



Meeting Minutes

Fall Chinook Work Group

Tuesday, June 02, 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
 Tom Kahler, DPUD
 Paul Hoffarth, WDFW
 John Clark, ADFG
 Todd Pearsons, GCPUD

ATTENDEES:

John Clark, ADFG (on phone)
 Paul Hoffarth, WDFW (on phone)
 Joe Skalicky, USFWS (on phone)
 Paul Wagoner, NMFS (on phone)
 Russell Langshaw, GCPUD
 Debbie Williams, GCPUD

Bob Rose, YN
 Tom Kahler, DPUD
 Marcie Mangold, WDOE (on phone)
 Alyssa Buck, Wanapum
 Todd Pearsons, GCPUD
 Tracy Hillman, Facilitator

Action Items:

1. Hillman will add a bullet stating Fisheries Co-managers will resolve any disputes related to fisheries management issues.
2. Members will provide a list of FCWG representatives and alternates to Dresser and Williams. Williams will upload the list of representatives and alternates to the website.
3. Hillman will send a revised copy of the meeting protocols to members for 10 day review. An e-mail vote will be taken to approve the Meeting Protocols. He asked that if members provide comments, they be sent to all FCWG participants.
4. Hillman will send the Hanford Reach Fall Chinook Protection Program Study Plan out for 10 day review. He asked that an

explanation be provided to all FCWG members if acceptance is denied. An e-mail vote will be taken to approve the Study Plan. No response infers acceptance.

5. **Send Hanford Reach Work Group agenda items to Williams 10 days prior to the July meeting.**

Meeting Minutes

- I. **Welcome and Introductions** – Attendees introduced themselves around the table and on the conference line.
- II. **Agenda Review** – Topics added to the agenda were to determine a Hanford Reach Work Group (HRWG) meeting date, and Updates of the May 18th BPA, NMFS, and Grant PUD meeting.
- III. **Approval of Meeting Minutes – May 12, 2009** – Approved with changes.

A Review of Action Items – No discussion took place.

- IV. **Draft Meeting Protocols** – Hillman reviewed changes made to the meeting protocols.

Rose asked that language be inserted to address Yakama Nation concerns that Washington Department of Ecology (WDOE) has final decision making responsibilities regarding fish issues. He wants the working relationship between Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) and the tribal co-managers defined with authorities they each have. Rose explained that language regarding this issue can be found in the Salmon and Steelhead Settlement Agreement (SSA). **Hillman will add a bullet stating Fisheries Co-managers will resolve any disputes related to fisheries management issues.**

Members will provide a list of FCWG representatives and alternates to Dresser and Williams. Williams will upload the list of representatives and alternates to the website.

Hillman will send a revised copy of the meeting protocols to members for 10 day review. An e-mail vote will be taken to approve the Meeting Protocols. He asked that if members provide comments, they should send their comments to all FCWG participants. Meeting protocols will be reviewed annually, or as needed.

Ward suggested a flow chart be added to the protocols showing how all of the committee's are linked.

- V. **Flow Fluctuation Report**

A Draft Update – Langshaw explained that a purchase order is in the process of being completed allowing Henry Franzonie and Battelle to complete their portion of the Flow Fluctuation Report (FFR) modeling analysis. Franzonie and Battelle's independent

reports will be attached to Grant PUD's report. Grant PUD's portion of the Flow Fluctuation modeling analysis, including the HAM susceptibility model will be part of the Grant PUD document.

Grant PUD's portion of the report will be distributed on June 03, 2009 with a 14 day review period. Comments are due by June 17, 2009. Franzonie's report will be incorporated and distributed on June 19th by Battelle. Comments will be due by July 03, 2009. Grant PUD will use the FFR to assess which studies they will fund or contribute to. The Flow Fluctuation Report will be sent to WDOE on June 30, 2009. Langshaw was comfortable with the FFR being finalized by the FCWG a couple of days after it is sent to WDOE. He expects a 90 day approval process from WDOE. Mangold was OK with the timeline.

B Comment Review and Discussion – See above.

VI. Study Plan –

A Draft Update – Langshaw updated the Hanford Reach Fall Chinook Protection Program Study Plan (Study Plan) with language provided by Skalicky and Clark. **Hillman will send the Hanford Reach Fall Chinook Protection Program Study Plan out for 10 day review. He asked that an explanation be provided to all FCWG members if acceptance is denied. An e-mail vote will be taken to approve the Study Plan. No response infers acceptance.**

The FCWG scored, ranked, and prioritized all studies by consensus. The final list of prioritized studies will be in the draft Study Plan. Langshaw explained that GPUD funding of studies will be based on Grant PUD's contribution as outlined by the Flow Fluctuation Report. If contribution is deemed minimal, Grant PUD may decide to co-fund, but not solely fund a study. Studies won't be denied by Grant PUD, but they may be deemed regional issues that should be co-funded.

Skalicky explained that one interpretation by WDOE of the 401 Certification was to evaluate who's at fault for negative flow fluctuations in the Columbia River. To determine this, WDOE looked at projects up stream of the Priest Rapids Project and determined that fault by other operators would not be considered for this study. Feedback regarding WDOE's flow fluctuation decision can be provided to WDOE during their comment period. Langshaw explained that the Study Plan addresses all comments to the Flow Fluctuation Report, and that Mangold's letter (February 27, 2009) has been followed.

The Study Plan can't be implemented until formal Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) approval has been received. On June 30th a draft Study Plan, including a list of prioritized studies,

and which studies will be funded and co-funded by Grant PUD will be sent to WDOE. Within 120 days after WDOE identifies approved studies necessary to meet compliance of the Priest Rapids Project, Grant PUD will submit to WDOE and the FCWG a draft study design and schedule for each study. The FCWG shall have a minimum 60-day comment period, which WDOE may extend if necessary. June 02, 2010 is the estimated FERC approval date.

B Comment Deadline - Study Plan comments are due to Langshaw by June 5, 2009.

VII. Hanford Reach Work Group Meeting – The next Hanford Reach Work Group (HRWG) meeting will be held on the afternoon of July 7th after the FCWG meeting. The agenda will include an update of what happened in 2008 and 2009. **Send Hanford Reach Work Group agenda items to Williams 10 days prior to the July meeting.**

VIII. BPA, NMFS, Grant PUD Update – A meeting was held on May 18th to develop a plan to better coordinate water levels and communication amongst the Bonneville Power Association, National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), and Grant PUD. Ward noted a more inclusive group would have been beneficial.

NMFS raised concerns this spring with water levels and power markets. Coordination amongst the parties will help Grant PUD to minimize future exceedances. The last exceedance occurred on April 24, 2009. If an exceedance occurs, a review will be conducted. Violations and consequences were discussed. Spring protections will cease in approximately 2 to 3 weeks.

Members discussed how improvements will be gauged and questioned available tools that would add transparency to the constraint and flow process allowing a snapshot of real time conditions. Langshaw explained that Grant PUD has an Excel spreadsheet that lists the Daily Delta and any exceedance's that could be added to the FCWG website. Technical Management Team (TMT) updates have been ongoing.

Grant PUD has worked with the signatories to provide supplemental protections on a case by case basis if needed. Langshaw suggested members look at the study plan closely to determine what the impacts are, because the intent of the study plan is to create a follow up Hanford Reach monitoring program using data from 2011, 2012, and 2013.

Members discussed visiting the Hanford Reach for a fall spawning tour and again in the spring to look at entrapments on Vernita Bar.

IX. Next Meeting: July 07, 2009 at the Grant PUD Natural Resources Office, Ephrata, WA.