

PRCC Hatchery Subcommittee Meeting

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, May 21, 2009

Best Western Chieftain Inn

1017 N Wenatchee Avenue, Wenatchee, WA 98801

PRCC Hatchery Subcommittee Members

Bill Gale, Dave Carie (alt), USFWS

Russ Langshaw, GCPUD

Jerry Marco, CCT

Carl Merkle, CTUIR

Kris Petersen, NMFS

Tom Scribner, Keely Murdoch (alt), YN

Kirk Truscott, WDFW

Attendees: (*Denotes PRCC member)

Bill Gale, USFWS

Curt Dotson, GCPUD

Russell Langshaw, GCPUD

Jerry Marco, CCT

Keely Murdoch, YN

Todd Pearsons, GCPUD

Kris Petersen, NMFS (on phone)

Julie Pyper, Chelan PUD

Tom Scribner, YN (on phone)

Kirk Truscott WDFW

Elizabeth McManus, Facilitator

Patrick Donovan, Facilitator

Action Items:

1. McManus will work with Rohr to develop something showing the relationships between hatchery and the other committees.
2. McManus and Donovan will confirm outstanding plan dates and distribute a draft schedule to the HSC. McManus will work with Petersen to gather thoughts on compiling NMFS review and submittal deadlines.
3. McManus and Donovan will work with Williams to incorporate HSC comments into draft meeting minutes. Revised minutes (including February minutes) will be distributed to the HSC for final review with final approval via conference call.
4. McManus will work with Nordlund to make revisions to the HSC Meeting Protocols based on the Group's discussion.
5. The draft Steelhead SOA will be revised per the HSC's discussion and redistributed for review and (if appropriate) action.
6. Grant PUD to prepare additional information about options for the Nason Creek program and bring to the HSC for discussion/direction in June. This includes coordination with Charles Strom to brief the HSC on the Cle Elum Hatchery operation.
7. Grant PUD to prepare additional information on the Gloyd Springs/Dryden water issues and potential siting and bring to HSC for discussion in June

8. Grant PUD to contact Douglas PUD about coordination on the Methow Spring Chinook HGMP, particularly the possibility of acclimation sites in the upper Methow.

Decisions:

1. The HSC ratified the decision that LWSNFH staff should make routine decisions about fish health and care and clarified that that HSC would like to be notified and consulted with about unusual increases in mortality, departures from standard fish health procedures, and any culling of listed fish.
2. The HSC agreed that the first facilitator evaluation will take place in September of 2009.
3. The HSC agreed that 500 White River Spring Chinook fry can be collected, in accordance with the permit, to supplement the 2008 egg collection.

Meeting Summary

- I. Welcome and Agenda Review** – Elizabeth McManus welcomed the Priest Rapids Coordinating Committee (PRCC) Hatchery Subcommittee (HSC) and asked HSC members to provide self introductions. The HSC was updated that Patrick Donovan, Ross & Associates will be supporting the HSC in place of Debbie Williams.
- II. Action Items Review** – McManus reviewed and provided updates to the action items identified during the April HSC. All action items were reviewed. The following items were discussed in substance.
 - Policy committee meeting. The Policy Committee (PC) held an informal first meeting in April 2009, it was the first meeting of this group and was mostly focused on getting the group set up to operate. The PC did not cover the mass marking dispute in any detail. WDFW and the YN continue to discuss the mass marking issue in an attempt to reach agreement. The PC tentatively decided to meet twice a year and more frequently if necessary. The next PC meeting will be held in August, if necessary. McManus will continue to work with Rohr to develop draft governance flow charts showing the relationships between the various committees.
 - Meeting of Federal agencies and FERC. FERC and the Federal Agencies with meet on June 4th, 2009, to discuss expectations about consultation requirements and FERC approval. Grant PUD will be at the meeting. McManus will work with Debbie Williams to confirm attendees and coordinate on reporting meeting outcomes to the HSC.
 - Comments on draft HGMP. The HSC established a deadline of 5/13 for comments on the White River and Nason Creek Spring Chinook HGMPs, the Methow Spring Chinook APP, and the umbrella M&E plan. Not all committee members provided comments. In some cases comments are delayed pending resolution of issues associated with the WDFW/YN Wenatchee Spring Chinook Implementation Plan. NMFS and USFWS plan to provide comments on the draft plans. (Later in the meeting, the HSC established June 8 as the new deadline for comments.)
 - Potential acclimation site. Grant PUD will look into the potential acclimation site mentioned by Dave Carie at the April meeting.

- Steelhead in the White River. It was clarified that the Yakima Nation documents everything that is trapped in the White River; the committee reiterated a particular interest in any observations of steelhead. No change to the trap reporting is needed.
- Rotary screw trap annual report. The group discussed the need to set an annual review schedule for the reports. This will be discussed in detail in August. In the meantime, the reports for this year are complete. The HSC decided that any comments on this year's reports could be considered as ideas to improve the next reporting cycle, rather than change this year's reports.
- Fish at the LWSNFA. Any White River fish that return are being held. The HSC discussed the importance of positive identification of the fish. White River fish should be adipose fin present with a coated wire tag. The HSC discussed the importance of verifying the CWT. The HSC discussed the need to determine what to do with fish being held. This will be added to the agenda for June. Bill Gale will talk with Speros Doulos (Hatchery Manager) and Susan Gutenberger (Fish Health) about being available for that discussion.
- Meeting summaries. Debbie Williams sent multiple sets of HSC meeting summaries to Elizabeth to provide to the HSC, including the February meeting summary. Elizabeth and Patrick will get these organized and distributed to the HSC for review.

II. Fish Health and Care at LWSNFH. The HSC clarified the decision about fish health and care decisions at the LWSNFH. The HSC reiterated that the staff at the LWSNFH should make routine decisions about standard fish health practices and care. The HSC would like to be notified of departures from standard fish health practices, any unusual increases in mortality, and any proposal to cull listed fish. The HSC recognizes that emergency situations may prevent them being given much or any advance notice in some circumstances. They also recognized the need to be prepared to turn around HSC input quickly (i.e., within days) if/when USFWS staff need to make a decision about departure from standard fish health practices.

III. Review of HSC Protocols – The HSC reviewed and discussed revisions made to the draft meeting protocols developed by Bryan Nordlund, PRCC member. Revisions to the draft protocols document are based on comments received from Bill Twite, Tom Dresser, Jim Craig and Tom Peterson. No other comments were received. HSC members reviewed the key sections the protocol document and agreed to the following clarifications and revisions.

- Committee Membership. The Umatilla Tribe should not be listed as a signatory to the settlement.
- Alternates. Language will be added on alternates. The HSC discussed the importance of alternates being able to participate fully in meetings and make decisions when the primary representative is absent.
- Meeting attendance. The HSC and member agencies/organizations have received legal guidance in the past about non-HSC members attending the meetings. This issue will be clarified in the protocols.

- Meeting facilitation evaluation. The first HSC facilitator evaluation will take place in September of 2009.
- Meeting frequency and notice. The protocols will note that the HSC generally meets monthly on the third Thursday of the month. The HSC stressed the need to have the committee review and discuss proposed changes to future HSC meeting dates, locations or formats and the protocols will be revised accordingly.
- Meeting summaries. Draft HSC meeting minutes will be distributed to members approximately one week from the date of each scheduled meeting. HSC members will provide any comments on draft minutes within one week of them being distributed. The timeline for meeting summaries will be included in the protocols.
- Decision making and committee purpose. The HSC discussed whether the purpose of the committee was to be technical, policy, or the combination thereof. Members felt that in some instances the HSC won't be able to draw a line between a technical and a policy decision. Members requested that the purpose of the HSC be clearly defined in the front section of the protocols document. McManus will work with Nordland and Peterson to address this issue consistent with the language establishing the HSC.
- Five working day delay. The language on requests for a five working day delay in decision making will be clarified so that HSC members who are present at a meeting also can request a one-time delay.
- Standard of care. The language on the standard of care will be revised to explicitly cite to the Settlement Agreement.
- New language on decision making. The HSC discussed the necessity of including the sections final two sentences addressing deference and standards of care (new language) and agreed that the sections could be confusing and should be removed.
- Work between meetings and deadlines. HSC members discussed the importance of establishing clear deadlines for document review and work between meetings and for meeting deadlines. Language on this will be added to the protocols. Russell Langshaw discussed language that the Fall Chinook Working Group has on this issue and will provide the language as an example.
- Appendix A – Dispute Resolution. The cross reference to Section 4.2 will be clarified.
- Appendix B – Ground Rules for HSC Meeting Conduct. A ground rule on meetings starting and ending on time will be added.

IV. Revised Steelhead SOA:

- A. Questions, review and refinement of the revised draft SOA** – The draft SOA was distributed electronically to the HSC on May 7th, 2009. Marco briefed the HSC on revisions and updates to the SOA since the April meeting.
- Language addressing a release strategy for smolts reared at Cassimer Bar Hatchery was added to the first paragraph.
 - Language addressing the need to incorporate a measurement of success for the steelhead pilot program was added to the first bullet on page one. Added success metrics include, smolt survival to McNary,

smolt-to-adult survivals, increases in parr production, spawning escapement, and other potential metrics.

- Clarifying language was added to the last paragraph on page one to address annual reporting activities. Activities included are: adult broodstock collection, hatchery operations, juvenile fish releases and monitoring and evaluation.

The HSC further discussed refinements to the draft SOA and agreed to the following changes and clarifications.

- The discussion on review of the mitigation program should be further clarified and the timelines added consistent with the language within the settlement agreement.
- A portion of the information used within the background section was found to be obsolete and the HSC requested that it be updated. Marco and McManus will work with Petersen to address outdated data within background section of the SOA.
- The HSC discussed the timing of the Northwest Power and Conservation Council's three-step process. Marco confirmed that step one is contingent upon council review and would take up to three months, step two consists of NEPA and ESA requirements, and step three will focus on the construction of a few more wells and above ground raceways.
- It should be clarified how the SOA fits with the HGMP and APP structure.
- As part of the discussion of the SOA (but not directly flowing from the SOA) the HSC expressed the need for an aggregated schedule of all APP, HGMP and M&E submittal dates within the basin. McManus and Donovan will confirm outstanding plan dates and distribute draft plan schedule to the HSC.

B. Voting or next steps, as appropriate – Marco will revise the SOA once again and a revised draft will be distributed to the HSC. If possible, voting will be by email to save time at the June meeting.

V. Nason Creek Water Modeling -- Anchor QEA provided a presentation to the HSC on the findings of the Nason Creek groundwater investigations and the program flow demand and rearing temperature study. The studies show that there is not enough ground water flow at Nason Creek to meet anticipated demands. The HSC discussed the implications of not being able to meet the 600gpm. The following comments and clarifications were made by the HSC following the presentation:

The original estimate on ground water needed for the Nason Creek project was 2400 gallons per minute (gpm) and the outcome of the analysis shows that realistically only 600gpm is available. Total water needs for the project have gone up since the initial estimate, increasing the gap between what is available and what is needed.

- Anchor QEA clarified that the drawdown cone of influence was determined using a computer generated model and that the next stage of the study will include more extensive onsite testing. Anchor QEA will provide the HSC with additional study findings associated with the 12 hour pump test.

- Further investigations will be necessary to determine if alternative sites with adequate groundwater exist within the Nason Creek basin. Anchor QEA indicated that the geology of the basin shows that an alternative site with adequate water flow is unlikely.
- The HSC discussed ways to address the water shortage at Nason creek. Potential alternatives included: use of a water reuse system rather than a flow through system, use of both surface water and ground water and/or the use of an out of basin rearing site with the Nason Creek facility designated as an acclimation site.
- A surface water/ground water plan would be modeled after the Cle Elum Hatchery. The HSC discussed the differences between the Nason Creek and Cle Elum situation including the flow characteristics and the number and proximity of spawning sites to the hatchery sites.
- The HSC discussed the pros and cons of using surface water in some detail. Concerns include the potential for disease and pathogen contamination and the need to chill water in the summer. Benefits include potentially better rearing success by following temperature curves that more closely mimic nature. The HSC discussed treating all or some of the surface water and ground water recirculation options as ways to manage disease risk.
- The HSC also discussed the potential to rear the 250,000 smolts planned for the Nason Creek facility elsewhere. They discussed using the LWSNFH facility, but were unsure if capacity would be available. Use of the McComis facility also was discussed, but, again, capacity was uncertain.
- Next Steps: Grant PUD will further investigate alternatives for the Nason Creek site and report back to the HSC in June. This will include information on the feasibility of:
 - A. Potential offsite rearing locations and their availability, and use of the Nason site for acclimation only.
 - B. Multiple alternatives for supplying the Nason Creek project with water including groundwater recirculation (with chilling) and surface water (with treatment). The Cle Elum Hatchery operation should be discussed including lessons learned on using surface water and potential application of this model to the Nason Creek site. Bill Gale will coordinate with Ray Brunson to brief the HSC on implementation of fish health precautions at Cle Elum Hatchery. Tom Scribner will coordinate with Charles Strom, Yakama Nation, to brief the HSC on the Cle Elum Hatchery operation. Truscott will coordinate with Bob Rogers, WDFW to further discuss methods of addressing fish disease.
 - C. Multiple rearing sites in the Nason Creek basin.

The HSC recognized the need to come to the June meeting prepared to offer directional guidance on further development of the Nason Creek site.

- VI. Spring Chinook Management in Wenatchee Basin Implementation Plan** – The HSC discussed revisions to the draft implementation plan (ver. March 16 2009). WDFW, YN and NFMS will meet on June 1 to discuss comments. A joint

conference call of the HCP and the HSC will be scheduled for June 2 to discuss the outcomes of the June 1 meeting. (Mike Schiewe is scheduling this call.) All parties are optimistic that major comments can be addressed and a revised draft-final implementation plan provided by June 8. In order to meet the submittal deadline set by NMFS, the re-draft of the implementation plan will focus on the incorporation of major comments and concepts. If NMFS comments cannot be adequately addressed, NMFS will let the HSC know and will then work with Grant PUD to provide input on development of the spring Chinook HGMP.

VII. Review of White River and Nason Creek Spring Chinook HGMPs, Methow Spring Chinook APP and M&E Plan - Two HSC members (WDFW and YN) had submitted comments. The HSC discussed the importance of getting comments to Grant so that they can be addressed in time to meet the June 30th deadline. The HSC agreed to June 8th as the new deadline for comments. In addition, the group discussed a number of smaller meetings, in particular a meeting to discuss WDFW comments on the draft take tables to occur later the week of June 8th.

VIII. Project Status Report for White River Spring Chinook Program – The HSC reviewed the list of items to be resolved and clarified and set completion dates for each item. The revisions are included in the revised draft project status report (attached). The HSC reviewed and set due dates for each of the following identified reference numbers (RN) as provide within the status report.

As part of this discussion the HSC determined that it is acceptable to collect up to 500 fry, as allowed by the permit, to supplement 2008 egg collections. This determination was made because fewer than 1000 eggs have been collected. The HSC will consider whether fry collection is needed for the 2009 year based on 2009 egg collections.

IX. Nason Creek Spring Chinook – Project Status Report - The HSC reviewed the list of items to be resolved and clarified and set completion dates for each item. The revisions are included in the revised draft project status report (attached). The HSC reviewed and set due dates for each of the following identified reference numbers (RN) as provide within the status report.

X. Methow Spring Chinook APP -- The final submittal of the APP needs to be coordinated with the HGMP which Douglas is producing. The dates for the two plans don't match up well, currently the APP is due July 1 and the HGMP is not due until July 31. The HSC determined to move forward with the APP but to acknowledge that some issues might not be able to be fully resolved in the July 1 draft and that the APP might require amendment or revision once the HGMP is finalized.

The HSC reviewed the list of items to be resolved in the status report and clarified and set completion dates for each item. The revisions are included in the revised draft project status report (attached). The HSC reviewed and set due dates for each of the following identified reference numbers (RN) as provide within the status report. In particular, the HSC discussed the potential to create new acclimation sites in the upper Methow and the need for Grant PUD to coordinate with Douglas PUD on the potential for these sites so Douglas can address them in the HGMP.

XI. Fall Chinook Hatchery Program

- A. **Process for getting to HGMP by July 1st** – Persons will work directly with HSC members to address comments on the draft HGMP and M&E plans. Persons will revise drafts of both plans and will distribute them for HSC review.
 - B. **Steelhead in the hatchery discharge channel** – HSC is comfortable with the steelhead spawning in the discharge channel. HSC to confirm with Petersen and Marco that this does not represent an ESA issue. Members recommended that additional information be obtained for the HSC to further discuss the necessity of a weir to prevent steelhead from entering the hatchery discharge channel. HSC to be updated on issue during June 2009 committee meeting.
 - C. **Update: WDFW mass marking dispute resolution:** WDFW and the YN continue discussions in an effort to resolve their differences over mass marking.
 - D. **Priest Rapid Hatchery Design Issues:** Grant PUD will distribute a matrix identifying the number and status of issues associated with the hatchery design for discussion at the June HSC meeting.
 - E. **Review of Project Status Report for Fall Chinook** – Langshaw briefed the HSC on the following work tasks and accomplishments completed since the distribution of the last status report:
 - Distribution of the draft status report,
 - Continuing to work with hatchery staff on design input,
 - Updating design modules for June PRCC Hatchery presentation,
 - Working on siphon intake design for the hatchery, and
 - Met with WDFW about budget issues on the ACOE Program.
- XII. Update on Summer Chinook** – HSC members who were in attendance at the Summer Chinook Summit will provide an update during June 2009 HSC meeting.
- XIII. Wrap-Up / Next Steps** – The next HSC meeting will be a two day meeting on June 18th & 19th, 2009. The meeting will be held in Wenatchee; location to be determined. Potential agenda items discussed:
- Revised HSC protocols.
 - Revised Steelhead SOA (if not resolved by email in advance)
 - Review of a substantive and robust set of alternatives for the Nason Creek program (including offsite rearing and a robust set of water supply options); and provide HSC direction.
 - Substantive update and discussion on Dryden Right Bank and Gloyd Springs water issues.
 - Finalization of HSC input on the White River and Nason Creek Spring Chinook HGMPs, the Methow Spring Chinook APP, the overall M&E plan and the Fall Chinook HGMP and M&E plan.
 - Discussion of Priest River hatchery design issues.
 - Update on Summer Chinook Summit.
 - Other program updates.