



Meeting Minutes

Priest Rapids Coordinating Committee

Wednesday, February 27, 2008

9:00 – 4:00

Grant PUD SeaTac Office

PRCC Members

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

ATTENDEES (*Denotes PRCC member)

Carmen Andonaegui, WDFW*	Scott Carlon/Bryan Nordlund, NMFS*
Jerry Marco, CCT*	Jim Craig, USFWS*
Tom Dresser, Grant PUD*	Curt Dotson, Grant PUD
Russ Langshaw, Grant PUD	Debbie Williams, Grant PUD
Denny Rohr, Facilitator	

Distributed Items:

- **Grant PUD 2007 Progress Report of Activities CD**
- **NNI Fund Spreadsheets**
- **2008 Report Record Spreadsheet (Nordlund)**

Action Items:

- **Williams will e-mail draft meeting minutes that incorporate PRCC member's edits to members for one week review. Approval of January 23, 2008 minutes will be contingent upon final review.**
- **Grant PUD tasked with finding out how HCP funds their external website managed by Anchor Environmental.**
- **Rohr and Williams will use Nordlund's Draft 2008 Report Record spreadsheet as a template to create a clear and concise document tracking spreadsheet for the PRCC.**
- **PRCC members request Grant PUD create and maintain a formal document storage database (i.e. FTP site) relating to all**

documentation created and considered necessary by PRCC members. Grant PUD will provide the cost of such a database at the next PRCC meeting.

- Nordlund and Dotson will schedule meeting to discuss Nordlund's comments on the 2007 3-D Priest Rapids Top-Spill Chinook Behavior Study Report (HTI) and the other two acoustic tag 2007 reports (Skalski).
- Dotson will contact Ann Setter, Corp of Engineers, Walla Walla, WA office (McNary Dam) to find out when PIT-tag detectors are operating at MCN.
- Langshaw will find average size of Priest Rapids Reservoir sub-yearlings.
- Dresser will send 2007 Avian Predation Report comments to PRCC members for approval at the next meeting.
- Dotson will update PRCC members via e-mail regarding progress of the USGS, WDFW Predation Study contract dispute.
- Have Julie Yount, Grant PUD, place a header on the Total Expenditures column of new NNI funds spreadsheet and use parentheses to denote debits and credits.
- Grant PUD will present draft SOA proposal regarding 2009 NNI fund recalculation at next PRCC meeting.
- PRCC members will decide at the next meeting which NNI fund recalculation proposal will be used, (JFP's or Grant PUD's) and approve SOA at that meeting.
- Carlon will speak with NOAA supervisors regarding amendments to new BiOp language as it regards to the Habitat and Hatchery Subcommittees.
- Dresser will keep PRCC apprised of FERC licensing meeting date.

Decision Summary:

- PRCC members approve use of Nordlund's questions relating to the Wanapum pool raise to be asked of the pool raise committee on March 5, 2008.
- PRCC members approve Grant PUD's fish count station modifications in 2008, provided that vigilant monitoring of these issues is conducted during typical daily fishway inspections..
- PRCC members approve a summary page tracking edits be incorporated into the 2007 3-D Priest Rapids Top-Spill Chinook Behavior Study Report, 2007 Fish Source Evaluation (Skalski), and Analysis of Acoustic-Tagged Yearling Chinook Steelhead and Sockeye Salmon through the Priest Rapids Project in 2007 (Skalski) reports.
- PRCC members approve the tagging of 1,000 fish by Grant PUD to gather acoustic information as to how sub-yearlings approach Priest Rapids Dam.

- **PRCC members approve further discussion on the 2007 Northern Pikeminnow Report at the March PRCC meeting.**
- **PRCC members approve further discussion on the 2007 Avian Predation Report at the March PRCC meeting.**
- **PRCC members approve further discussion on the 2008 Northern Pikeminnow Study Plan at the March PRCC meeting.**
- **PRCC members approve further discussion on Wanapum turbine replacement and turbine testing schedules at next meeting.**

Meeting Minutes

- I. **Welcome and Introductions** - Rohr welcomed attendees.
- II. **Agenda Review** - Rohr reviewed agenda. Items added include, PRCC protocol establishing consistent distribution and availability of review material, PRCC consensus on pool raise issues, status of the FTP site and 30-day shelf life of materials on the site, 2007 project survival estimates, 2009 NNI fund recalibration, fish count station update, and Priest Rapids top-spill evaluation planning.
- III. **Approval of Meeting Minutes**
 - Jan. 23, 2008 PRCC meeting – Revisions received from WDFW and NMFS. **Williams will e-mail draft meeting minutes that incorporate PRCC member's edits to members for one week review. Approval of January 23, 2008 minutes will be contingent upon final review.**
- IV. **Action Items Review** - Rohr reviewed action items.
- V. **Ladder Maintenance Update** - Andonaegui explained some PRCC members took a Fishway Ladder tour of Wanapum and Priest Rapids fish ladders. It was very explanatory. Ladder will be ready for fish passage on April 15, 2008 or before. Those on the tour now understand how PR outages of the right and left bank ladders affect one another due to their inter-tie explained Andonaegui.
- VI. **Wanapum Future Unite Bypass Update** - Discussed under PR BiOp.
- VII. **Establish a PRCC protocol to assure consistent distribution and availability of review material.** - Rohr and Williams will modify Nordlund's Draft 2008 Report Record for the PRCC. Nordlund explained that he has had trouble accessing materials on the FTP site because of the 30-day time frame. This spreadsheet will accommodate the distribution of materials and where they came from, correct names of documents, and when they were distributed. Andonaegui would like to request Grant PUD provide a permanent website for PRCC members to access documentation similar to the HCP. Dresser stated the HCP contracts with Anchor Environmental for handling and distribution of all documents. He thinks HCP funds pay

for the site. Financial burden would be placed on Grant PUD to accommodate this request, stated Dresser. Dresser questioned if the committee would be willing to use NNI funds for a website. Dresser stated Grant doesn't support the idea of an external website to be funded by Grant PUD. **Grant PUD tasked with finding out how HCP funds their external website managed by Anchor Environmental.** Andonaegui stated she expects a level of quality regarding the administrative support and because it wasn't spelled out in the Settlement Agreement, this has created issues with Grant PUD in the past. Dresser stated that it is the individual responsibility of the committee members to ask for the documentation they need. Andonaegui noted that when trying to find reports previously distributed that provide needed data to complete review of Grant PUD studies and reports, it is very difficult to complete the task when you cannot access a central data base supplying all documentation. **PRCC member's request Grant PUD create and maintain a formal document storage database relating to all documentation created and considered necessary by PRCC members. Grant PUD will provide the cost of such a database at the next PRCC meeting.** Adaptive management is the basis for making steady progress toward meeting survival standards in the Settlement Agreement, and PRCC facilitation and administrative support is part of that progress, stated Nordlund. It is important that Grant PUD provide sufficient administrative support, such as document access and retrieval, assuring that the PRCC can decide future actions based on the previous year's results.. Committee members suggested the database be categorized by committee, topic, study/report title, and date. Andonaegui noted that Chelan and Douglas PUDs websites are password protected.

- VIII. **2008 Report Record for the PRCC** – Members discussed a draft spreadsheet created by Nordlund to track PRCC documents. **Rohr and Williams will use Nordlund's Draft 2008 Report Record spreadsheet as a template to create a clear and concise document tracking spreadsheet for the PRCC.**
- IX. **Establish a PRCC consensus on Wanapum Pool Raise Concept issues** - The PRCC is the oversight committee related to fisheries operations of the Priest Rapids Project, stated Nordlund; he recommends the PRCC establish consensus on fisheries issues regarding the Wanapum Pool Raise Concept to bring forward to the task force considering the Pool Raise. Nordlund noted his concern regarding applicability of previous fish passage and survival studies with a higher forebay elevation. Fish passage survival through the new turbines, spillway gates and the Future Unit Bypass are some of the issues related to the Wanapum Pool Raise. He suggests that before the pool raise is implemented, Grant PUD looks closely at inconsistencies between historic run timing versus run timing data

reported in the Pool Raise concept. In particular, he noted that some portion of all of the juvenile out-migration extends throughout August, with sub-yearling migration in particular being late in the summer. Dresser noted the next Wanapum Pool Raise meeting is March 5, 2008 at the Grant SeaTac office. It is the intent of the Wanapum Pool Raise committee to involve the PRCC on issues relating to this decision, noted Andonaegui. Dale Bambrick (NMFS) has been assigned to the Governors Task Force to find water storage sources, stated Nordlund. Bambrick's basic understanding of the initial concept of the Wanapum Pool Raise was that it wouldn't affect out migration, noted Nordlund. However, subsequent discussion and Rock Island data provided by Nordlund Marco noted that 140,000 acre feet of water will be available from Grand Coulee (Lake Roosevelt) this year. The Columbia River Water Management Group has formed a subcommittee to consider the idea of a pool raise at Wanapum reservoir; their next meeting will be held on March 5, 2008, noted Rohr. **PRCC members discussed and approved a list of fish passage issues drafted by Nordlund to present to the Wanapum Pool Raise committee on March 5, 2008. (See attached).**

- X. **Fish Count Station Update** - Nordlund stated he still has window elevation concerns, because of the extent of vertical crowding required. Mike Nicholls and Eric Lauver (Grant PUD) want to evaluate the fish count station using the proposed modifications this year to determine how well it operates to solve count problems at the existing site. Nordlund agreed to try it this year because the window glass has already been ordered by Grant PUD, with the caveat that migration delay below the count station window be monitored closely, and members agreed. In addition, impingement on the downstream pickets needs to be monitored because the station doesn't have an angled upstream diffuser that guides ladder drop backs into the counting window slot. **PRCC members approve Grant PUD's fish count station modifications in 2008, provided that vigilant monitoring of these issues is conducted during typical daily fishway inspections.** Nordlund stated the Corp uses standard 4'x5' windows, where as the Grant PUD glass that has already been ordered is 3'x4'. Members discussed how to evaluate the window's success or failure. Downstream pickets allow fish a staging and resting place and help direct fish to the count window slot, noted Nordlund. Nordlund recommends that the vertical crowder slope be very gradual (maximum of 1 ft vertical rise for 8 ft of horizontal distance) and noted that there is probably not room to accomplish this in the Wanapum fish ladder because of the extent of vertical crowding required by the high count window elevation. Nordlund's recommendations are consistent with what NOAA engineers look for when building any fish ladder, as specified in a document (Anadromous Salmonid Fish Passage Design) that soon will be downloaded to the NOAA website, noted Nordlund.

XI. Priest Rapids Top-Spill

A **Action Item: 2007 3-D Priest Rapids Top-Spill Chinook Behavior Study Report (HTI)** – approval requested - Grant PUD proposes a 30-day extension be given to PRCC members on all reports so edits to the study report can be included in a summary page. This extension will allow members to see the final version of the study before approval is given. Nordlund expressed some of the concerns are more appropriate to have a discussion on vs. sending comments in for incorporation into the final study. **PRCC members approve a summary page tracking edits be incorporated into the 2007 3-D Priest Rapids Top-Spill Chinook Behavior Study Report (HTI), 2007 Fish Source Evaluation (Skalski), and Analysis of Acoustic-Tagged Yearling Chinook Steelhead and Sockeye Salmon through the Priest Rapids Project in 2007 (Skalski).** Final approval of 2007 3-D Priest Rapids Top-Spill Chinook Behavior Study Report will be asked for at the next PRCC meeting. **Nordlund and Dotson will schedule meeting to discuss Nordlund’s comments on the 2007 3-D Priest Rapids Top-Spill Chinook Behavior Study Report (HTI) and the other two acoustic tag reports (both Skalski).**

XII. **Action Item: 2007 Fish Source Evaluation (Skalski) approval requested.** – See discussion above under Item XI. Action to be requested at next meeting.

XIII. **Action Item: Analysis of Acoustic-Tagged Yearling Chinook Steelhead and Sockeye Salmon through the Priest Rapids Project in 2007 – approval requested.** - See discussion above under Item XI. Action to be requested at next meeting.

XIV. **Sub-Yearling Pilot Study** - PRCC members discussed comments submitted by Andonaegui regarding the Chinook sub-yearling pilot study proposed by Grant PUD. She noted objectives in the document need to be edited so they relate from one page to another. Andonaegui questioned if the Wanapum reservoir would be included in the study. Dotson stated that because this is a pilot study, the smaller Priest Rapids reservoir would be more appropriate to use and not include the Wanapum pool. Andonaegui questioned if over-wintering takes place in the reservoirs. Dotson noted that based on beach seining in 1999, large numbers of sub-yearlings were found in Priest Rapids reservoir, while at Wanapum reservoir, very few sub-yearlings were found. If over-wintering were taking place, it would be most likely seen in the Priest Rapids reservoir. Andonaegui questioned the PRCCs objectives from the study. If only 4000 sub-yearlings are PIT-

tagged the chance of detecting them at McNary is slight, noted Andonaegui. She thought a larger number of sample fish would need to be used for detection. Acoustic tags give you behavioral data relative to reservoir survival, and specific route passage by fish, noted Dotson. PIT-tags will only tell if over-wintering is happening noted Dotson. Nordlund questioned how long the PIT-tag detectors are turned on at McNary Dam. **Dotson will contact Ann Setter, Corp of Engineers, Walla Walla, WA office (McNary Dam) to find out how long PIT-tag detectors are turned on.** Dotson questioned if over-wintering is a behavioral trait of sub-yearlings, and if 4000 PIT-tags will be enough to give an estimate of over-wintering. Maybe it's not a mortality issue; maybe the sub-yearlings are over-wintering and going out the following year, noted Dotson. Andonaegui questioned if there is a tag small enough to work with these sub-yearlings. Dotson noted that sub-yearlings leaving the Priest Rapids Project have an average length of 87-93mm. **Langshaw will find average size of Priest Rapids Reservoir sub-yearlings.** Langshaw stated there are no programs currently using PIT-tags, but this year, 30,000 White River spring Chinook will be PIT-tagged. Marco noted that if you were to design a paired release PIT-tag study, you could produce whatever size sub-yearling you need for the study, but questioned if they would represent the size that is in the Priest Rapids Reservoir. HTI is currently working on a micro tag that is supposed to be smaller than the "S" tag, noted Dotson. Carlon stated that the sub-yearling pilot study will give taggers tagging experience, and provide a sense of behavior. Dotson is meeting with Skalski on March 5, 2008 to discuss the sub-yearling study. PRCC would like to know results of Dotson's meeting with Skalski. **PRCC approve Grant PUD tag 1,000 fish to gather acoustic information as to how sub-yearlings approach Priest Rapids Dam.** PIT-tag component will be taken from sub-yearling pilot study. Dresser agreed, but would like to see what Skalski thinks regarding the topic.

XV. **Northern Pikeminnow and Avian Predation Programs**

- A **Action Item: 2007 Northern Pikeminnow Report – approval requested - PRCC members approved further discussion on the 2007 Northern Pikeminnow Report at the March PRCC meeting.**
- B **Action Item: 2007 Avian Predation Report – approval requested -Dresser will review Andonaegui comments on the 2007 Avian Predation Report and e-mail comments to PRCC members. Dresser stated comments will be included in a summary page attached to the report. PRCC members approved further discussion on the 2007 Avian Predation Report at the March PRCC meeting. Dresser will send 2007 Avian Predation Report comments to PRCC members for approval at the next meeting**

C **Action Item: 2008 Northern Pikeminnow Plan – approval requested** - Andonaegui would like to see language describing Grant PUDs efforts to rid the Priest Rapids Project of Northern pikeminnow. The Northern pikeminnow collection permit allows removal of up to 100,000, noting angling will be in the collection permit this year, stated Dresser. **PRCC members approved further discussion on the 2008 Northern Pikeminnow Study Plan at the March PRCC meeting. Williams will send Andonaegui comments on 2008 Northern Pikeminnow Plan to Dresser for review.**

XVI. **Predation Study Update** - USGS and WDFW have requested two separate contracts for work on the Predation Study. If separate contracts are not allowed, \$530,000 in additional funds would be needed by USGS for administration of the contract (with WDFW under the USGS contract), noted Dotson. Dotson requests the two organizations determine which tasks each agency will be responsible for. The process is now at a stand-still, stated Dotson. USGS and WDFW have not responded to Dotson's questions as key representatives are out of country right now. He will keep the PRCC updated. Marco questioned what the resolution deadline is. Dotson stated WDFW has all permits in place now and should be ready to proceed when this issue is resolved. Carlon stated that was one of the reasons WDFW was originally selected. **Dotson will update PRCC members via e-mail regarding progress of the USGS, WDFW Predation Study contract dispute.**

XVII. **Habitat/NNI Funding**

A **Account updates** - Nordlund noted the Settlement Agreement calls for a recalibration of NNI funds in 2009, based on estimates of steelhead survival studies conducted in 2006 - 2008. In addition, the take statement in section 2.9.1 of the new Priest Rapids BiOp limits take at the project, and reference these studies to measure project survival and expect that take will be limited to the allowable amount. The JFP proposes to use steelhead survival study results from 2008 to recalibrate the NNI fund in 2009. They further propose that, in 2009 (second year of steelhead study) the fund be recalibrated again based on combined 2008 and 2009 results. Steelhead survival is lagging behind yearling Chinook survival, noted Nordlund, but he isn't certain why, and noted that this is not consistent with other projects or what was assumed in the Settlement Agreement. Nordlund suggested more effort should be made to address predation hotspots in the project pools and reduce delay and predation in the forebay. 2007 studies show that steelhead take longer to get through the immediate forebay; maybe lower survival rates because of predation; spring Chinook and sockeye are similar in their moving through at a

faster rate. Bird predation is more of a significant issue than previously thought; installation of avian wires should be fast-tracked, stated Nordlund. Based on limited information from the 2006 and 2007 steelhead survival studies, Grant needs to improve survival by 20%, Nordlund stated. Increasing predator knowledge could be one key to increasing survival, stated Nordlund. Dotson noted that the 2006 had some methodology issues (reason for it being invalidated by the PRCC) and the 2007 steelhead study was a single release study and not designed specifically for a survival estimate, but to look at fish sources and study methodologies. Discussing NNI is not intended as a punishment to Grant PUD, but should help clarify that additional measures are needed to improve survival to achieve standards, noted Nordlund. The BiOp allows for 10% additional take below survival standards until 2013. Currently, based on limited and insufficient information, it appears that Grant PUD is not meeting their take allowance as stated in the BiOp noted, Nordlund. Per the Settlement Agreement, 2009 NNI fund recalculation could cost Grant PUD an estimated \$8 to \$9 million dollars, if survival is similar to what was indicated by studies that either did not measure survival with sufficient accuracy (2006) or were not intended to measure survival (single release studies in 2007), noted Nordlund. He noted that in order to stabilize the NPM populations to levels and sizes to minimize predation on all salmonids, extended effort needs to be undertaken to by GPUD to remove the maximum number of predator sized NPM. Avian wire arrays need to be installed as soon as possible. Dresser stated Grant PUD will be focusing maximum efforts on northern pikeminnow removal, but stated avian arrays will not be installed before this out-migration because of cultural and agency permitting reasons. A contingency plan, especially at Priest Rapids Dam, will include avian hazing by USDA around the clock thru the out-migration period stated Dresser. Terns are effective predators, stated Dresser, noting the permitting process for lethal tern take has started. Carlon isn't convinced that Northern pikeminnow hit steelhead all that hard, and questions if other predators, such as walleye, are having impacts as well. Dresser stated he believes the walleye populations are older, smaller populations that are effective predators. Smallmouth bass are also predators in the Project noted, Dresser. Grant PUD and the settlement parties developed the NNI fund as a mechanism to assure that NNI is achieved until Grant PUD is achieves the required survival standards noted Nordlund. The sole purpose of the NNI money is to make sure survival standards are met, stated Andonaegui. Supplementation of the NNI fund by Grant PUD above what was agreed upon in the Steelhead Settlement Agreement is not

appropriate, stated Dresser. Assumptions in the Steelhead Settlement Agreement were that steelhead and yearling Chinook are fairly equal in survival rate. That is apparently not the case, and accurate future survival studies will provide a clearer picture, stated Nordlund. The PRCC is not motivated by Grant PUD increasing the NNI fund, however they want to assure that the PRCC is performing its task to help Grant PUD's accomplish survival performance standards, stated Nordlund. Based on steelhead survival results, sub-yearling and sockeye survival estimates for NNI fund calculation automatically go up or down, stated Nordlund. Results show problematic trends meeting steelhead survival rates, stated Andonaegui. The PRCC is trying to make Grant PUD look at predation more seriously, stated Andonaegui, noting the PRCC brought up the NNI fund recalibrations as a way to make that happen. Dresser isn't arguing about predation issue, but additional money would not be agreeable to Grant PUD Commissioners. Dresser questioned if the PRCC is comfortable using one year of survival studies. PRCC members stated they are. What is the 10% handicap until 2013, questioned Dotson. 10% additional take below standard based on earlier study done with radio tag, out of 2004 BiOp, not violating take statement stated Carlon. Looks like Grant is below based on last couple of studies stated Carlon. Grant PUD is not in violation of the take permit until 2013, noted Dotson. Between now and 2013 ramping up of survival needs to occur, because initial assumptions regarding steelhead survival may be wrong, noted Nordlund. Numbers need to be thought of separately, you have until 2013 to meet those standards according to the Settlement Agreement and BiOp, stated Carlon. Steelhead survival hasn't been measured yet, consistent with the assumption made in Settlement Agreement, noted Carlon. Dresser stated Grant PUDs NNI fund recalibration proposal is to do survival studies in 2008 and 2009, use two years of studies, determine if the results will be accepted, then recalculate the NNI fund in the fall of 2009. Grant PUD will draft SOA regarding 2009 NNI fund recalculation proposal to bring to next PRCC meeting. **Grant PUD will present draft SOA proposal regarding 2009 NNI fund recalculation at next PRCC meeting. PRCC members will decide at next meeting which NNI fund recalculation proposal will be used, (JFP's or Grant PUD's) and approve SOA at that meeting**

- XVIII. **BiOp Update** - Per discussions at the PRCC Hatchery Subcommittee meeting, Carlon provided clarification to the following Terms and Conditions of the new 2008 Priest Rapids BiOp. **Page 44, - 1.3 Biological evaluation should be completed as soon as practicable to ensure that this facility performs to a level that, at a minimum,**

contributes to achieving and maintaining the survival standards set forth in Action 1 above. Carlon stated, biological evaluations (as it relates to the WFUFB) mean fish survival. Behavioral studies being completed by Grant this year are part of the needed information toward meeting this condition stated Carlon. Yearling Chinook relative route-specific survival can be determined for the WFUFB in 2008 by the behavior study being conducted this season stated Dotson. Carlon didn't know if a paired evaluation of steelhead survival (directly related to the WFUFB) is needed or if the paired release steelhead survival study that will be taking place will provide this information. Looking at the relative survival of Chinook this year, in association with the absolute survival rate (steelhead) for the project may meet the needs. Any additional studies, if needed, could be determined after this year's studies stated Carlon. The real goal is for Grant PUD to meet survival standards for the Project (dam & reservoir), stated Carlon. It doesn't matter what method Grant takes to get to 95% survival as long as survival is attained stated Dotson. Grant understands biological evaluation and passage survival rate data collected in 2008 and maybe 2009 are all geared toward the performance based standard is what Grant is working on stated Dotson. Overall project survival is the goal. Route specific, passage survival and what percentage of fish are using each at Wanapum (WFUFB and turbine) is the data we need, if not making survival targets. Route specific passage and survival rates will be completed by the planned 2008 studies stated Dotson. With the completion of the 2008 paired release steelhead survival study and the release of yearling Chinook at Vantage (for the behavior study), passage and survival numbers, power house survival passage numbers, route specific passage and survival, percent route specific passage needed to evaluation the WFUFB will be achieved. Using steelhead survival studies of 2008, 2009, and 2010 will determine if survival standards are being met noted Andonaegui. **1.24 - Decisions regarding management of anadromous fishery resources in the UCR basin not directly linked to the Project are the purview of the agencies and Tribes.** Definition of project management needs to be clearly defined stated Langshaw, noting consistency with the Settlement Agreement and how the project is currently being operated. Carlon stated its just specifying that co-managers do have certain responsibilities. Project management encompasses all of the M & E's that are proposed and directed in the BiOp including Hatchery and Habitat activities under the purview of the committees. No changes were meant to be implied with this new language stated Carlon. When are co-managers stepping into decisions of the PUD and when how the resources manage for the public benefit stated Andonaegui, how PUD gets to that supplementation program is open for consensus and discussions by the HSC. **1.24. - When carrying out activities that may affect land and water resources within local watersheds, the Hatchery Subcommittee should coordinate with relevant local**

planning and permitting entities, including the Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board. Carlon stated this language will remain in the BiOp. PRCC members discussed language. NOAA didn't mean for anything different than what already happens in the Hatchery committee now stated Carlon. What are the expectations questioned Dresser because HSC is already coordinating with other entities now. Dresser asked who it is that ultimately interprets the BiOp. NOAA is the entity that interprets what the BiOp says stated Carlon. After coordination, implementation with other entities should take place noted Carlon. **1.27 – This shall include, but is not limited to, the development of rearing (may be outside the White River Basin) and acclimation (in the White River Basin) facilities.** No intent to have Grant PUD change what they are currently doing stated Carlon. **1.28 - The design of the required facilities should factor in an additional 10% buffer in production capacity beyond the production levels required above.** Carlon stated it refers to the number of fish, 250,000 plus 10%. **1.29 – Grant PUD may, in consultation with the PRCC and NMFS, work with the HCP and Priest Rapids Hatchery Subcommittees to renew cost sharing agreements for supplementation of Methow River Basin spring-run Chinook salmon.** Langshaw noted that currently Grant PUD and Douglas develop cost sharing agreements, and have the PRCC HSC approve them. Langshaw questioned if Grant PUD should continue following the same protocol. Carlon stated the sentence means Grant PUD should continue doing what they're doing now. **1.30 – When carrying out activities that may affect local tributary habitat, the Habitat Subcommittee should seek advice from local entities, including the Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board in development of such activities.** Carlon stated an amendment to FERC should be made by NOAA to clear up the "should seek" language. Carlon isn't sure if it can be done, but will ask his supervisors. **Carlon will speak with NOAA supervisors regarding amendments to new BiOp language as it regards to the Habitat and Hatchery Subcommittees. Page 45 – 1.8 - FERC shall require Grant PUD to evaluate powerhouse passage with the new advanced turbines in place. A preliminary schedule describing the timing and nature of future studies shall be completed for approval by the PRCC within 1 year after licensing issuance.** This sentence was left vague on purpose stated Carlon. Discussion needs to take place by the PRCC as to the best approach of this condition stated Carlon. Committee needs to have plan and approach determined within one year of license receipt stated Carlon. Dresser stated engineering staff have questioned what turbine should be replaced next. **PRCC members approved further discussion on Wanapum turbine replacement and turbine testing schedules at next meeting.**

- XIX. **BiOp Discussion** - Laurel Heacock, Grant PUD Licensing and Compliance Manager, recommends PRCC members attend the FERC licensing meeting. She also recommends Grant PUD licensing and compliance staff attend the meeting to help explain Grant PUDs interpretation of the new BiOp language. Dresser stated Grant believes FERC might issue Grant PUDs new license at the end of April. **Dresser will keep PRCC apprised of FERC licensing meeting date.**
- XX. **PRCC Hatchery SC Report –**
- A **Net Pens** – Due to permitting/comment periods by DOE and ice conditions on the lake, net pen installation isn't looking good stated Langshaw. Fish need to be out of the LWSNFH by March 31' 2008 to help prevent straying noted Langshaw. Assembly and transportation of the net pens will take two weeks, Grant is moving forward. Rohr noted a Lake Wenatchee water quality meeting, hosted by Chelan county, will be held on March 29th at the Lake Wenatchee Recreation Club. If net pen installation is not possible due to complications, 143,000 White River spring Chinook will be directly planted at Sears Bridge and the 6400 Bridge to minimize interaction with wild fish stated Langshaw.
- B **HSRG** – Recommendations were made to move Ringold program to Priest Rapids Hatchery, they understand Grant PUDs concerns regarding lack of water, and funding issues related to this move and decided to rework language. Grant PUD will continue to follow the HSRG recommendations noted Langshaw. HSRG recommends adipose clipping, and CWT to determine straying and harvest analysis stated Langshaw.
- XXI. **PRCC Habitat SC Report** - Rohr gave a brief review of all habitat projects.
- XXII. Next Meeting: Wednesday, March 26, 2008, 9:00 – 4:00 @ Grant PUD SeaTac Office.