



Priest Rapids Coordinating Committee Meeting FINAL MINUTES

Tuesday, March 22, 2022

1:00 pm

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 - Absent
Tom Skiles, CTUIR
Kirk Truscott, CCT
Bryan Nordlund, FPE (facilitator)

Keely Murdoch, YN
Jim Craig, USFWS
Tom Dresser, GPUD (Note Taker)
Erin Harris, GPUD - Absent

Decisions, Approvals and Action Items Made During Tuesday, March 22, 2022 Meeting

1. **PRCC 2022 Spill Representatives.** Scott Carlon and Tom Skiles volunteered to be the spill representatives for the 2022 fish passage season.
2. **PRCC Operation Protocols.** The Committee agreed that operation protocols could improve overall committee function by improving awareness of timelines for agendas, meeting minutes, statement of agreements, presentations, etc. Additionally, it would serve as an information tool for future committee members. Committee agreed to add this as a future agenda/action item.
 - a. Keely Murdoch committed to sending out operation protocols developed for other regional committees (e.g., HCP and PRCC-Hatchery Sub-committee).
 - b. Bryan Nordlund and Tom Dresser would check their files to see if they could find a draft that the PRCC had considered from the time of committee formation that was not approved.

3. **Combined PRCC & HCP Meeting on May 24.** PRCC representatives supported the proposal of a joint PRCC and HCP meeting on May 24, 2022. This would allow the CCT Tribe to provide a status updated as it relates to the Phase II Report for Reintroduction above Grand Coulee.
4. **Exemption to Statement of Agreement 2013-04 for NNI-Fund Purchase of PIT-Barge.** Under SOA 2013-04, Grant PUD is required to included language in its contracts, agreements, etc. that states *“that equipment purchased through the course of a project and/or evaluation with a purchased value in excess of \$300 will be returned to Grant PUD within 15 days of contract completion; Equipment with a purchased value of \$300 or less can be retained by the contractor because it is assumed that the “usable life” of that item has expired”* (exact SOA language added after meeting).
 - a. Grant PUD requested a 1-time exemption to this SOA and the PRCC Representatives approved it, contingent on a follow-up with WDFW.
5. **January 25, 2022, Meeting Minutes.** Minor edits were made to the January 25, 2022, meeting Minutes per the request of the Yakama Nation Representative.
6. **Northern Pike NNI Contract.** Kirk Truscott will check on status to see if the signed contract has been sent onto Grant PUD.
7. **Joint PRCC & HCP Meeting.** Bryan to work with John Ferguson to determine joint meeting details and report back to the PRCC.

Meeting Minutes

- I. **Welcome, Announcements and Introductions**
- II. **Agenda Review**
 - A. Two additional agenda items were added to the meeting and included a request for an exemption per SOA 2013-04 (see above) and a request for a joint meeting of the PRCC and HCP on May 24 for a status update on the Phase II Report related to the reintroduction above Grand Coulee.
- III. **Meeting Minutes Approval**
 - A. January 25, 2022, PRCC meeting minutes – Minor edits made by PRCC Facilitator per the request of the Yakama Nation Representative. Meeting Minutes are considered final.
- IV. **Status of Actions Items from February 22, 2022, Meeting**
 - A. Fish Ladder Water Temperature report – DOE 401 Compliance - Tom Dresser will send out the report to committee members (sent out March 14). Completed.

- B. SOA 2021-06 – Keely Murdoch will send Bryan Nordlund an example facilitator evaluation performance she distributed last summer to the PRCC. Completed and in review by Bryan Nordlund.
- C. Follow-up on Corp/BOR Avian Predation Management (Skiles, Carlon and Dotson – work in progress). No Action
- D. YN letter sent to NOAA request clarifying survival performance standards. Request to share with the PRCC. Yakama Nation Representative waiting on approval.

V. 2021 Fish Passage Operations Report

- A. **Update on investigations for fish count discrepancy:**
Any updates from Curt and PRCC discussion. Grant PUD believes it has a process in place that can help determine discrepancies in fish counts.
- B. **Fish ladder inspections:**
Tom Skiles performs monthly ladder inspections at the GPUD dams for the fisheries agencies and tribes. Inspections should start up again in April of 2022. No Updates
- C. **Fish spill updates:** None

Final fish counts for 2021 (April 15 – November 15)

Project/Life Stage	Spring Chinook	Summer Chinook	Sockeye	Fall Chinook	Steelhead	Coho
Priest Rapids adults	13105	49315	76855	51625	2808	47990
Rock Island adults	12332	52076	109367	16013	4558	64296
Priest Rapids jacks	1447	2298	–	2289	–	1640
Rock Island-jacks	1469	2339	–	1157	–	1878

VI. 2022 Spill Committee Selection

- A. Scott Carlon and Tom Skiles volunteered to be the spill representatives for the 2022 fish passage season.
- B. Grant PUD representatives mentioned that there is currently required spillway maintenance activities scheduled for September 2022. In addition, they communicated that increased safety process and procedures have been put in place that requires the spillway and bypass to be on seal/clearance when boats/individuals are working inside the hazard barrier.

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

General discussion occurred amongst the PRCC Representatives and all agreed in principle that operating protocols could improve overall committee function and benefit from increased formality. Specific examples included improved awareness of timelines for agendas, meeting minutes, statement of agreements, process for non-members to conduct presentations, NNI RFP process defined, document review timelines, etc. Additionally, it would serve as an information tool for future committee members.

Several comments were made by committee representatives wanting to make sure what is developed is concise, to the point and does not add unnecessary process/procedures.

Keely Murdoch committed to sending out operation protocols developed for other regional committees (e.g., HCP and PRCC-Hatchery Sub-committee). Bryan Nordlund and Tom Dresser would check their files to see if they could find a draft that the PRCC had considered from the time of committee formation that was not approved.

UPDATES

VIII. 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 (no updates)
- C. Barkley Irrigation Company Permanent Point of Diversion - Completing Implementation of the Permanent Solution (no updates)
- D. Northern Pike Removal (2022-2024)
 - a. Kirk Truscott reported that the NNI contract had been approved by his Fisheries Committee and it should have been sent back to Grant PUD. Grant PUD has not seen it yet, so Kirk will double check internal status.
- E. Quincy Pikeminnow Derby
 - a. Contract process is nearing completion.

F. Wenatchee PIT tag barge

- a. Grant PUD requested a 1-time exemption to SOA 2013-04. Which requires Grant PUD to included language in its contracts, agreements, etc. that states that equipment purchased with NNI and Habitat funds in excess of \$300 in value would be returned to Grant PUD within 15 days of contract completion. The 1-time exemption was approved by PRCC Representatives, contingent on a follow-up approval with WDFW.

IX. Committee Updates

Bryan Nordlund has forwarded the latest subcommittee distributions he has received to date via email. No Updates - Completed

- A. Priest Rapids Fish Forum – The PRFF will hold a conference call/web-share on Wednesday, March 2, 2022, from 9:00-11:00 AM.
- B. Habitat Subcommittee – HSC is not meeting in March. Instead, members are being encouraged to attend the Salmon Recovery Board RTT presentations held on March 9-10, 2022.
- C. Fall Chinook Work Group – The next meeting is scheduled for April 5, 2022.
- D. Hatchery Subcommittee – The next meeting is scheduled for March 16, 2022.

X. SOA’s discussed in 2022

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

XI. Next Meetings

The next PRCC meetings are scheduled for April 26 and May 24, 2022. Per agreement by the PRCC, the May 24, 2022, meeting will be a joint PRCC and HCP meeting. Bryan Nordlund to work with John Ferguson on meeting details.