

PRCC Hatchery Subcommittee Meeting

Draft Meeting Minutes

Thursday, August 20, 2009; 8:30 – 2:45
Cedar's Inn – 80 Ninth St. NE, East Wenatchee
Call-in Number: 1-800-391-1709, access code 369546

Attendees

Chris Carlson, GCPUD (Discussion of Priest Rapids Hatchery Design Only – by phone)
Curt Dotson, GCPUD
Bill Gale, USFWS
Mike Lewis, WDFW (Second half of the day)
Keely Murdoch, YN
Todd Pearsons, GCPUD
Bob Pfeifer, WDFW
Julie Pyper, Chelan PUD
Kirk Truscott, CCT
Elizabeth McManus, Facilitator
Patrick Donovan, Facilitator

Action Items

1. Bob will check on the status of WDFW's official letter stating changes in HSC representation.
2. Elizabeth will follow up with Russell and Tom to determine the status of YN's efforts to locate expanded multi-species acclimation sites in the upper Methow.
3. Elizabeth will complete and distribute to the HSC for their final approval, revision summaries for past HSC meeting summaries (November 2008 – February 2009).
4. Patrick will add HCP and HETT plan dates to the HSC calendar and continue to add other dates as they are submitted. Patrick to follow-up with Ali Wick for scheduled HETT dates.
5. Elizabeth will confirm if the dispute resolution language as provided within the HSC Operating Procedures is verbatim from the SSA.
6. Elizabeth will distribute the final Operating Procedures to the PRCC with a cover letter acknowledging their finality and approval by the HSC.
7. Bob will circulate, for the HSC's consideration, emails on White River microelements analysis.
8. Elizabeth will follow-up with Mike Schiewe to coordinate on a path forward for the NTTOC and the HETT process.
9. Todd will confirm the costs as presented within Table-1 of the Nason Creek HGMP, specifically those shown for the steelhead survival and trap installation.
10. Elizabeth will follow up with Kris to determine if she has any final comments on the Nason Creek SOA.
11. Todd to send Elizabeth background document to be appended to the Nason Creek SOA.

12. Kirk will follow up with Jerry to determine any final comments and/ or suggested revisions to the Nason and White HGMPs from CCT.
13. Elizabeth and Patrick will prepare a revised draft SOA on Dryden LB for HSC consideration.
14. Keely will insert updated table and text into Section 3.0 of the Coho APP and will send to Elizabeth who will distribute to the HSC.
15. Elizabeth and Patrick will distribute a Doodle request to gauge the availability of the HSC to attend a meeting/workshop for the end of October to discuss design options for acclimation of White River Spring Chinook salmon at the McComas site.
16. Elizabeth will follow up with Russell to get status on Lake Wenatchee net pens.
17. Grant PUD to follow-up with the HSC concerning design issues with the Priest Rapids Hatchery.

Decisions

1. The HSC voted on and approved the Operating Procedures and corresponding SOA. CCT's final approval is contingent on Elizabeth confirming the dispute resolution language as being verbatim from the Salmon and Steelhead Agreement (SSA). [Post meeting note: this was done; the language was almost verbatim and was adjusted to match the language in the SSA exactly in the version that was sent to the PRCC.]
2. The HSC voted on and approved the SOA on a water supply strategy for the Nason Creek hatchery, contingent on Kris' review/approval when she returns from vacation.
3. The HSC voted on and approved the White River and Nason Creek HGMPs, contingent on Kirk confirming that any CCT concerns have been addressed.
4. The HSC voted on and approved the Overall M&E Plan.

Draft Meeting Summary

- I. Welcome and Agenda Review** – Elizabeth McManus welcomed the Hatchery Subcommittee (HSC) and reviewed the agenda items.
- II. Action Items Review & Other Committee Updates** – Elizabeth reviewed and provided updates to the action items identified during the July HSC meeting. The following items were discussed in substance:
 - Update on PBT and Microelement Analysis – Bob Pfeifer discussed WDFW's previous experience with microelement analysis. In that experience, it was more expensive and less timely than PBT approaches. Bob will distribute the series of emails summarizing discussion of microelement analysis to the HSC. The HSC discussed and agreed that the HGMPs should acknowledge that as technology

advances, it is desirable to continue to assess strategies that might support a single fish handling event.

- July Meeting Summary - The HSC reviewed the July meeting summary and made a small number of corrections and clarifications. The revised summary was then approved by the HSC contingent upon any comments that Jerry Marco may have. (A redline/strikeout draft showing changes and clarifications made will be posted to the secure HSC website.)

III. Wenatchee Spring Chinook Implementation Plan - Keely Murdoch briefed the HSC on the co-manager's planned next steps and path forward in finalizing the Wenatchee Spring Chinook Implementation Plan. The YN is working to address comments submitted by Grant PUD (meeting on this scheduled for September 2, 2009). The co-managers anticipate the implementation plan will become a JFP document by the fall of 2009.

IV. HSC Operating Procedures

- A. Review Draft SOA and PRCC Relationship Flowchart** - Elizabeth briefed the HSC on the minor revisions and clarifications made to the draft HSC Operating Procedures document since the July meeting. A mark-up draft is available showing all changes.
- B. Voting or Next Steps** - The HSC voted on and approved the Operating Procedures and corresponding SOA. Kris had indicated that she would agree to the SOA and Operating Procedures after reviewing the draft before she went on vacation. CCT's approval is contingent on Elizabeth confirming the dispute resolution language as being verbatim from the Salmon and Steelhead Agreement (SSA). The final Operating Procedures will be sent to the PRCC with a cover letter acknowledging their finality and approval by the HSC. [Post meeting note: the SSA language was checked; the language in the Operating Procedures was almost verbatim and was adjusted to match the language in the SSA verbatim exactly in the version that was sent to the PRCC.] The approved SOA and the Operating Procedures are attached.

V. Update on Non-Target Taxa of Concern (NTTOC) Risk Assessment

- A. Update and discuss coordination with HCP** - Building on the HSC proposal to do a combined NTTOC risk assessment, the HCP agreed to move forward with a combined risk assessment during their monthly meeting on Wednesday, August 19, 2009. The HSC discussed how best to implement the combined approach. The Hatchery Evaluation Technical Team (HETT) is tasked with providing the

HSC and HCP a proposed list of experts and a proposed risk assessment process. The HSC agreed on the importance of Grant, Chelan, and Douglas PUDs being fully engaged within the NTTOC and being able to capture NTTOC decision points and process in their meeting records regardless of which Committee setting (HSC or HCP) substantive discussions and HETT updates occur in. At the same time, the Group agreed to the importance of minimizing duplicative discussions between the committees. Elizabeth will talk with Mike Schiewe and Ali Wick about how best to ensure that the NTTOC process is adequately discussed and documented in both Committees.

- B. Path forward or next steps** - The HSC agreed to have the HETT provide an update on the NTTOC process during the joint portion of the September HSC meeting. Elizabeth will follow-up with Mike Schiewe to coordinate on this.

VI. Nason Creek Water Issues and Alternatives

- A. Update on Nason Creek Design Alternatives** – Todd Pearsons briefed the HSC on the evaluation of the Nason Creek water alternatives and hatchery design. Grant PUD’s current plan, based on HSC input at the July meeting, is to design the hatchery to carry out early rearing on treated surface water. In addition, Grant PUD asked the HSC to consider incorporating a small experimental component in the hatchery design to test alternative water supplies for early rearing. Todd noted that the Fresh Water Institute (FWI) will be contracted by Grant PUD to conduct a water source assessment for Nason Creek and to offer expertise on hatchery design and water treatment options. The HSC discussed the following topics.

- Any experimentation should be for the purpose of adaptively managing the facility over time. It may be that there are elements of hatchery performance in addition to water sources that will be evaluated.
- The hatchery may need to run on reduced production levels during the first year or several years to ensure that it is functioning well before putting too many fish at risk. It may be desirable to delay any experimentation until this “shake down” period is done.
- Some HSC members, particularly the CCT, are very uncomfortable with the idea that experimentation would include early rearing on untreated surface water or that, based on experimental results the HSC might be asked to consider whether the hatchery could run early rearing on untreated surface water. HSC members were not confident that experimental results would adequately predict or bound what can be dramatic year to year shifts in pathogen loading. This will have to be

explored over time as the exact dimensions of any experiment are developed.

- The September meeting should include an update on the FWI work. FWI may identify design possibilities that have not been previously considered.

B. Voting or Next Steps for Finalizing Draft SOA – The HSC voted on and approved the SOA on a water supply strategy for the Nason Creek hatchery as revised and projected on the screen. HSC approval is contingent on Kris’ final review/approval when she returns from vacation. (Kris was okay with the draft of the Nason Creek SOA that was brought into the meeting.) Elizabeth will follow-up with Kris to determine if she approves of the Nason Creek SOA as voted on during the August meeting and will provide an update to the HSC prior to the September meeting. The SOA as revised and contingently approved by the HSC is attached.

VII. Nason Creek & White River Spring Chinook

- A. Update on Post Release Survival Data for White River spring Chinook** – The HSC discussed and agreed to include the post release survival data for White River spring Chinook, as distributed by Russell on August 19, 2009, into the White River HGMP. The HSC recognized that they would need to continue to discuss the performance of the captive brood program and further investigate what might be causing the low returns (e.g., disease, migratory route, predators, etc.). To aid these further discussions, the HSC requested that Grant PUD work with the University of Washington to provide information on the methods that John Skalski used to calculate the reach survival data. The HSC recognized that the current adult numbers are based on an incomplete brood year return.
- B. Nason Creek & White River Spring Chinook HGMPs** – The HSC voted on and approved the White River and Nason Creek HGMPs as edited and projected on the screen. Final CCT approval is contingent on resolving any remaining issues or comments Jerry may have with the plans. Kirk will follow up with Jerry to identify any remaining concerns or comments. The HSC discussed and agreed to incorporate the CCTs’ updated harvest language within the Nason Creek HGMP (language is from the Chwawa HGMP); harvest language will be removed from the White River HGMP. The HSC questioned the costs as presented in Table-1 of the Nason Creek HGMP, specifically those shown for the steelhead survival and strap installation. Todd will confirm costs and follow-up with the HSC.
- C. McComas Site** – Todd requested that the HSC schedule a meeting/workshop for the end of October to discuss design options for acclimation of White River

Spring Chinook salmon at the McComas site. Patrick will send out a Doodle request to HSC members to gauge their availability.

VIII. Summer Chinook – Dryden – The HSC reviewed a draft SOA for the Dryden left bank (Dryden LB) site. The draft SOA described development of a feasibility assessment to determine if the Dryden left bank facility could be expanded to provide for overwinter acclimation of Chelan and Grant PUD fish. Julie indicated that Chelan PUD will not support an SOA on Dryden LB if the review and adjustment of production levels in 2013, as established within the SSA, is forgone. The HSC discussed the following points.

- The SOA should more clearly describe that the feasibility assessment contains two separate (but related) dimensions: 1) Can the pond be expanded to provide capacity for additional fish?; and 2) Can overwinter acclimation be achieved?. Depending on the findings with respect to each dimension, the path forward may be different (e.g., it might be feasible to provide for overwinter acclimation but not feasible to expand the pond). The Yakama Nation in particular is interested in continuing to pursue overwinter acclimation even if expansion of the pond is not feasible.
- It would be helpful to move some of the background language into the agreement language, including the feasibility considerations.
- Wherever possible/appropriate it is best to use language directly from the SSA instead of paraphrasing.
- It is necessary to clarify whether the language on forgoing adjustment of the PUD’s mitigation requirement for Wenatchee summer Chinook salmon levels through 2023 precludes adjusting mitigation levels downward if survival studies justify it.
- Elizabeth and Patrick will work on a revised draft SOA for the Committee to consider in September.

IX. Overall M&E Plan and Methow APP

A. Remaining Issues (if any) and Discussion – No additional HSC comments were submitted prior to or during the August meeting for either plan.

B. Voting or Next Steps, as Appropriate

- Methow APP - The HSC agreed that the Methow APP will be placed on hold until the Douglas HGMP is released.
- Overall M&E Plan - The HSC voted on and approved the Overall M&E Plan.

X. Fall Chinook HGMP and M&E Plan, Priest Rapids Hatchery Design

A. Fall Chinook HGMP – Todd provided a brief update on the status of the Fall Chinook HGMP. Comments from WDFW and USFWS have been incorporated into the revised HGMP. The HSC agreed to submit final comments on the Fall Chinook HGMP and M&E plans by Friday, September 11th. Todd will distribute a revised draft of the plan for review by October 2, 2009. The HSC agreed to be prepared to discuss and vote on these plans during the October HSC meeting.

B. Priest Rapids Hatchery Design

- **Review and Discuss Final HSC Substantive Comments on Hatchery Design** - Chris Carlson, Grant PUD and Mike Lewis, WDFW, briefed the HSC on the status of the Priest Rapids Hatchery design. Per the HSC's recommendation at the July meeting, Grant PUD met with the Spring Creek Hatchery Operator to discuss the applicability of the Spring Creek designs to the proposed Priest Rapids Hatchery and tentatively determined not to make any design changes to fish handling at this point. The HSC expressed a number of concerns about the fish handling approach in the Priest Rapids Hatchery design including:

- Lack of a mechanical means to handle fish; and
- No plan for use of anesthetics or other less physical handling methods.

The HSC felt strongly that Grant PUD should reconsider these aspects of the Hatchery design with a view towards minimizing the amount and violence of fish handling.

- **Path forward and next steps for comments** – Grant PUD needs to move forward to more detailed design drawings for the Hatchery. Chris and Todd will again take the HSC concerns with the fish handling aspects of the design under consideration and will follow up with individual HSC members to ensure that these concerns are understood. In addition, the HSC will review each of the main Hatchery design elements (e.g., volunteer trap, raceways, etc.) and get Grant PUD any final comments by September 4, 2009. Elizabeth will work with Chris to compile and distribute the current design information for HSC members to review.

XI. Coho APP – Todd briefed the HSC on the current status of the Coho APP. To-date no substantive comments have been submitted by HSC members. The HSC discussed and agreed to the following revisions and review timelines:

- Incorporate updated table and text within Section 3.0 - Quantitative Objectives. Keely will incorporate updated table and text into Coho APP and will send it to Elizabeth who will distribute to the HSC soon after;
- HSC comments on the Coho APP are due Wednesday, August 26, 2009; and
- The final Coho APP will be submitted to NOAA on August 31, 2009.

XII. Smolt Trap Summaries

A. White River Trap

- Collected 37 spring Chinook sub yearlings;
- Experienced 1 mortality during PIT Tagging; and
- Switched from the large to small cone in July.

B. Nason Creek Trap

- Collected 1,191 sub yearlings;
- Bull Trout were detected;
- Approximately 17 steelhead fry detected; and
- Experienced mortality of 27 Chinook and 3 Steelhead, which were attributed to heat during PIT-Tagging. More stringent temperature guidelines have been implemented to prevent future mortality of this nature.

XIII. Okanogan Spring & Summer Chinook and Steelhead – The HSC discussed and agreed to submit comments on the Wenatchee Summer Chinook, Methow Summer Chinook, and Sockeye HGMPs to Todd no later than September 9, 2009. The HSC further agreed to place reviews of the Okanogan spring Chinook, Okanogan Summer Chinook, and Steelhead Trout APPs on hold. Next steps will be contingent upon discussions during the September meeting.

XIV. Wrap-Up / Next Steps

C. Next Meeting: Thursday, September 17, 2009 – Grant County PUD offices at SeaTac.

D. Highlights of Review Schedule Moving Forward

- August 26, 2009 – HSC comments on the Coho APP due.
- August 31, 2009 – Coho APP due to NOAA.

- September 4, 2009 – HSC review/comments on the Priest Rapids Hatchery design documents due.
- September 9, 2009 – HSC review/comments on the Wenatchee and Methow Summer Chinook HGMPs due.
- September 11, 2009 – HSC review/comments on the Fall Chinook HGMP and M&E plans due.
- September 17, 2009 – September HSC meeting, discussion of Fall Chinook HGMP and M&E plan; voting on Summer Chinook HGMPs.
- October 1, 2009 – Summer Chinook HGMPs due to NOAA.

E. Review of September meeting agenda items.

- Sockeye discussion and briefing (joint session with HCP).
- NTTOC update (joint session with HCP).
- Update on the Priest Rapids Hatchery Design.
- Review and voting (if appropriate) on revised Dryden SOA.
- Summer Chinook HGMPs and voting, if appropriate.
- Fall Chinook (if needed) – HSC comments provided to Todd will determine if this needs to be a discussion item.
- Update on YN's effort to locate expanded multi-species acclimation sites in the upper Methow.
- Update on the FWI work at Nason Creek.