



## Meeting Minutes

### Priest Rapids Fish Forum

Wednesday, November 3, 2010

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Conference Call/Web Ex

#### Technical Members

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

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

#### ATTENDEES: (\*Denotes PRFF member)

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Bob Rose, Yakama Nation\*  
Patrick Verhey, WDFW\*  
Mike Clement, GCPUD\*  
Chad Jackson, WDFW  
Ross Henrick, GCPUD

Bob Heinith, CRITFC\*  
Larry Hildebrand, Golder Assoc.  
Keith Garner, GCPUD  
Kevin Malone, Facilitator

#### Action Items:

1. Kevin Malone to send out an e-mail to PRFF members asking for agenda items for December 6, 2010 meeting.
2. Mike Clement to check and see if turbines were running when Pacific lamprey were observed with the DIDSON camera.
3. Mike Clement to check and see if DIDSON camera work is scheduled for next year.
4. Larry Hildebrand to send out EXCEL file with white sturgeon monitoring results.
5. PRFF members need to submit any comments on white sturgeon stocking document to Grant PUD.
6. Bob Rose to provide write-up of proposal to amend PRFF meeting schedule. He will talk to Marci Mangold (DOE) to see if the changes proposed would be consistent with the 401.

## Final Meeting Minutes

- I. **Welcome and Introductions** – Attendees on the phone introduced themselves. Mike Clement provided a list of folks attending in person at Grant PUD's Ephrata office.
- II. **Agenda Review** – No additions were made to the agenda.
  - A. **Action Items:** Action items identified during the October meeting were completed.
- III. **Update on the Pacific Lamprey Study:** Attendees reviewed video of Pacific lamprey passing through project fish ladders and the counting station. A question was asked if the plating added to the diffusers in the fish ladder decreased flow. Clement noted that total flow remained the same but velocities were slightly increased across the diffusers due to the decrease of surface area of the diffuser. The change in velocity did not violate NMFS passage criteria, as confirmed by Grant PUD in conversations with NMFS staff.

Clement noted that the HD detectors were turned off on November 2<sup>nd</sup>, and that the fish ladders will be taken out of service for annual maintenance beginning on November 29<sup>th</sup>.

The FERC license requires Grant PUD to test exclusion screens in the emergency wheel gate slots at the dams. This year a DIDSON camera was used to monitor fish behavior in these slots. The camera recorded a total of 60 observations of Pacific lamprey collectively at the two dams (Wanapum/Priest). However, it is not possible to determine the number of fish observed as the camera could have recorded one fish multiple times. Clement explained that in the future, Grant PUD will be to evaluate and measure fish use and fallback through turbines the using HD PIT tags and acoustic tags. **Mike Clement will check and see if any additional DIDSON work is proposed for 2011 (agenda item for December). Clement will also check to see if the turbines were operational when fish were recorded.**

Because many of the Pacific lamprey observations occurred prior to typical migration timing for this species, it is suspected that these fish were from the 2009 migration that overwintered in the pools. Rose suggested that monitoring occur earlier next year to see if this hypothesis is correct.
- IV. **Status of YN White Sturgeon Activities** – Rose reported that they have put out a bid to develop a shallow well at the Marion Drain facility.
- V. **Status of Grant PUD's White Sturgeon M&E Activities/Preliminary results** – Larry Hildebrand provided an overview of 2010 sturgeon

tagging. He will be sending out a spreadsheet for folks to review. In short, they captured over 600 white sturgeon in 2010, with 90% of these being of hatchery origin (10% wild). They tagged 40 fish using sonic tags and released these back to the river. There is now a total of 46 sonic-tagged fish in the system. Larry will send out a report describing results in late December or early January. Rose requested that the PRFF review White Sturgeon M&E activities at the January meeting in more detail.

- VI. Review of 2011 White Sturgeon stocking proposal** – The stocking proposal discussed at the September meeting was sent out to the PRFF in October for review. **Comments should be submitted to Grant within the next couple of weeks.**
- VII. Status of White Sturgeon Independent Scientific Review Document Timelines** - Mike Clement reported that he is expecting to receive comments by the end of November. He will provide this review to the PRFF in December or January.
- VIII. Proposal to modify PRFF meeting frequency and add sub-group meetings (coordination with Mid-C's for Pacific lamprey and White Sturgeon)** - Bob Rose is proposing to alter the PRFF meeting schedule from monthly to quarterly. Additionally, the meetings would be held with other Mid-Columbia utilities concurrently. Monthly meetings may still be held for individual species (e.g. Pacific lamprey). **Bob will send a proposal to the PRFF with a set of recommendations in regards to meeting frequency, topics and attendees. He will talk to Marci Mangold (WDOE) to see if the changes he proposes would be consistent with the 401.**
- IX. Priest Rapids Dam Bypass Installation and Studies Schedule Modification per 401 Certification** - Grant informed the group that the Priest Rapids bypass will not be completed until 2012/2013. Because of this construction delay they are asking Washington State Department of Ecology for a time extension for completing the total dissolved gas (TDG) study required in the 401 certification for this facility. The study would be undertaken as soon as the bypass system was completed.
- X. Next Meeting** – The next meeting of the PRFF is scheduled for December 6, 2010 in Ephrata, Washington (conference call and WebEx). **Kevin Malone will send out e-mail requesting agenda topics. If few are received, then the meeting will be delayed until January of 2011.**