



## Meeting Minutes

### PRCC Hatchery Subcommittee

Thursday, January 22, 2009  
 9 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
 Cedars Inn  
 Wenatchee, WA

#### PRCC Hatchery Subcommittee Members

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Kris Petersen, NMFS (for first 15min only)	David Carie, USFWS
Jerry Marco, CCT	Russ Langshaw, GCPUD
Tom Scribner, Keely Murdoch, YN	Carl Merkle, CTUIR
Kirk Truscott, WDFW	

#### ATTENDEES: (\*Denotes PRCC Hatchery Subcommittee Member)

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Kris Petersen, NMFS*(by phone)	Bill Gale, USFWS*
Keely Murdoch, YN*	Tom Scribner, YN* (by phone)
Jerry Marco, CCT*	Kirk Truscott/Bob Pfeifer, WDFW*
Russell Langshaw, GCPUD*	Todd Pearsons, GCPUD
Curt Dotson, GCPUD	Alyssa Buck, GCPUD
Debbie Williams, GCPUD	Denny Rohr, Facilitator

#### HSC Approval Note:

The HSC acted on this meeting summary on December 17, 2009. The Committee approved the summary as the note taker's summary of the January 2009 meeting. An attached redline/strikeout draft shows comments from HSC members on the draft meeting summary. All these comments were incorporated into the final summary. Due to the time elapsed between the meeting and action on the summary, the HSC did not attempt to further resolve any discrepancies in individual's recollections of the meeting.

#### Action Items:

1. Langshaw will send a list of draft questions regarding White River consultation to Krupka and Gale.
2. Dotson will send the Summer Chinook PowerPoint to members.
3. Rohr will contact Petersen regarding her vote on the Quantitative Objectives as edited by the committee and SOW 2008-03.

4. Marco will draft a steelhead SOA for the February meeting.
5. Pearsons will determine if a coho APP needs to be developed.
6. Grant County PUD staff will draft a FERC HGMP timeline extension letter for HSC review. Members were given 10 days to review the letter and get comments to Grant. Pearsons will add Okanagan spring Chinook to the letter, citing HGMP development by the Colville's.
7. Pearsons will state in the FERC HGMP extension letter that the APP was developed in consultation with the HSC. Pearsons will locate license language that defines who should develop APP associated with FERC extension filings.
8. The HSC will ask NOAA to extend the deadlines for the White River and Nason Creek spring Chinook programs. The HSC will need to develop a schedule for program implementation.
9. Pearsons will contact Petersen to determine how much time she expects NOAA to take to approve HGMPs and APPs.
10. Pearsons will draft the first HGMP timeline schedule that will be included in the draft FERC HGMP extension letter.
11. Grant County PUD needs to talk to Rick Klinge about infrastructure improvements at the Wells and Methow facilities.
12. Murdoch will make changes to the ISEMP SOW. A vote will be taken at the February meeting.
13. Langshaw will have the HSC added to the email list for LWSNFH monthly reports.
14. Langshaw will get clarification from Chelan County regarding net pen installation and fish transfer protocols. Truscott will contact Langshaw regarding fish culture for the net pens at Lake Wenatchee.

#### **Decision Summary:**

1. **Members agreed that values identified in the Quantitative Objectives will be used as goals, and that a moving average of PNI will be compared to those goals.**
2. **Members agreed that hatchery fish will be moved down to a level of K to achieve a PNI goal of .67.**
3. **PRCC members present approved of the Quantitative Objectives and SOW 2008-03 as edited by the committee.**

## **Meeting Minutes**

- I. **Welcome and Introductions** – Rohr welcomed attendees.
- II. **Agenda Review** – The Interlocal Cooperative Agreement with Public Utility District No. 1 of Douglas County (Douglas County PUD) to provide Grant County PUD with access to excess capacity at Douglas County PUD's existing Methow and Wells fish hatcheries was added to the agenda.
- III. **Approval of Meeting Minutes** –
  - November 20, 2008 meeting – **Williams will resend to the committee.**

- December 18, 2008 meeting – **Williams will resend to the committee.**

**IV. Action Items Review** – Action items were reviewed. Murdoch will ask Petersen for clarification regarding Action Item #13, the need of a preemptive letter regarding take at the White River Rotary Trap. Murdoch will complete Action Item #14 by the next meeting. Action Item #14, Truscott explained that the PRCC approved SOA-2008-1, Grant County PUD’s Sockeye Salmon Mitigation Requirement on December 03, 2009, so there was no need to discuss the 2013 check in date versus the 2017 check in date.

**V. HGMP/M&E**

**A Distribute HGMP Status Report** – The HGMP status report was distributed and reviewed. The status report is provided by Grant County PUD to show transparency regarding the HGMP process. Pearsons noted that he changed Quantitative Objectives back to a 90-95% completion level. The need to replace or modify the intake screen at the Priest Rapids Hatchery was not previously factored into the design schedule. It will add additional time to the design phase of the hatchery.

**B Affirmation of e-mail vote on SOA 2008-03 regarding revised Quantitative Objectives (QO)** – Members discussed viewing PNI as an average over a specified time span versus a fixed value. Because of mass marking implications, the PNI discussion should take place when the M&E is developed. . **Members agreed that values identified in the Quantitative Objectives will be used as goals, and that a moving average of PNI will be compared to those goals. Members agreed that hatchery fish will be moved down to a level of K to achieve a PNI goal of .67.** Members discussed whether to leave Non Target Taxa of Concern (NTTOC) in the QO or not. An expert panel would convene to conduct a risk assessment. A paper exercise could be utilized to assess the QO. NTTOC species will be assessed as part of the NTTOC process, the containment objectives will be identified in the table. The PRCC HSC and HCP should maintain consistency as appropriate. Members stated their opinion whether to leave the NTTOC in the QO, or leave it out:

Marco – remove NTTOC column entirely

Truscott – address in narrative form, do paper exercise to guide the program, devise risk aversion measures

Gale – remove NTTOC column in Table 2. Table 2-Footer 4 –delete first sentence. Move 2 & 3<sup>rd</sup> sentence to be a footnote of NTTOC in Table 1.

Members agreed with Gale’s suggestion. Table 2 will stay as is regarding biological characteristics. Table 1 – size of age refers to adult characteristics. Life history strategy will be stricken. Pearsons will add the following statement to the QO and SOW. Introduction (first paragraph) and SOA will be updated to read after the semi-colon – This document is

intended to be a living document subject to change with new information. Last sentence of the SOW statement will have the same line added.  
**PRCC members present approved of the Quantitative Objectives and SOW 2008-03 as edited by the committee. Rohr will contact Petersen regarding her vote on the Quantitative Objectives and SOW 2008-03.** Murdoch, yes. Gale, yes. Truscott, yes. Langshaw, yes. Marco, yes. Pearsons will distribute a clean and track change version to the committee.

**C Spring Chinook management in Wenatchee Basin Implementation Plan (Yakama Nation-WDFW) –** Pfeifer and Murdoch are still working on the document. Delays to the projected time line resulted from the holidays, the need for policy clarification as it relates to compositing during the start –up of the Nason Creek program and clarification of assignment rate probabilities. They hope to send the plan to the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), the Habitat Conservation Plan Committee (HCP), and the PRCC Hatchery Subcommittee by the middle of February. Marco noted concern about meeting the spring Chinook HGMP deadline of May 31, 2009. JFP concurrence will be asked for. Other members will be asked if they approve specific elements of the plan that will go into HGMPs.

**D Steelhead HGMP**

- **Discuss the HGMP –** Williams posted the Okanagan Steelhead HGMP on the HSC website. The Northwest Power and Conservation Council (NWPCC) are getting close to the end of their 60 day review period. Once comments are received from the Independent Scientific Review Panel (ISRP) they will be incorporated into the HGMP. An SOW will need to be developed by the PRCC HSC approving the HGMP after it has been reviewed. Marco explained that the HGMP is part of a three step master plan, and that funding could come from the Colville Memorandum of Agreement (MOA), or the entire program could be funded through BPA if the HSC wanted to. “But, it’s a way for Grant County PUD to meet their steelhead mitigation”, stated Marco.
- **Discuss Grant County PUD’s participation relative to mitigation responsibility –** Members discussed whether the Colville’s HGMP meets Grant County PUD’s mitigation for steelhead and if Grant County PUD should draft a SOW asking for a vote at the next meeting. Members need to decide how the HSC would interface with the program if approved.
- **Determine next steps (e.g., SOA), including dates and responsibilities, if necessary. –** Step 1, HSC approval of the Master Plan after approval is received from the NWPCC. Marco thinks approval will be given in the spring, but noted that delays by the ISRP are possible. Step 2, permitting. The JFP is drafting an Artificial Propagation Plan (APP) (which hasn’t been shown to Grant County PUD yet) for discussion at the February meeting.

**Marco will draft a steelhead SOA for the February meeting.** Currently there is not enough infrastructure to produce 100,000 smolts on the Okanogan, so a transition period to meet 100% of Grant PUD's steelhead mitigation with the Okanogan program will be included. Truscott suggested program performance metrics be developed now.

## **E Artificial Propagation Plans (APP) and HGMPs**

- Rohr distributed a draft FERC HGMP extension letter. Members discussed local public opposition to White River hatcheries. To prevent duplication of effort, the HSC needs to identify specific documents Grant County PUD is required to write to satisfy APP and HGMP documentation. Grant County PUD will write an Artificial Propagation Plan (APP) for the Okanogan basin summer Chinook population, and will combine the Methow and Wenatchee basin summer Chinook HGMPs. **Pearsons will determine if a coho APP needs to be developed.**

Grant County PUD notified the HSC that HGMP timeline extensions will be sought from FERC. It is preferred that FERC extensions are requested 60 days prior to the deadline. **Grant County PUD will draft a HGMP timeline extension letter for HSC review. Members were given 10 days to review the letter and get comments to Grant County PUD. Pearsons will add Okanogan spring Chinook to the letter, citing HGMP development by the Colville's.** Members suggested Rohr sign the letter after HSC approval is given.

The APP will be developed by the HSC, not just Grant County PUD. **Pearsons will state in the FERC HGMP extension letter that the APP was developed in consultation with the HSC. Pearsons will locate license language that defines who should develop APP associated with FERC extension filings.** It's important that the time extension be accurate so Grant County PUD doesn't have to ask for additional extensions.

Pearsons noted that most draft HGMP documents could be ready for review by April 17, 2009. White River (WR) permits expire in 2010. If the HSC is trying to comply with NOAA's request, the WR and Nason Creek HGMPs needs to be completed at the same time as the HCP HGMPs on May 31, 2009. **The HSC will ask NOAA to extend the deadlines for the White River and Nason Creek spring Chinook programs. The HSC will need to develop a schedule for program implementation.** Other HGMPs will be submitted to NOAA, and will wait for review subject to NOAA's

timeline. **Pearsons will contact Petersen to determine how much time she expects NOAA to take to approve HGMPs and APPs. Pearsons will draft the first HGMP timeline schedule that will be included in the draft FERC HGMP extension letter.**

## VI. Fall Chinook

- A WDFW mass marking dispute resolution update** – Mass marking will be discussed during the January 28, 2009 Priest Rapids Coordinating Committee (PRCC) meeting.
- B Priest Rapids Hatchery broodstock management** – No discussion took place.
- **Discuss broodstock management plan and SOA in preparation of email vote on January 30, 2009** – No discussion took place.
- C Fry for smolt exchange**
- **Survival comparison of fry vs. smolt at Spring Creek Hatchery** - Pearsons distributed data from the Spring Creek National Fish Hatchery (SCNFH). WDFW withdrew their proposal to convert the release of fry to a release of smolts. The SCNFH data shows that fed fry have 1 to 3% survival to smolt upon release.
- D Fall Chinook Work Group update** – The committee is currently working through prioritizing studies to evaluate impacts to Hanford Reach fall Chinook.

## VII. Summer Chinook

- **Douglas County PUD Interlocal Agreement** – This topic was tabled in the HCP forum because they hadn't received the approval from the PRCC HSC. HCP questions if they want Grant County PUD to do something other than piggy backing on Douglas County PUD programs. The JFP was concerned that there is not enough capacity to meet everyone's needs at that facility and that they don't have a choice but to approve the production request for 2009. Grant County PUD's position is that production was implemented early and that capacity expansions should wait until the BKD management issue is resolved. **Grant County PUD will to talk to Rick Klinge about infrastructure improvements at the Wells and Methow facilities.** Grant County PUD should provide more certainties that their obligation will be met, and capture that in the agreement. More discussion needs to take place on this topic. It might behoove Grant County PUD to make a long term agreement, rather than a year to year. Marco questioned if next years agreement might look different. Langshaw didn't expect

so; it would still be capacity that Douglas County PUD is providing. We would still be looking to meet our production needs by using the Douglas County PUD facility. Marco – ok, Murdoch – ok for this year, Truscott, ok for this year, Langshaw - yes. The HSC suggested Grant County PUD identify what needs to be prepared in anticipation of the 2010 agreement. Grant County PUD will identify what needs to be done for 2010.

- **Facilities Update** – Grant County PUD staff updated members on summer Chinook acclimation facilities. The planned facilities presentation will be presented at next months meeting.

## VIII. Spring Chinook

**A Rotary Screw Trap – White River/Nason Creek** – No discussion took place.

- **Discuss take concerns regarding ISEMP tagging at White River trap** – No discussion took place.
- **ACTION ITEM:** Vote to determine acceptance of SOA 2008-05 regarding ISEMP tagging at White River trap – **Murdoch will make changes to the ISEMP SOW. A vote will be taken at the February meeting.**

**B White River** –

- **Update on permitting for short-term temporary acclimation** – No discussion took place.
- **Update of low mortality for BY06 & 07 transfer and next steps to begin BY05 transfer** – One fish dropped out of a net. Staff thought it was the fish that was later found dead. The take permit will be exceeded if one more mortality happens. There are approximately 200 fish on station. All other fish are doing well at the Little White Salmon National Fish Hatchery (LWSNFH). **Langshaw will have the HSC added to the email list for LWSNFH monthly reports.** Fish are feeding well. Elevated mortality in F2 raceways, up to 4%, nothing unusual for that population.
- **Net Pens-Acclimation** – Grant County PUD hasn't decided how fish culture will be handled this year, but they are working with Chelan for net pen installation. Grant County PUD will ask permission of property owners on the north end of the lake to use their property to transfer fish from the truck, via hose, into small net pens that will be used to transfer fish into larger net pens. **Langshaw will get clarification from Chelan County regarding permits for net pen installation and will develop fish transfer protocols. Truscott will contact Langshaw regarding fish culture for the net pens at Lake Wenatchee.** Fish will be transferred the end of March or early April.

- C Nason Creek – No discussion took place.**
- IX. Sockeye – No discussion took place.**
- X. Next Meeting: Thursday, February 19, 2009, Cedars Inn, Wenatchee, WA.**