



Grant County  
**PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT**  
*Excellence in Service and Leadership*

## Meeting

### Priest Rapids Coordinating Committee

**Tuesday, December 18, 2007**  
**Grant PUD SeaTac Office**

#### **PRCC Members**

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Scott Carlon/Bryan Nordlund, NMFS	Jim Craig, USFWS
Jerry Marco, CCT	Tom Dresser, Grant PUD
Bob Rose, YN	Carl Merkle, CTUIR
Carmen Andonaegui, WDFW	Denny Rohr, Facilitator

#### **Attendees: (\* Denotes PRCC member)**

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Carmen Andonaegui, WDFW*	Bryan Nordlund, NMFS*
Jim Craig, USFWS (by phone)*	Bob Rose, YN (by phone)*
Jerry Marco, CCT (by phone)*	Denny Rohr, facilitator
Keith Gardner, Grant PUD	Behr Turner, Grant PUD
Tom Dresser, Grant PUD	Curt Dotson, Grant PUD
Shannon Lowry, Grant PUD	
Debbie Williams, Grant PUD	

#### **Distributed Items:**

- Habitat Funds Spreadsheet
- Priest Rapids Top-Spill PowerPoint Presentation
- Bryan Nordlund's review of Revised McIntyre Dam Design
- Priest Rapids Coordinating Committee meeting minutes Nov. 28, 2007
- SOA 2007-17 Okanogan spring Chinook Obligation
- CD including eight Grant PUD reports and study plans and the PR Top-Spill PowerPoint: 2008 Priest Rapids Top-Spill and WFUFB Chinook Behavior Study Plan, 2007 3-D Priest Rapids Top-Spill Chinook Behavior Study Report (HTI), 2007 Fish Source Evaluation, 2008 Steelhead Survival Study Plan, Analysis of Acoustic-Tagged Yearling Chinook, Steelhead, and Sockeye Salmon through the Priest Rapids Project in 2007, 2007 Northern Pikeminnow Report, 2007 Avian Predation Report, 2008 Northern Pikeminnow Plan, 2008 Avian Predation Study Plan.

## Action Items

- **Send PRCC members PowerPoint presentations on Avian Control Program Results and Proposed Evaluations and Northern Pikeminnow Control Program**
- **Send PRCC members the 2007 Priest Rapids Top-Spill Behavioral Study**
- **Nordlund and Mike Nicholls, Grant PUD engineer will work together on relocating the Wanapum Fish Station Video Count.**
- **Rohr will schedule meeting between PRCC and PRCC Habitat Subcommittee in February.**
- **Nordlund requested Chris Fisher confirm vertical drop height of 13 structures downstream of McIntyre Dam.**
- **Andonaegui requested further information from Langshaw, GCPUD on the potential for mass-marking fall Chinook at Priest Rapids Hatchery.**

## Decision Summary:

- **PRCC members approved the \$1.6 million, three-year contract award to USGS/WDFW for the Priest Rapids Project predator study. The contract will be developed between Grant PUD and USGS/WDFW.**
- **The PRCC approved the Okanogan Spring Chinook Statement of Agreement, SOA 2007-17.**

## Meeting Minutes

- I. Welcome and Introductions – Rohr welcomed attendees.
- II. Agenda Review - Rohr added the Okanogan Spring Chinook SOA and 2008 Steelhead Survival Study Plan.
- III. Approval of Meeting Minutes
  - November 28, 2007 – approved with revisions from WDFW
- IV. Ladder Maintenance Update

Ladder maintenance is continuing.
- V. Wanapum Future Unite Bypass Update

Construction is ongoing with completion scheduled for March 2008. A dry test is scheduled for January and a wet test will be conducted in March.

VI. Fall Chinook Ladder Count/Broodstock Update

Fall Chinook egg count to date is 5,149,024 (90% of mitigation) at the Priest Rapids Hatchery. There are 7 hens in the pond. Marco asked for clarification regarding Grant PUD's egg count numbers a couple of weeks ago. Dotson explained that hatchery staff, sensing they would run short of eggs, counted marginal eggs that would have normally been culled. Due to the higher rate of egg mortality with these marginal eggs, the 5.2 million egg mitigation will not be met. Ringold eggs might still be distributed. A total of 1.7 million John Day eggs could be transferred to Priest Rapid Hatchery if the Corps can reach a funding agreement with Grant PUD.

VII. Priest Rapids Top-Spill

- 2008 Priest Rapids Top-Spill and WFUFB Chinook Behavior Study Plan (30 day review request) – A presentation on the proposed 2008 study was provided at the November PRCC meeting.
- 2007 3-D Priest Rapids Top-Spill Chinook Behavior Study Report (HTI) – (30-day review request of final draft report) Members were provided with a preliminary draft of the report in October. A final draft will be distributed in the next few days with a 30-day comment period requested.

VIII. 2007 Fish Source Evaluation (Skalski) (30-day review request) – see discussion below.

IX. 2008 Steelhead Survival Study Plan –

Dotson stated the 2008 Steelhead Survival Study will be the first year of a three year study using paired releases. The 2008 study will be set up the same as the 2007 study regarding transporting of fish and surgical procedures. Marco questioned why a paired release wasn't done in 2007 relative to 2006? Differences between the 2007 study vs. the 2006 study was a closer examination of Grant PUD's fish-handling procedures and not a project survival study. In 2006 a net transfer was used vs. a 2007 water-to-water transfer of fish at the tagging trailer. In 2008, Grant PUD will again focus on fish-handling methods, stated Dotson. As stated in 15.7.2 of the settlement agreement, Nordlund asked Grant PUD to consider how to recalibrate NNI funds in 2009 based on survival studies of steelhead through the Priest Rapids Project. He suggested that it may be necessary to use the 2008 as a one year average, or go to a three-year average by adjusting 2006-2007 results in some fashion. Nordlund stated that per

15.7.2, Grant PUD is required to have a new steelhead survival estimate (of three consecutive years) by the end of 2008 and asked how Grant PUD will consider NNI funding stipulations in the Priest Rapids Salmon and Steelhead Settlement Agreement. Dotson stated that if the 2008 results are not similar to that of spring Chinook performance, Grant PUD will discuss the issue. Members also discussed the issue of subyearling testing and how it is affected by the lack of technology to run a valid study. Nordlund noted a new super-micro acoustic tag that is the length of a PIT-tag and twice the diameter. It has the ability to be switched on and off remotely. It could possibly provide results for more than one season. 2008 Steelhead Survival Study Plan was distributed (30-day review requested).

- X. Analysis of Acoustic-Tagged Yearling Chinook, Steelhead, and Sockeye Salmon through the Priest Rapids Project in 2007 (30-day review requested)

The study involved monitoring the behavior of Chelan PUD tagged fish heading down river through the Priest Rapids Project.

- XI. Northern Pikeminnow and Avian Predation Programs Presentation

- 2007 Northern Pikeminnow Report (30-day review requested)
- 2007 Avian Predation Report (30-day review requested)
- 2008 Northern Pikeminnow Plan (30-day review requested)
- 2008 Avian Predation Study Plan (30-day review requested)

Grant PUD biologists Keith Garner and Behr Turner provided a PowerPoint presentation concerning Grant PUD's avian predator and northern pikeminnow programs. A compact disc containing the PowerPoint presentations will be distributed to all members for reference.

- XII. Wanapum Fish Station Video Count Presentation

Dresser has drafted a proposal that will be distributed to the PRCC members soon. The video count stations are currently located on the west bank at weir 11, and at weir 5 on the east bank. There is potential that increased flow may confuse fish, and as a result they may move back and forth in the ladder, resulting in inaccurate counts. It is proposed that the video cameras be moved down to the non-overflow section of both ladders allowing for better natural lighting. A proposal to minimize the diameter of the count tunnel would allow for more accurate Jack counts. Grant PUD would like to move the

stations during the winter outage and test during the 2008 spawning season. Dresser would like the PRCC to review the proposal and asked if Nordlund could work with Mike Nichols, Grant PUD engineer to help develop the proposal for relocating the count station.

### XIII. Predation Study meeting update

The PRCC predation subcommittee met on Nov. 29, 2007 to discuss proposals presented by LGL-University of Idaho, HR/Fish Pro and United States Geological Survey-Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (USGS-WDFW). Proposals were based on a series of questions supplied by the subcommittee. Members of the PRCC subcommittee on predation studies met via conference call on Dec. 7, 2007 regarding further discussion of each proposal discussed with the committee on November 29, 2007. The recommendation of the predation study subcommittee is to award the Predation Study contract to USGS-WDFW. **PRCC members approved the \$1.6 million, three-year contract award to USGS/WDFW for the Priest Rapids Project predator study. The contract will be developed between Grant PUD and USGS/WDFW.** Members discussed the structure and scope of work of the contract. A phased approach to the contract was agreed on by members.

Phase 1 - Write contract to include specific task authorization, timelines of tasks, review period of task required by PRCC before advancing to next task, written report of findings and presentation to the PRCC required upon task completion, and a not-to-exceed dollar value per task required.

Phase 2 - Identify scope of work (scope of work to include literature review not to exceed \$30,000 to start ASAP), contract written by February or March.

Phase 3 - Determine objectives, population and consumption estimates, cost and benefit of risk analysis.

PRCC members requested a clause be written after each phase allowing for termination of the contract with PRCC approval. Dresser explained that all Grant PUD contracts provide a 30-day notification of termination clause. Dresser noted the \$1.6 million would be subtracted from the NNI fund immediately and that any remaining funds would be re-deposited into the NNI fund upon completion of the study.

#### XIV. NNI Funding

##### A ORRI

- The ORRI project was presented to the PRCC on Nov. 28, 2007. Members wanted to delay approval of the project until the Predator Study presentations were complete. Available NNI funds were discussed. Andonaegui noted that the NNI fund would not have enough money in it to fund the McIntyre Dam project, the Predator Study that was approved by the PRCC today, and the proposed ORRI project. She proposed that funding for the ORRI project be split 50/50 between the NNI and Habitat funds. Dotson questioned if the ORRI project could be funded in 2008 or 2009. Dresser stated that Grant PUD requires the entire dollar amount be deleted from the NNI fund account at the time of contractual signing, noting that the Predator Study funding wouldn't be available until Feb. 15, 2008 when the estimated \$1.2 million annual contribution would be deposited into the NNI fund. Marco stated he would find out if funds for McIntyre Dam could be allocated in February when additional NNI funds are deposited. Nordlund expressed concern with the ORRI project stating he hasn't received answers regarding how eliminating the upper half of the project will lower or eliminate the benefits implemented in the lower half. He would like to see the upper part of the stream completed first. He's not sure what benefit would be gained by only completing 500 meters of the stream. Dresser stated his support of the ORRI project and proposed that the PRCC and PRCC Habitat committees meet in February to discuss the ORRI project and funding. PRCC members discussed the direction of their leadership role concerning the PRCC Hatchery and Habitat subcommittees. Andonaegui stated her support for rehabilitation work on the Okanagan River but proposed that funding for the ORRI project be split 50/50 between the NNI and Habitat funds. She requested that M & E be completed for habitat on the ORRI project.

##### B McIntyre Dam

- On Dec. 14, 2007 a letter was sent to the Town of Oliver from Grant PUD confirming the PRCC's commitment to partial funding (\$1.7 million) of the fish passage project at McIntyre Dam. Dresser stated the Okanagan Nation Alliance (ONA) was selected as the contractor for the

project and O & M funds were committed by the Department of Ministry. Dresser questioned who would take responsibility to assure the City of Oliver and Department of Ministries were completing their component of tasks. Marco suggested this responsibility be added to the ONA contract. Nordlund asked if NNI funds are contingent upon completion of the scope of work for the Oliver Screens, adding that effectiveness and the \$1.7 million cost for the McIntyre passage project could be compromised if water surface elevation projections are higher than those described for the Oliver canal screen design. He noted that conceptual screen design work is not yet complete. Marco suggested discussions between the PRCC, Canadian Okanagan technical work group, and all other involved parties on this project. He noted his concern regarding legal issues in a different country. Andonaegui expressed concern regarding the City of Oliver not meeting their original 2003 time frame of completion and now it is moved out to 2009. Nordlund noted that his review of the McIntyre revised design revealed that fish must be able to jump the 3.4' height of the structure. Sockeye must travel 650 miles between the ocean and McIntyre Dam. Since Nordlund did not know what a fish's condition will be at the McIntyre site, assumptions must be made. Nordlund used the burst speed of a sockeye and applied projectile physics to determine a sockeye's jumping ability. Based on initial jump location and velocity, it is possible to tell how high fish will jump and where they will land. Per Powers and Osborne, burst speed can be compromised by 50% if fish arrive at a site in poor condition. This is typically the case the further they travel up river and the closer they are to spawning. If fish arrive in good condition they would be able to jump this height, while fish in poor condition couldn't consistently make it over McIntyre Dam, stated Nordlund. Nordlund noted that NMFS PRCC Habitat rep. Dale Bambrick suggested that some of the downriver structures could be higher than 3.4'. As such if fish could make it over these downriver structures; they are probably in good enough condition to make it over McIntyre Dam with the proposed revisions. Marco requested more information regarding the height of the 13 vertical drop structures in the lower river. Marco will request that Chris Fisher confirm height of the 13 structures. The three contingencies (required for PRCC approval of the project) haven't been met yet, but

progress is being made noted Dotson. He questioned if a fish ladder could be built as an option. Nordlund stated he wouldn't rule it out, but the Canadian Ministry had. Determination of who would conduct and fund habitat M & E attributes are still in question by the PRCC. Rose thanked Nordlund for doing the engineering evaluation of the jump structures.

C Predator Study – see discussion above.

D Funds spreadsheet – see discussion above.

XV. BiOp Update – Nordlund stated a draft BiOp was distributed asking for input from agencies and tribes. Dresser stated the BiOp should be released by Christmas. *(After the meeting, Nordlund sent a correction to the PRCC, stating that the BiOp distributed was for internal NMFS review only, and apologized for providing misinformation at the PRCC meeting.)*

XVI. PRCC Hatchery SC Report –

The White River/Nason Creek spring Chinook HGMP is being delayed while the JFP meet and develop a white paper describing the path forward for the supplementation program. Dotson stated the summer Chinook HGMP review comment period closed on Dec. 15, 2007, and Grant PUD would be resubmitting the draft to the PRCC Hatchery Subcommittee. Steelhead and sockeye HGMPs are proceeding. The F1 transfer protocol for the White River spring Chinook move has been given to Speros Doulos, Little White Salmon National Fish Hatchery, for review. Transfer will start in April with half of each brood year per trip being independently moved. Because BY03 only has 3 adult fish, they will be moved with BY04. The transfer will start with half of BY07, followed by half of BY06 and so forth until all brood years are transferred.

Andonaegui requested further information on the status of including the ability to mass-marking fall Chinook at Priest Rapids Hatchery in the renovation design.

Dresser expressed Grant PUD's disappointment in a meeting requested of NMFS and WDFW regarding White River spring Chinook policies by Ron Walter, Chelan County Commissioner and Robert Bugert, Chelan-Douglas Land Trust. He stated Grant PUD believed the meeting would be very limited in scope with attendance by NMFS and WDFW; however, in reality it was also attended by several other entities, including the Yakama Nation and Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board and multiple staff. Dresser stated issues concerning Grant PUD and the PRCC should be brought to the PRCC before they are taken to the Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board. Dresser

stated Grant PUD does not want to remove the White River program from the Biological Opinion because progress is being made, and expenditures have been high. It was noted by Dresser that no one from the PRCC Hatchery Subcommittee was involved in the meeting. Nordlund stated he didn't know who from NMFS was involved with this meeting, and it was not discussed internally with him involved. He noted that Carlon may have had better internal coordination with NMFS, since he is in the Portland office with the Salmon Recovery Division.

Andonaegui stated that WDFW is authorized by the State to manage State fishery resources for the public benefit in consultation with our tribal co-managers. As such, WDFW reserves the right to develop fish supplementation programs consistent with fishery management needs. WDFW and the Yakama Nation are now working on developing a white paper on Wenatchee spring Chinook supplementation options. WDFW recognizes that NMFS is the ESA regulatory agency, noted Andonaegui. WDFW is continuing to re-evaluate supplementation program options with the Yakamas that are consistent with the regional recovery plan. Nordlund stated that since the recovery plan has been accepted by NMFS, it makes sense to evaluate programs to assure consistency with that plan. Andonaegui noted the Wenatchee spring Chinook are part of the Upper Columbia spring Chinook ESU, and WDFW has no intent to end Wenatchee spring Chinook supplementation. Andonaegui noted though, the importance of having adequate acclimation in order for the White River spring Chinook program to be successful.

- XVII. PRCC Habitat SC Report – A joint meeting will be arranged in February.
- XVIII. Next meeting: Wednesday, Jan. 23, 2008 @ the Grant PUD SeaTac Office.