



## Meeting Minutes

### Priest Rapids Fish Forum

Wednesday, February 04, 2009  
10:00 – 3:00

Grant PUD Natural Resources Office  
Ephrata, WA

#### Members/Policy Representatives

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Stephen Lewis/Jessica Gonzales, USFWS  
Patrick Verhey/Dennis Beich, WDFW  
Carl Merkle/CTUIR, Bob Heinith, CRITFC  
Colville Tribe, undefined  
Yakima Tribe, undefined  
Mike Clement/Ben Lenz/Gerry O'Keefe, GCPUD  
Marcie Mangold, WDOE

#### Attendees

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Patrick Verhey, WDFW  
Keith Hatch/Bob Dach, BIA  
Bob Rose/Danella Miller, Yakama Nation  
Brad James, WDFW (by phone)  
Mike Clement, GCPUD  
Alyssa Buck, GCPUD  
Ross Hendrick, GCPUD  
Kevin Malone, Facilitator

Teresa Scott/Molly Hallock, WDFW (by phone)  
Marcie Mangold, WDOE (by phone)  
Stephen Lewis, USFWS  
Joe Miller, Chelan PUD  
Ben Lenz, GCPUD  
Keith Garner, GCPUD  
Debbie Williams, GCPUD

#### Action Items:

- 1. Agencies and tribes defined by WDOE as having voting member status in the PRFF need to send the name of their voting member, alternate, and policy representative to Williams.**
- 2. PRFF members and stakeholders were given 30 days to review meeting and subcommittee protocols.**
- 3. Grant PUD will define how the “administrative record” will be handled regarding emails, written documentation, and FERC submissions pertaining to the PRFF.**
- 4. Please cc Teresa Scott, and Brad James, WDFW on all PRFF correspondence.**

5. Mangold will question WDOE staff as to the time required for internal review of the White Sturgeon Management Plan (WDMP) so it can be sent to FERC by April 17, 2009.
6. PRFF members agreed to review and submit comments to the White Sturgeon Management Plan in 30 days (March 04, 2009).
7. YN will outline their sturgeon plan.
8. During the March 04, 2009 PRFF meeting, members will decide whether to file the WSMP plan as is, make changes to it, or file a FERC extension.
9. Clement will speak with Perry regarding lamprey ramp specifications.

#### Decisions:

1. PRFF members agreed that protocols are a living document that can be changed with committee consensus at any time.
2. Grant PUD will provide administrative duties for any PRFF subcommittees.
3. Mike Clement, Grant PUD verbally committed to Grant PUD making ladder modifications to the following: plating, up to 18" wide to extend through orifice openings, and installing ramps on the downstream side of orifice openings where there are step down sections in areas of the fish ladders. Modifications will be completed during the same ladder outage as the plating is installed, pending FERC approval. PRFF members approved the previous statement. Lewis – yes. WDFW, yes. YN, yes. Grant PUD, yes.
4. PRFF members agreed to the FERC extension for the Fish Ladder Temperature Monitoring Plan. Malone will contact Rose regarding his vote on the Fish Ladder Temperature Monitoring Plan FERC extension.
5. PRFF members agreed to the FERC extension for the Shallow Water DO/ph Temperature Monitoring Plan.

## Final Meeting Minutes

- I. **Welcome and Introductions** – Attendees introduced themselves around the table and on the conference line.
- II. **Agenda Review** – No additions were made to the agenda.
- III. **Action Item Review**
  - A **Sturgeon Broodstock Document** – The White Sturgeon Management Plan, Revision 8, parts A, B, and C were distributed electronically to PRFF members and uploaded to the PRFF website on February 04, 2009.
  - B **Pacific Lamprey Conference Call** – A conference call was held on January 05, 2009 with the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission (CRITFC), Yakama Nation (YN), WDFW,

Ecology, and Grant to discuss CRITFC concerns with the Pacific Lamprey Management Plan. Bob Heinith, CRITFC provided comments and final edits to the plan. Grant included suggested edits, with the exception of providing tag technology funding and committing to an 80% passage standard.

- C **Approve PRFF Protocols** – See discussion below.
- D **Voting Members of PRFF Identified by Ecology** – Mangold, Washington Department of Ecology, (WDOE) distributed a letter on January 12, 2009 defining voting members of the Priest Rapids Fish Forum (PRFF). Members include: United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries (NOAA), Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation (CCT), Yakima Nation (YN), and the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation. Mangold noted that Grant PUD was inadvertently left off the list, but will be a voting member.

Mangold explained that NOAA was listed as a voting member because they also have fishery management authority. Verhey, WDFW stated that NOAA has ESA authority, and probably does have management authority in the mid-Columbia area. Clement explained that based on conversation at the PRCC policy level, NOAA has decided to abstain from this forum, but will be involved if projects are of concern to them and those projects or decisions involve the PRCC such as fishway modifications, count stations, etc. Voting members will remain as decided by WDOE, unless decided otherwise after discussion by WDOE and WDFW.

#### IV. **PRFF Membership and Protocol Discussion** –

- A **Review of Ecology Voting Members** – PRFF protocols state that voting member policy representatives will decide who, other than voting members defined by WDOE, can become voting members of the PRFF.

The Bureau of Indian Affairs verified their fish management authority in a letter sent to WDOE in order to obtain voting status in the PRFF. BIA prefers to work within the PRFF, instead of through alternative procedures to have their voice heard by FERC. **Agencies and tribes defined by WDOE as having voting member status in the PRFF need to send the name of their voting member, alternate, and policy representative to Williams.** BIA has provided this information already.

- B **Protocols Review and Approval** – Members and stakeholders reviewed and discussed meeting protocols. **PRFF members**

**agreed that protocols are a living document that can be changed with committee consensus at any time.**

If an issue can't be resolved by the PRFF, WDOE will decide the outcome. If PRFF members can not resolve an issue, and dispute resolution is utilized, policy representatives will be utilized to find resolution. Rose explained that the YN is concerned with having WDOE the sole source provider of authority as they relate to fisheries management issues.

Existing PRFF protocols will remain in effect until revised protocols are agreed upon by voting members. Salmon and Steelhead Settlement Agreement (SSSA) protocol language should be reviewed by PRFF members while developing PRFF protocols because it has been agreed upon by signatories of the SSSA. **PRFF members and stakeholders were given 30 days to review meeting and subcommittee protocols.**

**Grant PUD will define how the "administrative record" will be handled regarding emails, written documentation, and FERC submissions pertaining to the PRFF.**

- C **Review of Sub-committee Protocols** – Members discussed sub-committee protocols as written by Malone, and whether non-voting members should have access to the dispute resolution process. The subcommittee will be tasked with providing technical recommendations and clarity to irresolvable issues of voting members of the PRFF. Subcommittee resolutions must outline technical benefits and cost effectiveness. Because defining cost effectiveness could be time consuming, PRFF members will determine the level of cost effectiveness the subcommittee is required to meet. **Grant PUD will provide administrative duties for any PRFF subcommittees.** If members meet without Grant, they will be responsible for any administrative duties required.

- **Action Item: Consensus Vote PRFF Protocols** – No vote was taken. Delayed until next meeting.

- D **Meeting Locations** – Members discussed holding PRFF meetings in locations other than Ephrata, WA. Grant PUD indicated they would continue to hold the meetings in Ephrata unless there was reason to hold them elsewhere. No decisions were made.

## V. FERC Timeline Extension

- A **White Sturgeon Management Plan (WSMP) and Update** – Revision #8 was sent to members, and uploaded to the PRFF website today (February 04, 2009). Lenz explained updates and new information added to the plan. Adaptive management will be utilized to make changes to the plan in the future. In an

effort to meet the April 17, 2009 FERC deadline, and not request an extension, Lenz asked members if they would accept an initial 30 day (March 04, 2009) review period instead of the standard 60 day period (April 04, 2009). After discussion, WDFW stated they support an extension be filed to give them ample review time. Teresa Scott, Brad James, and Patrick Verhey will be coordinating on the WS program. **Please cc Teresa Scott, and Brad James, WDFW on all PRFF correspondence.** Lenz will continue to develop the plan with the 60 day review period to keep the process moving.

Rose explained that the Yakama Nation (YN) has signed The Columbia Basin Fish Accords with the Bonneville Power Association (BPA) and that sturgeon management is one of the accords. The Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission (CRITFC) is also part of the accords.

The YN would like to see regional participation regarding a sturgeon program amongst the three (Chelan, Douglas, and Grant) PUD programs. After a scope of work is developed, the Independent Science Review Panel (ISRP) and BPA intend to move forward with fish accord agreements. Their proposal will include a sturgeon facility on YN lands. Currently, the YN has 96 fish on station, which are, or near reproductive maturity.

Program development will be in conjunction with the ISRP; a narrative has been sent in. Production and M&E will be part of the proposal taken to the PUDs. Rose noted that the YN is cognizant of common interest of the Colville's, Wanapum and PUD's, and that details still need to be worked out. The YN would like to put a proposal together, and receive comments in context with other (PUD's, CRITFC, Nez Pearce, etc.) programs. The YN are interested in harvest in the mid-Columbia and below, as well as the commercial aspect of the plan. They would like to service and coordinate the entire mid-Columbia. Rose will send a narrative outlining the Yakama Nation Sturgeon Plan to members of the PRFF upon completion, hopefully in two months.

For better coordination at the regional level, the YN is asking that Grant file for the FERC extension. Rose stated the YN doesn't want Grant PUD to hold up their plan, they think Grant is doing excellent work, and want the plan to move forward.

#### **B White Sturgeon Baseline Data Collection –**

Lenz explained that none of the elements of the WSMP will be acted upon until the plan is approved by FERC. If an extension is filed, field work will not start in the spring of 2009. YN encouraged Grant PUD to move forward with any field work that

can be completed this spring. Clement noted that Grant PUD can't legally expend funds without FERC approval of the plan. Dach suggested that a letter be sent to FERC outlining implements of the plan that could be performed without submitting the overall management plan. The optimal field data collection opportunity is June through September. Annual reporting requirements of the 401 are due at the end of March each year. Lenz stated that an extension should be filed because this information is part of the record, and what we have in the plan is what has been completed for the report. The intent of the report is a progress report that goes to WDOE, Lenz questioned if it should also be sent to FERC.

Rose suggested that technical issues should continue to move forward, but that the plan not be sent to FERC. That would allow the YN to continue dialog regarding their plan, as they do not want to exclude any entity that is interested in their proposal. It was noted that the YN proposal could be inserted into the plan as part of adaptive management. The plan could then be sent to Ecology and FERC for approval. In this way, the plan could move forward and the PRFF could begin discussions of study plans etc.

Scott, WDFW asked to be involved in WSMP YN, PUD discussions. **Mangold will question WDOE staff as to the time required for internal review of the White Sturgeon Management Plan so it can be sent to FERC by April 17, 2009.**

After reviewing the WSMP, if it is decided that the committee wouldn't reach a decision in time to meet the April 17, 2009 deadline, they will approve of the FERC extension.

CRTFC has added 20,000 fish to the Chelan Project since 2003. The PRFF must determine how many fish will be put into the Priest Rapids Project. The 401 states 10,000 juveniles will be released into the Priest Rapids Project. The M&E will establish what stocking rates are, and monitor them in 5 years. Grant PUD is obligated to establish stocking rates, and what is in the reservoir. Grant PUD's goal is to achieve the genetic reasoning set forth in the Golder Associates PowerPoint presentation.

**PRFF members agreed to review and submit comments to the White Sturgeon Management Plan in 30 days (March 04, 2009). YN will outline their alternative sturgeon plan. During the March 04, 2009 PRFF meeting, members will decide whether to file the WSMP plan as is, make changes to it, or file a FERC extension.**

## VI. Management & Monitoring Evaluation Plan Updates

- A **Native Resident Fish Update** – Grant PUD will investigate stocking rainbow trout in Burkett and surrounding lakes. Discussion is ongoing between Grant PUD, and WDFW regarding the amount of capital monies allocated to WDFW to purchase additional fish to be planted in area lakes. Clement explained that there is no requirement to plant trout in Crab Creek, and tribal and cultural interest is high in that area. The final license did not include restoration of the lower Crab Creek area.
- B **Pacific Lamprey Update** – The Pacific Lamprey Management Plan has been sent to WDOE for review. Upon WDOE approval, the plan will be sent to FERC.

On January 07, 2009, members of the PRFF toured the Priest Rapids and Wanapum fish ladders. After the tour, Grant PUD agreed to include diffusion plating and counting station improvements to previously agreed modifications. Plating will be extended through orifice openings and into areas of the ladder where it makes a 180 degree turn and on the downstream side of an open orifice where there is a step; a 30 degree (or what is acceptable) angled ramp will be installed to allow passage. **Clement will speak with Perry regarding lamprey ramp specifications.** After modifications, success will be based on telemetry evaluations.

Clement explained that following FERC's approval of the plan an adult telemetry study will be conducted. Lewis asked that an addendum be added to the plan that defines actions Grant PUD agrees to complete. He suggests it include a 1 yr passage evaluation, knowns and unknowns, and knowledge gaps as they relate to the Priest Rapids Project. Lewis wants to make sure that everything discussed on the ladder tour is included in the plan. Other problematic issues will be addressed in the future, using the adaptive management component of the study.

**Mike Clement, Grant PUD verbally committed to Grant PUD making ladder modifications to the following: plating, up to 18" wide to extend through orifice openings, and ramps downstream of orifice openings where there are step down sections, in all areas of the fishladders. Modifications will be completed during the same ladder outage as the plating is installed, pending FERC approval. PRFF members approved the previous statement. Lewis – yes. WDFW, yes. YN, yes. Grant PUD, yes.**

“Dach stated that BIA didn’t approve the Pacific Lamprey Management Plan as they didn’t have a vote on the committee at that time the lamprey plan was approved.”

Malone explained that Grant PUD incorporated all comments and edits provided by the voting members prior to sending the plan to WDOE.

The lamprey contract needs to be sent out for a request for proposal (RFP). It should include a comprehensive passage telemetry study.

C **Bull Trout Update** – No discussion took place.

VII. **Update on other 401 Water Quality Issues**

A **Fish Ladder Temperature Monitoring Plan (FLTM)** – Ross Hendrick explained that multi year base line data has been collected at both dams, and that additional data will be collected after monitors are installed. The 401 Certificate (401) requires the plan be completed, and monitoring begins by the spring of year two of the license, and requires consultation with the PRFF and PRCC. However, Article 401 of the FERC license requires the plan be completed by April 1, 2009. Although not clear in the 401, Grant PUD believes the intent of the requirement is related to the pending modification of the Priest Rapids Dam fish ladder water supply to make sure it does not increase water temperatures within the ladder. Therefore, Grant PUD proposes to request an extension for completion and implementation of the FLTM plan that corresponds with the schedule for modification of the Priest Rapids Dam fish ladder water supply.

**PRFF members agreed to the FERC extension for the Fish Ladder Temperature Monitoring Plan. Malone will contact Rose regarding his vote on the Fish Ladder Temperature Monitoring Plan FERC extension.**

A **Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Plan** – The AIS was distributed for review and comments on January 28, 2009. In an effort to meet the FERC deadline of April 17, 2009, Grant PUD asked members to reduce their standard 60 day comment period to 30 days. Comments on the AIS are due by February 28, 2009. Aquatic invasive species common to Grant County are purple loosestrife, saltcedar and Eurasian milfoil. Monitoring for zebra and quagga mussels will continue. Public AIS education will be conducted at boat launches using signage and informative kiosks. Boater surveys will also be conducted. The AIS coordinator (WDFW) will be notified within 12 hours of new AIS discoveries. Grant PUD will review the plan with Pam Meacham, WDFW and Jeremy Sikes, WDOE during the comment period to address any concerns. If additional review is

needed after the 30 days, a FERC extension will be required. Further discussion will take place at the March 4, 2009 meeting.

- B Shallow Water DO/pH Temperature Monitoring Plan** – The 401 requires Grant PUD to conduct a short-term monitoring study to determine compliance with DO, pH, and temperature criteria in the shallow water habitats. Both WDOE and FERC require the plan to be completed by April 17, 2009. It is unlikely that a FERC approved plan will be ready to implement in time for monitoring to begin in 2009; therefore, Grant PUD requests a one year extension for completion and implementation of the shallow water monitoring plan. This will allow for proper selection of monitoring locations based on review of existing data, contract development with contractor to conduct the monitoring, and needed clarifications from WDOE. Hendrick will provide an update at the July PRRF meeting.

**PRFF members agreed to the FERC extension for the Shallow Water DO/pH Temperature Monitoring Plan.**

- VIII. Meeting Minutes** – Malone explained that the 401 Certification does not require that meeting minutes be approved by the PRFF. In the future, comments received will be attached as appendices to the meeting minutes. Minutes will then be posted to the Grant PUD website.

- December 12, 2008 will be posted to the website.

- IX. Next Meeting:** Wednesday, March 04, 2009, Grant PUD Natural Resources Office, Ephrata, WA.