



## **Priest Rapids Fish Forum Conference Call**

**Wednesday, 4 August 2021  
9:00 – 10:30 a.m.**

### **FINAL MINUTES**

#### **PRFF REPRESENTATIVES**

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Steve Lewis, USFWS  
Ralph Lampman, Donella Miller, YN  
TBD, Wanapum  
Jason McLellan, Bret Nine, CCT  
Mike Clement, Chris Mott, Grant PUD  
Tracy Hillman, Facilitator

Patrick Verhey, Laura Heironimus, WDFW  
Breean Zimmerman, WDOE  
Aaron Jackson, Carl Merkle, CTUIR  
Marchelle Foster, BIA  
Tom Skiles, CRITFC/CTUIR  
Erin Harris, Grant PUD

#### **ATTENDEES**

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Laura Heironimus, WDFW  
Mike Clement, Grant PUD  
Doris Squeochs, Wanapum  
Kirk Truscott, CCT  
Denny Rohr, Contractor  
Tracy Hillman, Facilitator

Ralph Lampman, YN  
Patrick Verhey, WDFW  
Breean Zimmerman, WDOE  
Tom Skiles, CRITFC/CTUIR  
Erin Harris, Grant PUD

#### **Action Items:**

- Tracy Hillman will reach out to Steve Lewis and RD Nelle to find out who will be the new USFWS Technical Representative on the PRFF.
- Ralph Lampman will send contact information on Elaine Harvey, Nate Patterson, and Tom Iverson to Tracy Hillman to add to the PRFF distribution list.
- Ralph Lampman will ask Donella Miller for an update on the status of juvenile White Sturgeon at the Yakama Nation Sturgeon Hatchery.

- I. **Welcome and Introductions** – Tracy Hillman welcomed everyone to the call and participants introduced themselves. Tracy noted that the meetings are recorded for meeting minutes. Once the notes are finalized, the recording will be destroyed.
- II. **Agenda Review** – Members reviewed and approved the August PRFF agenda.
- III. **Approve June Meeting Notes** – The 2 June 2021 meeting minutes were reviewed with edits provided by Laura Heironimus and approved (Jason McLellan approved the edited 2 June 2021 meeting notes on 9 August 2021).
  - A. **Review Action Items from June Meeting**
    1. Tracy Hillman will coordinate with John Ferguson (ASWG Chair) on the joint PRFF, RRFF, and ASWG meeting to be held on 7 July 2021. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss adult Pacific lamprey translocation efforts upstream from Priest Rapids Dam. **Complete.**
- IV. **PRFF Administration**
  - A. **USFWS Representation on the PRFF** – Tracy Hillman reported that Steve Lewis has a new position and will not serve as the USFWS technical representative on the PRFF. Rather, he will serve as the USFWS policy representative on the PRFF Policy Committee. His replacement on the PRFF has not been announced. Tracy will reach out to Steve Lewis and RD Nelle to find out who will represent the USFWS on the PRFF.
  - B. **YN Representation** – Ralph Lampman reported that Elaine Harvey has been hired to fill Bob Rose's position and she started a few months ago. Ralph added that the Yakama Nation also hired Tom Iverson, a previous contractor with the Yakama Nation who worked as a Regional Hydro Planner. Ralph said he spoke with Donella Miller and asked her if the new hires would create a change in PRFF representation. He is waiting to hear back from her. Ralph will provide Tracy Hillman with contact information for Elaine Harvey and Tom Iverson. Tracy will add them to the PRFF distribution list.
- V. **White Sturgeon**
  - A. **Update on Juvenile Rearing** – Donella Miller was unavailable and therefore there was no update provided on juvenile rearing at the Yakama Nation Sturgeon Hatchery. Mike Clement commented that Nate Patterson, Hatchery Manager, may have information on the status of juvenile sturgeon rearing at the hatchery. Ralph Lampman shared that he heard from Donella Miller that rearing is going well. Mike indicated that they spawned six females and successfully hatched 32-34 family groups. Ralph will send Nate Patterson's contract information to Tracy Hillman. Ralph will also reach out to Donella Miller on the status of juvenile sturgeon rearing at the hatchery.
  - B. **Juvenile and Adult Index Monitoring in 2021** – Mike Clement reported that Grant PUD, Golder, and Blue Leaf will start adult index monitoring on 11 August 2021. There will be two sampling sessions that will take place at 96 different sites spread across Wanapum and Priest Rapids reservoirs. The first sample session will start on 11 August and the second will start on 2 September. Sampling will provide a comparison with past efforts, and it will determine the number of CRITFC sturgeon in the project area. Mike suspects there are a few CRITFC fish that are of spawning age.

Beginning on 22 August, Grant PUD, Blue Leaf, and Golder will begin juvenile index monitoring in 360 sites across Wanapum and Priest Rapids reservoirs. Mike noted the difficulties with trying to acquire bait (pickled squid) for the monitoring efforts. COVID-19 shutdown the harvest and distribution of squid. Fortunately, they were able to acquire squid

from an overseas source, which increased the cost. The first of three shipments was received yesterday. Mike noted that at this time there is no concern that the COVID-19 pandemic will interfere with index monitoring.

- C. **Other White Sturgeon Items** – Laura Heironimus shared an email update from Jason McLellan indicating that they (CCT and others) successfully captured sturgeon larvae this year. She said they collected 3,028 larvae for the Chelan PUD program. Those were transported to Wells Hatchery on 10-12 July. Including the 2,200 larvae captured for the Douglas PUD program, there are 5,228 larvae currently on station at Wells Hatchery.

## VI. Pacific Lamprey

- A. **Results from the Translocation Coordination Meeting** – Tracy Hillman shared that he has not yet received the notes from the Aquatic Settlement Working Group (ASWG) regarding the PRFF, ASWG, and Rocky Reach Fish Forum (RRFF) coordination meeting held in July. Tracy reported it was a successful meeting. He reminded members that the coordination meeting was a recommendation by the RRFF and USFWS. Presently, the goal is to translocate a minimum of 500 adult lamprey upstream from Wells Dam. About 75% will go into the Methow and Columbia rivers and the remaining 25% will go into the Okanogan subbasin. All adult lamprey captured during the first four weeks of trapping at Priest Rapids Dam will be transported upstream from Wells Dam by Douglas PUD. Following that effort, the ASWG will decide if they want the adult lamprey collected during the second four-week period to be transported upstream from Wells Dam. If not, the adults captured during the second four-week period will be transported upstream of Rock Island Dam and released at Kirby Billingsley Park by Grant PUD. This fulfills Grant PUD's responsibility under the current SOA.

Mike Clement noted the meeting was primarily to coordinate among the three PUDs. Most of the coordination, however, is between Grant and Douglas PUDs. There was also an in-depth discussion regarding the effects of translocation on the escapement of adult lamprey into the Wenatchee and Entiat rivers. In general, members were okay with the translocation of about 20% of the run escapement (at Priest Rapids Dam) to locations upstream from Wells Dam.

- B. **Update on Adult Trapping** – Mike Clement reported that adult lamprey trapping began on 19 July 2021. As of yesterday (3 August), 157 adults have been trapped and handed to Douglas PUD for translocation upstream from Wells Dam. There are about two weeks left in adult lamprey trapping for the Douglas PUD program. Mike said he should hear from Douglas PUD whether they will want the adult lamprey captured during the second four-week trapping period. Tracy Hillman asked how the numbers trapped this year compare to past years. Mike responded that they have captured more fish earlier this year than in past years. Tom Skiles asked about the lamprey count issues at McNary Dam. Ralph Lampman said there are 24-hour counts at McNary Dam and the data are online (starting in 2008), but they are not easy to access. In addition, the counts are biased low, as there are more fish counted passing dams upstream from McNary Dam than are counted at McNary Dam.

- C. **Other Pacific Lamprey Items** – None.

## VII. Next Meeting: 1 September 2021