



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

## Meeting Minutes

### PRCC Hatchery Subcommittee

#### Conference Call

**Tuesday, July 22, 2008**  
**1:00 pm**

**ATTENDEES:**

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David Carie, USFWS  
Russell Langshaw, GCPUD  
Kirk Truscott, WDFW  
Tom Scribner, YN  
Richelle Beck, D Rohr & Assoc

Jerry Marco, CCT  
Chris Carlson, GCPUD  
Kris Petersen, NOAA  
Denny Rohr, Facilitator

**Action Items:**

Hatchery SC members to send comments to Langshaw regarding the draft SOA; Langshaw will distribute an updated draft to committee members.

Hatchery SC members will be notified of the next conference call after WDFW determines their position after internal review.

**Draft Meeting Minutes:**

The purpose of the call was to continue the fish transfer discussion regarding moving the fish from AquaSeed to Little White Salmon National Fish Hatchery, including a discussion of the histology report information that Langshaw had emailed to the committee members, and a discussion of the draft SOA prepared by Langshaw that contains certain recommendations regarding moving the fish.

Rohr stated he had received a telephone call from Per Heggelund, AquaSeed, and that Heggelund would like to participate in the conference call. However, after discussion with Rohr, Heggelund agreed to join the call at the conclusion of the committee member's discussion. Petersen voiced NMFS position that NMFS would prefer that

Heggelund participate in the call, but others thought it best for him to join the call at the conclusion of the discussion.

Langshaw sent out a Histology Report to the group via e-mail prior to the meeting. However, he didn't realize the 2<sup>nd</sup> page of the report wasn't imbedded in the document until just prior to the conference call. Accordingly, the 2<sup>nd</sup> page was sent out separately. The committee discussed the report. Langshaw stated he pulled together pieces from several resources and put the data into one report. The report includes what happened at each stage of transfer, mortalities to date (30% of transferred fish, almost 15% of the total '05 brood year), description of symptoms, and family representation (10.3% of each family on average were mortalities). In the '05 brood year, 735 fish are still alive (709 in inventory so some haven't yet been scanned into the database). This incident doesn't seem to have impacted the values too greatly. Langshaw noted that maturation of potential egg takes is also included in the report. Right now they have more eggs than they have had historically, and it looks like they likely won't be short in '08 or '09. The group also walked through the fish health summary, which discusses the process of the transfer and what was observed on site. The anesthetic and handling procedure are also covered in the report.

Langshaw discussed a draft SOA to maintain the fish at AquaSeed through spawning, and as fish are identified as mature, the immature fish would be transferred with a conservative transport protocol to minimize handling. Those fish would be observed for 7-10 days and if they are doing OK, they would move forward with the other transfers.

There was some discussion of tissue sampling and Langshaw stated they had not conducted any tissue sampling yet. (Later in the meeting Langshaw stated it would take 7-10 days for the results of any tissue or blood samples). At this point, they are unable to determine the dosage of the injection.

Truscott stated WDFW is still reviewing the information internally and have no recommendation for the continued transfer at this time. He anticipates WDFW will reach a conclusion within the next week. Petersen wants to see what comes out of the WDFW decision before making any recommendations from NOAA. Petersen stated her surprise that they can't see the level of antibiotics in the tissues. Langshaw stated it was possible this information may be included but he was not sure.

Marco asked if the draft SOA was developed by Langshaw, who replied it was. Langshaw stated it was based on the results of the summary report. Marco stated the SOA should include more detail regarding maturing fish staying at AquaSeed and should mention something about the eggs being taken down to the Little White Salmon NFH, making it consistent with the summary report.

Petersen offered some edits to the SOA and emailed them to the committee members during the call. Petersen re-stated NOAA's position to refrain from taking a position regarding the SOA until they hear a decision from WDFW.

The committee members then discussed how exactly they would move forward with their goal to move the whole program down to Little White Salmon ASAP. Truscott stated that at this point, WDFW can't even make a suggestion for '07 brood right now. He stated the allowable mortalities for capturing and handling are written into the transfer permit and that for ESA listed fish, mortalities must not exceed 5% of the total fish collected. This incident will need to be addressed in some sort of write-up for the record as to why we would proceed with an activity that would likely exceed 5%. Langshaw stated the PUD believes future fish movement can be done without incident and high mortality rates. Petersen then suggested they look into the permit issue by addressing two things. First, address the mortalities that have already occurred. The permit holders (WDFW, Yakama, and Grant PUD) must notify the NOAA and the committee, which has been done, and follow up with a written explanation as to why the mortalities were exceeded. If there is anticipation that future activities will exceed the allowable take, identify that anticipation and ask for a response from the committee and NOAA. Since Grant doesn't feel future transfers will exceed allowable take levels again, they can write a letter explaining the ultimate goal of better results that may mean some future mortalities to get the transfer complete. The letter should state we are doing this for certain reasons which may result in mortalities above 5% but the end result is positive. After that process is complete, NOAA will decide if they should take further action. For now, nothing will be done until everyone has a better idea of what WDFW plans to do.

Truscott mentioned the '08 egg take stating WDFW may hold off until '09 instead, thus putting them at 190 or so females for '09. By looking at the '08 egg take, it seems most females from '05 brood are non-maturing. They would have a much better chance with them in '09. Truscott agreed to forward the information to Russell.

While waiting for WDFW to make a decision, the committee members agreed to provide comments to Russell on the draft SOA. After WDFW determines what their decision is, another conference call will be scheduled to discuss further the transfer of fish from AquaSeed to Little White Salmon NFH.

At this point in the meeting, Rohr contacted Heggelund and asked him to join the conference call. Heggelund declined. Rohr told Heggelund to contact Langshaw directly if he had questions.

Conference call adjourned.