



Meeting Minutes

Priest Rapids Fish Forum

Friday, December 12, 2008

10:00 – 3:00

Grant PUD SeaTac Office

WebEx Conference Call

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
Bob Rose, Yakama Nation (by phone)
Blaine Parker, CRITFC
Joe Miller, Chelan PUD (by phone)
Jeff Korth, WDFW (by phone)
Mike Clement, GCPUD
Alyssa Buck, GCPUD (by phone)
Kevin Garner, GCPUD (by phone)
Kevin Malone, Facilitator

Brad James, WDFW
Marcie Mangold, WDOE
Bob Heinith, CRITFC
Ray Beamesderfer, CRITFC
Larry Hildebrand, Golder Assoc.
Jim Powell, Freshwater Fisheries Society of BC
Ben Lenz, GCPUD
Debbie Williams, GCPUD (by phone)
Ross Hendrick, GCPUD (by phone)

Action Items:

1. **WDOE will provide a list recommending voting members prior to the next meeting.**
2. **Malone asked that all attendees read through the protocols prior to the next meeting.**
3. **Jim Powell will send out an updated broodstock plan on December 15, 2008.**
4. **Williams will send Garner USGS-WDFW Predator Index Study Plan information.**
5. **CRITFC, Grant PUD, WDOE and WDFW will discuss the Lamprey Plan offline and bring resolution to the committee at the February 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. **Protocol Discussion** – Malone explained his definition of the following:
 - A. **Voting vs. Non-voting members** – Wanapum Indians requested voting member status as a band of Indians. Attendees agreed that agencies and tribes shall submit in writing their request to become a voting member of the Priest Rapids Fish Forum (PRFF) to Washington Department of Ecology (WDOE). The request should include the following: a description of the agency or tribe's fish management authority as defined by the 401 Certificate (401), a primary and alternative representative, as well as a policy representative. Attendees agreed that NOAA should be invited to the PRFF. Voting members will be given priority speaking status during meeting discussions followed by stakeholders. WDOE will not be requested to make decisions during a meeting. They will be allowed time to respond to questions in writing. **WDOE will provide a list recommending voting members prior to the next meeting.** If other entities wish to join the PRFF after voting members are determined, the request will be decided by the policy representatives. Verhey, Hatch, Parker, Heinith, Buck, Rose, and Grant PUD agreed to the above.
 - B. **The definition of Consensus** – Consensus shall mean the unanimous agreement of all members present in person or by phone. Voting shall be recorded and confirmed by meeting notes per the 401 Certification. **Malone asked that all attendees read through the protocols prior to the next meeting. **February Agenda item – Reach consensus vote on meeting protocols, and define membership.**
 - C. **Dispute Resolution** – Requires written request to facilitator. It should include a description of the issue, the proposed solution, and the scientific support of the solution. Benefits of the proposed plan should be listed and compared to the original proposal.
 - D. **Best Available Science** – The best available science will be used by this technical committee.
 - E. **Sub-Committee Development** – Sub-committee development will be determined by the protocols.

- F **Meeting Minutes** – Within 14 days following each meeting, the facilitator shall distribute draft meeting notes identifying attendees, summarizing discussions, and listing decisions and action items.

IV. Management & Monitoring Evaluation Plan Updates

- A **Sturgeon Presentation** (11:15 to 12:15) – Larry Hildebrand, Golder Associates, and Jim Powell, Freshwater Fisheries Society of BC presented a PowerPoint presentation on the updated White Sturgeon Management Plan. Grant PUD asked for committee approval that the model illustrates a reasonable approach to program development. Spawning, rearing and harvest are outlined as objectives in the 401, and harvest will be used as a management objective in the future. The model presented does not allow for a surplus of adults that can be harvested. Priest Rapids Hatchery will be utilized to raise Grant PUD's sturgeon mitigation. Spawning history data for the Columbia River is excellent. Assessment of the breeding population will define the scope of the hatchery design. An adaptive management approach will be utilized over the course of the program. M&E details are currently being worked on. Grant PUD plans on updating baseline data in 2009. It is anticipated that Part B will be updated in early January. The following issues were voiced by individuals:

Beamesderfer: Concept of front loaded monitoring strategies, long term harvest objectives, hatchery site alternatives based on previous information, broodstock source, feasibility of local broodstock collection, broodstock required, criteria that decisions are based on if natural production isn't restored, immediate hatchery restoration, how is natural production treated if the hatchery is successful.

Heinith: How Grant PUD's sturgeon program will be integrated with other PUD programs, additional food source information in the reservoir, production facility outline and timeline schedule. Chelan and Douglas PUD's have verbally expressed interest in participating in Grant PUD's sturgeon program.

Rose: Requested that the PUD's include PRFF members during sturgeon plan discussions. Grant PUD explained that the other PUD's have been invited to participate in the PRFF forum, and especially in the sturgeon program.

James: To consider the value of broodstock collected outside of the two pool area, and to realize that utilization of broodstock from a broader range of the river has value.

Jim Powell will send out an updated broodstock plan on December 15, 2008. Hildebrand explained that the model can evaluate the impact of varying survival rates based on release size. Member would need to evaluate what the trade off would be if fish were held an extra year; how would that affect the number of fish you need to release and hatchery capacity needs. Assumptions of each input and how things are connected will be listed on the instruction page of the model.

B Working Lunch (Provided) (12:15 to 12:30)

C Sturgeon Presentation Continued (12:30 to 1:30) – See Sturgeon Presentation above.

D Native Resident Fish (1:30 to 2:00) – Keith Garner, GCPUD gave a brief review of the Native Resident Fish Plan. The following comments/requests were voiced by individuals:

Parker: That Grant PUD considers taking fish measurements, even if it is from a subset of fish sampled to quantify shifts in length of native fish as they could potentially be the prey base for white sturgeon and affect sturgeon feeding. Grant PUD explained that they will continue collecting by-catch data.

Heinith: Suggested that stomach contents be analyzed for toxic accumulation, and that sampling be conducted during other seasons, not just fall.

Korth: Would like to coordinate the native resident fish study plan with the USGS-WDFW predator study plan. He suggested using some of the same collection methods as the USGS-WDFW plan, and that data collected could be used for an index study of native resident fish over the next five years. **Williams will send Garner USGS-WDFW Predator Index Study Plan information.**

E Lamprey Update (2:00 to 2:10)

- Short discussion centered on the logistics of fishway tours at Wanapum and Priest Rapids dams in early January and late February. CRITFC would like to see fishway entrances, junctions, counting stations, and exits up close. The fishway tour was scheduled for January 07, 2008.
- CRITFC requested an additional 30 day review. CRITFC scheduled a conference call with Grant PUD, WDOE and WDFW on January 05, 2009 to discuss the lamprey plan. **CRITFC, Grant PUD, WDOE and WDFW will discuss the Lamprey Plan offline and bring resolution to the committee at the February meeting.**

F Bull Trout Update (2:10 to 2:20) No discussion took place.

- V. **Update on other 401 Water Quality Issues** (2:20 to 2:30)
- A **TDG** – Ross Hendrick explained total dissolved gas (TDG) as it relates to the 401. TDG levels are monitored on an hourly basis throughout the year. The annual TDG Gas Abatement Plan (GAP) was submitted on October 31, 2008, with comments due by 12/31/08. As required by the 401, the GAP covers Grant PUD’s planned TDG abatement measures to be implemented over the next 10 years. The tailrace monitoring locations as called out in the 2004 TDG TMDL are being addressed. TDG studies are required for turbine replacement projects and the future PR Bypass; the required TDG study for the WFUFB was completed in 2008 with data analysis on-going (final report due 12/13/09). A water quality summary report is due to WDOE annually on March 1st.
- B **Temperature** – Fish ladder temperature study plan is due in 2010, and will be completed when the PR fishway water supply is modified. Hobo sensors will be installed at the top and bottom of the ladders. Data has been collected for the current system and will be used for baseline data.
- C **Invasive species issue** – Grant PUD has an internal rough draft of the Invasive Species Plan and intends to meet with WDOE/WDFW to discuss it prior to distribution to the PRFF. The plan is due to FERC in April 2009.
- VI. **Approval of Meeting Minutes** (2:30 to 2:50)
- August 06, 2008 - Approved
 - September 03, 2008 – Approved
 - November 05, 2008 - Approved
- VII. **Next Meeting**: Wednesday, February 04, 2008, time and location to be determined.