



Meeting Minutes

Priest Rapids Fish Forum

Wednesday, June 03, 2009

10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

USFWS

215 Melody Lane, Suite 119

Wenatchee, WA 98801

Members

Stephen Lewis, USFWS
Bob Rose, YN
Keith Hatch, BIA
Marcie Mangold, WDOE

Patrick Verhey, WDFW
Carl Merkle, CTUIR
Joe Peone, CCT
Mike Clement, GCPUD

Attendees

Patrick Verhey, WDFW
Keith Hatch, BIA
Steve Lewis, USFWS
Ben Lenz, GCPUD (on phone)
Debbie Williams, GCPUD

Brad James, Molly Hallock, WDFW (on phone)
Marcie Mangold, WDOE (on phone)
Mike Clement, GCPUD
Mike Nicholls, GCPUD
Kevin Malone, Facilitator

Action Items:

1. **Brad James will provide the genetic history of the WDFW sturgeon source population to PRFF members.**
2. **Malone will email PRFF members requesting an official vote of approval for the Lamprey Ladder Modification Designs.**
3. **Lamprey study plan Ideas should be sent to Clement as soon as possible so the technology team can address specific questions and concerns.**
4. **An email vote to approve the Bull Trout Hydrologic Monitoring Plan will be sent out by Malone.**
5. **Williams will send out the United Airlines Moses Lake flight schedule to members.**

Decisions:

1. PRFF members in attendance approved Ladder Modification Designs.
2. PRFF members in attendance approved the Bull Trout Hydrologic Plan.

Final Meeting Minutes

- I. **Welcome and Introductions** – Attendees introduced themselves around the table and on the conference line.
- II. **Agenda Review** – Malone reviewed the agenda.
 - A **Additional Items** – Lewis asked that the committee discuss how consensus will be met regarding lamprey passage standards.
- III. **Action Item Review** – No discussion took place.
- IV. **PRFF Protocol Discussion** –
 - A **Review of CRITFC Protocol Updates (Bob Heinith edits)** – Malone reviewed additions that could be added to the draft protocol document. These include: Motions will require a second before discussion will take place. How to change meeting dates and times. Meeting notice will be changed from 60 days to 30 days. Meetings will be held the first Wednesday of each month. Additionally, the group had previously agreed to not have a formal approval of meeting minutes.
 - B **Consensus Vote on Protocols** – No vote was taken.
- V. **Management & Monitoring Evaluation Plan Updates**
 - A **Native Resident Fish update** - Grant PUD is working with WDFW on a capital funding contract for the Columbia Basin Hatchery. Verhey explained that after the new fiscal year begins on July 01, 2009, he may have additional information regarding the contract. Rainbow trout from this contract would be planted into Grant County lakes.
 - B **Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Update** – Grant PUD staff are working with WDFW to assure Zebra and Quagga Mussel sampling procedures are updated. FERC hasn't approved the AIS extension.
 - C **White Sturgeon Update** – Lenz explained that Grant PUD is currently waiting for FERC approval of the White Sturgeon Management Plan. After approval from FERC is received, monitoring and evaluation will proceed. In the meantime, Request for Proposals (RFP) are being worked on. Grant PUD

staff will be traveling to Cranbrook, B.C. during the second week of July to look at the Kootenai sturgeon facility.

Verhey explained that the Yakama Nation has requested Lake Roosevelt sturgeon eggs from WDFW. The sturgeon would be used for stocking purposes. Genetics are a concern to WDFW, as they would prefer genetics from the mid-Columbia come for the mid-Columbia. Brad James noted that the genetic approach is similar to Larry Hilderbrand's plan for Grant PUD. Columbia Basin Hatchery staff are targeting to breed 9 family groups. Clement stated, "As long as the genetics meet approved standards, then Grant PUD is comfortable with the proposal."

Brad James will provide the genetic history of the WDFW sturgeon source population to PRFF members.

Brad James reminded members that researcher's from the Hanford Nuclear Reservation clean up have requested to collect five sturgeon from the Wanapum Reservoir to be used as a control population for the Columbia River Toxin Study. Lenz should be contacted regarding this request. At the completion of the study, biological data and results should be made available to Grant PUD.

The design process for the sturgeon facility at Priest Rapids Hatchery is ongoing. The designs will be distributed to the PRFF for review upon completion.

D **Lamprey Update –**

- **Ladder Modification Design Drawings – Ladder Modification Design Drawings** – Nicholls reviewed Priest Rapids lamprey fish ladder modifications with members. Clement motioned that the drawings be approved by the PRFF and sent to PRCC for final approval. The motion was seconded by Hatch. **PRFF members in attendance approved Ladder Modification Designs. Malone will email PRFF members requesting an official vote of approval for the Lamprey Ladder Modification Designs.**

Verhey explained that during a Web Ex conference held yesterday, June 2nd for PRFF members (Attendees were: Bob Heinith, Bob Rose, Molly Hallock, Mike Clement, Mike Nicholls, and Debbie Williams) that were unable to attend today's meeting, Heinith and Rose expressed satisfaction with the design modification and told Grant PUD to move forward with the process. Some concerns discussed during the conference call were, passage efficiencies and grating at the exit of the fish ladder. The concern was that lamprey might go into the

grating and not be able to get out of the area. Nicholls explained that the diffusion chambers are not used, and they are open to the forebay, thus allowing the lamprey to swim out of the area. Heinith questioned if ammocoete could live in the silt under the grating. Clement explained that ammocoete would be evaluated during the next winter outages. In order to maintain a smooth surface for lamprey attachment, Grant PUD would perform additional maintenance to prevent Zebra or Quagga mussel colonies from taking hold.

If the PRCC approves the modifications on June 24th, the crowder and count stations will be built for installation during winter outage. Nicholls and Clement will meet with Bryan Nordlund, NMFS on June 16th to review designs.

- **Grant PUD RFP contract status** – On Monday, June 01, 2009, the Grant PUD Commission approved a 3 yr. contract with Long View Associates, Cramer Fish Sciences, LgL Limited, and Blue Leaf Environmental to perform technical studies outlined by the PRFF in 2010. Clement will be meeting with the research team to discuss study plans and asked that PRFF members provide ideas for studies prior to the July PRFF meeting. He is thinking that HT PIT-tags would be the least intrusive. RT technology could be used to look at behavioral characteristics. RT technology could be installed during winter ladder outage, 2009 if this approach makes sense or if the use of under water video is more appropriate. Technical members could attend the August meeting to answer study plan questions. **Lamprey study plan Ideas should be sent to Clement as soon as possible so the technology team can address specific questions and concerns.**
- **Adult Pacific Lamprey Telemetry Evaluation Update/status** – Clement suggested a HT detection array be placed at the entrance and exits of the fish ladder and also detection systems around the new count stations to determine what passage efficiency is. If this technology is in place, Grant PUD could passively monitor fish tagged by the Corp. downstream. Technology will be placed in ladders at Wanapum also. An adult telemetry evaluation will be performed in 2010.
- **How to Meet Consensus Regarding Success of Passage** - Clement explained that it's hopeful that 90% passage efficiency can be reached with the ladder modifications, but the number will continue to change

until someone reaches 100% Lamprey passage. Currently, lamprey passage standards can't be defined. It's Grant PUD's hope that after modifications to the fish ladder, Grant achieves the best passage efficiency on the river. Current passage at Wanapum is 84- 87% based on 2002 results for small sample size. **Agenda Item: Performance criteria and sample size will be discussed at the July meeting.**

E Bull Trout Hydrologic Monitoring Plan Update

- ACTION ITEM: Vote to review USFWS and WDFW edits and move to approve Bull Trout Hydrologic and Water Quality Study Plan and send to Ecology - Clement reviewed the Bull Trout Hydrologic Monitoring Plan Update with members. Comments received by WDFW, USFWS, and the Wanapum's were discussed. Clement motioned to approve the plan, Lewis seconded. Members present approved the plan to be sent to WDOE. PRFF members in attendance approved the Bull Trout Hydrologic Plan. **An email vote to approve the Bull Trout Hydrologic Monitoring Plan will be sent out by Malone.**

VI. **Additional Items** – No discussion took place.

VII. **Next Meeting:** July 01, 2009, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Grant PUD Natural Resources Office, Ephrata, WA. **Williams will send out the United Airlines Moses Lake flight schedule to member.**