



Meeting Minutes

Fall Chinook Work Group

Thursday, August 28, 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, ADFW
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

Bob Rose, Yakama Nation (by phone)
Robert Heinith, CRITFC
Bill Tweit, WDFW (by phone)
Don Anglin, WDFW
John Clark, ADFW
Debbie Williams, GCPUD

Action Items:

- **Williams will send finalized July 01, 2008 meeting minutes to members.**
- **Langshaw will send a proposed study outline to members with the goal of the proposed studies listed on the top of the outline.**
- **Comments are due to Grant PUD by close of business on September 18, 2008. Comments should be sent in the format of the draft study plan. Langshaw will distribute any new studies he receives prior to October 01, 2008.**
- **Clark will distribute the 2009 RFP for the U.S. Chinook Technical Committee after they meet in December.**

- **Clark will send examples of a U.S. Chinook Technical Committee RFP to Williams for distribution to the FCWG.**
- **Langshaw will check into fish counting discrepancies and update the group.**

Decisions:

- **FCWG members agreed that proposed studies will include impacts to the entire Hanford Reach, not one particular area.**

Draft 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. **Approval of Meeting Minutes**
 - July 01, 2008 – Approved with changes by Tom Kahler. **Williams will send finalized July 01, 2008 meeting minutes to members.**
- IV. **FERC Order – 401 Certification requirements**
 - A **Facilitation** - Grant PUD and Bio Analysts are in contract negotiations to hire Tracy Hillman as the facilitator for the FCWG. The 401 Certification does not require a facilitator be hired for this committee. Heinith stated CRITIFC has concern with Hillman being the facilitator. Other members polled stated they had no concerns with Tracy Hillman being hired. Hillman will be on contract for the October 7, 2008 meeting pending discussions with WDOE.
- V. **Study Plan**
 - A **Draft comments** – Right now, the most important task for members is to identify studies that they want to have incorporated into a prioritized list of studies that will be submitted to WDOE on February 01, 2009. At the next meeting on October 23, 2008, members will identify studies that are consistent with the Hanford Reach Fall Chinook Protection Plan (HRFCPP) and the 401 Certification (401). The following meeting will focus on prioritizing the list of proposed studies. Wagner suggested that the committee agree to what the goal of the study effort is. The goal of the 401 is to assess if operations produce a significant impact to the Hanford Reach (HR) population, stated Wagner. Current provisions in the HR significantly impact the HR fall Chinook, stated Langshaw. **Langshaw will send a proposed study outline to members**

with the goal of the proposed studies listed on the top of the outline.

Comments are due to Grant PUD by close of business on September 18, 2008. Comments should be sent in the format of the draft study plan. Langshaw will distribute any new studies he receives prior to October 01, 2008.

Potentially, a study could be conducted in 2009, if consensus can be met by members. WDOE will determine the outcome of any disputes among members. Heinith suggested that the White Bluffs area be looked at because it is a major spawning site. Battelle has been assisting Grant PUD with identifying potential index areas. Langshaw stated that while searching for ground surveys index sites in that area, Grant PUD found a significant cultural site making it an unlikely location for future sampling.

Clark explained that the Pacific Salmon Commission, U.S. Chinook Technical Committee (CTC) distributes 1.86 million dollars annually to support work that is important to the treaty process. **Clark will distribute the 2009 RFP for the U.S. Chinook Technical Committee after they meet in December.** Proposals are then reviewed at their February meeting.

Other topics discussed by members include: redd capping versus egg baskets, feasibility of an hourly coordination model, modeling an operation before field implementation, ramping rates as they relate to the understanding of flow management, aerial surveys, orthophotography data use, marking, the percent of hatchery fish on the spawning grounds, reverse load factoring, and escapement goals of the Hanford Reach. **Clark will send examples of a U.S. Chinook Technical Committee RFP to Williams for distribution to the FCWG.**

FCWG members agreed that proposed studies will include impacts to the entire Hanford Reach, not one particular area. The Hanford Reach Fall Protection Program strictly considers the Vernita Bar index site. Langshaw stated his support of the Wanapum Tailrace and the reach as one group. Aerial surveys have been conducted in the Wanapum tailrace. They will be conducted again this year to evaluate the affects of the Wanapum Future Unit Fish Bypass (WFUFB) on redds (100-300 redds) in that location, stated Langshaw. **Langshaw will distribute Battelle ortho and underwater survey reports.** Skalicky explained that the USFWS will be doing orthophotography surveys this fall to get a single post peak season survey for major spawning areas. Members discussed

count discrepancies at the dams. **Langshaw will check into fish counting discrepancies and update the group.**

B **Next Steps** – Comments and proposed studies should be sent to Langshaw by 9/18/08 for incorporation into the 10/01/08 draft. The prioritization process will start the morning of 10/23/08.

VI. **Next Meeting:** Thursday, October 23, 2008, 9:00 – 3:00 at Grant PUD SeaTac office.