



Meeting Minutes

Priest Rapids Fish Forum

Wednesday, November 05, 2008

9:00 – 12:00

Grant PUD Natural Resources
Conference Room A

Technical Members

Stephen Lewis, USFWS
Marcie Mangold, WDOE
Tom Dresser, GCPUD
Ben Lenz, GCPUD

Bill Tweit, WDFW
Bob Dach, BIA
Mike Clement, GCPUD

ATTENDEES:

Patrick Verhey, WDFW
Keith Hatch, BIA (by phone)
Bob Rose, Yakama Nation
Stephen Lewis, USFWS
Tom Dresser, GCPUD
Ben Lenz, GCPUD
Debbie Williams, GCPUD

Bill Tweit, WDFW
Marcie Mangold, WDOE (by phone)
Bob Heinith, CRITFC (by phone)
Joe Miller, Chelan PUD
Mike Clement, GCPUD
Alyssa Buck, GCPUD

Action Items:

1. Grant PUD will distribute Kevin Malone's resume to attendees.
2. Attendees will provide PRFF protocol edits to Grant PUD by November 12, 2008. Malone will use edits to revise PRFF protocols.
3. Heinith requested that comments to the Pacific Lamprey Management Plan be distributed to PRFF attendees.
4. Clement will provide fishway tour information to the PRFF.
5. Lenz requested that PRFF attendees provide comments to the White Sturgeon Management Plan prior to the next PRFF meeting on December 12, 2008.
6. WDFW will provide comments to the Native Resident Fish Plan prior to the December 12, 2008 meeting.

Decisions:

- **PRFF attendees agree that Malone will be the PRFF facilitator for a six month trial period.**
- **Attendees agree that the PRFF facilitator provide updates at the monthly PRCC meeting.**

Final 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**
 - August 06, 2008 - 10 additional days given for review.
 - September 03, 2008 – 10 additional days given for review.
- IV. **Facilitation** – Dresser explained that Grant PUD has signed a two year contract with BioAnalysts to provide facilitation services, and that Kevin Malone will be the facilitator for the Priest Rapids Fish Forum (PRFF). Heinith stated that he wasn't comfortable with the selection of Malone and questioned his formal facilitation education and experience. Heinith explained that he would like to have a facilitator with formal facilitation credentials versus a scientific background Dresser reminded attendees that it was agreed upon at the first PRFF meeting that the facilitator have a strong technical background relating to all fish species, more so than a formal facilitation background, and that the contract would provide for a six month opt out clause if the facilitator is not performing to committee standards. Mangold stated that the PRFF facilitator should have been selected by consensus and not by Grant PUD. Dresser explained that facilitation was discussed during the first PRFF meeting, and that attendees didn't voice any concerns regarding Grant PUD moving forward with a facilitation contract. This issue could have been avoided if Washington Department of Ecology (WDOE) would have named the participants before the first meeting. Dresser explained that the BioAnalysts contract does have a 30 day termination clause, and that a request for proposal to hire another facilitator could take approximately 12 weeks. **PRFF attendees agreed that Malone will be the PRFF facilitator for a six month trial period.** An initial review will be held at 6 months, with an annual review every 12 months thereafter. **Grant PUD will distribute Malone's resume to attendees.** Mangold stated that WDOE doesn't believe it is appropriate for Grant PUD to facilitate their own meetings and offered the use of a WDOE facilitator if need be.
- V. **Protocol Review** – Attendees discussed protocols that were distributed by Grant PUD. Dresser explained that the protocols were

developed using requirements from the Salmon and Steelhead Agreement and the 401 Certification. Topics discussed included: facilitator selected subcommittee formation to resolve dispute resolutions, whom the subcommittee would exist of, that more than five days be allowed to form said subcommittee after a dispute is handed to the facilitator, and that FERC and WDOE timelines might not be met if the PRFF utilizes dispute resolution. Section 6 will include "Initial facilitation review will be held at 6 months, with an annual review every 12 months thereafter". Attendees agreed that clear concise guidelines should be provided for the facilitator to deal with dispute resolution. Tweit stated that if the facilitator can't resolve an issue, it should be sent to a policy group that is currently being formed, or WDOE or FERC for resolution. **Attendees will provide PRFF protocol edits to Grant PUD by November 12, 2008. Malone will use edits to revise PRFF protocols. Attendees agree that the PRFF facilitator provide updates at the monthly PRCC meeting.**

VI. Management & Monitoring Evaluation Plan Updates

A **Lamprey Update** – The Pacific Lamprey Management Plan was distributed for a 60 day review on June 23, 2008. Grant PUD received comments from Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), Wanapum, United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and the Columbia River Inter Tribal Fish Commission (CRTIFC). Grant PUD is addressing comments and concerns of the study plan. **Heinith requested that comments to the Pacific Lamprey Management Plan be distributed to PRFF attendees.** Grant PUD would like to send this plan to FERC in January 2009, prior to the April 17, 2009 deadline. Dresser noted that implementation will start as soon as FERC approves the plan. He encouraged PRFF attendees to speak to their FERC contacts to move the process forward. Dresser is traveling to Washington D.C. on Dec. 11, 2009 to discuss management plans that will be submitted to FERC for approval prior to April 17, 2009.

Clement explained that the weekend after Thanksgiving, Wanapum and Priest Rapids right bank fish ladders are scheduled to be dewatered. The Priest Rapids left bank will then follow, but it is still under question as to if the Wanapum left bank ladder will be dewatered this year. Dewatering is scheduled based on maintenance that needs to be completed. Clement invited PRFF attendees to tour the fishway during dewatering. He will also invite Mary Mosier and Chris Peary. **Clement will provide fishway tour information to the PRFF.**

Dresser stated that it is up to the PRFF to determine what will be done during implementation regarding diffuser gratings, night

time flows and the committee's path forward. Dresser explained that it would be difficult to complete a study in the fall of 2009, because modifications would have to be made to the ladder prior to that time. But potentially, with approval from FERC, a nighttime flow study could be conducted the second week of August 2009, stated Dresser.

- B **Sturgeon Update** – Lenz explained that Larry Hildebrandt of Golder Associates is providing updates to the White Sturgeon Management Plan and will be in attendance at the next PRFF meeting. **Lenz requested that PRFF attendees provide comments to the White Sturgeon Management Plan prior to the next PRFF meeting on December 12, 2008.** Jeff Korth will be in attendance at the December meeting. **Brad James, WDFW will try to provide a list of questions relating to the White Sturgeon Management Plan prior to the December 12, 2008 meeting.** Grant PUD would like to send the White Sturgeon Management Plan to FERC by February 2009. Lenz explained that Grant PUD would like to use comments received to define and develop the Monitoring & Evaluation (M & E) section of the plan. Data collected from Lake Roosevelt and Kootenai Lake has been used to update the model, Lenz noted. Information that remains to be defined for the Priest Rapids Project (Project) is, release survival by age, are they successfully feeding or not, and if habitat exist for the earliest life stages. Lewis questioned if Rock Island will also be incorporated in the model. Lenz stated that will be determined in the M & E. Lenz noted that sturgeons are currently being counted at both dams.
- C **Bull Trout Update** – Dresser noted that comments to the Bull Trout Management Plan were received from the Wanapum, USFWS, and WDFW. The M & E was updated, and the plan was submitted to WDOE on 10/31/08. The plan will be sent to FERC in December if WDOE approves of the plan. Lewis questioned what the threshold would be to conduct a statistically rigorous study. Dresser stated the M & E program would be utilized to determine how many bull trout need to be seen in the Project before a study would be conducted. Regional coordination should be utilized to monitor bull trout being studied by Chelan or Douglas PUD's while they are traveling through the Project.
- D **Native Resident Fish Presentation** – Dresser explained that the Native Resident Fish Plan is broken into Part A and B. Part A, Grant PUD will provide 1.5 million dollars for the renovation of the Columbia Basin Fish Hatchery. Grant PUD hopes to have a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) in place by the end of the year. Part B, Grant PUD will annually deposit \$100,000

on February 15th of each year for resident fish monitoring and purchase. Funds from this account should also be directed towards the monitoring of native resident fish species within the Project. Funds will be used to conduct surveys and inventories of resident fish species in the Project every 5 years. Tweit stated WDFW wants to speak with Grant PUD regarding further netting. WDFW doesn't want to impact any other species, and they don't think electric shock will give them all the information they need. Biological objectives of Table 3 will be used to measure success. Verhey noted that the Native Resident Fish Plan overlaps studies being performed by Dave Burgess, WDFW and United States Geological Survey (USGS) for the PRCC regarding predation in the Project. Literature review, data gaps, and M & E will be conducted in the PRCC study. Keith Garner, Grant PUD walked through the Native Resident Fish Plan that was distributed to the PRFF for 60 day comment on September 26, 2008. Further discussion will take place at the next meeting. **WDFW will provide comments to the Native Resident Fish Plan prior to the December 12, 2008 meeting.**

- VII. **Next Meeting:** Friday, December 12, 2008, 10:00 to 3:00, Grant PUD SeaTac Office.