



Conference Call Minutes

Aquatic Settlement Work Group

To: Aquatic SWG Parties

Date: February 20, 2019

From: John Ferguson, Chair (Anchor QEA, LLC)

Re: Final Minutes of the January 9, 2019 Aquatic SWG Conference Call

The Aquatic Settlement Work Group (SWG) met by conference call on Wednesday, January 9, 2019, from 10:00 to 10:30 a.m. Attendees are listed in Attachment A of these conference call minutes.

I. Summary of Action Items

1. Douglas PUD will provide a summary of Douglas PUD 2018 Pacific Lamprey translocation efforts, including those in coordination with Grant PUD, the Yakama Nation (YN), and the Colville Confederated Tribes (CCT), within the *2018 Pacific Lamprey Management Plan Annual Report* (Item VI-1).
2. Aquatic SWG members will contact Andrew Gingerich if the member is interested in attending a meeting at Wells Fish Hatchery on January 29, 2019, at 10:00 a.m., to be held with Douglas PUD, Wells Fish Hatchery, and CCT staff to discuss Wells White Sturgeon rearing practices in 2019 and beyond (Item VI-1).
3. The Aquatic SWG meeting on February 13, 2019, will be held **in-person** at Wells Fish Hatchery (Item VII-1). *(Note: per a request from the Wells Dam mechanic staff and to better accommodate a tour of the Wells Dam fishway, this meeting was rescheduled to February 20, 2019.)*

II. Summary of Decisions

1. Aquatic SWG members present approved Douglas PUD's proposal to stock 550 brood year (BY) 2019 White Sturgeon in the Wells reservoir in 2020, which includes the 325 fish program target for 2020 plus the 225 fish (or balance of) short of program in 2019; and similarly, additional or future shortfalls to stocking targets will be addressed in subsequent years, as necessary (Item VI-2).

III. Agreements

1. There were no agreements discussed during today's conference call.

IV. Review Items

1. A draft Wells Fish Hatchery BY2019 White Sturgeon Rearing Plan was distributed to the Aquatic SWG by Kristi Geris on November 29, 2018. A revised draft plan was distributed to the Aquatic SWG by Geris on February 12, 2019. Douglas PUD will request approval of the revised draft plan during the Aquatic SWG meeting on February 20, 2019.
2. A draft *Wells Hydroelectric Project Total Dissolved Gas Abatement Plan 2018 Annual Report* was distributed to the Aquatic SWG by Kristi Geris on January 18, 2019 and is available for review with edits and comments due to Andrew Gingerich by Monday, February 11, 2019.
3. A draft *2019 Total Dissolved Gas Abatement Plan Wells Hydroelectric Project FERC Project No. 2149* was distributed to the Aquatic SWG by Kristi Geris on January 18, 2019 and is available for review with edits and comments due to Andrew Gingerich by Monday, February 11, 2019.
4. A draft 2019 Aquatic Settlement Agreement Action Plan was distributed to the Aquatic SWG by Kristi Geris on February 7, 2019. Douglas PUD will request approval of the draft plan during the Aquatic SWG meeting on March 13, 2019 (Item VI-5).

V. Documents Finalized

1. There are no documents that have been recently finalized.

VI. Summary of Discussions

1. Welcome, Review Agenda, Meeting Minutes Approval, and Review of Action Items (John Ferguson):

John Ferguson welcomed the Aquatic SWG members (attendees are listed in Attachment A) and reviewed the agenda. Ferguson asked for any additions or changes to the agenda. No additions or changes were requested.

The revised draft December 12, 2018 conference call minutes were reviewed. Kristi Geris said all comments and revisions received from members of the Aquatic SWG were incorporated into the revised minutes. Aquatic SWG members present approved the December 12, 2018 conference call minutes, as revised.

Action items from the Aquatic SWG conference call on December 12, 2018, are as follows (note: the following italicized item numbers correspond to agenda items from the December 12, 2018 conference call):

- *Douglas PUD will continue communicating to the Aquatic SWG coordination with Wells Dam mechanical staff regarding inspection of the diffuser grating spacing in the Wells Dam collection gallery during the 2018/2019 Wells Dam winter maintenance period (Item VI-1).*
Chas Kyger said the east fishway at Wells Dam is now fully dewatered and mechanics started maintenance activities today. Kyger said the east fishway will be offline for maintenance for at least 3 to 4 weeks, which looks to align well with the Aquatic SWG tour of the fishway on February 13, 2019, to view completed repairs. Kyger said he and the Mechanical Foreman at Wells Dam reviewed the areas of concern once again, and Kyger will be notified when the work is complete.
- *Douglas PUD will provide a document summarizing Douglas PUD 2018 Pacific Lamprey translocation efforts, including those in coordination with Grant PUD, the YN, and the CCT, to Kristi Geris for distribution to the Aquatic SWG (Item VI-1).*
Andrew Gingerich said this action item will be carried forward and addressed within the 2018 Pacific Lamprey Management Plan Annual Report.
- *Aquatic SWG members will contact Andrew Gingerich if the member is interested in attending an in-person meeting in January 2019 with Douglas PUD, Wells Fish Hatchery, and CCT staff to discuss Wells BY2019 White Sturgeon rearing practices (Item VI-4).*
Gingerich said Chad Jackson and Jason McLellan have expressed interest in attending this meeting, which has been scheduled for January 29, 2019, at 10:00 a.m. at Wells Fish Hatchery. Gingerich said others are welcome to attend. He said discussions will be focused on White Sturgeon rearing practices in 2019 and beyond.

2. DECISION: BY2019/2020 Wells White Sturgeon Stocking Target (Andrew Gingerich):

John Ferguson recalled discussing during the Aquatic SWG meeting on December 12, 2018, Douglas PUD's proposal to stock 550 BY2019 fish in 2020, which would include the 325 fish target for 2020 plus the 225 fish that were not stocked in 2019. Ferguson also recalled discussing not needing a Statement of Agreement; rather, capturing this decision in the meeting minutes was believed to be sufficient. He recalled Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife's suggestion to include language explaining that if there is an additional or future shortfall in program these numbers will be added to the following year's release target. Ferguson said the CCT and Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology) agreed with these comments during the meeting on December 12, 2018, and the YN indicated support of these discussions via email on January 7, 2019. Ferguson asked Douglas PUD if any further comments have been received. Andrew Gingerich said this is a good summary and no further comments have been received to date.

Aquatic SWG members present approved Douglas PUD's proposal to stock 550 BY2019 White Sturgeon in the Wells reservoir in 2020, which includes the 325 fish program target for

2020 plus the 225 fish (or balance of) short of program in 2019; and similarly, additional or future shortfalls to stocking targets will be addressed in subsequent years, as necessary.

3. BY2018 Wells White Sturgeon Rearing at Wells Fish Hatchery (Andrew Gingerich):

Andrew Gingerich recalled reporting during the last Aquatic SWG meeting on December 12, 2018, that as of sampling on December 11, 2018, fish were separated into three tanks:

Rearing Tank	Number of Fish
1	40 (large fish)
2	42 (medium fish)
3	20 (small fish)

Gingerich said since that time, 2 fish have been lost, which was to be expected based on visual observations. He said as of January 7, 2019, there are about 99 fish on station at Wells Fish Hatchery and fish sizes and percent increases, are as follows:

Rearing Tank	Mean Fish Mass (grams)	Percent Increase
1	25.0 (small fish)	103%
2	89.0 (large fish)	71%
3	60.0 (medium fish)	87%

Gingerich said the differences in percent increase between groups is based on feeding rates. He noted that the small fish, who are on a feeding rate of 20% body weight per day, more than doubled in size over the past month. He said BY2018 fish sizes sampled on January 7, 2019, (25 to 89 grams) are about 1 month ahead of schedule compared to BY2017 fish sizes. The BY2019 fish sizes did not reach this size until the second week of February 2018. He said Douglas PUD and Wells Fish Hatchery staff are impressed with how well these fish are doing and speculated that fish growth could be due to lower densities. He said despite fish doing so well, hatchery staff plan to continue implementing the same feeding and growth strategies until closer to the release date.

4. 2018 Wells Dam Total Dissolved Gas Abatement Report and 2019 Wells Dam Gas Abatement Plan and Bypass Operating Plan (Andrew Gingerich):

Andrew Gingerich said Douglas PUD will soon be distributing two draft water quality documents for review. Gingerich said the 2018 Wells Dam Total Dissolved Gas Abatement Report summarizes total dissolved gas compliance in 2018. He said the 2019 Wells Dam Gas Abatement Plan and Bypass Operating Plan conveys to the Aquatic SWG, Ecology, and the

Wells Habitat Conservation Plan Coordinating Committee, Douglas PUD's plan to provide safe and effective passage of juvenile salmonids, meet total dissolved gas standards, and operate Wells Dam safely in 2019. Gingerich recalled the tight review and approval timeline for these documents each year, notably because the final data needed to draft the documents are not available until after December 31, and the final documents are due to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) each year by February 28. Gingerich said he hopes to have these documents distributed to Ecology and the Aquatic SWG for a 30-day review by January 18, 2019, to request approval of the documents during the Aquatic SWG in-person meeting on February 13, 2019, and to submit the final approved documents to FERC by the February 28, 2019 deadline. *(Note: as discussed, both documents were distributed for review by January 18, 2019; see Review Items.)*

5. 2019 Aquatic Settlement Agreement Action Plan (Andrew Gingerich):

Andrew Gingerich said the 2019 Aquatic Settlement Agreement Action Plan will be similar to action plans in years past. He said the action plan is not a FERC requirement, and Douglas PUD plans to walk through a draft action plan during the Aquatic SWG in-person meeting on February 13, 2019. He recalled the plan is a living document and a useful tool to show what Douglas PUD plans to accomplish in the coming year under each resource area. He said the document is also helpful for budgeting and contracting.

A draft 2019 Aquatic Settlement Agreement Action Plan was distributed to the Aquatic SWG by Kristi Geris on February 7, 2019. Douglas PUD will request approval of the draft plan during the Aquatic SWG meeting on March 13, 2019.

VII. Administration

1. Upcoming meetings (John Ferguson):

John Ferguson recalled that the Aquatic SWG meeting on January 9, 2019, was initially intended to be held in-person at Wells Fish Hatchery; however, due to unexpected delays in dewatering the Wells Dam fishway for annual winter maintenance, the Aquatic SWG meeting on January 9, 2019 was convened by conference call and the Aquatic SWG meeting on February 13, 2019 will now be held in-person at Wells Fish Hatchery. *(Note: per a request from the Wells Dam mechanic staff and to better accommodate a tour of the Wells Dam fishway, this meeting was rescheduled to February 20, 2019.)*

Ferguson asked if Douglas PUD has any comments regarding logistics for the in-person meeting. Andrew Gingerich said the format of the meeting should be similar to past in-person meetings at Wells Dam. He said Aquatic SWG can either meet at the Douglas PUD headquarters in East Wenatchee, Washington, and carpool out to the dam, or meet at the

Wells Dam Overlook in Azwell, Washington. He said the Aquatic SWG meeting will take place first, Douglas PUD will provide lunch, and then a tour of the dewatered fishway at Wells Dam will be provided for those interested. He reminded Aquatic SWG members to dress accordingly (i.e., hard hat, boots, waders, weather-appropriate clothing). He said an email containing these details and a request to RSVP will be distributed prior to the meeting. Ralph Lampman also suggested bringing a headlamp.

Other upcoming meetings include: March 13, 2019 (TBD) and April 10, 2019 (TBD).

List of Attachments

Attachment A List of Attendees

Attachment A – Attendees

Name	Role	Organization
John Ferguson	Aquatic SWG Chairman	Anchor QEA, LLC
Kristi Geris	Administration/Technical Support	Anchor QEA, LLC
Andrew Gingerich	Aquatic SWG Technical Representative	Douglas PUD
Chas Kyger	Technical Support	Douglas PUD
Breann Zimmerman	Aquatic SWG Technical Representative	Washington Department of Ecology
Patrick Verhey	Aquatic SWG Technical Representative	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Jason McLellan	Aquatic SWG Technical Representative	Colville Confederated Tribes
Ralph Lampman	Aquatic SWG Technical Representative	Yakama Nation