

## **FINAL MEETING MINUTES PRCC Habitat Subcommittee**

**Friday, October 12, 2007**

**9:00 am – 12:00 pm**

**Chelan PUD**

**Safety and Risk Conference Room**

### PRCC/PRCC Habitat Subcommittee Members

Chris Fisher, CCT  
Bob Rose, YN  
Dale Bambrick, NMFS  
David Morgan, USFWS  
Chris Parsons, WDFW  
Ben Lenz, GPUD  
Denny Rohr, Facilitator

Tom Dresser Grant PUD (by phone)  
Carmen Andonaegui, WDFW (by phone)  
Jim Craig, USFWS (by phone)  
Curt Dotson, Grant PUD (by phone)  
Scott Carlon, NMFS (by phone)  
Bryan Nordlund, NMFS (by phone)  
Shannon Lowry, Grant PUD (by phone)

### **Action items:**

- Rohr will develop a reporting system to keep both PRCC and PRCC Habitat Committee members updated on Habitat Funds use.
- Fisher will contact the McIntyre Dam Project Sponsor to determine who will be responsible for future O&M funding.
- Fisher will obtain a written commitment from the Town of Oliver to install a permanent fish screen at McIntyre Dam.
- Fisher will provide Grant PUD with information on which co-sponsor the District will work with in developing the funding agreement for the McIntyre Dam Project Proposal.
- Fisher will provide Lenz with an update on invoicing for the Omak Creek Culvert Replacement Project.
- Parsons will work with Lenz on beginning the internal WDFW Lands 20/20 process to accept the Godwin Property from Grant PUD.

### **Approvals:**

- PRCC Habitat Subcommittee members approved the request for NNI funding for the McIntyre Dam Project Proposal. PRCC members approved the project contingent on NMFS review of conceptual designs, a determination on O&M funding, and a written commitment from the Town of Oliver for installation of a permanent fish screen.

I. Welcome and Introductions (Denny)

II. Agenda Review (Denny)

- III. Approval of Meeting Minutes (Denny)
  - A. July 17, 2007 meeting -approved
  - B. July 27, 2007 conference call-approved (w/addition of Jason Paulsen at Methow Cons.)
  - C. August 3, 2007 conference call-approved.
  
- IV. Report of Current Habitat and NNI Funds (Denny) - Chris Parsons requested to be updated on predator study status as the Habitat SC never approved this. David Morgan stated that the PRCC uses the Habitat SC's documents and processes. Dale Bambrick stated that the PRCC is not obligated to keep the Habitat SC informed or ask for their input regarding decisions. Chris Fisher stated that the use of NNI Funds process lacks team unity in allocating the funds according to their purpose. Bambrick stated that the Settlement Agreement states the Habitat SC has the right to decide. Parsons stated that the PRCC didn't talk to the Habitat SC re: NNI Funding protocols and questions how the Habitat SC will be a part of the allocation of NNI funds. She further stated that the Habitat SC wants to participate in NNI funding and requested improved communication between the PRCC and Habitat SC. Denny Rohr suggested creating a reporting system to keep each committees' members updated on fund use. Bambrick suggested improved internal coordination within members' agencies. Parsons stated that Rohr needs to be the pivotal person in achieving good communication between the two committees and expressed difficulty in coordinating the PRCC's mandate to draft a statement protocol and requests for all committee representatives to communicate better. Bambrick stated that a breakdown in agency internal communication has occurred and gave example between he, Bryan Nordlund, and Scott Carlon, who had strong feelings about NNI funding protocols. Rohr doesn't feel it will be difficult to coordinate funding efforts between the two committees. Fisher stated that there appears to be impatience in spending the NNI funds and that large projects require time to reach agreements with numerous entities, citing the Okanogan River example. Bambrick stated the PRCC didn't have any interest in the NNI fund until recently. Morgan feels he can reach internal agreement with Jim Craig. Fisher feels he can coordinate effectively internally, as well. Parsons would like to know the cost of the predator study. Bambrick stated the cost would likely be spread over three years. Rohr stated that deposits will be made during this time frame and that sufficient funds exist for current projects. Bob Rose is not sure if predator study will be funded. Grant PUD foresees the study to be a status and trend update while WDFW perceives it to be more research-oriented. The costs could range from low to high. Any opposition in the language of the NNI funding protocols can go to PRCC representative to discuss concerns. Parsons continues to express concern that the predator study hasn't been fully discussed between committees. Bambrick prefers scaled-back version of the study to discuss impact from other exotic predator species. Parsons

mentioned that every reservoir predation study is specific to a particular reservoir's unique conditions.

V. **McIntyre Dam pre-conf. call discussion** - Bambrick states that the PRCC will not "rubber stamp" this project proposal and questioned the backwatering methods, gate height, dentates and responsibility for maintenance of the dam and its improved passage facilities. Fisher stated the Ministry of Ecology will be responsible. Likely maintenance issues will concern the rock groin structures and will be routine rock replacement and intends to address the risk of the backwater structure not maintaining proper water levels. Bambrick cited the K weirs in the Entiat which become migration barriers during low flow periods. Bambrick stated that he foresees these questions needing to be addressed to gain complete approval from the NMFS representatives of the PRCC. Morgan asked when the final approval should be given citing the need to know by Nov. 15, 2007 for HCP funding coordination. Fisher stated that the \$500,000 cost increase from \$1.2 million to \$1.7 million is due to increasing the number of passable gates to five instead of two which was necessary to maintain sufficient irrigation water diverted to canal. Rose asked whether or not addressing the PRCC's concerns would lead to further design modifications of the proposal and a subsequent increase in cost and Fisher answered no. ALL PRCC HABITAT SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS VOTED YES TO FUND THIS PROJECT as described in the Project Specification Sheet, Submittal Date of September 27, 2007, Project Title "Construction of Fish Passage and Screening at McIntyre Dam".

VI. **ACTION: Construction of Fish Passage and Screening at McIntyre Dam** - (PRCC members are being asked to attend the meeting in person or by conference phone to participate in this discussion which includes NNI Funding) (Chris F./Denny). Rohr explained that the PRCC Habitat Subcommittee has already approved co-funding of the \$2.7 million McIntyre Dam project, but approval for the NNI Fund contribution of \$1.7 million is needed from the PRCC. Fisher provided PRCC members background information on the project, which involves construction of fish passage at the dam and installation of a fish screen on an irrigation canal on the upstream side of the dam. Fisher stated that construction of fish passage at McIntyre Dam is expected to improve the downstream migration of juvenile sockeye out-migrating from Skaha Lake. Fisher also stated that because the project meets fish passage objectives, it is an appropriate use for NNI funds. Because the project falls under the jurisdiction of Fisheries and Oceans - Canada, Carlon asked whether the agency uses similar criteria used for fish passage to that used by NMFS. Fisher stated that the Department of Fisheries and Oceans was concerned by the proposed alternative of providing a fishway for adults, while leaving the dam's existing gates in place. The project will involve replacement of two of the five underflow gates with overshot gates, and construction of a backwater riffle downstream to facilitate upstream passage.

Five gates are recommended for more accurate management of flow conditions for fish passage, irrigation and lake level. A permanent fish screen would be installed at the irrigation flume intake to prevent entrainment of fish. In reviewing the proposal, Nordlund asked how the maximum drop corresponds with upstream migration. Fisher stated that if using one gate, a maximum drop of .4 meters (18 inches) would occur during migration. Nordlund noted that in new NMFS fish passage criteria, a concrete apron and a drop of 18 inches or higher is an issue, and express concern in approving a proposal which NMFS would consider an impediment to fish passage. Fisher noted that a drop range of .2 to .4 meters depends on irrigation needs and other variables. In-stream riffles will be constructed to deepen the pool downstream from the dam, stated Fisher, noting the apron will not be removed. **Nordlund requested a copy of the preliminary engineering design.** Andonaegui noted the PRCC works closely with Nordlund in reviewing fish passage engineering designs, noting that designs for adult passage improvement are sometimes inconsistent with moving juveniles safely out of a dam's tailrace. She asked if the pool could result in predation issues. Bambrick noted there are non-native predators downstream of McIntyre Dam. Fisher noted that in 2000 studies were done on reintroduction of sockeye with an evaluation of the predator, non-native fish community, noting there are no walleye in the system yet. All other non-native stock upstream of McIntyre also exist downstream. Fisher noted that one of the proposal's objectives is to minimize any slow moving water downstream of the dam. Timing of the flows during both adult and juvenile passage would likely take care of the issue because there would be little overlap during passage time-frames, stated Fisher. Fisher noted that the proposal was adjusted to address flow issues during the design process. He also stated that predation will be an issue downstream of McIntyre because flows will be relatively high, with spill gates low, allowing for a large run. Fisher noted that the gates open from the bottom, allowing for little drop. Nordlund expressed concern with back-water structure stability during high flows and asked whether there is a funding plan for maintaining and inspecting the structure. Bambrick stated that it is a rock-weir configuration, which don't tend to fail in entirety and would require minimal funding to maintain. Bambrick recommended the project sponsors absorb all maintenance funding. Currently O&M is taken care of by the Canadian Ministry of Environment, noted Fisher, adding that **he will contact the project sponsor concerning who will be responsible for O&M funding.** Fisher also noted that ONA staff will inspect the structure closely. Dresser asked whether Chelan PUD was involved in funding. Fisher noted that Chelan PUD will not assist in funding of this project. Following a question by Rose, Fisher stated that Town of Oliver was not supportive of a required pump station and may not contribute to funding of the project. However, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans issued an order to the Town of Oliver pursuant to the Fisheries Act to install a permanent fish screen to prevent fish entering the canal. In the proposal, the

Town of Oliver committed to installation of the screen. **Fisher agreed to pursue a written commitment from Town of Oliver for installation of the screen.** Rohr asked for PRCC NNI funding approval contingent on NMFS' conceptual design review, a determination of future O&M funding of the in-stream structure from the Canadian Ministry of the Environment, and securing a written commitment for fish screen installation from the Town of Oliver. Fisher noted that preliminary design drawings will be sent to Nordlund for his review. Rohr called for a vote of the PRCC to address the PRCC Habitat Subcommittee request to approve \$1.7 million from the NNI Fund to fund the McIntyre Dam Project, subject to the contingencies discussed by the committee (see comments above). Carlon voted yes. Dresser voted yes, but asked which entity Grant PUD would work on providing the funding. **Fisher will follow-up and provide the information to Dresser.** Andonaegui, Craig and Rose voted yes, providing the above contingencies are approved and/or resolved. Rohr noted that Jerry Marco of CCT will be contacted for his vote.

- VII. Update: Omak Creek Culvert Replacement (Chris F.) Ben Lenz stated that Grant PUD hasn't received an invoice for this project yet and Fisher will check up on that. Project is complete.
- VIII. Update: Hardesty Property (David) – Morgan stated that the purchase is complete and that the property is also cleaned up according to the HFA. A suspicious fire occurred on the property in early Sept. which removed a shed. USFS placed a rock fence to impede access from the road.
- IX. Update: Godwin Property (Ben). Purchase complete. Parsons stated that she has yet to begin the internal WDFW Lands 20/20 process, which involves Terri Preston, lands agent, to gain WDFW commission approval for accepting this property from Grant PUD, but will coordinate with Lenz.
- X. Update: Kahler Glen Property (Ben) - Lenz stated that Parsons told him that the owners are pursuing swapping this land with the USFS instead of accepting the Habitat SC's offer of \$75,000, the appraised amount.
- XI. Update: Monitor Irrigation Diversion Improvements, Jones-Shotwell Project (Ben). Lenz stated that the construction has begun and is due to be completed in November. Bambrick stated that construction is occurring near spawning summer Chinook.
- XII. LiDAR Update (Bob/Ben) Rose will request an update from Joseph Jones. Lenz expressed need to coordinate with Bureau of Rec efforts in the Wenatchee R. Basin who'll be presenting their results on Nov. 1 at the Wenatchee Watershed Planning Unit Habitat SC mtg.

XIII. Discussion of Next Meeting (Denny): Nov. 16 is next scheduled mtg. in Wenatchee.