

## **FINAL MINUTES**

### **PRCC Hatchery Subcommittee**

**Thursday, June 21, 2007**

**10:00 am to 2:00 pm**

**Krystal's Restaurant**

**Leavenworth, WA**

#### PRCC Hatchery Subcommittee Members

Kris Petersen, NMFS	Dave Carie, USFWS
Jerry Marco, CCT	Russell Langshaw, GCPUD
Tom Scribner, Keely Murdoch, YN	Carl Merkle, CTUIR
Kirk Truscott, WDFW	Denny Rohr, Facilitator

#### **Attendees:**

*Russell Langshaw, Grant PUD	Greg Ferguson, Consultant
*Kris Petersen, NMFS (via conf. call)	Denny Rohr, Facilitator
*Kirk Truscott, WDFW	Julie Yount, Grant PUD
*Dave Carie, USFWS	Ben Lenz, Grant PUD
Keely Murdoch, YN	Curt Dotson, Grant PUD
Andy Dittman, NMSF	Chuck Peven, Chelan PUD

#### **Distributed items:**

- Public speaking tips "Seven Secrets to Successful Speech"
- White River Rotary Screw Trap Operations monthly summaries from April and May, 2007.

#### **Decision Summary:**

- Committee agreed to continue on track to release HGMPs for public review July 2 as true working drafts which do not yet have NMFS approval, simply for informational purposes.

#### **Action Items:**

- Committee members to have review of last draft of the HGMPs back to Ferguson by Tuesday, June 26. (Petersen will not review until submittal to NMFS in the fall).
- Rohr requested Murdoch email rotary screw trap monthly summaries to the HSC members.

#### **I. Welcome and Introductions**

Rohr welcomed committee members and other attendees. Due to scheduling error, meeting was moved to Krystal's from the original location, Chelan PUD auditorium. A notice was posted at that location for those joining the meeting this afternoon. Lenz also offered to go back to the Chelan PUD office to give instructions to the working group members this afternoon, to avoid confusion. Meeting began approximately one hour later that scheduled.

#### **II. Agenda Review**

Rohr briefly reviewed the agenda and indicated we may skip around a bit to cover the essential topics of the day. He indicated that if anyone wished to cover pressing issues, to be sure to speak up.

### **III. Approval of Meeting Minutes**

- A. April 5, 2007 Conference Call- approved
- B. April 19, 2007- approved
- C. May 8, 2007 Conference Call – will hold for Scribner’s comments.
- D. May 17, 2007 – Petersen will have comments. Hold.
- E. June 7, 2007 Conference Call (not yet distributed)

### **IV. Action Items Review**

No items reviewed.

### **V. Public Meeting Feedback: Sarah Morford, Manager of External Affairs, Grant PUD**

Rohr indicated that following the public meeting of May 17, he asked several people for feedback. Following that feedback, some of which dealt with attitude, approach and body language, he has since asked Sarah Morford to come to this meeting to discuss concerns with presentation and addressing the public.

Rohr took a moment to apologize for not handling a public comment received regarding questioning the honesty of Keely Murdoch regarding bull trout. There is a definite need to stop individuals from personal attacks and Rohr indicated he would strive to do so in the future. Carie stated Scribner defended Murdoch to the gentleman in a polite manner. Murdoch discussed the individual’s concerns, recounting her statements made at the prior meeting and her inability to state specific data because she did not have it in front of her at the time.

Sarah Morford stated her position at Grant PUD and background in dealing with media and difficult contacts. She stressed it is most important to stop the difficult individuals before they can run with their ideas. Stop them and answer the question you want to answer, then move on. Invite them to speak afterward on the “in the weeds” topics, to keep the meeting moving forward. She restated the importance of redirecting the topic as needed.

One suggestion was to repeat question asked of you (it may help to have Rohr repeat questions as they come in). Morford stated it is also important to sit forward, act engaged and project your voice. She then distributed a handout on public speaking and presentation tips.

Rohr requested that the remaining committee members jump in and support others that are having difficulty with tough questions. Rohr states he has a personal goal of being much more assertive.

Truscott indicated there were several topics brought up that were more accusation and not questions relating to the program. More assertiveness is needed to step up and state, “we are not here to discuss this issue today,” then stay on course.

Langshaw requested that Morford type up some of the key issues and present them to the committee via email. He then stated he was disappointed with his own performance at the meeting, indicating he will strive to act more engaged and approach the next meeting with a different attitude and approach.

### **VI. Invited Speaker**

#### **Andy Dittman, NMFS: Siting of Acclimation Facilities (Imprinting and Smoltification)**

Dittman presented a PowerPoint presentation entitled "Homing Patterns of Hatchery-reared and Wild Yakima River Spring Chinook."

Dittman began with discussion on a key question – when imprinting may occur. He stated that imprinting differs by species, due to varied timing of smolting and migration patterns. For Spring Chinook, the sensitive period for imprinting to odors is as they are smolting, but also potentially earlier times.

Dittman reviewed the YKFP Spring Chinook Supplementation Research Program. The program performs rearing at Cle Elum Hatchery for 16 months until smolting. All wilds are introduced as broodstock to the program. At smolting, fish are transferred to acclimation sites and volitional release (access and snow levels are a consideration for at least one location (Jack Creek)). This may be a factor to consider at Nason/White.

All fish have site specific CWT's and eye tags. 5-10 percent are PIT-tagged. Dotson questioned why that number. Dittman indicated this was presumably due to cost. PIT-tags are utilized mostly for outmigration tracking.

Discussion was held regarding carcass surveys. Dotson questioned how often surveys are completed. Dittman stated redd surveys are done weekly, but carcass surveys only once. Dotson asked if floating was considered a factor in location of carcasses. Dittman responded this river system is highly regulated, so large flow fluctuations are not a big factor. Floating is not as predominant as would be on an unregulated stream with runoff/rain fluctuations. Forty percent of total run are surveyed.

Dittman indicated spawning location is very consistent in the Yakima system. If return is low, there is a tendency to spawn lower in the reach. Ferguson questioned if flow was a factor in spawning location. Dittman explained "flip-flop" requirements lowering the water levels from the high irrigation flows held during the summer, with the requirement to drop water levels after Labor Day to have very consistent flow levels during the spawning season. Jack Creek is the one location in this program which relies on natural flows (not regulated). High flows in the spring (good snow melt) help survival rates considerably.

Ferguson asked if there is data to show what percentage of wild fish stay high and what fish move far downstream. Is there a rotary trap to evaluate smolt movement? Dittman responded not that he is aware.

Spawner distribution was illustrated – Easton spawner distribution has a strong concentration close to the acclimation site, higher in the system and above the hatchery. Clark Flat spawners almost all spawn above their acclimation site (though there appears to be some suitable spawning habitat) but rather concentrate near the hatchery site, though lower in the system than the Easton fish. This indicates there may be earlier imprinting occurring during rearing. Wild fish distribution matches the Clark Flat distribution fairly closely, showing that habitat is a strong factor as well. (Hatchery is located mid-spawning reach of Yakima mainstem).

Langshaw questioned the water usage at the Hatchery. Is it ground water or river water? Dittman indicated it is a combination of both, dependent on usage and flows. Ferguson stated mostly groundwater is used during the summer as temperature is a strong factor.

Jack Creek fish are the only fish that spawn in the Teanaway River, but a higher percentage return to the mainstem Yakima, following the same pattern there as the wild spawners.

Ferguson questioned using the White River reach specifically, if the acclimation site is below the natural spawning reach used by wilds and Chiwawa strays, the fish

will move beyond the acclimation site to spawn if the prime habitat is there. Peven stated that in the Chiwawa program, there is new data showing that with an acclimation site lower than most habitat, the fish are moving beyond the rearing and acclimation site, and going up to the spawning habitat, but lower in the reach than the wilds. Truscott indicates this may also have to do with the younger age class of the hatchery fish.

Ferguson asked if there is data showing that hatchery fish spawn more closely with other hatchery fish, or if they tend to mix with wild. Dittman responded there is some data showing that they will mix.

## **VII. Scheduling and Planning Review-**

### **A. White River and Nason Creek HGMP Development**

Ferguson stated that committee needs to address if the HGMPs will be ready to present to the public. He stressed that the HGMP's need to present a plan, and not indicate we have a plan to make a plan. One key question that remains is what to do with broodstock.

A table on broodstock management was reviewed. The White River number established is 100 broodstock. Ferguson questioned if PNI is the formula the committee wants to use. Does the committee want to state that they plan to establish PNI greater than .25? There must be a minimum population set in order to do so. If so, there is a possibility of excess hatchery fish, and the need for a plan to state what will be done with the excess. Dotson indicated it may be best to state a few options being considered, without committing to one option. The question was asked – is there a need to establish the minimum level to stay above? Not a spawning aggregate set for each location. Right now, an upstream escapement goal of approximately 80 adults has been set (derived from the BAMP). Discussion was held regarding abundance vs. productivity. There remains the need for agreement on the approach before establishing the plan in the HGMP. Petersen suggests establishing 30% wild fish, with a maximum take of 30% of the wild population for broodstock and start there.

Discussion continued on the likelihood of hatchery fish abundance. The Chiwawa SAR is .3. If the White River numbers are similar, there would be a surplus. Truscott suggested stating that a surplus has been considered and the resource agencies will manipulate the spawn abundance and composition consistent with the habitat availability. Langshaw does support PNI. Truscott indicates it may not be necessary if the above is stated, to be consistent with recovery. Chiwawa strays do complicate things, but this issue is anticipated to be less severe in the future.

Ferguson stated he has the second round of comments back from Scribner. The due date is the end of this week for the remaining committee members. He questioned if the end of the month for public presentation will still be realistic. Langshaw indicates still has serious concerns and has not submitted comments yet. Truscott and Petersen both indicate will not have comments back by the deadline. Langshaw can commit to Tuesday or Wednesday for comments. Truscott stated he can as well. Petersen stated no, she could not commit her time to engage in these drafts at this time, and that NOAA would not complete official review until fall. Carie indicated no major comments. Petersen indicated she was comfortable to release the drafts without her full review and emphasized these are true working drafts which do not yet have NMFS approval, simply for informational purposes. The committee

discussed having public involvement in the process now, to give room to be adaptive to scenarios at this time in the process.

Committee members agreed to proceed with the planned schedule for release to the public with clear caveat that this is a working draft without approval at this time. Discussed the method of release. The plan is to post both White River and Nason Creek HGMPs to the Grant PUD website by July 2, with email to the posting group to announce their release. The cover page will require some work on the committee's part, with careful review needed. Ferguson will draft the cover page with the explanation this is a *working draft*. Rohr asked how long the comment period should be. Friday, August 3 was agreed upon.

Working Group involvement this afternoon was discussed, with regard to the public meeting date and the questions they would like to see addressed.

B. Sockeye HGMP Development – Grant Letter to NMFS

NMFS was forwarded a letter from Grant PUD regarding the potential use of the Sockeye Management Plan in place of an HGMP. Will be reviewed and an SOA will be put together.

C. Priest Rapids Hatchery HGMP Development

Not covered today due to time restraints.

**VIII. White River and Nason Creek Public Meeting July 19<sup>th</sup>**

Discussed the timing of the public meeting with the release of the HGMPs and the comment period. Committee agreed to ask the Working Group this afternoon if keeping the July timing or moving to August will be best approach.

**IX. Reference Condition Proposal from Grant**

- A. Discussion/Comments on Grant Proposal Distributed March 22<sup>nd</sup>  
(subject was tabled from April 19<sup>th</sup>)  
Not covered due to time restraints.

**X. White River Update**

- A. Pit-Tag discussion – Evaluation of fish at Tumwater is not a viable option. There is a need to know what is coming to plan ahead, and a need to project the number of PIT-tags necessary to best evaluate returns. Other data is available to evaluate returns on the mainstem, to help narrow the optimal percent to tag.
- B. Brood collection – Langshaw stated they have collected 1,488 2006BY. They have been separated by date and collection site, and transferred to AquaSeed. Committee needs to discuss whether genetic testing is needed. Truscott states they are a fully mixed collection. He stated the only way to maintain consistency with previous year management is to do genetic testing. If NMFS can complete the testing within the necessary time frame, the committee will need to proceed. Langshaw will get a report from Mike, then can proceed with obtaining a contract. This will minimize the amount of segregation necessary at AquaSeed and will keep strains pure and ensure that F1s are from wild spawners. This will also ensure there will be no sibling crosses.
- C. F1 and F2 rearing by USFWS – Langshaw spoke with USFWS regarding rearing F1 and F2s of the White River program. The decision was made not to rear F2s at Entiat. Little White is the other option, but Little White may have a commitment

for upriver brights from Spring Creek. Also looking at the Priest Rapids Hatchery and Ringold for those fall Chinook. Ringold needs to be reviewed for potential upgrades in order to move the Spring Creek and/or the 500,000 Wenatchee coho in order to accommodate the White River F1s and F2s at Little White.

Langshaw stated a need to look at the green egg transfer statistically to see how it went. Truscott indicates he has heard that there was an issue with lower eye-up numbers. There will be data contained in the annual report.

- D. Rotary Screw Trap Operations – Murdoch distributed monthly summaries from April and May for the White River trap. Rohr requested they be emailed to the group. Murdoch reported April went smoothly, with no issues with the trap. The May update shows there was trouble with debris late in the month, but a guard was installed which has fixed the operation problems, but it is difficult to determine if efficiency was affected due to low numbers of fish. Efficiency trial data is difficult due to low numbers as well. Three trials were conducted in May. Small release groups were used. Yakama Nation is considering moving to an 8 ft cone or possibly two 5 ft cones.

Nason Creek trap updates are also requested by Grant PUD, for statistical purposes and also to back up invoicing by YN. Copies should also be sent to Kris Petersen.

- E. Site Evaluation – upstream sites; other sites

Langshaw reported the Landin property is now out of consideration. He stated there is a need to advise working group that committee is still looking for sites and still want to stress there is a need to have upstream acclimation sites which will certainly reduce the risk of adults short-stopping.

Grant PUD staff and contractors have identified about five sites with potential, but have not yet spoken to landowners. The committee discussed issues with each of the sites, and evaluation will continue. Ferguson stated there is a need to determine if the committee is amenable to net pen releases in the short term, and release at McComas only in the long term? Truscott stated this will depend on an alternative site being identified. Next step suggested by Langshaw would be to make some contacts to property owners and see what options would be open, if the landowners would be supportive. Following that contact, feasibility could be evaluated.

**XI. Nason Creek Update**

- A. Site evaluations – No updates

**XII. Priest Rapids Hatchery - Not covered due to time limitations.**

**XIII. Summer Chinook Program – Not covered today due to time limitations.**

**XIV. Review of June 20th Meeting with Deana Machin, Okanogan Nation Alliance, Re Sockeye Reintroduction Program, Skaha Lake**

Langshaw, Carie and Truscott attended the joint meeting with the ONA of the PRCC and HCP Hatchery Subcommittees, Wednesday, June 20<sup>th</sup> at Chelan PUD.

**XV. Discussion of USFWS Hatchery Review Process**

Not covered today due to time restrictions.

**XVI. Check In of Grant FTP Site Operations**

Not covered today due to time restrictions.

**XVII. Next Meeting: July 19, 2007, 9:00 am – 2:00 pm, Leavenworth**