



Priest Rapids Coordinating Committee Meeting

FINAL MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, September 28, 2021

1:00 pm

ZOOM Webinar Conference

PRCC Representatives

Scott Carlon, Justin Yeager (Alt), NMFS	Jim Craig, USFWS
Keely Murdoch, Brandon Rogers (Alt), YN	Kirk Truscott, Casey Baldwin (alt), CCT
Chad Jackson, P. Verhey (Alt) WDFW	Tom Skiles, CTUIR
Curt Dotson, Peter Graf (Alt), GPUD	Erin Harris, Admin Ass't, GPUD
Denny Rohr, D. Rohr & Assoc, Facilitator	Bryan Nordlund, PRCC Facilitator

PRCC Meeting Attendees

Curt Dotson, GPUD	Keely Murdoch, YN
Scott Carlon, NMFS	Peter Graf, GPUD
Chad Jackson, WDFW - Absent	Erin Harris, GPUD
Tom Skiles, CTUIR	Jim Craig, USFWS
Kirk Truscott, CCT	
Bryan Nordlund, PRCC Facilitator	

Decisions Made During Tuesday, September 28, 2021 Meeting

1. No decisions were made.

Meeting Minutes

- I. **Welcome and Introductions** – B. Nordlund welcomed everyone to the meeting. He shared his view that the PRCC meetings belong to each committee member. PRCC members should let him know at the start of each meeting if the committee needs to cover topics that aren't on the current agenda. If possible, they will be covered during the current meeting and if not, at a future meeting. He also encouraged feedback from the PRCC on how the committee could function more efficiently, and on his facilitation of PRCC meetings.
- II. **Agenda Review** – B. Nordlund asked the PRCC about agenda items that recur monthly. In particular, he wanted to know if monthly discussion was required on

these topics, or if their existence on the agenda was mostly a placeholder until further information was available. He also asked if the PRCC had agenda topics crop up, please let him know as they come to mind. K. Murdoch stated that in other committees, an email request for agenda items occurs two weeks prior to the meeting. After a brief discussion and committee concurrence, Nordlund stated that he would do the same.

III. Meeting Minutes - APPROVED

A. August 24, 2021

IV. Review of Actions Items from August 24, 2021, Meeting –

1. Kirk Truscott will send NNI Specification Sheet Northern Pike funding request prior to September meeting. - **COMPLETED**

V. Discussion of status of survival study results. – B. Nordlund stated that this agenda item was added to primarily to get him up to speed on the status of survival studies for each SSSA species, and that C. Dotson had provided a simple summary spreadsheet to help with this. He asked if the committee understood that the next check-in survival studies would be conducted in 2025 and 2026, and if committee members had thought about starting discussions about the study process and goals. J. Craig stated that he'd like to have the spreadsheet that C. Dotson had provided, and Nordlund said he will send it out to the entire PRCC. B. Nordlund talked about the status of each fish species survival levels and provided a high-level update. K. Murdoch shared they (Chelan PUD) had conducted fish studies this year, but don't yet have the results from the behavioral study conducted at upstream projects. Measuring survival with acoustic tags in sub-yearling Chinook was discussed. In particular, the PRCC discussed issues with sub-yearling Chinook migration behavior, tag size and tag life and how these limit survival study design. B. Nordlund stated that John Ferguson had shared notes with him from a sub-yearling workshop that had been conducted a few years ago. Nordlund will distribute these notes to the PRCC.

VI. 2021 Spill Report – C. Dotson stated that adult fallback spill at both Wanapum, and Priest Rapids is currently occurring and will continue through November 15th. Juvenile fish spill ended in late august. Currently, spill is occurring 7 days a week and 24 hours a day using the fish bypass with smallest gate opening at Wanapum and the sluiceway bypass at Priest Rapids. B. Nordlund suggested that an upstream fishway status report be shared monthly during the upstream passage season. This could include fishway inspection reports and fish count monthly totals from the GPUD website and presented by B. Nordlund and T. Skiles. J. Craig stated that as one of the Spill Committee representatives he would like this topic to be discussed monthly at the PRCC and in particular, covering any expected deviation from planned passage operations.

- VII. Holly McLellan, Colville Tribe, Northern Pike NNI Funding request** – Holly McLellan provided a presentation on Northern Pike collection in Lake Roosevelt as part of the eradication program trying to prevent/slow the spread of N. Pike below Grand Coulee Dam. C. Dotson asked if BOR is providing any support in this program of removing a salmonid predator from (their) reservoir. H. McLellan shared they (BOR) are not, and that they have been asking the BOR for support. She also added the BOR supports invasive mussel work but not for northern pike. B. Nordlund asked if they had found invasive mussels, and H. McLellan said that they had not. Someone asked how old northern pike are when they first spawn. Holly responded that northern pike are 6 to 8 inches long when captured in September and were hatched in June of the previous year and grow to maturity quite rapidly. She also showed a slide of a northern pike full of millions of eggs. K. Murdoch discussed her review of the 2018 proposal and cost share with Chelan PUD (\$45,000 a year) and was curious if Chelan PUD still contributed. Holly specified that in 2017 and 2018 Chelan PUD provided \$25,000 for her work and provided staff time to monitor sites in 2020. Douglas PUD is not currently providing any funding for the northern pike project but pay for the processing of e-DNA samples that they (Doug. PUD) collect and share the data with Holly.
- VIII. Potpourri** – B. Nordlund asked E. Harris if she has questions on any topics discussed for clarification of meeting minutes. E. Harris asked the committee if they would allow the meetings to be recorded for better meeting minutes. B. Nordlund suggested adding this as an agenda item to discuss in October.

UPDATES

- IX. Avian Predation Activities** – C. Dotson reported Real Time Research (RTR) finished their season last week searching for tags on Goose Island, and reported an increased number of recovered PIT tags. PIT tag recovery work is now complete, and data being assembled. Curt will schedule RTR for a PRCC presentation sometime in the next two months.
- X. FCRPS BiOp – Corps/BOR Avian Predation Management in Columbia Plateau Region (S. Carlon)** – No updates on this. Action item - Scott Carlon to provide a report at next meeting.
- XI. Review of Outstanding NNI Funded Projects**
- A. Lower Wenatchee Instream Flow Enhancement Project Phase II (C. Jackson, B. Nordlund) – No report from Chad Jackson.
 - B. “Non-Native Predator (Walleye) Recruitment Reduction – Phase I” (K. Murdoch) K. Murdoch reported that Geoff McMichael’s walleye larva report is due November 30th and that we should see it soon. She shared that the work started in Yakima Delta area. The end goal is to identify where walleye spawning beds occur, and then reduce spawning by altering McNary reservoir elevations. After the first season no spawning was detected in that area. No

cost extension was provided for the contract that allowed Geoff's team to investigate other areas.

- C. "Northern Pike Removal in Lake Roosevelt" - K. Truscott provided a summary of current northern pike removal efforts to Nordlund for distribution prior to the PRCC meeting. H. McLellan provided a presentation for consideration of continued NNI funding for this project.
- D. Avian Predation on ESA-listed Juvenile Salmonids on the Mid-Columbia River, 2021, Real Time Research (C. Dotson) – Update provided by C. Dotson.
- E. Barkley Irrigation Co Permanent Point of Diversion, Completing Implementation of the Permanent Solution (B. Nordlund) - B. Nordlund reached out to Danny Didrikson (WDFW). Didrickson responded that Trout Unlimited was the lead on this project and provided names as potential point of contacts. He did report that WDFW has found no fish recently in their Barkley Ditch salvage efforts and suggested that the new point of diversion appears to be working well to keep fish out of the irrigation system.
- F. B. Nordlund asked C. Dotson to provide a list of project spec sheets and contact information to help him track and report status of these projects.

XI. Committee Reports (B. Nordlund) – B. Nordlund asked who receives Committee reports from Tracy Hillman, and whether Nordlund needs to distribute them to the PRCC. B. Nordlund will distribute as they come in from sub-committees.

XII NNI and Habitat Funds Report 2021 Q1 / Q2 - B. Nordlund will distribute.

XIII. Next Meeting – October 26, 2021, 1:00, ZOOM Webinar Meeting

Action Items from September 28, 2021 meeting

- B. Nordlund will send out a one-page spreadsheet summarizing past survival studies results and future survival study schedules (provided by Dotson).
- B. Nordlund will distribute sub-yearling workshop information (provided by J. Ferguson).
- B. Nordlund will distribute the northern pike presentation (provided by H. McLellan).
- S. Carlon will provide an update on avian predation management, per the FCRPS BO.
- B. Nordlund will distribute NNI fund spreadsheets as they are available.