



Conference Call Minutes

Aquatic Settlement Work Group

To: Aquatic SWG Parties

Date: November 10, 2022

From: John Ferguson, Chair, Anchor QEA, LLC

Re: Final Minutes of the October 12, 2022, Aquatic SWG Conference Call

The Aquatic Settlement Work Group (SWG) met by conference call on Wednesday, October 12, 2022, from 10:00 a.m. 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 *Wells Dam 2022 Adult Lamprey Approach and Passage Study* (2022 Adult Pacific Lamprey Study) updates each month as more data become available (Item VI-1).
2. Anchor QEA will provide a summary of the discussion and Aquatic SWG decision regarding the report, *White Sturgeon Supplementation and Management Plan Implementation in the Wells Reservoir, 2020-21* (2021 White Sturgeon Supplementation Evaluation Report) to Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) and will relay Ecology's vote via email back to the Aquatic SWG (Item VI-2). (*Note: This summary was provided, and Ecology approved the report via email on October 17, 2022.*)
3. Douglas PUD will revisit a possible tour of the Wells Dam east fish ladder once winter maintenance dates are confirmed (Item VI-6).
4. The Aquatic SWG meeting on November 9, 2022, will be held by conference call (Item VII-1).

II. Summary of Decisions

1. Aquatic SWG members present approved the 2021 White Sturgeon Supplementation Evaluation Report, as revised (Item VI-2). (*Note: Ecology approved the report via email on October 17, 2022.*)

III. Agreements

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

IV. Review Items

1. There are no items that are currently available for review.

V. Documents Finalized

1. The 2021 White Sturgeon Supplementation Evaluation Report distributed on September 21, 2022, is the final version, as approved by the Aquatic SWG on October 17, 2022 (Item VI-2).

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 (Attachment A). Ferguson asked for any additions or changes to the agenda. No additions or changes were requested by Aquatic SWG members. Ferguson added Wells Dam East Fish Ladder Tour to the agenda.

The revised draft September 14, 2022, conference call minutes were reviewed. Kristi Geris said only one edit was received from members of the Aquatic SWG, which was incorporated into the revised minutes. Jason McLellan provided the correct spelling for Calcein (Se-Mark®). Aquatic SWG members present approved the September 14, 2022, conference call minutes, as revised. The Yakama Nation abstained because the technical representative was not present during the September 14, 2022, conference call.

Action items from the Aquatic SWG conference call on September 14, 2022, are as follows (*Note: The following italicized item numbers correspond to agenda items from the September 14, 2022, meeting*):

1. *Douglas PUD will provide Wells Dam 2022 Adult Lamprey Approach and Passage Study (2022 Adult Pacific Lamprey Study) updates, each month, as more data become available (Item VI-4).*
This action item will be discussed during today's conference call and will also be carried forward.
2. *Douglas PUD will revisit the Pacific Lamprey Literature Review Libraries during the Aquatic SWG conference call on October 12, 2022 (Item VII-1).*
This action item will be discussed during today's conference call.

2. DECISION: 2021 White Sturgeon Supplementation Evaluation Report (Chas Kyger):

The draft 2021 White Sturgeon Supplementation Evaluation Report was distributed to the Aquatic SWG by Kristi Geris on August 9, 2022. Chas Kyger said all edits received were incorporated into the final draft report, which was distributed on September 21, 2022, along with two comment/response matrices.

Aquatic SWG members present approved the 2021 White Sturgeon Supplementation Evaluation Report, as revised. *(Note: Ecology approved the report via email on October 17, 2022.)*

John Ferguson said Breean Zimmerman could not attend today's conference call, but she indicated that she plans to provide a vote via email following today's discussions. Ferguson said Anchor QEA will provide a summary of this discussion and the Aquatic SWG's decision to Ecology and will relay Ecology's vote via email back to the Aquatic SWG. *(Note: This summary was provided, and Ecology approved the report via email on October 17, 2022.)*

The 2021 White Sturgeon Supplementation Evaluation Report distributed on September 21, 2022, is the final version, as approved by the Aquatic SWG on October 17, 2022.

3. 2022 Pacific Lamprey Study Update (John Rohrback):

John Rohrback recalled an email exchange between Ralph Lampman and Chas Kyger about which fish were acoustic and passive integrated transponder (PIT)-tagged versus which received only a PIT tag. Kyger provided a spreadsheet showing this differentiation, which was distributed to the Aquatic SWG by Kristi Geris on September 13, 2022.

Rohrback said, regarding acoustic data, Douglas PUD has not yet downloaded the acoustic receivers. This will likely be completed during the last week in October 2022 or the first few weeks in November 2022. Douglas PUD also plans to obtain data from the Chelan PUD acoustic receivers, likely during the same timeframe.

Regarding PIT data, a complete tag history was downloaded at the end of yesterday. Among the 645 fish released, a total of 217 fish (33% of the total released) have had a subsequent PIT detection at a PIT array, including 189 fish (29% of the total released) with a subsequent detection within the Wells Dam adult fish ladders. That is, the vast majority (87%) of subsequent PIT detections have occurred within the Wells Dam adult fish ladder. Subsequent PIT detections that did not occur at Wells Dam include detections at the Rock Island Dam adult PIT array; Rocky Reach Dam adult fishway; within the Entiat, Wenatchee, Methow, and Chewuch rivers; and some at the Lower Okanogan Instream Array (or OKL array) in the Okanogan River. To note, this is only a snapshot of PIT tag detections so far. These are not the results of the study.

John Ferguson asked how often Douglas PUD is querying detections. Rohrback said, on average, it has been a couple times per month, as time allows.

Ralph Lampman asked if the detection times have been similar. Rohrback said he does not have this information in front of him, but he thinks most of the 189 fish detected at

Wells Dam occurred within 1 month of release. He also does not expect these numbers to change much until fish start moving again next spring, as he suspects fish movement is slowing down now for the winter months. Lampman asked if the acoustic tags will turn off during the winter months. Rohrback said currently, the ping rate is once every 2 minutes. During winter, the ping rate slows to once per every 10 to 15 minutes. In spring, the ping rate will increase back to once per 2 minutes. There was an option to turn off the tags throughout winter, but this would have only saved a few days of battery life, so Douglas PUD chose to keep the tags running. Lampman agreed this was a good choice.

4. Juvenile and Adult Pacific Lamprey Literature Review Libraries (John Rohrback):

John Rohrback said four publications have been added to the Douglas PUD Pacific Lamprey literature review libraries. In the adult library, this included: 1) a white paper by the Pacific Lamprey Conservation Initiative (PLCI) Lamprey Technical Workgroup on upstream passage; 2) a presentation by Northwest Fisheries Science Center on recent marine collections; and 3) a peer reviewed publication on Pacific Lamprey translocations in the Snake River. In the juvenile library, this included: 1) a peer reviewed publication, co-authored by Ralph Lampman, on sampling designs for larval lampreys.

Rohrback said to contact him with questions, comments, or additional publications. He will upload new publications to the libraries as he receives them.

5. Pacific Lamprey Conservation Agreement (Ralph Lampman):

Ralph Lampman said he has been coordinating with Douglas PUD via email about the Pacific Lamprey Conservation Agreement (Agreement). PLCI is hosting a Lamprey Summit on December 13, 2022, at the World Forestry Center in Portland, Oregon. As part of this summit, there will be a re-signing of the Agreement. The Agreement has been updated since the original Agreement was signed in 2012. PLCI is seeking signatories and letters of support for this updated Agreement. The original deadline for submissions was the end of September 2022; however, there were requests to extend this deadline, which is now December 1, 2022. Grant PUD submitted a letter of support and Chelan PUD is considering submitting a letter of support. Lampman hopes Douglas PUD will also submit a letter of support. The Lamprey Information Exchange Meeting kicks off the day after the Lamprey Summit, where there will be presentations by each Regional Management Unit, and the entire week is designated as the "Lamprey Week."

John Ferguson asked if Lampman needs or requests anything from the Aquatic SWG agencies or just from Douglas PUD. Lampman said he believes coordination has already taken place with the Aquatic SWG agencies regarding the Agreement, and he asked if Douglas PUD has any updates. John Rohrback thanked Lampman for reaching out and

extending the submission deadline. At this time, he cannot say with absolute certainty whether Douglas PUD will submit a letter of support or not but expects that it will.

6. Wells Dam East Fish Ladder Tour (John Ferguson):

John Ferguson recalled, for the past few years, Aquatic SWG members have expressed interest in touring the east fish ladder at Wells Dam; however, due to COVID-19 and other scheduling issues, this has not yet taken place. Last year, the east ladder underwent a longer outage. This year, the east ladder will likely undergo a shorter outage. He asked if members are still interested in touring the east ladder if a tour is possible. Ralph Lampman said he is still interested. Chas Kyger said Douglas PUD can likely accommodate this. Currently, the east fish ladder outage is scheduled for December 19, 2022; however, this date may shift. Douglas PUD will revisit a possible tour of the Wells Dam east fish ladder once winter maintenance dates are confirmed.

7. Brood Year 2022 White Sturgeon Rearing and Surplus Update (Chas Kyger):

Chas Kyger summarized a Brood Year 2022 White Sturgeon Rearing Update (Attachment B), which was distributed to the Aquatic SWG by Kristi Geris prior to the conference call on October 12, 2022. Kyger said approximately 2,800 fish are on station at Wells Fish Hatchery. Fish are surviving and growing well and are on track to meet program goals for both Chelan and Douglas PUDs. Attachment B shows the different tanks and fish sizes, which will continue to change as fish are sorted and graded by size. If these conditions continue, there will likely be a few hundred fish extra above program, some of which will fall within the 10% overage built into the stocking rate. John Ferguson asked if there are plans for additional surplus actions. Kyger said not at this time. If there is a need to surplus fish, it will probably be a small number, so Douglas PUD is waiting to have this discussion.

VII. Administration

1. Upcoming Meetings (John Ferguson):

The Aquatic SWG meeting on November 9, 2022, will be held by conference call.

Other upcoming meetings include December 14, 2022 (conference call), and January 11, 2023 (TBD).

List of Attachments

Attachment A List of Attendees

Attachment B BY 2022 White Sturgeon Rearing Update

Attachment A - Attendees

Name	Role	Organization
John Ferguson	Aquatic SWG Chairman	Anchor QEA, LLC
Kristi Geris	Administration/Technical Support	Anchor QEA, LLC
Chas Kyger	Aquatic SWG Technical Alternate	Douglas PUD
John Rohrback	Aquatic SWG Technical Support	Douglas PUD
RD Nelle	Aquatic SWG Technical Representative	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Patrick Verhey	Aquatic SWG Technical Representative	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Laura Heironimus	Aquatic SWG Technical Alternate	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Jason McLellan	Aquatic SWG Technical Representative	Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation
Ralph Lampman	Aquatic SWG Technical Representative	Yakama Nation