



## Final Meeting Minutes

### Priest Rapids Coordinating Committee

**Wednesday, February 28, 2007**

**9:00 – 4:00**

**Grant PUD SeaTac Office**

PRCC Committee Members

Scott Carlon/Bryan Nordlund, NMFS	Brian Cates, USFWS
Jerry Marco, CCT	Tom Dresser, GCPUD
Steve Parker/Bob Rose, YN	Carl Merkle, CTUIR
Carmen Andonaegui, WDFW	Denny Rohr, Facilitator

**ATTENDEES ( \* denotes committee members or alternates):**

*Brian Cates, USFWS	*Curt Dotson, Grant PUD
*Bryan Nordlund, NOAA Fisheries	Mark Timko, HTI
*Carmen Andonaegui, WDFW	Denny Rohr, facilitator
*Scott Carlon, NOAA Fisheries	Shannon Lowry, Grant PUD
*Tom Dresser, Grant PUD	Russell Langshaw, Grant PUD (by phone)
*Jerry Marco, CCT (by phone)	

**Distributed items:**

- Biological Opinion 2006 Activities Report - CD
- Draft Report: Analysis of Juvenile Chinook, Steelhead & Sockeye Salmon Behavior Using Acoustic Tags at Wanapum and Priest Rapids Dam, 2006
- Video Fish Count – Ultrasonic algae control white paper

**Decision summary:**

- Approval of SOA 2007-2: 2006 Steelhead Survival Study (invalidating 2006 study results).
- Approval of conducting a 2007 Chinook Behavior Study which is identical to the 2006 behavior study plan (pending approval by Jerry Marco).
- Approval of the 2006 Avian Predation Program Study Report and the 2007 Avian Predation Study Plan, and the 2006 Northern Pikeminnow Study Report. SOAs for all three will be distributed. The 2007 Northern Pikeminnow study plan was also approved, and an SOA clarifying that the study is northern pikeminnow removal-only for 2007 will also be distributed.
- Andonaegui, Carlon, Nordlund and Cates approved a repeating the 2006 Chinook behavior study in 2007 (SOA 2007-10). Rohr will contact Marco concerning the study.

### **Action items:**

- Rohr will arrange a conference call to discuss WFUFB construction status and other issues for March 9, 9:00 am.
- Grant PUD will send prior to the March 9 PRCC conference call a draft SOA concerning conducting a fish evaluation study in 2007 and delaying year one of the three-year steelhead performance evaluation until 2008.
- Comments on the 2006 Analysis of Juvenile Chinook, Steelhead and Sockeye Salmon Behavior Using Acoustic Tags at Wanapum and Priest Rapids Dam will be provided within 30 days. An SOA approving the report will be distributed for consideration at the March 28<sup>th</sup> PRCC meeting.
- An SOA indicating approval of the 2007 Spring Chinook Behavior Study Plan will be drafted and distributed to members by Friday, March 2. The updated study plan will be presented at the March 28<sup>th</sup> meeting.
- Dresser will send the web address and any other applicable information on ultrasonic sound testing related to cleaning of the video fish count windows. Further information will be provided on the March 9 conference call with a follow-up SOA for consideration at the March 28<sup>th</sup> meeting.
- SOAs indicating the Feb. 28<sup>th</sup> approval of the 2006 report and 2007 study plan for the Avian Predator Control program will be distributed to members.
- SOAs indicating the Feb. 28<sup>th</sup> approval of the 2006 report and the 2007 Northern Pikeminnow Removal Program (pikeminnow removal only) will be distributed to members. The SOA for the 2007 study plan will clarify that this year's program is a pikeminnow removal-only program.
- Dotson will provide information on PR wire installation feasibility at the March 9 conference call.
- Rohr will arrange a work group meeting made up of members of the PRCC and its subcommittees to discuss spending of the NNI fund.
- Lowry will send a CD of the 2006 Biological Opinion Annual Activities Report to Bryan Nordlund.
- Lowry will send a copy of the 2006 juvenile Chinook behavior study to Jerry Marco.

### **FINAL MEETING MINUTES**

- I. **Welcome and Introductions** – Rohr welcomed attendees
- II. **Agenda Review** – Rohr noted changes/additions to the agenda
- III. **Approval/Finalize Meeting Minutes**
  - A. January 23, 2007 meeting – Minutes approved.
  - B. Affirmation of B. Cates approval of SOA 2007-1 (Summer Chinook HGMP time extension) – Approved.
- IV. **Review of January 23, 2007 Action Items** – Rohr walked members through action items. All action items were completed.
- V. **Wanapum Future Unit Bypass Update** – Several construction delays occurred over the past few months due to weather. Dresser stated further delays are occurring over contractual issues. A Notice of Default was issued to General Construction, followed by a settlement agreement with Grant PUD containing new construction milestones. Dresser notified PRCC members that while water will not flow through the bypass in 2007, construction is scheduled for completion by the 2008 juvenile outmigration. Contractors expect the WFUFB to be completed by Dec. 15, 2007. Other issues concerning the structure include an expired in-water work permit. Grant PUD is

looking at a possible extension of that permit or a new permit. If a permit is secured, in-water work during the 2007 outmigration will include installation of the steel flow fairings (end of April, first part of May). On the downstream side, Grant PUD is discussing removal of the coffer cell and placing the forms for the concrete pouring of the wing walls. Grant PUD will discuss these potential issues with permitting staffs of WDFW, USFWS and NOAA Fisheries. The ogee crest is currently being poured (above-water, inside the coffer cell). Under the proposal, the coffer cell would be removed (estimated at mid-March) and all further pours would occur out of water. Additional concrete pours could occur in the tailwater section, but would be contained and not occur in-water. However, Dresser noted the wing walls would be poured in-water in early April (taking possibly two weeks), which could possibly cause issues.

Engineers have recommended leaving SE-3 closed until the coffer dam is removed in mid-March. The gate would be re-opened after the coffer cell is removed. Staff will also be watching for the start of upstream migration and open the gate when upstream migration begins. A conference call will occur on Friday, March 9 to provide updates to the PRCC.

VI. Steelhead Survival Study

A. **ACTION: SOA 2007-2, 2006 Steelhead Survival Study (invalidating 2006 results)** – Approved.

B. **2007 Discussion/Study Plan** – Because the source of test fish (i.e. gateway dipping) is a possible major cause for the lower-than-expected Project steelhead survival estimates seen in 2006, Dotson recommends conducting a fish source evaluation study in 2007 which would compare fish collected via gateway dipping at Wanapum Dam with fish collected from the Rocky Reach facility. Dotson proposes releasing 500 gateway-dipped fish head-to-head with 500 Rocky Reach Fish (surgically handled by LGL) and 500 Rocky Reach Fish (handled by Chelan PUD) at Rock Island Dam. Dotson noted the study would be useful in determining if gateway dipping is an acceptable source of test fish for future Grant PUD survival studies. Other changes planned for the 2007 study would be to modify and improve fish-tagging procedures. Nordlund noted that using gateway-dipped fish for studies has inherent problems, including TDG and temperature stresses to fish. Nordlund stated his support of further exploring the source of fish as a possible cause of the lower-than-expected Project steelhead survival estimates. Dotson noted he is working with Chelan PUD concerning use of Rocky Reach fish for the 2007 study. Andonaegui requested further exploration of using Rock Island fish for the study, which would capture fish migrating out of the Wenatchee basin. Dotson noted that Rocky Reach has a better collection facility than Rock Island. Nordlund also stated his concerns with collecting fish at Rock Island, which would have similar issues to collection at Wanapum, in addition to the potential stress-related factors in collecting at both facilities. Members discussed conducting a stress (cortisol) test on both gateway and Rocky Reach fish, as a comparison.

Andonaegui expressed concerns about delaying year one of the three-year steelhead performance evaluation and the affect the delay would have on the overall requirement schedule for meeting performance standards for steelhead and spring Chinook by 2013. Marco and Carlon echoed that concern and questioned why year-one of the three-year study would be delayed to conduct the fish source evaluation. Timko noted his concern with moving forward with this year's study if fish-tagging location (Wanapum Dam) and procedure is the issue, which could affect the 2007 study results. Andonaegui suggested using Rocky Reach fish for 2007 study with Chelan PUD doing the tagging, noting the approach would eliminate any of the problems found in the 2006 study. Dotson

noted the uncertainties of: 1) using Chelan PUD staff to tag the fish, 2) obtaining the number of study steelhead which would be required in such a short time-frame, 3) the potential effect on Chelan PUD's fish studies. Dotson also stated that doing a survival study in 2007 without the Wanapum Future Unit Fish Bypass in place would affect the consistency of the three-year evaluation. Recognizing the limitations Grant PUD is facing in terms of arranging both tagging location and an adequate number of study fish from Chelan PUD, Carlon requested time to internally discuss Dotson's proposal to conduct a fish source evaluation, with consideration of a decision by the PRCC on March 9. Members requested a draft SOA concerning the fish evaluation study and delay of year one of the three-year study. Dotson will send the draft prior to the March 9 conference call.

**VII. PR Top Spill Behavior Study**

- A. **2006 Chinook, Steelhead and Sockeye Behavior Study Report** – While the study was similar in concept to the 2004 study used at Wanapum Dam for the WFUFB design work, high flows (avg. 193 kcfs) resulting in inadvertent tainter gate spill and “above normal” operation of the PR powerhouse in 2006 impacted fish behavior through the Priest Rapids Dam Gate 19 and 20 top-spill bulkhead. Detection arrays were located in the forebay at three water levels. Dotson presented examples of fish behavior through powerhouse, top-spill, and spill passage routes, in addition to top-spill rejection. Study results indicate that 72% of Chinook, 71% of sockeye and 73% of steelhead chose the powerhouse; 12% Chinook, 20% sockeye and 15% steelhead chose top-spill; and 16% Chinook, 8% sockeye, and 11% steelhead chose the spillway. Copies of the 2006 Analysis of Juvenile Chinook, Steelhead and Sockeye Salmon Behavior Using Acoustic Tags at Wanapum and Priest Rapids Dams were distributed to members. A 30-day review of the report is requested.
- B. **2007 Study Plan** – Grant PUD requests to repeat the 2006 Chinook behavior study (including monitoring of sockeye and steelhead), which would allow for consideration of high-flow affects. Dotson noted that snow-pack is expected to be near normal for 2007, which should also create normal flow conditions. Additional modeling (i.e. CFD and seriate fish model) work is also being conducted. Results should be available in approximately four months. Andonaegui, Carlon, Nordlund and Cates approved a repeating the 2006 Chinook behavior study in 2007 (SOA 2007-10). Rohr will contact Marco concerning the study. An updated version of the study plan will be presented at the March 28<sup>th</sup> meeting and SOAs approving both the 2006 report and 2007 study plan will be distributed.

VIII. **PR OLAF Update** – Full construction completion is scheduled for May 10. The flume and ladder portion will be complete by April.

IX. **Video Fish Counting Update** – The new DVR systems at both dams are currently being tested. Dresser stated the systems will be in place and operational at both locations for the 2007 fish passage season, noting that reliability is being addressed with back-up systems. Fish counters will be trained in the next couple of weeks. Dresser distributed a white paper on ultrasound technology for cleaning the fish-counting windows. Grant PUD staff is currently considering use of this technology for its system. Dresser will provide additional information on the technology and a SOA indicating PRCC approval of using the system will be distributed.

X. **NNI** – Members have raised the question of who has authority over spending of NNI funds designated under the Salmon and Steelhead Settlement Agreement. Andonaegui noted her support of the PRCC Habitat Subcommittee making the

decisions on how the funds will be spent. Dresser clarified that the NNI fund is intended for shortfalls in performance standards and expenditures are in consultation with the PRCC. Dresser recommends that Ben Lenz (Grant PUD PRCC Habitat rep) and Dale Bambrick (NOAA PRCC Habitat rep), and two or three members of the PRCC meet to discuss use of the fund. Rohr will arrange the work group meeting. Andonaegui noted that arranging the meeting does not indicate WDFW's approval of any determinations concerning the NNI fund. Andonaegui and Nordlund requested to be included in the working group. Rohr will approach Marco and other subcommittee (hatchery and habitat) members about possible participation.

XI. **SE-3** – Engineers have recommended leaving SE-3 closed until the coffer dam is removed (see above WFUFB discussion).

**XII. Avian Predation Program**

A. **ACTION: SOA 2007-X, 2006 Study Report** – Approved.

B. **ACTION: SOA 2007-X, 2007 Study Plan** – Approved. Andonaegui requested Grant PUD look at Chelan PUD's avian predator control efforts (i.e. bird wires, perch spikes, etc.) for 2007 and review and implement applicable measures into Grant PUD's 2007 study plan. Andonaegui also suggested incorporating which measures were implemented into the 2007 report.

Carlton requested information on the status of feasibility of wire installation across the Wanapum and Priest Rapids spillway tailrace areas. Dotson confirmed that wires have not been installed over the PR spillway tailrace area, but that internal discussions will occur by the March 9 meeting. Carlton requested information concerning feasibility of installing PR gull wires in the spillway tailrace area. Cates asked about the night-only spill assessment at Wanapum Dam (when little avian predation occurs). Dotson explained that the assumption in the plan is that spill will be similar to that in 2006 (when night-spill was assessed at Wanapum Dam).

**XIII. Northern Pikeminnow Program**

A. **ACTION: SOA 2007-X, 2006 Study Report** – Approved.

B. **ACTION: SOA 2007-X, 2007 Study Plan** – Andonaegui stated WDFW is not approving the study plan as written, noting there is no value in continuing in 2007 the same mark-recapture population estimate conducted in 2006. Dresser clarified that the 2007 study plan states that mark-recapture efforts would not be repeated and that the study would be the same removal-only effort conducted in 2005. Grant PUD will provide a SOA clarifying the 2007 program and further discussion will occur on March 9. The 2007 Northern Pikeminnow Study Plan is approved as is. Cates also suggested discussion concerning how the biological effects of removal will be measured. Nordlund noted that survival estimates indicate the success of predation removal efforts. Carlton concurred, noting the northern pikeminnow program is continuous. Lowry noted that the 2007 study plan was included in the 2006 Biological Opinion Activities Report, with comments from USFWS and WDFW (and Grant PUD's response to WDFW's comments) included as appendices to those reports.

XIV. **Follow-Up Discussion of Jan 24<sup>th</sup> MC PRCC/HCP Coordination Meeting** – Nordlund noted his support of holding such meetings once or twice yearly.

XV. **Discussion of Spring Facilities Tour – 3 Committee Joint Meeting – Wanapum Dam** – Because the Hatchery Subcommittee is holding a public meeting on May 17, the committee discussed holding this combined meeting in the Leavenworth area.

- I. **PRCC Hatchery Subcommittee Update** (Russell) –
- A. **Scheduling and planning** – A work group met to discuss HGMP development timelines. Langshaw noted that WDFW will no longer write HGMPs for PRCC Hatchery Subcommittee programs, but will provide needed technical data. Grant PUD is developing a contract with Greg Ferguson to assist in development of HGMPs for all required species.
  - B. **White River** – M&E objectives are being discussed. Grant PUD's proposal to use "reference condition" instead of "reference stream" in the objective will allow progress on the plan. As a result Grant PUD will continue to pursue an alternative to reference streams, while moving parallel with evaluations of the reference stream approach. Nov. 15 is the deadline for submittal of the White River HGMP. The hatchery subcommittee is also working toward incorporating public comment into proposed designs. A detailed schedule for implementation was presented at the Feb. 23 meeting and the subcommittee is working to provide detail on task sequencing and durations, in addition to assignment of those tasks by its meeting on March 22. Subcommittee members also agreed to release 150,000 BY06 White River fry into the river at the end of March 2007 and the remainder of the BY06 smolts from net pens in 2008. Permits are in place to install the net pens, but the Section 10 is needed for spring Chinook and steelhead, the bull trout Biological Opinion from USFWS, and the WDOE certification permit to use the pens. If the permits are secured we plan to move the fish the week of March 12.
  - C. **Nason Creek** – The Nason Creek HGMP is essentially in same stage as the WR HGMP and is still in need of facility design and broodstock collection method information. Deadline for submission is also Nov. 15, 2007.
  - D. **Priest Rapids Hatchery** – Grant PUD has requested an extension to December 20, 2007 for M&E development. A working group of Hanford Reach signatories and Hatchery Subcommittee members will work on the plan. The extension was approved by the PRCC Hatchery Subcommittee on Feb. 23, 2007 and is pending review and approval by the PRCC. A presentation on incubation and office facility design status was provided at the HSC meeting. The design is for all current egg programs. NOAA Fisheries has requested incorporation of a "dirty room" into the design for disease management. Discussions are underway. Designs and contracts should be completed by the end of 2007 and construction will take approximately three years.
  - E. **Summer Chinook production split** – JFP has recommended the following tributary split: 30% production in the Wenatchee River, 30% in the Okanogan River, and 30% in the Methow River, with the remaining 10% in the Entiat River. USFWS has been approached about using its Entiat Hatchery for acclimation and release of 92,000 (10% of the overall requirement of 833,000 plus 10%). The USFWS was not supportive of the full rearing program (e.g. adult to smolt) but will discuss an acclimation only program. Concerns about HCP plans to use the Entiat River as a reference stream for spring Chinook are also being discussed, in addition to the potential for a locally adapted summer Chinook program at the proposed Chief Joseph Hatchery. Additionally, the possibility of over-building facilities (Chelan PUD's production review will occur in 2013) is also under discussion. Andonaegui noted WDFW's support of a fishery in the Entiat.
  - F. **Coho** – an extension to Feb. 9, 2008 for a determination on the program was approved.
  - G. **USFWS Hatchery Review Team Report** – The Entiat River report will be distributed as soon as it is available.
  - H. **Public outreach meetings** – A planned May 17 public meeting will provide an overview of HGMP development and a request for input on acclimation design and broodstock collection method. A newsletter providing information on spring

activities in the White River and Nason Creek will be mailed once the Section 10 and other permits are in place.

- I. BiOp Annual Report for 2006 (filed Feb. 14, 2006) was distributed and the new ftp site for document distribution was discussed. The ftp site will be up and running in the next week or so.
- J. A spring facilities tour was also discussed.
- II. PRCC Habitat Subcommittee Update (Ben) – (No meeting in January) – No discussion.
- III. Update on PR BiOp – Release likely toward the end of March, noted Carlton. PRCC comment period will likely be one week.
- IV. Update on PR 401 Certification Process – WDFW, WDOE and Grant PUD are working out details. WDOE's goal is to release the 401 Water Quality Certification on March 15.
- V. Update on PR Final License Order – Still waiting for NOAA's BiOp, 401 and bull trout BiOp. The license will likely be ordered in mid-summer.
- VI. Update on Hanford Reach – Preliminary details from the 2006 experiment will be discussed among the Hanford Reach working group on March 1. Priest Rapids Hatchery upgrades will be discussed, in addition to the M&E plan for fall Chinook. Based on temperature units, mid-April will likely be the start of protection flows, stated Dresser.
- VII. Meeting Summary/Action Items – Actions items were reviewed.
- VIII. Document Gateway/ftp – The new ftp site will be up and running in the next couple of weeks. Lowry will send instructions on using the site.
- IX. Next Meeting - Wednesday, March 28, 2007, 9:00 am, Grant SeaTac Office