



Meeting Minutes

Fall Chinook Work Group

Tuesday, July 01, 2008

1:00 – 4:00

Grant PUD Natural Resources
Conference Room A

Technical Members

Paul Wagner, NMFS
Robert Heinith, CRITFC
Roger Schiewe, BPA
Keith Truscott, CPUD
Bill Tweit, WDFW
Marcie Mangold, WDOE
Russell Langshaw, GCPUD
Steve Hemstrom, CPUD

Joe Skalicky/Dan Diggs, USFWS
Paul Ward/Bob Rose, YN
Brett Swift, American Rivers
Bob Clubb/Tom Kahler, DPUD
Paul Hoffarth, WDFW
John Clark, ADFG
Todd Pearsons, GCPUD

ATTENDEES:

Paul Wagner, NMFS (by phone)
Roger Schiewe, BPA (by phone)
Bob Clubb/Tom Kahler, DPUD
Joe Skalicky, USFWS
Russell Langshaw, GCPUD
Todd Pearsons, GCPUD
Steve Hemstrom, CPUD (by phone)

Bob Rose, Yakama Nation (by phone)
Robert Heinith, CRITFC (by phone)
Marcie Mangold, WDOE
Paul Hoffarth, WDFW
John Clark, ADFG
Debbie Williams, GCPUD
Chris Carlson, GCPUD

Action Items:

- **Langshaw will email Battelle's MASS 1 Flow DRAFT report to FCWG members for review with a 30 day comment period.**
- **FCWG members are tasked to develop a list of potential studies which evaluates the extent to which the Priest Rapids Project contributes to daily flow fluctuations below the Project in the Hanford Reach of the Columbia River and how it relates to the current Hanford Reach Fall Chinook Protection Agreement by July 25, 2008. Include in the proposed study plan, the expected effect on the operations of the project. Grant PUD will compile the list by mid**

August and distribute to the FCWG for review. It will be sent to WDOE by Oct. 17, 2008.

- **Langshaw will send out an example of the expected study plan format by July 8th.**
- **Langshaw will contact Battelle regarding potential study ideas.**

Meeting Minutes

- I. Welcome and Introductions** – Attendees introduced themselves around the table and on the conference line.
- II. Agenda Review** – No additions were made to the agenda.
- III. FERC Order – 401 Certification requirements**
 - A** FCWG – Grant PUD was issued a new license on April 17, 2008. The Fall Chinook Work Group (FCWG) was convened because of the 401 Water Quality Certification. Their responsibility is to develop a study plan to evaluate the impacts of the Priest Rapids Project on Hanford Reach fall Chinook. The only requirement for the study plan is to include a controlled flow study to evaluate impacts of flow fluctuations on fall Chinook. American Rivers, Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission (CRITFC), and Alaska Department of Fish and Wildlife (ADFV) will participate. The FCWG accommodates interested groups that wanted input into the Hanford Reach, stated Mangold. Attendees reviewed the 401 Certification. Deference is given by WDOE for consensus decisions of the FCWG. Consensus is defined as: absence of a formal objection.
 - B** **Facilitation** - Grant PUD hopes to hire a facilitator within the next few months. Langshaw will be acting facilitator until then.
 - C** **Objectives** – No later than six months after the effective date of the new license, Grant PUD is required to develop, in consultation with the FCWG and WDOE a report which evaluates the extent to which the Priest Rapids Project (Project) contributes to daily flow fluctuations below the Project in the Hanford Reach of the Columbia River. Wagoner questioned how significance is determined and what the threshold is. Mangold explained that the goal is to conduct a robust study that would create significant scientific numbers based on scientific data. Flows at Rock Island are what the baseline is, stated Langshaw. Mangold noted that the potential of the Project to re-regulate hasn't been factored in to date, and that modeling that was conducted looked at what flows would have been if Wanapum and Priest Rapids dams weren't on the river. Langshaw emphasized the overall objective is to determine if

the HRF CPP is causing significant impacts and if so, then what Grant PUD's contribution is to that impact.

IV. Study Plan

- A **Timeline** – A draft study plan will be submitted to members of the FCWG by October 01, 2008, with a minimum 60-day comment period. The plan should identify the studies, including study proposals and priorities. Within 1 year, Grant PUD must submit a proposed study plan to WDOE for its approval. After approval by WDOE, Grant PUD shall identify the funding source or sources for the proposed studies that Grant PUD will not solely fund. In 2009, a draft study plan and schedule will be developed, with the final study plan and schedule complete by 2010. Within 60 days of the end of study, Grant PUD will provide a report of the final study results to the FCWG.
- B **Objectives** – The only requirement by WDOE is a controlled flow study, everything else is open for discussion, stated Langshaw. WDOE will determine which study plans will be implemented. The two groups, HRWG, and FCWG aren't linked, but can complement one another. Langshaw explained that consistency with the Hanford Reach Fall Chinook Protection Program (HRFCPP) needs to be maintained. All signatories would need to agree with the study in order to go outside the HRFCPP. Heinith questioned if adaptive management could be used to look at something else. Based on HRFCPP, all parties would have to reach unanimous consensus to go outside the bounds of the HRA. Nothing is off of the table, and in order to keep some things on the table, further discussions must be held.
- C **Next Steps** – Battelle conducted work on MASS 1 flows through the Project and into the Hanford Reach. **Langshaw will email Battelle's MASS 1 Flow DRAFT report to FCWG members for review with a 30 day comment period.** The study is relative to the flows from Rock Island dam as if Wanapum and Priest Rapids dams weren't there. FCWG members discussed potential studies. **FCWG members are tasked to develop a list of potential studies which evaluates the extent to which the Priest Rapids Project contributes to daily flow fluctuations below the Project in the Hanford Reach of the Columbia River and how it relates to the current Hanford Reach Fall Chinook Protection Agreement by July 25, 2008. Include in the proposed study plan, the expected effect on the operations of the project. Grant PUD will compile the list by the first week in August and distribute it to the FCWG for review. It will be sent to WDOE by Oct. 17,**

2008.Langshaw will send out an example of the expected study plan format by July 8th. Langshaw will contact Battelle regarding potential study ideas.

- V. **Next Meeting:** Thursday, August 28, 2008, 9:00 – 3:00 at Grant PUD Natural Resources Office, Ephrata, WA.