



## MEETING

### Priest Rapids Coordinating Committee

Wednesday, December 03, 2008

9:00 – 3:00

Grant PUD SeaTac Office

#### PRCC Members

---

Scott Carlon/Bryan Nordlund, NMFS  
Jerry Marco, CCT  
Bob Rose, YN  
Bill Tweit, WDFW

Jim Craig, USFWS  
Tom Dresser, GCPUD  
Carl Merkle, CTUIR

#### Attendees: (\*Denotes PRCC member)

---

Scott Carlon, NMFS\*  
Bob Rose, YN\*  
Bill Tweit, WDFW\*  
Reece Voskuilen, Jacobs  
Curt Dotson, GCPUD  
George Thompson, GCPUD  
Debbie Williams, GCPUD  
Denny Rohr, Facilitator

Bryan Nordlund, NMFS\*  
Jerry Marco, CCT\*  
Duncan Hays, Oakwood Consulting  
Dr. Larry Weber, University of Iowa  
Dana Jeske, GCPUD  
Alyssa Buck, GCPUD  
Ross Hendrick, GCPUD (by phone)

#### Action Items:

1. Dotson will distribute the Priest Rapids Top-Spill Bypass PowerPoint presentation and supporting documentation to members.
2. Dotson will provide a formal Priest Rapids Top-Spill Study Plan to members before December 22, 2008.
3. WDFW and NOAA will provide comments to the Gas Abatement Plan prior to the December 31, 2008 deadline.
4. PRCC members will review the USGS/ WDFW Predation Study proposal for Phase 2 SOW material and provide email comments to Grant by December 08, 2008. Further discussion will take place on December 12, 2008 at 3:00 p.m. via conference call if necessary.
5. Dotson will determine USGS/WDFW Predation Study expenditures to date, and provide USGS with summarized comments from PRCC members.
6. Dotson will contact Craig and Tweit regarding USGS/WDFW's request of authorization of Phase 2 of the contract.
7. Rohr will distribute USGS/ WDFW Predation Study proposal material to the PRCC Habitat sub-committee.

## Decisions:

- PRCC members approved installation of a fairing to modify hydraulics ahead of the Wanapum Dam video fish count station in order to increase efficiency of the station.
- PRCC members affirmed an e-mail vote approving SOA-2008-2, Re-Calibration of the NNI Fund.
- PRCC members affirmed an e-mail vote approving SOA-2008-1, Grant PUD's Sockeye Salmon Mitigation Requirement.

## Final Meeting Minutes

- I. **Welcome and Introductions** – Rohr welcomed attendees.
- II. **Agenda Review** – Affirmation of SOA 2008-01 approval was added to the agenda.
- III. **Approval of Meeting Minutes**
  - September 24, 2008 meeting - Approved
  - October 22, 2008 meeting - Approved
  - November 04, 2008 Conference Call - Approved
- IV. **Action Items Review** – Action items were reviewed. Rohr addressed standardization of jack counts. Contact was made with Robin Ehlke, WDFW, and Stuart Ellis, CRITFC and Vice Chair of the US v Oregon Technical Advisory Committee to obtain information. Rohr stated he learned the subject is under review but it will take some time, perhaps a couple of years, to arrive at a conclusion. This subject will be addressed in the future by FPAC.
- V. **Design Team Presentation – Priest Rapids Top-Spill - PR Fish Bypass** – Duncan Hays, Oakwood Consulting and Larry Weber, University of Iowa presented design ideas for the Priest Rapids Top Spill Fish Bypass to PRCC members. The presentation included a brief history of how the Design Team got to its present design location at Priest Rapids, draft results from the 2008 PR Top-Spill Acoustic Tag Behavior Study, and thoughts/direction of design work for the future.

2009 sockeye behavior studies will use the same spill gate configuration as in the 2008 acoustic behavior study. The 2009 sockeye survival study will repeat methodologies used for the 2008 steelhead survival study. 2000 sockeye will be released in 2009 by Grant PUD, in addition to the tagged sockeye that will be released by Chelan PUD in 2009. Paired releases will be utilized for steelhead and sockeye survival studies. NOAA raised concern that while Grant PUD is looking for 95% dam passage as an optimal survival target, they must be careful that it doesn't affect reservoir survival. Grant PUD will

collect data from Chinook released by Chelan PUD at Rock Island as well as from fish released by Grant.

Hays suggested that 2009 data be compared to 2006 data, because of high levels of inadvertent spill in 2008. But that if inadvertent spill is excessive in 2009, use 2008 as the comparison.

Members felt that modeling of a training wall proposed by the Design Team warrants further discussion, and that Grant PUD should move forward with more extensive modeling of the wall.

PRCC members agreed that Grant PUD is moving in the correct direction in design of the Priest Rapids Top-Spill Bypass. Dotson will provide a formal Priest Rapids Top-Spill Study Plan to FERC after concurrence has been received from the PRCC. **Dotson will distribute the Priest Rapids Top-Spill Bypass PowerPoint presentation and supporting documentation to members. Dotson will provide a formal Priest Rapids Top-Spill Study Plan to members before December 22, 2008.**

- VI. Draft 2009 Total Dissolved Gas Abatement Plan for the Priest Rapids Project** – Ross Hendrick explained Grant PUD's Gas Abatement Plan (GAP) to PRCC members. WDFW noted concerns with the following: Wanapum Future Unit Fish Bypass (WFUFB) gas results weren't found in the GAP, that Grant PUD's Fish Operations Plan (FOP) was referenced, but that it hasn't, and might not be finalized by the PRCC in time for inclusion into the GAP, and that the GAP didn't include priorities to achieve biological objectives. WDFW suggested that the following topics be addressed: additional things that can be done to reduce gas, adaptive management, clarification of water quality and ESA listings, and improved spill guidance efficiency. **WDFW and NOAA will provide comments to the Gas Abatement Plan prior to the December 31, 2008 deadline.**

February 01, 2009 is the deadline for the final GAP. The 401 Certification (401) deadline for the WFUFB gas report is due Dec 31, 2009. WFUFB gas data results weren't included in the plan because data has yet to be analyzed; the WFUFB gas data will be included in the WFUFB report, and summary results will be included in next year's update to the GAP. Based on timing, WDFW questioned if the GAP should be due at a different time. Grant PUD addressed report timing discrepancies in comments provided prior to the finalization of the 401.

The FOP has been revised based on comments received and should be presented to the PRCC in January, and therefore should be ready for the final GAP. The 401 states the GAP shall include a FOP; however, the TDG monitoring, quality assurance plan, completion of the advanced turbines, operation of the WFUFB, upcoming, Total Dissolved Gas (TDG) studies, and managing spill during high water

run off in the spring to avoid involuntary spill are the main issues being addressed in the GAP.

Members discussed flows through turbines vs. spill and limiting the hydraulic capacity of turbines per the Biological Opinion. Hendrick explained that the GAP is not intended to limit fish-spill, turbine passage, hydraulic capacity, etc. and that it simply discusses what will be done to address TDG based on requirements of the 401 and a PRCC approved spill program. WDFW questioned adaptive management relative to Washington Department of Ecology (WDOE) changing the waiver from 115' to 120', noting the GAP didn't recommend one way or another, and that the flexibility to continue experimenting wasn't addressed. This is an outstanding issue that could go either way; WDOE hasn't made a final decision. WDOE and the Oregon Department of Environment Ecology plan to evaluate the potential effects of a 120' forebay. The GAP, and the 2008 annual TDG report, are based on the current standard and can be changed if necessary in the subsequent annual updates to the GAP and annual TDG reports. So for now the potential change in the standard is not included in the GAP.

- VII. Predation Study Update** – The draft Statement of Work (SOW) between USGS, WDFW, and Grant PUD was distributed to members. USGS is asking for approval to start Phase 2 of the contract. Contractual issues were discussed regarding monetary questions regarding tasks C, D, and E. Further clarification is needed from USGS regarding monetary amounts per tasks. **PRCC members will review the USGS/ WDFW Predation Study proposal material and provide email comments to Grant by December 08, 2008. Further discussion will take place on December 12, 2008 at 3:00 p.m. via conference call if necessary.** CCT requested USGS expenditures to date, and questioned how Grant PUD would deal with contract overages. **Dotson will determine USGS/WDFW Predation Study expenditures to date, and provide USGS with summarized comments from PRCC members. Dotson will contact Craig and Tweit regarding USGS/WDFW request to authorize phase two of the contract. Rohr will distribute USGS/ WDFW Predation Study proposal material to the PRCC Habitat sub-committee.**
- VIII. Northern Pikeminnow Study Plan – FERC Approval** – Members were notified that the Northern Pikeminnow Study Plan was approved by FERC on October 31, 2008.
- IX. Ladder Maintenance** – **PRCC members approved installation of a fairing to modify hydraulics ahead of the Wanapum Dam count station in order to make fish counting easier.**

- X. Habitat/NNI Funding**
  - A. Account Updates** – No discussion took place.
  - B. NNI SOA – Affirmation of Vote – PRCC members affirmed an e-mail vote approving SOA-2008-2, Re-Calibration of the NNI Fund.**
- XI. PRCC Hatchery SC Report – Affirmation of Vote - PRCC members affirmed an e-mail vote approving SOA-2008-1, Grant PUD’s Sockeye Salmon Mitigation Requirement.**
- XII. PRCC Habitat SC Report** – No discussion took place.
- XIII. Fall Chinook Work Group** – No discussion took place.
- XIV. Priest Rapids Fish Forum** – No discussion took place.
- XV. Next Meeting:** Wednesday, January 28, 2009, 9:00 – 3:00 at Grant PUD SeaTac office.