



**FINAL MEETING MINUTES**

**Priest Rapids Hatchery Subcommittee Meeting**

Friday, Feb. 23, 2007

9:00 am to 3:00 pm

Grant PUD SeaTac Office

**PR Hatchery Subcommittee Members**

Kris Petersen, NMFS

Tom Scribner, Keely Murdoch, YN

Dave Carie, USFWS

Carl Merkle, CTUIR

Jerry Marco, CCT

Kirk Truscott, WDFW

Russell Langshaw, GPUD

Denny Rohr, Facilitator

**Attendees (\* denotes committee member or alternate):**

\*Kirk Truscott, WDFW

\*Kris Petersen, NMFS

\*Russell Langshaw, Grant PUD

\*Jerry Marco, CCT

\*Tom Scribner, Yakama Nation

\*Dave Carie, USFWS (by phone)

Steve Brown, Grant PUD

Tom Dresser, Grant PUD (by phone)

Ben Lenz, Grant PUD (by phone)

Chris Carlson, Grant PUD

Mike Nicholls, Grant PUD

Denny Rohr, Facilitator

Shannon Lowry, Grant PUD

**DECISION SUMMARY:**

- Approved (with requested changes) fall Chinook HGMP/M&E timeline extension SOA
- Approved (with requested changes) BY06 White River spring Chinook release SOA
- Approved Coho Protection Program timeline extension SOA

**DISTRIBUTED ITEMS:**

- White River Spring Chinook Implementation Schedule – DRAFT
- 2006 Biological Opinion Annual Activities Report CD
- Status sheet of action items from Jan. 18, 2007 PRCC HSC meeting
- Planning and scheduling meeting outline
- Fall Chinook HGMP/M&E time extension SOA
- BY06 White River spring Chinook release SOA
- Coho Protection Program Timeline Extension SOA

## **ACTION ITEMS:**

- **Carry over from January 18<sup>th</sup> meeting – WDFW BY06 WR Captive Broodstock Collection Proposal/SOA: Langshaw to add language to the Final SOA that addresses and includes the “pending issuance of appropriate ESA permits”, and Rohr will distribute Final SOA.**
- **Rohr will distribute the three approved SOAs (see Decision Summary above) after completion of requested changes.**
- **Rohr will distribute approved January 18<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes with changes as directed.**
- **Rohr will provide a synopsis of critical timelines for individual program HGMP development milestones.**
- **Grant PUD staff will internally discuss the Greg Ferguson contract and notify Rohr of a timeline for processing. Langshaw will send the contract scope of work to subcommittee members for comment. Deadline for comment is Thursday, March 1.**
- **Grant PUD will provide to the subcommittee a revised Priest Rapids Hatchery fall Chinook SOA.**
- **Langshaw will send the formal UCR spring Chinook reference condition proposal to both the HETT and subcommittee members and the issue will be added to the March 22 PRCC HSC meeting agenda.**
- **Grant PUD will provide letter indicating that the Sockeye Experimental Reintroduction to Skaha Lake plan is consistent with Grant PUD’s sockeye mitigation program (thus serving as submission of an HGMP and M&E plan)**
- **A draft Nason Creek spring Chinook schedule will be provided by Grant PUD at the March 22 PRCC Hatchery Subcommittee meeting.**
- **Input on the White River schedule will be provided to Lowry by subcommittee members by the March 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting (comments prior to Marcy 22<sup>nd</sup> are encouraged).**
- **Langshaw will provide the draft White River HGMP to subcommittee members in March.**
- **Lowry will provide at the March 22 PRCC Hatchery Subcommittee meeting a draft invitation for the May 17 public meeting.**
- **Lowry will provide Kris Petersen with a list of correspondence between Grant PUD and White River and Nason Creek residents to date.**
- **Rohr will send subcommittee members the new Coho language included on Yakama Nation signature page to the Salmon & Steelhead Settlement Agreement.**
- **Dave Carie will distribute USFWS Hatchery Review Report to subcommittee members.**
- **Lowry will mail a copy of the Biological Opinion 2006 Annual Activities Report to Dave Carie.**
- **Kris Petersen will notify subcommittee members of Section 10 progress.**
- **Langshaw will internally discuss the JFP’s recommendation for summer Chinook programs splits.**
- **Lowry will email a draft White River implementation schedule to Lenz and Carie.**

## MEETING MINUTES:

- I. **Welcome and Introductions** – Rohr welcomed attendees.
- II. **Agenda Review** – Rohr distributed a revised agenda and discussed its minor changes.
- III. **Approval of Meeting Minutes**
  - A. **January 18, 2007** – Truscott noted a change to Section V regarding the Priest Rapids Hatchery. The change was made and minutes were finalized by subcommittee members. Rohr discussed January 18<sup>th</sup> meeting action items.
- IV. **Scheduling and Planning Discussion**
  - A. **Work Group Report** – A meeting was attended by Tom Scribner, Kris Petersen, Denny Rohr, Kirk Truscott and Russ Langshaw concerning HGMP & M&E development. Rohr distributed an outline generated from the meeting. Rohr focused on proposed steps to complete HGMP and M&E plans and WDFW and Grant PUD’s role in that development. Truscott stated that Keith Keown retired and WDFW no longer has staff solely dedicated to writing HGMPs for the Upper Columbia. If Grant PUD hires an outside contractor to assist in HGMP development, Truscott stated he and other staff will provide the technical information needed by the contractor, with Truscott serving as the WDFW direct contact regarding technical information for hatchery facilities and monitoring and evaluation programs. Langshaw stated that Grant PUD has initiated a contract with Greg Ferguson for HGMP development for all of Grant PUD’s fish programs, noting the contract process will likely take five weeks. Scribner noted his request to expedite the process with a purchase order (which would not require PUD Commission approval). Brown stated that because the professional services contract will be over \$10,000, a purchase order is not an option, but noted that Grant PUD staff would work as quickly as possible to complete the contract process. Petersen requested that the public outreach effort be included within the contract’s scope. Langshaw confirmed that the scope includes Ferguson’s participation in public outreach efforts and noted that the contract includes timelines for HGMP development which are more aggressive than those the subcommittee previously discussed. Brown suggested the Ferguson contract scope of work be sent to subcommittee members, noting that changes can be made up to the point the contract is submitted to Commission for review. Petersen stated that as long as there is a mechanism for making changes following SOW review, she is comfortable with proceeding forward, also noting that the HGMP schedule needs to not be so aggressive that proper review cannot occur. Timeframes for providing the technical information will require advance notification, stated Truscott. He requested a bulleted list of the data elements needed for each draft and noted there are HGMPs on WDFW’s website for existing programs which can be used to identify what is needed. Scribner suggested Truscott communicate with Ferguson concerning the data requirements, adding that the Yakama Nation would fund Ferguson’s participation in the March 22 PRCC Hatchery Subcommittee meeting.
  - B. **White River HGMP Development** – Subcommittee members discussed Grant PUD’s proposal to use the language, “reference condition” rather than “reference stream” in the White River M&E plans for inclusion in HGMPs. Langshaw will submit the proposal to the HETT for its March meeting. The proposal involves the use of spawning composition manipulation to evaluate supplementation programs. Langshaw stated that Grant PUD can move forward with development of the HGMPs with the change in

language, but acknowledged that more work will be required on the hypotheses using spawning composition manipulation. Grant PUD staff is prepared to move forward simultaneously with discussions of spawning composition manipulation and with the evaluation of reference streams for the Chelan and Douglas programs. Petersen stated that manipulating spawner composition is a co-manager decision. Langshaw noted that while Grant PUD is willing accept whatever policy decision is made, the District doesn't anticipate any significant changes in the hypothesis, just where data is collected. Truscott stated his support of using "reference condition," but noted that for programs for sockeye and spring Chinook, a deviation from what is happening with the HCP and the PRCC in terms of M&E is unacceptable, and that different methods cannot be used in the same stream. Petersen stated that NOAA is concerned with why Grant PUD is struggling with pursuing reference stream monitoring. Brown stated that cost is not the issue with the method. Petersen noted that the uncertainties involved with using reference streams have been acknowledged. Langshaw stated Grant PUD's concerns about funding M&E in a stream the District is not supplementing, but reiterated Grant PUD's technical concerns with finding suitable reference streams and detecting impacts. Langshaw also stated his concern with pursuing reference streams and nothing else, noting the ability to detect impact is limited based on how the hypothesis is set up. With actual manipulation, if the study design is robust, you can better measure the impact, added Langshaw, noting that Grant PUD wants to pursue a method that could actually detect an impact. Langshaw will update the HETT, which is scheduled to meet prior to the March 22 PRCC Hatchery Subcommittee meeting. Truscott and Petersen noted that based on the way the M&E Plan is set up there are decision points built in. Marco asked if the proposal could be used as a contingency if a reference stream cannot be found. Langshaw said yes. Langshaw will send the formal proposal to both the HETT and subcommittee members.

**C. White River schedule** – Brown noted that detailed coordination schedules concerning programs required by the Biological Opinion and the Salmon Settlement Agreement are being developed by Grant PUD staff. A draft White River implementation schedule was distributed (will be e-mailed to Dave Carie and Ben Lenz). Brown walked subcommittee members through the schedule and requested collaboration from subcommittee members, noting that schedules are designed to show how completion of specific tasks affects the overall schedule. He requested identification of appropriate tasks, the sequence of those tasks, the duration of the work, and who will be involved in those tasks. Brown also noted the schedule begins with assumptions about the overall project and requested input on those assumptions. Discussion occurred on whether site selection needs to occur before the HGMP is finalized. Scribner requested that leads be identified for each task. Petersen requested that timeline schedule for HGMP development for the White River is used for the Nason Creek program and also requested attention be paid to the public process involved in each schedule. Petersen noted that Grant PUD is not obligated to develop facilities on McComas short plat. Subcommittee members requested White River and Nason Creek schedules are developed on a similar timeframe, to the extent possible. Lowry will provide a draft Nason Creek schedule at the March 22 PRCC Hatchery Subcommittee meeting. Input on the White River schedule will be provided as soon as possible prior to the next meeting. Petersen also requested a list of correspondence between Grant PUD and White River and Nason Creek residents.

## **V. White River**

**A. DECISION: SOA – Release Strategy Proposal** – Subcommittee members approved the SOA with requested revisions. Rohr will distribute the SOA with requested changes.

**B. Marking Update/Discussion** – Grant PUD has received a scope of work and budget from USFWS for marking in the first or second week of March. Marking will be with CWT based on ELISA groups. Highs will be released as subyearlings and all others will be retained for the program. The full program will be marked with CWTs at the base of the adipose fin. Subyearlings will be snout-tagged with half tags, still adipose present, noted Langshaw.

**C. Status of Sec 10 Permit** – Petersen stated a determination is being made whether the Environmental Assessment may need to be sent back to NMFS' NEPA expert for additional review. Petersen will forward Section 10 comments to subcommittee members. Truscott noted that fry-trapping for 2006 captive broodstock cannot occur until the permit is issued. Carlson also noted that rotary trapping on the White River is on hold pending a Section 10 permit. Scribner asked for notification of when the Section 10 will be sent to Washington, D.C. for final signing to allow for mobilization of staff to conduct smolt-trapping on the White River.

**D. Net Pen Update** – Grant PUD is in the process of developing net pen installation and fish husbandry contracts with WDFW and Chelan PUD. Staff is waiting for a written response from Chelan County and a WDOE temporary water quality permit. Transfer is anticipated to occur the week of March 12.

**VI. Nason Creek**

**A. Discussion of HGMP Development** – Langshaw noted that development is on the same timeline as the White River HGMP. Grant PUD has internally reviewed a draft, but it is in the same general stage of development as the one for the White River.

**VII. Priest Rapids Hatchery**

**A. DECISION: SOA – HGMP/M&E Timeline Extension** – comments on the initial SOA, sent to committee members on January 29, were provided by Kris Petersen and a second amended SOA was sent on Feb. 13. Truscott questioned why the M&E for smolt and fry plans were being developed separately. Carlson noted that the M&E plan for fry will require more time. The plans could be developed simultaneously, but the overall timeline would need to be extended, noted Langshaw. Petersen stated that discussion needs to stay with the subcommittee and not go to the HETT. Truscott asked for a mid-timeline check-in to track progress of the HGMP. Langshaw requested a determination on what the objective of the M&E plan is, noting the program should be considered an augmentation program and the M&E plan developed accordingly. The program should be designed to measure return, smolt-production size, monitoring of long-term trends, disease, etc. Truscott noted the program is harvest-based. The subcommittee discussed the requirements for an integrated program. Petersen requested more time to consider the request for a timeline extension for the HGMP/M&E, noting background concerning why the M&E plan has not yet been developed is missing in the SOA. Truscott noted that HSRG reports in the lower Columbia and additional fry in the proposed program are among the reasons for the delay. Paul Hoffarth of WDFW has been contacted concerning existing M&E objectives, noted Langshaw. The subcommittee discussed M&E objective possibilities. Petersen requested changes to the SOA. The subcommittee approved the SOA with the requested changes. Rohr will distribute the SOA with requested changes.

**B. Review of Incubation/Office Complex Facility Design** – Grant PUD biologist Chris Carlson and engineer Mike Nicholls gave a presentation on the Priest Rapids Hatchery expansion and renovation program. Grant PUD and WDFW hatchery staff have been working together to develop the footprint. Carlson presented preliminary drawings of the administration and incubation building layout. The existing hatchery incubation facility is being incorporated into the design. The designs do not include the sturgeon program. The existing hatchery building will contain hatchery staff offices, meeting/break room, restroom with shower, shop, feed storage and temporary bunk bed rooms (until new staff residences are constructed). A new incubation building will be constructed next to the existing hatchery building. The design incorporates all potential egg programs, including the Corps of Engineer and Tribal egg take programs. The programs outside Grant PUD’s mitigation are still under negotiation. The incubation building will also include office, locker/mud, mechanical/electrical, restroom and storage rooms. Formalin will be held outside the incubation building in prefabricated self-contained storage units. Scribner noted that the Corps of Engineers (Corps) was at a US v OR meeting and received the message that the Corps program (1.7 million John Day fish) needed to remain at the Priest Rapids Hatchery once funding issues are negotiated. Carlson noted that Grant PUD is waiting for a response from the Corps concerning their intent for the program and providing compensation. The subcommittee also discussed the importance of a “dirty room” for disease sampling, etc. Nicholls and Carlson stated they will discuss with WDFW staff the possibility of incorporating a “dirty room” into the design. Scribner suggested additional discussion with a fish health expert. Following work with WDFW staff on the details of the design, a contract for construction is anticipated to be in place by the end of 2007. Construction is estimated to take three years because ongoing hatchery activities result in short work windows.

**VIII. Summer Chinook Program – Percentage Tributary Split**

**A. Discussion of Program Goals**

**B. Working Group Report** – Following examination of data sets, which included escapement numbers, spawning ground population estimates, hatchery-wild proportion on the spawning grounds, etc., the JFP made a recommendation to the PRCC Hatchery Subcommittee concerning tributary splits for the summer Chinook program. While data sets did not determine a definitive biological decision, a recommendation was made to split mitigation production requirements of 833,000 smolts as follows: 30% (Wenatchee), 30% (Methow), 30% (Okanogan) and 10% (Entiat). The Yakamas provided a proposal to the JFP which added the Entiat River to the program. Scribner noted that only a raceway and release site would be initially required to implement the Entiat program. Langshaw stated that Grant PUD had concerns with the addition of the Entiat program, noting the difference between a harvest program in the mainstem and a harvest program in the Entiat River. The USFWS, based on discussion with the USFWS Hatchery Review Team, is not supportive of using the agency’s facilities on the Entiat for the program, stated Carie, noting however that the determination was based on a full adult-collection to smolt-release program. Scribner reiterated that the Entiat would only be used for acclimation and release. Carie stated he would further discuss the issue with the USFWS Hatchery Review Team, noting that an acclimation pond is proposed for the Entiat facility, creating a possible opportunity for the Entiat portion of the program. A meeting between USFWS, Chelan County and USFS is planned in the next few weeks to discuss

the proposal. Truscott noted that an acclimation facility would have to be designed to attract and remove adults. Langshaw noted Grant PUD's three primary concerns in developing an Entiat program: 1) Chelan and Douglas PUD are looking at using the Entiat as a reference stream for spring Chinook, 2) Grant PUD's possible cost-share agreement for construction of the Chief Joseph Hatchery; and 3) the possibility of over-building facilities on the tributaries with the possibility of program reduction in 2013 and the affect it would have on financial, personnel and natural resources. On the latter point, Langshaw suggested creatively bridging production from Grant PUD's 2011 deadline for implementation until the production levels are reviewed for the HCPs in 2013. Scribner noted that all other PUDs have built facilities based solely on mitigation responsibilities. Langshaw requested discussion concerning immediate improvement of existing facilities, including Dryden (Wenatchee) and Carlton (Methow) ponds, and doing early releases and direct plants to bridge the gap. Petersen stated that Grant PUD's obligation under the settlement agreement is to have facilities built by 2011. Scribner stated that improvement to existing facilities will not achieve program goals. Truscott added that improvements to Carlton Pond could, however, improve smolt-to-adult returns (SARs), noting that the JFP's apportioning of the summer Chinook program is about where the fish are released (over-winter acclimation and release), not where they are incubated and reared. The JFP is recommending designing facilities in the three major spawning aggregates – Wenatchee, Okanogan and Methow – to cover production for the full program if the Entiat does not work out. Further discussion will occur at the March 22 meeting.

**IX. Coho Program**

**A. DECISION – SOA – Coho Protection Program Timeline Extension – SOA** approved with requested revisions. Rohr will distribute the SOA with requested changes.

**X. Bull Trout Permitting Discussion – no discussion.**

**XI. USFWS Hatchery Review Process/Update on Progress to Date – Final report will be published in approximately two weeks and made public. Carie will distribute the report to subcommittee members.**

**XII. Public Outreach – Subcommittee members discussed tentative dates for upcoming public meetings (May 17, 2007 and July 19, 2007), in addition to the likely nature of those meetings. Ferguson could likely have several sections of the draft HGMP prepared by the first meeting. Scribner noted that a request for specific input is appropriate. Rohr suggested 1) overview 2) timeline 3) distribution of draft HGMP 4) input/collaboration (acceptable facility design with the least impact, location of a preferable site, broodstock collection methods, etc). Lowry will provide a draft invitation outlining where input is needed by the March 22 meeting.**

**A) Discussion of Next Newsletter – A newsletter has been drafted and is awaiting issuance of the Section 10 permit. Subcommittee members requested Lowry send a review draft as soon as possible.**

**XIII. Follow-up Discussion of Jan. 24 MC PRCC/HCP Coordination Meeting – Rohr noted that minutes have not yet been distributed.**

**XIV. 2006 BiOp Annual Report – CDs of the annual report and its appendices (filed with FERC on Feb. 14, 2007) were distributed to members. The report is also available on Grant PUD's website. Lowry will send a copy to Carie.**

**XV. Review of Document Gateway Site and Operation of FTP Site – Rohr stated that the Document Gateway site is no longer available to use, and a new ftp site is being**

developed as a replacement. Subcommittee members requested agendas, minutes, and SOAs be available on the ftp site. Rohr stated that a record keeping system for SOAs is currently being developed. Lowry will send instructions for using the site to subcommittee members as soon as possible.

**XVI. Discussion of Spring Facilities Tour – 3 Committees Joint Meeting – Wanapum Dam** – Rohr discussed having a combined meeting of the three PRCC committees in May at Wanapum Dam, similar to last year. Rohr will discuss further with the PR Coordinating Committee regarding specific details.

**XVII. Next Meeting: March 15, 2007, Grant PUD SeaTac office, 9:00 am (note this date is out of sync with HCP Hatchery meeting)** – Members agreed to move this meeting to March 22, 2007, 9:00 am in Wenatchee, location to be determined.