



FINAL CONFERENCE CALL MINUTES

Priest Rapids Coordinating Committee

Wednesday, April 25, 2007

9:00 – 11:00

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 PRCC member or alternate):

*Bryan Nordlund, NMFS	*Curt Dotson, Grant PUD
*Scott Carlon, NMFS	*Tom Dresser, Grant PUD
*Jerry Marco, CCT	Denny Rohr, Facilitator
*Brian Cates, USFWS	Shannon Lowry, Grant PUD
*Carmen Andonaegui, WDFW	

Action items:

- Rohr will follow-up with the PRCC HSC concerning the Fall Chinook HGMP/M&E time extension SOA
- Dresser will send an engineering diagram of the concrete spill in front of W-10 to PRCC members.
- Rohr will provide an agenda/program for the May 23 PRCC Wanapum tour/meeting.
- Prior to the May 23 meeting, WDFW will meet with Tom for input and review on a draft project proposal for NNI funding (evaluation looking at effects of predator fish species on sockeye and subyearling Chinook and native fish in the Priest Rapids Project)
- Dresser will review WDFW's project proposal for NNI funding.
- Rohr will provide a draft of the Draft NNI Funding Document prior to the May 23 PRCC meeting.

- I. **Welcome and Introductions** – Rohr welcomed participants.
- II. **Agenda Review** – Rohr reviewed agenda items from the March 28 meeting.
- III. **Approval/Finalize Meeting Minutes**
 - A. March 28, 2007 - **approved**

- B. Affirmation of Scott Carlon Approval of SOA 2007-9, 2006 Top Spill Behavior Study Report (Scott had asked for more time to review and comment) - **affirmed**
 - C. **Review of Action Items (March 28 meeting)** – Members reviewed action items, including a request for the executive summary of the 2006 Priest Rapids Top-Spill Behavior Study Report to reflect the range of collection efficiency percentages. Dotson confirmed that HTI had been requested to revise the executive summary. Members also discussed a statement of agreement concerning an extension of Fall Chinook HGMP and M&E development. Rohr is working with PRCC Hatchery Subcommittee members to determine whether the extension applies to both the HGMP and M&E.
- IV. **Spring Spill 2007** – Dotson stated that Grant PUD initiated fish spill on April 19 at Wanapum Dam with the opening of the sluiceway (2 kcfs) and top-spill bulkhead (20 kcfs). Both will be operating 24/7. There is some variability in spill level based on forebay elevation, noted Dotson. Fish spill at Priest Rapids Dam began April 20 with 61% of average daily river flow being spilled 24/7 (MOA spill). No TDG exceedances have occurred to date. A reduced spill program at Rock Island has caused Wanapum Dam forebay TDG levels to be at 107 to 108%.
- V. **Fish Mode Turbine Operations, Spring 2007** – With the beginning of fish spill, Grant PUD has also initiated 24/7 fish mode at both Priest Rapids and Wanapum dams, involving operation of turbines based on a passage survival curve for optimal survival ranges. Also being initiated at both dams is operating units in a ganged format to eliminate predation issues with edge effect.
- VI. **Wanapum Future Unit Bypass**
- A. Update – Work continues on the bypass structure. Because the coffer cell overtopped on several occasions it is currently flooded so no work is occurring in the coffer cell on the downstream side. Dresser noted that as soon as tailwater elevations stabilize with lower river flows, the coffer cell can be pumped down (June, July), dried out, and crack sealed. Flow-fairings are being installed on the upstream side. It is anticipated that the fairings will be completed by May 4. Also doing a concrete pour on upstream side of the ogee face as it rises out of the forebay. This concrete pour will occur in the dry. WDOE has been apprised. Still waiting for plan approval from WDOE. FERC and WDFW reps have visited the site to discussed construction issues and HPA issues. A supplemental HPA will extend the construction date by one year (June 30, 2008). The extension includes construction of the wing walls on the downstream side (should occur next fall during in-water work

window), removal of language referring to a fish tunnel in the design. Also working on a new HPA to address the debris which resulted from an in-water concrete spill. FERC was provided with a report on the concrete spill, which likely occurred during a concrete pour at the WFUFB. Dresser will send an engineering diagram of the concrete spill to PRCC members. The HPA will likely be submitted within the next two months. Steps necessary to remove the debris are currently being discussed. Nordlund asked if any of the debris will be too big to remove. Dresser stated that all debris will either be removed or used at the base of the WFUFB and covered. Nordlund noted that NMFS has used Bentonite (expansive clay) inserted into a drilled hole in the concrete. The substance then expands and breaks the concrete apart.

- B. SE-3 Open/Close Status – The SE-3 was opened by April 1, stated Dresser.

VII. Fish Source Comparison Study (see discussion item VIII)

- A. Update of Agreement with Chelan PUD re: 2007 Study Fish
- B. Discussion of Potential Coordination of Grant and Chelan PUD Survival Studies. –

VIII. Update of 2007 PR Top Spill Behavior Study – Both the 2007 Top-Spill Behavior Study (a repeat of last year's study) and Fish Source Comparison Study, began on April 24 with gateway dipping at Wanapum Dam and transport of fish from the Rocky Reach collection facility. Tagging by LGL will occur on April 25. The pre-surgery holding period following transport is 24 hours. Fish are held for 48 hours after tagging. The first release will occur on April 27 at 9 a.m. The PR top-spill bulkhead will be opened at 11 a.m., and should be fully operational by noon. The spill program at Priest Rapids Dam will be altered due to the initiation of the study. During the change in spill, monitoring of TDG levels will occur in the immediate PR tailrace, stated Dotson, noting staff will also monitor levels at the bulkhead. The information concerning TDG will be used by the PR bypass design team.

IX. PR OLAFT Update – Construction is on schedule for completion on May 21. An extension was necessary to complete electrical wiring of the structure. WDFW plans to test the trap in June or July, prior to its field study. PRCC members will tour the trap on May 23, noted Rohr.

X. Video Fish Counting

- A. Status – Dresser stated that all equipment is up and running at both dams, at all ladders. There have been no issues to date and the back-up device is operational to avoid any possible glitches in the system.

B. Update of Use of Ultrasound to Control Algae Growth on Fish Viewing Window - The ultrasonic algae control device has been installed. The success of the device won't be known until later in the season. Staff has been alerted to monitoring fish reaction to the device.

XI. **Discussion of PR and WAN Facilities Tour: Wednesday, May 23rd, 9:00 am, Wanapum Dam** – Dresser suggested meeting at Wanapum Heritage Center between 8:30 and 9 a.m. A fish release is scheduled to occur at 9 a.m. at the Wanapum Dam tailrace, noted Dotson. Carlson stated NMFS is considering bring extra staff to the tour. Dresser requested a head-count in advance to arrange for transportation and meals. FERC staff involved with the Project has also been invited, stated Dresser. An agenda for the meeting/tour is forthcoming.

XII. **PRCC Hatchery SC Update –**

- A three-year Section 10 was issued by NMFS for White River spring Chinook supplementation activities. Dresser stated that 129,000 spring Chinook are currently acclimating in the Lake Wenatchee net pens at the mouth of the White River. 75,000 fry were direct planted into the river last week and 29,000 fry are being direct planted on April 27. WDFW is trying to collect 1,500 fry from redds on the White River for incorporation into the captive brood program. WDFW crews have had difficulty obtaining the fry, stated Dresser, and are considering conducting night-time seining or an alternative capture method.
- A public meeting is scheduled for May 17 at the Lake Wenatchee Recreation Center near Leavenworth. Under discussion will be public involvement in facility development. Information from the Hatchery Genetic Management Plan will be provided by Greg Ferguson, who has been contracted by Grant PUD to assist in HGMP development. The subcommittee is also working with the Wenatchee Watershed Planning Unit and Chelan County on public involvement. Andonaegui noted that the HCP tributary subcommittee is conducting a habitat tour on the White River on May 7. Andonaegui suggested contact with Chelan-Douglas Land Trust Director and former HCP coordinator Bob Bugert prior to the tour. Rohr noted that he and Ben Lenz (Grant PUD PRCC Habitat rep) are planning to attend the tour.
- Members discussed status of Priest Rapids Hatchery modifications following a question concerning fall Chinook fry plants into the Project reservoirs. Modifications are currently schedule for completion in 2009, stated Dresser and fry plants will begin at that time. Water availability continues to be an issue and it is currently unknown whether sufficient water will be available for Grant PUD's future mitigation responsibilities and other programs currently being

conducted at the facility. At primary risk is water tempering in the adult holding ponds. Grant PUD engineers are currently conducting a new water evaluation at the site, which could affect the overall completion schedule, stated Dresser.

XIII. **PRCC Habitat SC Update** – The subcommittee has approved purchase of a 62-acre parcel (Godwin parcel) by Grant PUD. Timelines involved with WDFW purchase of the property resulted in the decision for Grant PUD to purchase the property. Dresser also noted that a road vacation requested on the Cascade Gardens Nason Creek property for hatchery facilities was denied by Chelan County last month.

XIV. **NNI Fund Discussion**

- A. Document Update –Rohr will keep members apprised of progress on the Draft NNI Funding Document. Marco requested the draft be completed prior to WDFW's proposal for evaluation of predator fish on resident species in the Priest Rapids Project (scheduled to be presented on May 23).
- B. Carmen Andonaegui Project Proposal – WDFW will provide a project proposal at the May 23 meeting following further internal discussion. Andonaegui requested that Dresser review the proposal prior to the meeting.

XV. **Update on PR BiOp** – Carlon noted that work on the BiOp is progressing.

XVI. **Update on PR 401 Certification Process** – Was issued on April 3, 2007.

XVII. **Update on PR Final License Order** – Still anticipated for summer 2007.

XVIII. **Update on Hanford Reach** – A Hanford Reach Working Group meeting is scheduled for May 11 at WDFW offices in Pasco from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. An agenda has been distributed. Since initiation of stranding protection flows on April 4, there have been no exceedances, stated Dresser.

XIX. **Review of Grant PUD FTP Site Operations** – Members discussed several glitches in using the FTP site. Members should contact Lowry if any further problems occur.

XX. **Review of Meeting Action Items** – Lowry reviewed action items generated during the conference call.

XXI. **Next Meeting** - Wednesday, May 23, 2007, 9:00 am, Wanapum Dam -
Rohr suggested scheduling a combined PRCC/subcommittees
meeting in July.