



Meeting Minutes

Fall Chinook Work Group

Tuesday, February 03, 2009
10:00 – 3:00

Grant PUD Natural Resources Division
Conference Room - A

Technical Members

Paul Wagner, NMFS
Robert Heinith, CRITFC
Roger Schiewe, BPA
Keith Truscott, CPUD
Bill Tweit, WDFW
Marcie Mangold, WDOE
Russell Langshaw, GCPUD
Steve Hemstrom, CPUD

Joe Skalicky/Dan Diggs, USFWS
Paul Ward/Bob Rose, YN
Brett Swift, American Rivers
Bob Clubb/Tom Kahler, DPUD
Paul Hoffarth, WDFW
John Clark, ADFG
Todd Pearsons, GCPUD

ATTENDEES:

John Clark, ADFG
Paul Hoffarth, WDFW
Paul Wagoner, NOAA (on phone)
Steve Hays, CPUD (on phone)
Alyssa Buck, Wanapum
Debbie Williams, GCPUD

Marci Mangold, WDOE (on phone)
Bob Clubb /Tom Kahler, DPUD
Joe Skalicky, USFWS (on phone)
Russell Langshaw, GCPUD
Todd Pearsons, GCPUD
Tracy Hillman, Facilitator

Action Items:

- 1. Langshaw will draft FCWG meeting protocols, and distribute 10 days prior to the next meeting.**
- 2. WDOE will send the Flow Fluctuation Report letter to Williams for distribution.**
- 3. Langshaw will send out a revised prioritization and scoring spreadsheet by February 06, 2009. Scoring and ranking instructions will be included. Study rankings are due by February 20, 2009. Langshaw will send the study ranking compilation to members prior to the next meeting.**
- 4. Members will provide scores and ranking for each study.**
- 5. Langshaw will distribute an updated Temperature Unit spreadsheet.**

Final Meeting Minutes

- I. **Welcome and Introductions** – Attendees introduced themselves around the table and on the conference line.
- II. **Agenda Review** – Redds update was added to the agenda.
- III. **Approval of Meeting Minutes**
 - January 06, 2009 – Approved with changes.
- IV. **Action Items Review** – Action items were reviewed.
- V. **Meeting protocols, committee vision** – Recognizing that Washington Department of Ecology (WDOE) will make final decisions on issues, members discussed protocols that will help guide consensus decisions. WDOE will give deference to consensus decisions. Grant PUD realized that difficult issues will be dealt with in this forum, and hired a facilitator (which wasn't required for this committee) to help members through the process. The primary role of the committee is to act as a review body.

Langshaw will draft FCWG meeting protocols, and distribute 10 days prior to the next meeting.

Consensus: Consensus is defined as the absence of a “no” vote by members present or on the phone. If a member cannot be present for an agenda item to be decided upon, the member can notify the facilitator, who can delay a decision up to five business days once per agenda item. Individuals can abstain from voting and maintain consensus as long as there are not any “no” votes.

Comment review periods: To maintain the aggressive timelines outlined in the 401 Certification, a strict protocol must be developed for review and comment periods. A standard 30 day comment period will be adopted unless a longer comment period is defined in the 401 Certification. A shorter comment period can be requested by a member, but it must be agreed upon by the committee. Requests to extend the review period should be brought to the facilitator 10 days prior to the original comment deadline. The facilitator will confer with WDOE and Grant PUD to determine if an extension is justified. If an extension request comes in less than 10 days prior to a deadline, it will not be granted. Two weeks will be granted for review of second round drafts. The second review will be to ensure comments from the first draft review were sufficiently addressed. Langshaw noted that while there will be no obligation to address issues that were not identified in the first review period, comments that will strengthen the report will likely be incorporated. The second draft will be sent out in Track Changes.

Voting Members: Any entity that wants to participate in this forum can, but each entity is allowed only one vote. WDOE will not be a voting member.

Meeting Minutes: Meeting minutes will be distributed for review 10 calendar days prior to the next meeting.

VI. Flow Fluctuation Report

- A Discuss steps forward** – WDOE, WDFW and Grant met on January 08, 2009 to discuss unresolved issues regarding the Flow Fluctuation Report. WDOE has not completed a letter outlining their position on the Flow Fluctuation Report. The letter identifying new timelines and how study plans should be ranked will be distributed in a few weeks. Requests for additional analyses and items that need to be added to the Flow Fluctuation Report will be defined in the letter. **WDOE will send the Flow Fluctuation Report letter to Williams for distribution.**
- B** WDFW noted that they incorporated their comments into comments submitted by USFWS. USFWS/WDFW comments will be addressed after the WDOE letter is distributed.

VII. Study Plan

- A Discuss questions for WDOE** – See above.
- B Study ranking** – The focus of the study plan is to develop a list of the best studies of flow-fluctuation impacts on fall Chinook in the Hanford Reach. Contribution of the Priest Rapids Project on flow fluctuations will not be considered in the FCWG prioritization process, per WDOE guidance. After studies have been ranked, Grant will have the ability to choose which ones they propose to fund by considering the contribution of the Priest Rapids Project to flow fluctuations. Other funding sources may be sought for studies Grant doesn't agree to fund. WDOE will have the final say as to which studies will be conducted.

Because Grant's contribution to flow fluctuations in the Hanford Reach will not be considered in the prioritization process, members agreed to drop Criteria Ranking #2. The range of scores for criteria rankings were changed to:

#1 FINAL - Magnitude of flow fluctuation impacts to fall Chinook in the Hanford Reach. The range of scores in this category is 0-35 with 35 being the greatest impact. A substantial impact could be considered mortalities of 15% or greater as a result of flow fluctuations.

#2 FINAL - Contributes to future adaptive management of the HRFCPPA to address the flow fluctuation impact. The range of scores in this category is 0-40 with 40 being given to proposals

that have a high probability of providing guidance for future adaptive management.

#3 FINAL - Contributes to increasing overall knowledge of fall Chinook in the Hanford Reach. The range of scores in this category is 0-20 with 20 being given to proposals that will fill data gaps or contribute to increasing knowledge about fall Chinook in the Hanford Reach.

#4 FINAL - Can be completed prior to 2014. The range of scores in this category is 0-5 with 5 being given to proposals that can be completed prior to 2014.

Langshaw will send out a revised prioritization and scoring spreadsheet by February 06, 2009. Scoring and ranking instructions will be included. Study rankings are due by February 20, 2009. Langshaw will send the study ranking compilation to members prior to the next meeting.

Reviewers will score each proposal based on the four criteria. The total score for each proposal will be the sum of the points awarded for each of the four criteria. Each reviewer will then sort (rank from highest to lowest) proposals based on the total scores. Reviewers will need to rank (from best to worst) tied scores. Both the total scores and the ranks will be reported to the Workgroup.

Grant PUD will combine each reviewer's scores to provide an overall ranked list of projects. Clark suggested that combined rankings should be based on reviewer ranks (1-22), not total score.

Langshaw suggested that studies be evaluated across all life stages: incubation, juvenile, and adult, with stranding and entrapment studies ranked within the various life stages.

Alternatively, projects can be assigned to life-stage categories after they are scored (post-stratification). Buck suggested that the top ten studies be ranked. **Members will provide scores and rankings for each study.**

- VIII. Redd Update** – Langshaw reported that 700 Temperature Units (TU) have been reached. Redds continue in the post-hatch period. Emergence will begin late February or early March. **Langshaw will distribute an updated Temperature Unit spreadsheet.**
- IX. Next Meeting:** March 03, 2009 at the Grant PUD Natural Resources Office, Ephrata, WA.