PRCC discussion	30 days	PRCC vote	
Vetting Issues	none	anytime	next PRCC	NA	
Notification of meeting absence	meeting topics	at least 1 day prior to meeting	NA	waive input for meeting or send alternate	
	meeting votes	Facilitator follow-up after PRCC	3 days after PRCC	Facilitator e-mail to PRCC	

Keely Murdoch reported to committee members that she made and sent edits to Bryan Nordlund on the strawman document he created. She shared that she borrowed some verbiage from the settlement agreement, not identical and only on the tasks that she feels works for this committee. Keely discussed the edit's she made to Bryan's strawman. One example is asking for next meeting's agenda items at the end of each PRCC meeting. Committee members agreed that the timing has been good on draft meeting minutes stating they are sent out with plenty of time to review. Curt Dotson and committee members agreed that going forward NNI Survival Study plan will have a 45-day review period at the release date and 30 days to report and comment for final approval. Tom Dresser asked Bryan Nordlund to look at the settlement agreement language 5.4 for correct process on absentee votes. **Action: Bryan Nordlund to send committee members Keely Murdoch's edits and review settlement agreement for committee actions.**

VII. Discussion - Future meeting locations and times.

Currently, PRCC meeting location options include Douglas PUD auditorium, Wanapum HOB-107 and virtual meetings. We decided last meeting to use all of

these locations in a yet to be determined order. The request made was that the “home team” committee (eg. GPUD is the “home team” at Wanapum) meetings take place in the afternoon, with the “visitors” meetings take place in the morning. An example of this is happening today. Committee members reviewed the meetings schedule and developed a plan for the remainder of 2022. **Action: Bryan Nordlund will send out the updated spreadsheet to committee members.**

VIII. Discussion - Survival study preliminary discussions.

Focus on fleshing out list from last meeting and prioritize discussions. Potential discussion points include:

- timing, species, life stage(s)
- future workshops needed?
- tag type
- standard to measure (combine projects? combine adult + juvenile?)
- accuracy/precision of data analysis
- fish source
- release points
- assessing tag and tagger effects detection points
- dealing with adverse river flow conditions
- plant operations
- achieving standard or not – path forward
- factoring in avian predation
- others, per PRCC discussion?

Bryan Nordlund asked committee members to select 3-4 priorities from the bullet points that they want to better understand before future studies. Committee members discussed future Grant PUD survival studies and fish studies that are currently taking place. Keely Murdoch shared that SOA 2018-01 shows when the future Grant PUD survival studies will take place. This is the SOA that approved revised study dates to make better sense going forward. Keely shared that Chelan PUD did a study last year with “injectable” tags. She said they released groups at Rock Island/Rocky Reach forebay and tailrace and that this gives her hope to study sub-yearling summer Chinook, allowing the independent measure of survival of adult and juvenile fish. Tom Dresser asked that Bryan Nordlund stick with Summer Chinook only when discussing settlement issues, and not include fall Chinook since they are designated separately in the settlement agreement. **ACTION: Curt Dotson will add two to three sentences that describes what each bullet point is referring to and share why Grant has selected this in the past. He will include plan operations, standards, and future workshops. And Bryan Nordlund to send SOA 2018-01 and 2019-01 to committee members.**

UPDATES

IX. Review of Outstanding NNI Funded Projects

- A. Lower Wenatchee Instream Flow Enhancement Project Phase II – (no updates)
- B. Avian Predation on ESA-listed Juvenile Salmonids on the Mid-Columbia River, 2021 (weekly updates have been forwarded to PRCC) Bryan Nordlund shared he emails the reports out. Curt Dotson shared on 4/8/2022 they tagged steelhead and 5,543 steelhead smolts, for a total of 6,083 PIT-tagged steelhead that may be detectable for avian predation studies this year. Tom Skiles added that RTR included 550 previously PIT-tagged fish as part of the 6,083 total.
- C. Barkley Irrigation Company Permanent Point of Diversion - Completing Implementation of the Permanent Solution (no updates) Bryan Nordlund will call for an update this summer.
- D. Northern Pike Removal (2022-2024) – in place – Tom Dresser shared that the Colville Nation is leading a committee charged with developing and implementing a rapid response plan for Northern Pike detections from Grand Coulee Dam to Wanapum Dam. The Grant, Chelan and Douglas PUD's are involved with this committee with the Colville's to develop a coordination and communication plan for instances when a Northern Pike is found. Tom Dresser also shared a carcass that was found in 2021 in the John Day pool was sent out to verify if it's a tiger muskie.
- E. Quincy Pikeminnow Derby – Completed, update was provided at the May meeting. This can be removed from agenda.
- F. Wenatchee PIT tag barge – exception to SOA 2013-04 granted and in place. The barge is in the river at the north end of Wenatchee. Tom Skiles asked for efficiencies updates. Chad Jackson shared that he will send them out to committee members when he receives them.

X. Committee Updates

Bryan Nordlund has forwarded the latest subcommittee distributions he has received to date via email.

- A. Priest Rapids Fish Forum – PRFF met on June 1. An update from the PRFF has been forwarded to the PRCC.
- B. Habitat Subcommittee – No HabSC meeting this month. Next meeting is scheduled for July 14.
- C. Fall Chinook Work Group – No meeting this month.
- D. Hatchery Subcommittee – HSC met on June 15, 2022.

XI. SOAs discussed in 2022

SOA number	Key words	Last Discussed	Status
2021-06	Facilitator selection	January 25, 2022	open

XII. Next Meetings

The next PRCC meetings are scheduled for July 26 (DPUD) and August 23, 2022 (GPUD/Wanapum), time, and location TBD.

XIII. Today's Action Item Summary: (each member)

ACTION: Bryan Nordlund to send committee members Keely's edits

ACTION: Bryan Nordlund will send out the updated meeting location spreadsheet to committee members.

ACTION: Bryan Nordlund to send SOA 2018-01 and 2019-01 to committee members

ACTION: Curt Dotson suggested adding two three sentences that describes what each buttle point is also share why Grant has selected this in the past to include plan operations, standard, future workshops.