



Priest Rapids Coordinating Committee Meeting

Final Approved Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, July 28, 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
Kirk Truscott, CCT
Tom Skiles, CTUIR
Chad Jackson, WDFW

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

Decisions Made in the July 28, 2020 Meeting

1. Approved a Change Order to the RTR NNI Contract No. 601-30H to increase funding by \$18,228.02 as requested.

Meeting Agenda (amended July 27, 2020)

- I. Welcome and Introductions**
- II. Agenda Review (D. Rohr) – No additions were made.**
- III. Meeting Minutes (D. Rohr)**
 - A. June 23, 2020 – Approved, no edits.
- IV. Review of Actions Items from June 23, 2020 Webinar Conference (D. Rohr)**

1. Rohr explained that a 30-day comment period ending COB on July 15th had been set in the June 12th email to the PRCC members. Any additional comments PRCC members may have on the red-line changes to the updated draft EA addendum were requested to be sent to Tom Dresser at Grant PUD. – **Completed.**
2. Rohr will keep the PRCC advised of the Barkley Irrigation Company project activities. -**Completed.**
3. T. Skiles will send avian predation documents discussed during today's meeting to Rohr for distribution to committee members. - **Completed.**
4. Dotson will provide more details regarding part of the RTR activities that caused the expense but were unknown at the time of their original funding request – this regarding a Chelan PUD funding requirement. - **Completed.**

V. Priest Rapids Right Embankment Improvement Project - Addendum 1 to Draft Environmental Assessment, V2, dated May 2020 (Redline) (C. Dotson, D. Rohr) – Rohr reviewed and confirmed with committee members the final action regarding Addendum 1 to the Draft Environmental Assessment, V2, dated May 2020 (draft EA Addendum). After additional consultation with stakeholders, Grant PUD removed the additional/alternate section of the Dept. of Army YTC access route (which was illustrated on slide #5 in the PowerPoint provided by Tom Dresser to PRCC on 4/28/20). This decision was based on potential impacts to cultural resources related to this alternate route.

Therefore, based on the removal of the alternate section of the road, the originally proposed Army YTC segment of the upstream access route that was proposed as part of the May 17, 2019 draft EA that was submitted to FERC needed additional maintenance and repair work that was not described in sufficient detail in the May 17, 2019 draft EA. The additional maintenance and repair work included was necessary to safely transport materials and equipment to and from the Cow Creek Quarry. The draft EA that was provided to PRCC for review on April 28 was updated to reflect these changes.

By email notice of June 12, 2020, D. Rohr set a 30-day review and comment period for the draft EA addendum with the comment period ending at close of business on Wednesday, July 15, 2020. However, due to a misunderstanding by Grant PUD of the time requirement for submittal of the draft EA addendum to FERC, Rohr sent email to PRCC members on June 25, 2020 requesting a change of the comment period from Wednesday, July 15, 2020 to Friday, June 26, 2020. Accordingly, all PRCC members were contacted and there were no comments received.

Additionally, Rohr provided clarification to committee members that the Grant PUD Cultural Resources staff had also provided a copy of the draft EA Addendum to the involved tribes and no comments were received. Rohr thanked committee members for their quick response to the change of the comment period.

- VI. UPDATE - Barkley Irrigation Co Permanent Point of Diversion, Completing Implementation of the Permanent Solution (D. Rohr)** – Rohr informed the committee members the PRCC-HabSC approved funding the previously discussed \$250,000 request from Trout Unlimited, dated May 19, 2020, from Habitat Fund 602. Under additional PRCC-HabSC review and discussion is the consideration of selling a piece of property purchased during the implementation of this project that is no longer needed and could possibly be used to backfill the \$250,000. Rohr will keep the PRCC advised.
- VII. Review of RTR NNI Funding Details (C. Dotson)**
- VIII. (Addition to agenda) Request for Change Order to RTR NNI contract – request for additional funding of up to \$18,228 due to unknown facility-use fee at Rock Island tagging facilities.** – C. Dotson shared that he had received an invoice from RTR that included a request for an additional charge of \$18,228.02 associated with the PIT tagging of steelhead smolts being used in the avian predation studies. Dotson informed committee members that when RTR developed their budget proposal/request for the 2020 program studies, which included the fish-tagging at Rock Island Dam (RI), they were not aware they were going to be charged a daily fee for use of the RI tagging facilities. Accordingly, approx. 6,300 steelhead smolts were tagged over a 67-day period which resulted in a total daily use fee charge of \$18,228.02. Dotson also noted when asked that Chelan PUD staff were doing the tagging due to Covid-19 social distancing requirements, with Chelan not wanting to bring additional personnel (i.e RTR tagging staff) into their RI tagging facility. After additional discussion, including a viewing of the RTR invoice that was displayed on the webinar screen, committee members approved a Change Order to NNI Contract 601-30H to include the \$18,228.02 being requested. Dotson will follow up with the Change Order, and he will also notify RTR of the committee’s decision.
- IX. Review of Draft Avian Predation Synthesis Report (C. Dotson)** – C. Dotson shared work on two chapters is being completed and the report is expected to be finalized soon. Dotson stated it is well over 700 pages and a large endeavor.
- X. 2020 Fish Spill Update (C. Dotson) - Ongoing**
- XI. Potpourri (D. Rohr)** – The PRCC meeting date change approved in January of 2020 was to be reviewed at the July 2020 meeting. Accordingly, with meetings being held by webinars due to the COVID-19 circumstances, Rohr shared he is postponing the review discussion to a later TBD date.

GENERAL UPDATES

- XII. Avian Predation Activities (C. Dotson, T. Skiles)** – C. Dotson reported that the RTR contract is for monitoring work at the Potholes area and Goose Island. He also shared the BOR, via their contractor, has collected 110 Caspian Tern eggs during their weekly two-day surveys of Goose Island, noting that this is more than

RTR has collected during their 5 years of work on Goose Island combined. RTR has observed 94 Caspian Terns at Goose Island with 11 Terns sitting on nests, and there is still a lot of activity going on. North potholes area had 56 Caspian Terns also identified. T. Skiles, asked if RTR will be collecting PIT tags on Goose Island after the nesting season? Dotson replied yes. Also, Skiles asked if this info that Dotson is sharing is from BOR and not RTR? Dotson commented the bird number is from RTR's surveys, and an email was received from BOR with information regarding the 110 Tern eggs collected. Skiles shared egg collection can happen until the eggs hatch, otherwise it is not allowed.

XIII. FCRPS BiOp – Corps/BOR Avian Predation Management in Columbia Plateau Region (C. Dotson, S. Carlon) -D. Rohr shared he has confirmed that the CRSO FEIS / FCRPS BiOp are on schedule to be released on Friday, July 31st.

XIV. Review of Outstanding NNI Funded Projects

A. **Continued Support for UC Fish Screen Program** (C. Jackson) – Fish screen work has been delayed due to Covid-19 but it is starting to pick up. Jackson shared with the committee that going forward, Danny Didricksen will produce a monthly or bi-monthly progress report for committee review. Also, Didricksen will attend a PRCC meeting as requested to share information and answer any questions committee members may have.

B. **Lower Wenatchee Instream Flow Enhancement Project Phase II** (C. Jackson, D. Rohr) – No new information.

C. **“Non-Native Predator Recruitment Reduction – Phase I”** (K. Murdoch) – No new information.

D. **“Northern Pike Removal in Lake Roosevelt”** (K. Truscott) – No new information.

E. **2020 Quincy Valley Tourism Association Northern Pikeminnow Fishing Derby** (C. Dotson) – Curt Dotson shared that the derby people are waiting to see how the Covid-19 situation plays out and for how long. Committee members will be kept advised.

F. **Avian Predation on ESA-listed Juvenile Salmonids on the Mid-Columbia River, 2020, Real Time Research** (C. Dotson) – No further comments, please see agenda item XI.

XV. Committee Reports (D. Rohr) – PRFF distributed; no FaChWkGp July meeting.

XVI. NNI and Habitat Funds Report, 2020 (D. Rohr) -D. Rohr shared the report was just received and emailed out to committee members. Review to follow.

XVII. Next Meeting – Tuesday, August 25, 2020, 1:00 pm, MS TEAMS Webinar.

Action Items from July 28, 2020 meeting

1. Dotson will advise RTR of the approved Contract Change Order as requested.
2. Rohr will keep committee members advised of status of the “Barkley Irrigation Co Permanent Point of Diversion Project”.

3. Rohr will follow up with Jackson and Didricksen regarding details of the UC Fish Screen Program reports.

--END--