



Meeting Minutes

Priest Rapids Fish Forum Web-EX and Telephone Conference

Wednesday, May 5, 2010
10:00 – 12:30 p.m.

Technical Members

Stephen Lewis, USFWS
Bob Rose, YN
Bob Heinith, CRITFC
Tom Dresser, GCPUD
Ben Lenz, GCPUD

Patrick Verhey, WDFW
Keith Hatch, BIA
Marcie Mangold, WDOE
Mike Clement, GCPUD

ATTENDEES:

Patrick Verhey, WDFW
Molly Hallock, WDFW
Alyssa Buck, Wanapum
Larry Hildebrand, Golder & Associates
Mike Clement, GCPUD
Kevin Malone, Facilitator

Chad Jackson, WDFW
Marcie Mangold, WDOE
Bryan Nass (LGL)
Rod O'Conner, Blue Leaf Environmental
Ben Lenz, GCPUD

Action Items:

1. Mike Clement to provide agenda for June meeting, which will be a conference call.
2. PRFF members to contact Mike Clement with agenda topics for June
3. Ben Lenz to send out dates for PRFF WS Tour in upper Wanapum reservoir following PRFF meeting.

Decisions:

1. Grant has decided not to ask Ecology to change study deliverable dates.
2. Nighttime flow reduction tests will not be evaluated during the 2010 adult lamprey passage evaluation. The potential to reduce flows in the lower PRD ladder will be determined based on the 2010 study results. These results would be used to determine if the test would be warranted.

Meeting Minutes

1. Welcome and Introductions – Attendees introduced themselves around the table and on the conference line.

2. Agenda Review – Action item review was added.

3. Ecology Response to Changing Report Dates- Marcie Mangold reported that Ecology could change study reporting dates but it would take some effort (amending the 411 Certification). **Given the level of effort required, Grant decided to keep the reporting dates as they are currently outlined in the 401 permit.**

4. Acoustic Tag Testing Priest Ladder. Rod O'Conner provided an overview of acoustic technology testing and its application at Priest Rapids Dam. Rod said testing indicated that it will be an effective means to track Pacific lamprey as they enter the left-bank fish ladder. Testing indicated that inside the ladder the acoustic array can place fish within 0.2 ft in the water column, while outside tags are detected by hydrophones as much as 450 ft into the tailrace under ideal conditions. During the study, actual detection range outside of the ladder will depend on dam operations (effect background noise levels). With all turbines running, detection range is significantly less (about 75 ft).

5. Nighttime Flow Reduction- Mike Clement provided an overview and presentation of water velocities at the ladder entrances under a range of tailrace flow conditions. The data indicated that a reduction in auxiliary water supply could substantially reduce ladder entrance velocities and potentially compromise the attraction flow. PRFF members were concerned at the last meeting that this reduction in water velocity may result in Pacific lamprey and salmonids not finding fish ladder entrances. Because of this the PRFF decided to conduct 2010 without nighttime flow reductions, analyze the results, and determine if the testing is warranted in 2011 or thereafter. PRFF members present at the April PRFF meeting had already agreed to the change. Bob Heinith submitted an e-mail in support of this decision to put off testing. **The PRFF agreed that nighttime flow reduction testing would not occur in 2010 and to let the study results suggest whether or not to do the test in the future.**

6. Priest Rapids Ladder and Video Presentation- Bryan Nass showed examples of underwater video of the Priest Rapids ladder. Underwater video will be used to examine lamprey behavior near newly installed plating, crowders and newly designed fish counting stations. The cameras will only be operated at night. They will use infrared lighting so that fish are not affected. Researchers are testing different light intensities and locations to improve video images. The study is on target for 2010 testing.

7. Marion Drain Sturgeon Facility Update- Ben Lenz reported that three female sturgeon were spawned last week by the Yakama's. These fish are part of their commercial operations. Spawning was successful, so it appears the facility is ready to handle fish for the Grant program this year. Ben also reported that the facility is mostly fully plumbed, but the secondary well still needs to be hooked up. **Ben will also send out information on touring white sturgeon monitoring and broodstock collection activities taking place this spring.**

8. Next Meeting- Mike Clement will send out an agenda for the June meeting. The meeting will focus on white sturgeon study activities that will be in progress at that time. **PRFF members should contact Mike Clement if they have agenda items for the meeting.**