

FINAL MEETING MINUTES

Priest Rapids Hatchery Subcommittee Meeting

Thursday, January 18, 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

Chris Carlson, Grant PUD

Mike Nichols, Grant PUD

Chuck Peven, Chelan PUD

Denny Rohr, Facilitator

DISTRIBUTED ITEMS: Langshaw distributed a one page document outlining the results of different approaches relating to the Summer Chinook Program Percentage Tributary Split.

ACTION ITEMS:

- **Meeting minutes:** Rohr to distribute FINAL meeting minutes of November 16, 2006 and December 21, 2006.
- **Statement of Agreement (SOA) Protocol:** Rohr to distribute Final SOA of Basic Statement of Agreement.
- **Priest Rapids Hatchery:** Grant PUD to distribute final SOA regarding HGMP/M&E timeline extension to committee members for consideration at next meeting.
- **Summer Chinook Program:** Rohr to schedule JFP conference call for Tuesday, January 30, 2007 at 2:00 to discuss Program Goals.
- **Summer Chinook Program:** Rohr to schedule Working Group meeting after JFP conference call takes place on January 30th.
- **Steelhead Program:** Rohr to distribute Final SOA.
- **Public Outreach:** Rohr to develop a meeting agenda with Work Group Members Petersen, Truscott, Langshaw, and Scribner, and schedule a Work Group meeting to discuss details.
- **Public Outreach:** Work Group to develop an outline and schedule of events regarding specific subjects to be discussed at next hatchery committee meeting.
- **WR Alternative Release Strategy Proposal/SOA:** committee members will give additional review to this SOA and provide comments to Rohr by Friday, February 2nd.

- **WDFW BY06 WR Captive Broodstock Collection Proposal/SOA:** Langshaw to add language to this Final SOA that addresses and includes the “pending issuance of appropriate ESA permits”, and Rohr will distribute Final SOA.

MINUTES:

I. Welcome and Introductions: Rohr welcomed attendees.

II. Agenda Review: Rohr reviewed the agenda and no modifications were made.

III. Approval of Minutes: Approved were the meeting minutes of November 16, 2006 and December 21, 2006. Additional committee discussion took place regarding Shannon Lowry assuming a new position within Grant PUD and she will no longer be available to take meeting minutes. Rohr, Langshaw, and other Grant employees from time to time will be taking minutes of the meeting. Committee members voiced concern that the facilitator/Rohr and committee member/Langshaw will not be able to take adequate meeting minutes while facilitating and participating in the meeting at the same time. Committee members stated they will be contacting Grant PUD management to voice concerns.

IV. Statement of Agreement (SOA) Protocol: Rohr affirmed that this document is the “Basic Statement of Agreement” format and was approved by the committee at the December 21st, 2006 meeting. Rohr will distribute this final SOA. If future SOAs are approved by the HSC with minor modifications, Grant PUD will make those modifications and distribute the final SOA.

V. Priest Rapids Hatchery: *Fall Chinook HGMP/Timeline Extension* – The SOA for the timeline extension is still under development and not ready for distribution to committee members for consideration at this time. Carlson desired approval of the SOA by February 15th. Carlson also expects the SOA to be completed soon. Petersen asked that the SOA protocol be followed to allow the committee members proper time to review the SOA proposal. After discussion, committee members agreed that the SOA protocol needs to be followed regarding the timing of this proposal, and that the SOA needs to be to committee members soon. Accordingly, committee members will address this SOA regarding the HGMP/M&E timeline extension at the next meeting. Petersen expressed concern about simply extending the timeline and requested that a more detailed timeline be included in the SOA.

Review of Adult Holding and Spawning Facility Design: Carlson presented a powerpoint update of the facility design. Scribner questioned if there is a way to get more natural origin spawners in the broodstock, and he asked Grant to consider this. The committee discussed the Corps program at this site and the resulting egg take. The question of continued funding of the Corps program was discussed, which included a discussion of continuation of this program or not since there is a funding question. Continuing the Corps program and other egg takes (including WDFW and tribal) impacts the design for the Priest Rapids facilities, and Grant is reviewing this internally. Scribner commented that this question is under discussion in the US v Oregon process, and the US v Oregon participants want the Corps program and other egg takes to continue. Truscott requested that affected entities need to be notified by Grant PUD of the decisions regarding the egg take program. It was pointed out that 60% of Grant’s egg take goes into this program. There will be more discussion at the next meeting.

VI. Summer Chinook Program: *Percentage Tributary Split* – Truscott reported that the Working Group (WG) for this subject met on January 12th trying to develop the percentage tributary split to recommend to the committee at the January 18th Hatchery SC meeting. The WG determined a recommendation is difficult to achieve because of the many unknowns related to this program. Langshaw handed out a one page document that outlined the results of different approaches relating to the Summer Chinook Program Percentage Tributary Split. The WG had also discussed the concept of these scenarios. Additionally, Langshaw pointed out that the question of what the HCP production numbers will be in 2013 is an unknown at this time. Petersen commented that additional review and discussion is needed to identify the goals of the program. It was also identified that Steve Hays, Chelan PUD, had done some calculations for estimating changes to HCP production after the 2013 adjustment and perhaps he should be consulted and/or asked to join the next WG meeting. Accordingly, Truscott requested committee members give some feedback by email to the WG (Truscott, Langshaw, K. Murdoch, Marco). He requested committee members give a sense of their comfort level with the numbers in the tables of the document he had handed out, particularly the last column that includes Chief Jo Hatchery Production and 50% reduction in HCP production. Further, Truscott recommended convening another WG session, including Steve Hays, with the intent of bringing a recommendation to the full committee for discussion at the next hatchery meeting. Committee members agreed the objectives of the program needs to be solidified first. The JFP wants a discussion among themselves regarding the objectives of the program. Accordingly, the JFP requested that Rohr schedule a JFP conference call for Tuesday, January 30th, 2:00 pm to discuss the program goals. Petersen requested that the JFP members be very thoughtful in this discussion. It was also agreed that the WG would meet after the January 30th conference call and the committee asked Rohr to help with scheduling that meeting also.

VII. Steelhead Program: The Steelhead Program SOA was approved by the committee at the December 21st, 2006 meeting. Rohr will distribute this final SOA.

VIII. Coho Program Update: Tom Scribner updated the committee on the status of the coho program. It was identified that funding by BPA is still in question but the decision should be made soon. Grant PUD will develop an SOA for extending the decision of whether and ongoing hatchery program is in place or if there is a self sustaining run. The Settlement Agreement indicates a decision must be made within six months of the Yakamas signing. The SOA will extend this decision by 12 months.

IX. Bull Trout Permitting Discussion: The committee discussed the subject of Bull Trout ESA coverage. Truscott is working with Mark Miller, USFWS, to handle this. Truscott should have answers this week from Miller.

X. Nason Creek: *Cascade Gardens Update* – Langshaw gave an update on the water and testing well drilling work. Temperature probes were installed and water quality samples are suitable for aquaculture. *Squadroni Property* – Langshaw reported that this property is currently snowbound and additional work on the water and testing well drilling work will commence in the spring. *HGMP Development Schedule* – Ben is on leave at this time and will have additional information available in the next couple of weeks. Grant PUD should have a draft out to the HSC

in the next couple of months, however, there are large gaps in areas related to facilities and M&E.

XI. Discussion of Scientific Review of White River Program: Chelan County has apparently decided to do a scientific review of the White River Program. NMFS has determined that a scientific review is not warranted at this time. Petersen stated that she is drafting a letter, at the request of Grant PUD, to Chelan County to address questions about scientific justification for the program arising from the Chelan County Board of Commissioners. These questions were a result of Grant PUD requesting the vacation of a 30 foot road right-of-way on property owned by the PUD. Petersen's understanding is that the Chelan County Commissioners did not act on Grant's request, but they inquired about the biological reasoning behind the proposed Nason Creek Spring Chinook Salmon Supplementation Program. Petersen's letter will address the questions. Petersen will forward a copy of the letter to hatchery committee members. The property under discussion is the Cascade Gardens property which is owned by Grant PUD.

XII. Public Outreach Discussion: Petersen updated the committee on the status of the Section 10 Permit. Comments were received with thoughtful questions and comments. Petersen commented that NMFS wants public involvement in the HGMPs. She stated that workshops are needed to engage the public, and draft HGMPs need to be developed. Rohr requested the formation of a hatchery committee Work Group (WG) to address this subject. Committee members agreed. The WG will include Petersen, Langshaw, Truscott, and Scribner. Accordingly, Rohr will schedule a WG meeting to develop a draft schedule and outline for discussion at the next hatchery committee meeting to address the draft, including schedule for HGMPs, scheduling of public outreach workshops, identification of areas needing assistance, discussion of problem areas, meeting with individual people in the program areas, and possibly engaging hired professionals for assistance. Follow up discussion will occur at the next hatchery meeting.

XIII. White River: Marking Update – Langshaw updated the committee on the marking program for BY 06 White River SCS. Langshaw explained risks outweigh the benefits of calcein marking so it was removed from the Alternative Release Strategy proposal. There was discussion about different marking groups in the proposal and the committee decided to discuss this subject further at the next committee meeting. *Alternative Release Strategy Proposal* – Langshaw explained the SOA. After discussion, the committee desired more review time. Accordingly, the committee will send email to Rohr by Friday, February 2nd, with their comments on the SOA. *Unfertilized Eggs Transfer Update* – deferred to next meeting. *White River HGMP/Permit Update* – this subject has been discussed already earlier in the meeting. *Net Pens Update* – Permitting activities are ongoing. Chelan PUD will in no way jeopardize their sockeye program so the activities must be permitted separately. WDFW is working with USFWS to resolve bull trout permitting issues. It appears we will have coverage near-term coverage but the USFWS is suggesting that we pursue an HCP or Section 7 permit. Even if these activities are covered under the WDFW Section 6 cooperative agreement, Grant PUD has concerns about publishing a Determination of Non-Significance during the SEPA process. Grant PUD is not sure that this constitutes formal consultation and feels it is irresponsible to publish a DNS without formal consultation. Grant PUD is pursuing legal advice. *WDFW BY06 White River Captive Brood Stock Collection Proposal* – SOA was approved by the committee with change in

language to reference “pending issuance of appropriate ESA permits”. Langshaw will include the language and Rohr will distribute the final SOA.

XIV. Next Meeting: Rohr pointed out that the next meeting of February 15th does not couple with the HCP Hatchery Committee meeting scheduled for February 21st because February 1st is on a Thursday. After discussion, the committee agreed to stay with the meeting schedule of February 15th, Grant PUD SeaTac office, starting at 9:00 am.