



## FINAL MEETING MINUTES

### Priest Rapids Hatchery Subcommittee

Thursday, April 19, 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, Grant PUD

Denny Rohr, Facilitator

#### **MEETING ATTENDEES (\*denotes PRCC Hatchery Subcommittee member):**

\*Kris Petersen, NMFS

\*Jerry Marco, CCT

\*Kirk Truscott, WDFW

\*Russell Langshaw, Grant PUD

\*Tom Scribner, YN

Brian Cates, USFWS

Keely Murdoch, YN

Greg Ferguson, Sea Springs, Inc.

Chuck Peven, Chelan PUD

Denny Rohr, Facilitator

Shannon Lowry, Grant PUD

#### **ACTION ITEMS:**

- Lowry will upload the current draft White River and Nason Creek spring Chinook program schedules to Grant PUD's FTP site.
- Petersen and Rohr will explore the possibility of using NMFS' Go-To electronic conferencing account for HGMP review.
- Discussion concerning water usage at Priest Rapids Hatchery will be added to the May 17, 2007 PRCC Hatchery Subcommittee agenda.
- Langshaw and Ferguson will discuss the SEPA permitting process for the White River and Nason Creek supplementation programs with Chelan PUD and Grant PUD staff. Petersen will discuss the NEPA process with NMFS staff. Information will be shared at the May 17, 2007 PRCC Hatchery Subcommittee agenda.
- Rohr will schedule a meeting between subcommittee members and Chelan County Commissioner Ron Walters and Chelan County Natural Resources Director Mike Kaputa concerning public involvement with the White River and Nason Creek spring Chinook programs.
- Rohr will send a revised draft public meeting agenda to subcommittee members.
- Ferguson will provide to subcommittee members by April 27 a draft PowerPoint presentation for the White River/Nason Creek public meeting, with a request for comments within one week.
- Public meeting invitation letters will be mailed to White River and Nason Creek members by Tuesday, April 24.

- Lowry will confirm that the June 21, 2006 and August 26, 2007 public meeting minutes are available on the FTP site.
- Petersen will send to subcommittee members public comments received on the White River Spring Chinook Section 10 Application.

**DISTRIBUTED ITEMS:**

- List of March 22, 2007 and April 5, 2007 action items
- White River Acclimation Facility General Site Plan – Alternative 1
- Draft agenda for the White River/Nason Creek May 17 public meeting
- Final invitation letter for the White River/Nason Creek May 17 public meeting

**MEETING MINUTES:**

**I. Welcome and Introductions**

**II. Agenda Review**

**III. Approval of Meeting Minutes**

- A. Affirmation: February 23, 2007 – Affirmed.
- B. March 22, 2007 Meeting – Approved with edits from K. Truscott.
- C. April 5, 2007 Conference Call – pending review. Request for approval will occur on May 17.

**IV. Action Items Review -** Action items from March 22 and April 5 meetings were reviewed.

**V. Scheduling and Planning Review**

- A. White River and Nason Creek HGMP Development - Subcommittee members discussed the overall compliance deadline date reflected in the White River and Nason Creek activities schedule. Langshaw reiterated that both schedules are continuously changing and, at this point, are affected primarily by site location, permitting, and water rights anticipated durations. Petersen and Truscott requested that the program implementation date be constrained within the schedule to 2011 and that the associated activities be adjusted to meet that compliance deadline. Lowry noted the schedules are meant only to serve as a tool to identify tasks and to track progress of each activity. Members also discussed providing scheduling information to the public. Langshaw noted that the current schedules are tools to identify the critical path of the overall program and recommended summarizing the basic schedule information into a narrative concerning HGMP deadlines, site location, etc.

Participants discussed proposed in-stream flow rules recommended recently by the Wenatchee Watershed Planning Unit for adoption by WDOE. Members discussed the need to submit water rights permits as soon as possible. Because water source is site-dependent, it is difficult to

know whether a water right would be needed on potential properties, stated Langshaw, noting that non-consumptive water rights would not be subject to the in-stream flow rule. Ferguson stated that one of the possible limiting factors to water rights includes landowner signatures. Truscott recommended Grant PUD apply for water rights immediately on the property it currently owns (McComas Short Plat), noting that even if the property is not utilized, the rights can be transferred to another location. The new in-stream-flow rules make it likely consumptive water rights will not be granted on any properties considered for the White River and Nason Creek programs, stated Langshaw. Grant PUD is still determining the suitability of the property as an acclimation site, stated Langshaw. Preliminary water assessment of the McComas property is similar hydrologically to that of the Two Rivers site (2-4 cfs), where a surface intake water source directly adjacent to the channel would be needed.

Following approval of his contract with Grant PUD (anticipated for April 30), Ferguson will make revisions to both the Nason Creek and White River HGMPs for the subcommittee's review. Members discussed ways to expedite the review process prior to the May 17 public meeting. Participants agreed to simultaneous editing followed by a Go-To electronic meeting to discuss changes. Truscott also suggested reviewing the document section by section. Petersen and Rohr will explore the possibility of using NMFS' Go-To meeting account for HGMP review. Ferguson noted he has changed some wording and headings in the HGMPs for consistency, readability and document mapping. Ferguson requested feedback on the usefulness of the format. Ferguson also requested feedback on facility details included in the documents. Langshaw noted that a revision needs to be made to the existing M&E portion to reflect a language change agreed upon by the subcommittee regarding reference "condition."

Truscott and Petersen also requested the HGMPs reflect that both programs are being reviewed by the Hatchery Scientific Review Group (HSRG) and will receive additional review within the NEPA process. Members discussed previous requests for the programs to be reviewed by the Independent Scientific Review Panel (ISRP). Because the ISRP only reviews projects under consideration for BPA funding, review by that group is not appropriate for the White River and Nason Creek spring Chinook programs.

Members also discussed at what point the SEPA process occurs in relationship to HGMP development. Members discussed approaching SEPA and NEPA separately, with each permitting process having a different focus (SEPA on environmental concerns and NEPA on ESA issues). Peven and Petersen noted that NMFS tiered off the HCP's EIS for NEPA, but that the SEPA process was handled separately. Langshaw and

Ferguson will discuss the SEPA process with Grant PUD and Chelan PUD internal staff. Petersen clarified that while a Section 10 has not been issued by NMFS based on HGMP submittal, the HGMP is the vehicle by which consultation occurs.

Ferguson discussed acclimation design for the White River program and how those designs relate to HGMP development and public outreach. Petersen noted the objective for design of facilities for the White River program is that they fit into the White River landscape while still meeting biological and functional objectives of the program. Participants discussed growth rate differences between wild and hatchery smolts and how that rate relates to water needs for each program. The importance of designing facilities which will produce a larger smolt was stressed by Petersen. Ferguson requested a process on how to address such issues, which also include maximizing smolt-to-adult survival and minimizing straying through over-winter acclimation; encouraging optimal spawning distribution through releasing in or above spawning habitat from multiple sites; and reduction of icing risks through secure ground water intakes. Ferguson also discussed the rate at which supplementation technology is changing and recommended building in flexibility into facility design. Participants also discussed which acclimation (e.g., ponding, net pen, side channel, seining) and release strategies will be included in discussion of the program at the May 17 public meeting. Petersen noted the desirability of temporary, constructed ponds like Rolfing's.

David Allison of Jacobs Civil Engineering presented conceptual acclimation designs for Grant PUD's McComas property. Allison stated that the site is particularly appropriate for acclimation because it is the best surface water intake site in the White River Basin. Langshaw noted that habitat improvements involved with the concept would be of significant public benefit, but questioned whether the design would be for consumptive water use because the outfall is in a constructed wetland and not the river channel. Ferguson and Allison also noted the need for predator control nets and pond surface cleaning systems. The concept for McComas will be presented at the public meeting as a starting point for discussion and as one possible option for facilities.

Ferguson presented concepts concerning possible methods for future brood capture methods, including tributary weirs, fish wheels, Tumwater stock ID (no current technology), and hand-capturing. Petersen noted that rearing, acclimation and release of juveniles is of primary importance at this point and that adult capture can be discussed at a later time (collection will begin in 2011). Scribner noted the need for adult collection methods to be temporary and minimally intrusive. Truscott stated that differences between the White River and Nason Creek would factor in to which method would be most successful. Ferguson asked Petersen if a

HGMP could be submitted without identification of an adult collection method. Truscott recommended including in the HGMP multiple collection methods and the evaluation of risk associated with each.

- B. Sockeye HGMP Development – A letter requesting submission of Okanagan Nation Alliance’s plan for a 12-year Experimental Reintroduction of Sockeye into Skaha Lake in lieu of an HGMP has been drafted by Grant PUD and is under review by NMFS.
- C. Priest Rapids Hatchery HGMP Development – Langshaw stated a Hanford Reach Working Group meeting has been scheduled for May 11. Truscott stated that if facilities need to be constructed to meet mitigation requirements by 2011, the timelines for the HGMP are critical.

**VI. Public Workshop May 17<sup>th</sup>**

- A. White River / Nason Creek Newsletter – The most recent newsletter describing program activities was mailed on March 30.
- B. Draft Invite Letter – Rohr met with Chelan County Commissioner Ron Walters concerning public involvement in the White River/Nason Creek spring Chinook program. Walters suggested a larger level of public involvement. Participants discussed ways to work with the public, including holding subcommittee meetings in the Wenatchee/Leavenworth area with a portion of the meeting devoted to work group sessions. Scribner stated his concern with holding meetings where debate is the focus. Langshaw suggested holding the meetings in an accessible location in a time-frame either directly before or after the subcommittee meetings. Petersen stated that the avenue of public involvement concerning fish resources is through the Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife and recommended the agency work with Chelan County officials to provide the information being requested from Walters and Chelan County Natural Resources Director Mike Kaputa. Peven noted Chelan PUD has effectively worked with Chelan County on its fish programs. Ferguson suggested using the HGMP as the avenue for requesting help from the public to implement the programs. Petersen suggested she and representative subcommittee members meet with Walters and Kaputa prior to May 17 to discuss the program and how best to involve the public. Rohr will schedule the meeting.
- C. Draft Agenda – Members discussed the draft agenda and made minor revisions. Rohr will re-distribute the draft agenda for final approval.

**VII. Reference Condition Proposal from Grant**

- A. Report on Discussion of Subject at April 9, 10 HETT Meeting
- B. Discussion/Comments on Grant Proposal Received March 22<sup>nd</sup>

Participants discussed whether Grant PUD's M&E proposal would be presented to the HETT. Truscott requested more time to review the proposal. Subcommittee members supported tabling discussion until the May 17 subcommittee meeting.

#### VIII. **White River**

A. Marking Update (status: LWS, final 21,000 BY06 fry to be marked). The fish will likely be released early to mid-May. The BY06 yearlings can be marked with CWTs in the adipose tissue in July, stated Langshaw, with a request for discussion concerning potential PIT-tag evaluations for these fish. Scribner and Petersen stated that PIT-tagging will be essential for any potential evaluations concerning fish rearing size. Langshaw noted that the issue will be discussed with Grant PUD internal staff, but that PIT-tagging all 400,000 fish would be very costly. There is currently no information on survival through Lake Wenatchee. Petersen reiterated how valuable such information, in addition to movement both up and downstream would be. The issue will be further discussed at the May 17 meeting.

B. Status of Sec 10 Permit – The permit was issued on Monday, April 16. Petersen stated that signed copies of the permit, in addition to its related Biological Opinion, will be posted on NMFS' website. Petersen also noted that any mortalities of any substantial level (such as mortality of greater than 10% of the brood group), should be reported to NMFS within 48 hours of occurrence (see page 7 of the permit). Final approval of report content, responsibilities, and reporting timelines needs to be obtained from NMFS within six months of issuance of the permit. A description of what should be included in the report is included on page 8 of the permit.

C. M&E – Following discussion among the JFP, it was determined that data needs to be collected regardless of which M&E details are included in the respective HGMPs. The JFP will provide the PRCC HSC with a list of required data. Langshaw stated that while Grant PUD has not yet compiled a list of data that isn't already being collected through the captive brood program and the screw trap, it supports being involved with collection of any necessary data.

D. 2007 Release Program – 129,000 BY06 fry were released on Tuesday, April 17. Video footage was taken of the release. K. Murdoch requested future notification of any scheduled fish releases. Petersen requested WDFW notify subcommittee members if White River fry show up at other smolt trap locations.

E. Rotary Screw Trap: Efficiency Testing Discussion – The trap started operation on Tuesday, April 17 – Regarding previous discussion involving use of hatchery fish from the Lake Wenatchee rotary screw trap for efficiency

trials, Petersen denied the use of those fish, but supported use of marked fish (scheduled to occur first week in May) released from the net pens. Truscott will discuss collection of those fish with hatchery staff.

F. Site Evaluation – see prior discussion

G. 2007 brood collection (added to agenda) – Truscott noted because the Section 10 permit was not issued in time for egg collection, 2007 broodstock collection protocol needs further discussion. There will likely need to be extra fry collected and genetic analysis conducted on all of them because there is no longer spatial separation of know wild-by-wild families.

IX. **Nason Creek Update** – A second pump test on Cascade Gardens will occur in next couple of months. Langshaw noted that because Day Street was denied for vacation, decisions can't be made concerning the property which, in turn, puts the weir special-use permit on hold. An application cannot be filed with the USFS without rearing and acclimation facilities secured because of the "but for" clause. The weir cannot be built but for existing rearing and acclimation facilities.

X. **Priest Rapids Hatchery –**

Update/Review of incubation/office complex facility design – Grant PUD met with the Yakama Nation concerning its egg program (Klickitat) at Priest Rapids Hatchery (4 million eggs). Scribner noted there is conflicting information concerning water usage at the hatchery between WDFW and Grant PUD staff. Because all water (ground and surface) has been historically used whether it was needed or not (which may have contributed to fish health), Grant PUD and WDFW are discussing the possibility of using water more efficiently (but within acceptable criteria) when production numbers are increased upon modification of the facility. Grant PUD is also working with the Umatillas and the Corps of Engineers (COE) concerning current production programs. Truscott reiterated his request for information providing the month, life stage, current water usage, projected water usage, etc., noting the data will be helpful in addressing what strategy is needed for optimal fish health. Allison stated that meaningful data is made difficult because of the unknown mix of ground and surface water. Truscott is unsure whether more water is currently being used than is actually needed and that each stock reacts differently to different culture methods. He also noted that WDFW is reluctant to change any of the water conditions at the hatchery, which is deemed one of the most successful in the state. Allison stated that well log information is already available for the existing programs. Temperature modeling data would also be useful, stated Truscott. Because the pond mixture is unknown, it's difficult to accurately project usage, stated Allison. By having 24 raceways for two months of holding, mixture adjustments would be easier to control with the new modifications, stated Allison. Rohr

suggested Tom Dresser and Chris Carlson be updated on the concerns raised at today's meeting. Langshaw stated that Jacobs Civil will move forward with compiling the information requested by WDFW. The issue will be discussed further at the next hatchery meeting.

- XI. Summer Chinook Program – Percentage Tributary Split
  - A. Entiat Discussion: Report of April 17<sup>th</sup> JFP Meeting – Following JFP discussion concerning a potential Entiat summer Chinook program, the JFP determined that while such a program has plusses from a management standpoint, it is prudent to examine the biological effects. Truscott stated that a risk assessment of spawning overlap will be conducted and that if a potential risk is identified, the JFP will work to identify steps to adequately address those risks. In the meantime, the JFP recommends Grant PUD pursue summer Chinook mitigation production in the other basins identified in the Priest Rapids Project Salmon & Steelhead Settlement Agreement (33% in the Okanogan River, 33% in the Methow River, and 33% in the Wenatchee River). An additional request was made for Grant PUD to pursue full facilities for each of the three programs, rather than waiting for potential adjustments of Chelan PUD's summer Chinook program. Langshaw stated that Grant PUD believes there are some risks involved with over-building facilities, but will pursue construction of facilities for full production by 2011.
  - B. Review/Update of Further Investigation of Over-winter Acclimation at Dryden and Carlton Ponds – moved to next agenda. Langshaw will provide information at the next meeting.
- XII. June Meeting with Deana Machin, Okanagan Nation Alliance, Re Sockeye Reintroduction Program, Skaha Lake – this meeting is currently being scheduled.
- XIII. Update on USFWS Hatchery Review Process – Brian Cates noted that the review for Leavenworth NFH will be issued soon.
- XIV. Check In of Grant FTP Site Operations – Lowry stated that documents have been uploaded onto the FTP site, including meeting agendas, minutes, reports, etc.
- XV. Update of Spring Facilities Tour – PRCC Meeting, May 23, 2007 – Rohr will notify subcommittee members of progress on this meeting.
- XVI. Next Meeting: May 17, 2007, 9:00 am – 3:00 pm, Wenatchee.