



Conference Call Minutes

Aquatic Settlement Work Group

To: Aquatic SWG Parties

Date: February 11, 2021

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

Re: Final Minutes of the January 13, 2021, Aquatic SWG Conference Call

The Aquatic Settlement Work Group (SWG) met by conference call on Wednesday, January 13, 2021, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Attendees are listed in Attachment A of these conference call minutes.

I. Summary of Action Items

1. Douglas PUD will provide a presentation summarizing the 2013 and 2016–2017 Pacific Lamprey studies conducted in the Wells Project, during the Aquatic SWG conference call on February 10, 2021 (Item VI-1).
2. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) will forward monthly weblinks to attend the Pacific Lamprey Conservation Initiative's Lamprey Technical Workgroup 4th Annual Lamprey Information Exchange Monthly Webinar Series, which will convene on the second Tuesday of each month from January to June 2021 (Item VI-2). *(Note: a flyer containing these monthly weblinks was distributed to the Aquatic SWG by Kristi Geris on January 14, 2021.)*
3. Douglas PUD and the Yakama Nation (YN) will produce a comprehensive table summarizing Pacific Lamprey translocation efforts completed to date by Douglas PUD, the YN, and the Colville Confederated Tribes (CCT), for discussion during the Aquatic SWG conference call on February 10, 2021 (Item VI-9). *(Note: Andrew Gingerich provided an edited translocation table to Ralph Lampman for discussion.)*
4. The Aquatic SWG meeting on February 10, 2021, will be held by conference call (Item VII-1).

II. Summary of Decisions

1. There were no decision items approved during today's conference call.

III. Agreements

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

IV. Review Items

1. The draft plan, *Bull Trout Passage and Take Monitoring at Wells Dam and Twisp River Weir*, was distributed to the Aquatic SWG for review by Kristi Geris on December 3, 2020, and a revised draft plan was distributed on January 19, 2021; Douglas PUD will request approval of the revised draft plan during the Aquatic SWG conference call on February 10, 2021 (Item VI-5).
2. The draft plan, *2021 Total Dissolved Gas Abatement Plan* and appended *Wells Bypass Operating Plan (2021 GAP/BOP)*, was distributed to the Aquatic SWG by Kristi Geris on January 8, 2021. A revised draft plan was distributed by Geris on January 27, 2021. Edits and comments are due to Andrew Gingerich by February 8, 2021 (Item VI-6).
3. The draft report, *2020 Annual Report Total Dissolved Gas Abatement Plan (2020 TDG/GAP Annual Report)*, was distributed to the Aquatic SWG by Kristi Geris on January 12, 2021, and is available for review with edits and comments due to Andrew Gingerich by February 8, 2021 (Item VI-6).
4. The draft *2021 Aquatic Settlement Agreement and Workgroup Action Plan* was distributed to the Aquatic SWG by Kristi Geris on January 26, 2021; Douglas PUD will request approval of the draft plan during the Aquatic SWG conference call on February 10, 2021.

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 listed in Attachment A). Ferguson asked for any additions or changes to the agenda. The following revisions were requested:

- Andrew Gingerich added: Review of the Aquatic SWG Chair
- Ralph Lampman added: Pacific Lamprey Information Exchange Webinars and Update on the YN Fisheries Program Manager Position
- Steve Lewis added: Pacific Lamprey Study Plan Development

The revised draft December 9, 2020, conference call minutes were reviewed. Kristi Geris said edits and comments received from members of the Aquatic SWG were incorporated into the revised minutes. Geris said she also added distribution of the draft 2021 GAP/BOP and draft

2021 TDG/GAP Annual Report under *Review Items*. Aquatic SWG members present approved the December 9, 2020, conference call minutes, as revised.

Action items from the Aquatic SWG conference call on December 9, 2020, are as follows (Note: the following italicized item numbers correspond to agenda items from the December 9, 2020, meeting):

- *Douglas PUD will provide a presentation summarizing the 2013 and 2016–2017 Pacific Lamprey studies conducted in the Wells Project, during a future Aquatic SWG meeting (Item VI-1).*

This action item will be carried forward and will be discussed during the Aquatic SWG conference call on February 10, 2021.

- *Aquatic SWG members will review the draft plan, Bull Trout Passage and Take Monitoring at Wells Dam and Twisp River Weir, and be prepared to vote to approve the plan during the Aquatic SWG conference call on January 13, 2021 (Item VI-3).*

This action item will be discussed during today's conference call.

2. Pacific Lamprey Information Exchange Webinars (Ralph Lampman):

Ralph Lampman said the first Pacific Lamprey Information Exchange Webinar¹ was held yesterday, January 12, 2021, and was highly attended. Lampman said these webinars will convene monthly and he plans to share updates with the Aquatic SWG. Steve Lewis said each month, he can forward the weblink to attend these webinars to Aquatic SWG members. John Ferguson asked if the webinars are open to the public, and Lampman said the webinars are free and open to up to 1,000 attendees. (Note: a flyer containing these monthly weblinks was distributed to the Aquatic SWG by Kristi Geris on January 14, 2021.)

3. Update on the YN Fisheries Program Manager Position (Ralph Lampman):

Ralph Lampman said Joe Blodgett (YN Project Manager) was serving as the Interim Fisheries Program Manager, and now Donella Miller (YN Sturgeon Biologist and Aquatic SWG Alternate) has been appointed as the new Fisheries Program Manager. Lampman said he believes Miller was appointed to this position at the end of December 2020 or the beginning of January 2021. Andrew Gingerich asked if the Fisheries Program Manager is the position that Steve Parker held prior to his retirement. Lampman replied no, the former Fisheries Program Manager was Paul Ward (now with Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission). (Note: David Blodgett, III, took over the YN Technical Coordinator position when Parker retired.)

¹ Pacific Lamprey Conservation Initiative's Lamprey Technical Workgroup 4th Annual Lamprey Information Exchange Monthly Webinar Series, which will convene on the second Tuesday of each month from January to June 2021.

4. COVID-19 Updates (John Ferguson):

John Ferguson asked if Aquatic SWG members had any new updates to share regarding impacts of COVID-19 on Aquatic SWG-related monitoring and evaluation (M&E) activities.

Ralph Lampman said the YN offices closed in the first week of January 2021 due to increasing numbers of COVID-19 cases on the reservation. He said Pacific Lamprey operations are still ongoing, but most YN staff are working remotely. Steve Lewis said USFWS staff are also continuing teleworking for the unforeseeable future. He said the best way to contact him is by cell phone until further notice.

The Aquatic SWG had no other new COVID-19 updates to announce.

5. 2021–2022 Bull Trout Radio Telemetry Study Plan (Andrew Gingerich):

Andrew Gingerich said the draft plan, *Bull Trout Passage and Take Monitoring at Wells Dam and Twisp River Weir*, was distributed to the Aquatic SWG for review by Kristi Geris on December 3, 2020. Gingerich thanked Steve Lewis for providing USFWS comments, which were distributed to the Aquatic SWG by Lewis on January 12, 2021. Gingerich also thanked Ralph Lampman for indicating that the YN agreed with USFWS comments via email prior to the Aquatic SWG conference call on January 13, 2021. Gingerich said he also spoke with Jason McLellan yesterday, January 12, 2021, regarding the CCT comments on the draft plan. Gingerich said based on all feedback received, Douglas PUD is proposing to postpone a decision on the draft plan today, and incorporate edits and comments into a revised draft plan to be distributed for approval during the Aquatic SWG conference call on February 10, 2021. He recalled that Douglas PUD has moved forward with ordering tags and setting up and testing the receivers (as approved by the Aquatic SWG on December 9, 2020), so study preparations are already underway.

Gingerich said, as discussed during the Aquatic SWG conference call on December 9, 2020, and via comments received since then, there is general discomfort with pooling data from the 2021-2022 study with data from the 2004 and 2008 studies, but general agreement that it is acceptable to pool data from the 2021-2022 study with data from the 2016-2017 study. He said he thinks it is encouraging that the CCT, USFWS, and the YN all arrived at this conclusion. He said the concern is regarding the small changes in project and bypass operations from the 2004 and 2008 studies to the more recent studies. He said additionally, the 2004 and 2008 studies focused on passage only (versus passage and survival), and so the study design objectives have also changed slightly. Gingerich said lastly, as McLellan pointed out, there was a strong sample size in the earlier studies and the concern might be that these previous data overpower the pooled dataset. Gingerich said statistically, just pooling the recent data from the 2016-2017 study will provide a good chance for observing 20

interactions between tagged Bull Trout and Wells Dam. He said this will include the 60 fish tagged from the 2016-2017 study pooled with an estimated 60 fish that will be tagged for the 2021-2022 study. He recalled that USFWS does not support tagging 80 fish this calendar year, and he said Douglas PUD shares this perspective and the value of not having more handling stress on fish than is necessary.

Gingerich said another USFWS comment was about if Douglas PUD cannot collect and tag 60 fish this year. He said there is language in the *Bull Trout Management Plan* that allows for an additional year of study, and USFWS suggested if 60 fish are not tagged in 2021, to put out the balance of tags in a subsequent study year. He said this still needs to be vetted internally with Douglas PUD, but he hopes to change the language in Section 3.5.2 of the draft study plan to indicate that if 60 fish are not tagged, the balance of tags or some number of tags can be deployed at the discretion of the Aquatic SWG as approved on or before January 2022. Gingerich said he does not believe these exact details need to be decided to move forward with the study plan. He suggested waiting to see how close Douglas PUD can get to tagging the target sample size of 60 fish and then have these discussions.

Lewis asked if Douglas PUD has received feedback from Dr. John Skalski about not achieving the target sample size and what level of statistical rigor is achieved by pooling data. Gingerich said Douglas PUD has not involved Dr. Skalski for this study plan; rather, the statistics and Monte Carlo simulations completed to date have been done in coordination with Dave Robichaud (LGL Limited). Gingerich said if the 60 fish tagged in the 2016-2017 study are pooled with 60 fish tagged for the 2021-2022 study, this equals a total sample size of 120 fish. He recalled that the Monte Carlo simulations showed that a sample size of 80 fish results in a high estimated probability of achieving 20 interactions at Wells Dam; therefore, Douglas PUD is confident about achieving a robust dataset if 60 fish are tagged this year and the 2021-2022 data are pooled with the 2016-2017 dataset. He said USFWS comments seemed supportive of this concept, the YN seconded USFWS comments via email, and he received almost identical feedback from the CCT that this approach seems reasonable and prevents the handling of more fish than is needed.

Gingerich shared his screen on the WebEx to show suggested revisions in redlines to Section 3.5.2 of the draft study plan. He said revisions include: 1) removing pooling with the 2004 and 2008 datasets; 2) preserving pooling of the 2016-2017 dataset; 3) removing the clause that Douglas PUD has the ability to include Bull Trout upstream movements during spring; and 4) adding a clause about if 60 fish are not tagged in 2021, Douglas PUD will work

with the Aquatic SWG to discuss the need to deploy the balance of the tags or up to an additional 60 tags in 2022, to be vetted and approved prior to January 2022.

John Ferguson asked about the January 2022 decision date, specifically if a decision to deploy more tags needs to wait until after the full results of the 2021 releases are available (i.e., should January 2022 really be January 2023, and a 2023-2024 study be the repeat study versus a 2022-2023 repeat study). Gingerich explained that the Monte Carlo simulations that included the draft study plan were developed using the 2016-2017 dataset. He said the number of tags deployed for the 2021-2022 study at Wells Dam, the Twisp Weir, and in total will be known by the end of July 2021. He said at this time, the Monte Carlo simulations can be repeated to show what the likelihood is that by the end of the 2021-2022 study, the target 20-plus interactions at Wells Dam will be achieved by pooling the 2021-2022 data to date with the 2016-2017 dataset. He clarified that these will not be the results of the study, but this will provide the probability and likelihood that a reasonable sample size will be achieved at the respective locations, or if more tags need to be deployed to feel confident about survival and passage estimates. Ferguson said this makes sense and Lewis agreed.

Gingerich said he plans to incorporate the other minor but important comments from USFWS and editorial comments from the CCT into the revised draft study plan, and then review the revised study plan internally and with Robichaud. Gingerich said once this is complete, he will distribute the revised draft study plan in tracked changes for approval at the Aquatic SWG conference call on February 10, 2021. Gingerich said, for example, RD Nelle (USFWS) noted to add the radio frequency being used, which is 149.260 megahertz. Gingerich said Lewis also mentioned the importance that fish will be double tagged with radio and PIT tags, so he added a section explaining that fish will be tracked via radio and PIT tags throughout the Wenatchee, Entiat, Methow, Okanogan, and mainstem Columbia rivers. Gingerich said this is consistent with the 2016-2017 study methods and having multiple datasets available was the intent when these study plans were written.

Lewis said he appreciates the discussion, and this is a good plan forward. McLellan announced that he just joined the conference call. Ferguson summarized the discussion for McLellan.

A revised draft plan was distributed to the Aquatic SWG by Geris on January 19, 2021.

6. 2020 TDG/GAP Annual Report and 2021 GAP/BOP (Andrew Gingerich):

Andrew Gingerich said each year, Douglas PUD produces these two documents and tries to provide a 30-day Aquatic SWG review; however, both documents contain data through December of the previous year, which leaves a tight turnaround to draft and distribute the

documents for review and approval, and then filing the documents with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission by the February 28 deadline. He said the draft 2021 GAP/BOP was distributed to the Aquatic SWG by Kristi Geris on January 8, 2021, and the draft 2020 TDG/GAP Annual Report was distributed to the Aquatic SWG by Geris on January 12, 2021, and both documents are available for review with edits and comments due to him by February 8, 2021.

Gingerich noted that the draft 2021 GAP/BOP was drafted and distributed first, and while drafting the draft 2020 TDG/GAP Annual Report, he discovered errors in a table that is duplicated in both documents. He shared Table 3 of the draft 2021 GAP/BOP on the WebEx.

Table 3
2020 TDG Compliance Summary

		Compliance
May - June	Wells Tailrace 125% - Mean 12 Highest Hourly / Day	
	Non-compliant days	5
	Total days	90
	DCPUD compliance	94.4%
	Wells Tailrace 126% - Two Consecutive Hourly Values	
	Non-compliant days	5
Total days	90	
DCPUD compliance	94.4%	
July & August	Wells Tailrace 125% Hourly Standard	
	Non-compliant days	1
	Total days	61
	DCPUD compliance	98.4%
	Wells Tailrace 120% 12C-High Standard (one day)	
	Non-compliant days	3
	Total days	61
	DCPUD compliance	95.1%
	Rocky Reach Forebay 115% 12C-High Standard (one day)	
Non-compliant days	10	
Total days	61	
DCPUD compliance	83.6%	
Jan - Mar & Sept - Dec	Wells Tailrace <110% Standard	
	Non-compliant days	4
	Total days	211
DCPUD compliance	98.1%	

Gingerich said Table 3 shows TDG compliance throughout 2020, organized by the different criteria that apply seasonally throughout the year. He said the first error is under *Wells Tailrace 125% - Mean 12 Highest Hourly / Day* and the second error is under *Wells Tailrace 126% - Two Consecutive Hourly Values*. He said both *Non-compliant days* under these headings should be '4' and not '5' because one exceedance occurred on June 7, 2020, when 7-day, 10-year-frequency (7Q10) flows (or flood flows) were occurring, which at Wells Dam is

246,000 cubic feet per second (246 kcfs) or greater. He explained that each hydropower project on the river has a unique calculated flood flow, and there is a rule in the Washington Administrative Code that states when 7Q10 flows are occurring at a project certain TDG standards do not apply. He said these errors are only in the draft 2021 GAP/BOP and had been corrected in the draft 2020 TDG/GAP Annual Report before distribution.

Breean Zimmerman thanked Gingerich for the clarification.

A revised draft plan was distributed by Geris on January 27, 2021.

7. Wells Fish Hatchery Brood Year 2020 White Sturgeon Rearing and Surplus Update (Andrew Gingerich):

Andrew Gingerich said a Wells Fish Hatchery (FH) Brood Year (BY) 2020 White Sturgeon Rearing and Surplus Update (Attachment B) was distributed to the Aquatic SWG by Kristi Geris prior to the Aquatic SWG conference call on January 13, 2021. Gingerich said Attachment B summarizes Wells FH BY2020 White Sturgeon that were PIT-tagged and scute-marked for release in May 2021. He said everything went well, and in total 350 fish were tagged and marked last Monday, January 4, 2021, including 14 fish that constituted the last surplus of BY2020 fish to the CCT Resident FH on January 11, 2021. He said the remaining fish on-station at Wells FH are summarized in the table in Attachment B. He said hatchery staff did not weigh and measure each fish; rather, a subset in each tank was recorded. He said these fish will be handled again at release, so hatchery staff did not feel it was necessary to weigh and measure every single fish at this time. He said the table shows each subset of fish, average weight in grams, average fish per pound, Tank ID, receiving Tank ID, and then estimated fish size for this week to determine feed ratios. He said the same scute mark was applied that has been used for all larval-origin Wells FH White Sturgeon reared and released to date. He said the current survival estimate, which will likely remain unchanged from this point forward, is just under 60% and includes the 678 fish surplused to the CCT Resident FH. He said this has been an encouraging year and he is optimistic there will be a strong release group for May 2021. He said fish sizes for this time of year are quite large and it has been interesting to see what these fish can do when reared in low densities with reasonable water temperatures and enough food. He said most fish are currently being fed 2% to 2.5% body weight daily, except the smaller fish which are receiving closer to 3% body weight daily. He said it is safe to assume every fish will be above the 200-gram size threshold at release.

8. 2020/2021 Wells Dam Winter Maintenance (Andrew Gingerich):

Andrew Gingerich said the west fish ladder at Wells Dam was taken offline for annual winter maintenance last week, which is 1 week later than was discussed during the last Aquatic SWG

conference call on December 9, 2020. He said this small schedule change was due to the holidays, staff availability, and other ongoing work at the Project. He said a fish salvage was performed over a 2-day period and a fish salvage memorandum was distributed to the Aquatic SWG by Kristi Geris on January 8, 2021. Gingerich said Ralph Lampman and Chas Kyger are working to address an error in the memorandum regarding the number of larval juvenile Pacific Lamprey rescued.

Gingerich said in the latter part of last week, he and Kyger were in the dewatered fish ladder with LGL Limited preparing for the upcoming 2021-2022 Bull Trout Radio-Telemetry Study and had an opportunity to see the plating added to the floor gratings in the collection gallery. Gingerich said Geris notified the Aquatic SWG on January 12, 2021, that 13 photographs of the Wells Dam west fishway collection gallery gratings were posted to the extranet site. Gingerich said the west fish ladder will be offline for another week or so, and he spoke with Steve Nieuwenhuis (Douglas PUD Mechanical Foreman) who indicated crews were working on sealing gaps in the floor gratings in Pools 1 to 19. Gingerich said he asked Nieuwenhuis to take photos of the completed gratings. Gingerich said in the next week or two, the west ladder will be watered up and the east ladder will be taken offline for maintenance. He said the east ladder will receive the longer outage this maintenance period, and crews will work on sealing the gaps in gratings in Pools 1 to 19 in that fish ladder and will also collect photos of the completed work.

Patrick Verhey thanked Douglas PUD for posting the photos.

9. Pacific Lamprey Study Plan Development (Steve Lewis):

Steve Lewis said he hoped to have a brief discussion about the latest Pacific Lamprey Statement of Agreement (SOA)² in terms of long-term plans for translocation in the Wells Project and what the end game is if thresholds are not met. Lewis said he is not requesting that a final decision is made today; however, he would like to make sure the Aquatic SWG is working towards consensus on next steps to implement once the time comes.

John Ferguson suggested starting with discussing where the process is now, given the numbers, and what this means in terms of a proposed study plan. He suggested reviewing the results of translocation to date (2018 to 2020), and then begin thinking about what to do after the last year of translocation in 2021.

Chas Kyger said the current Pacific Lamprey SOA² already somewhat describes next steps; however, the question is whether enough fish have been translocated to expect an

² Aquatic SWG SOA titled *To translocate adult Pacific Lamprey from Priest Rapids Dam to areas within or upstream of the Wells Project and postpone passage evaluations*, and approved June 13, 2018.

improvement in numbers to allow for fish studies, or should Douglas PUD continue with translocation. He said to date, Douglas PUD has translocated about 1,175 fish in 3 years, which falls short of the 500 fish per year target. He said the current numbers are more like 400 fish per year. He said when Douglas PUD and the Aquatic SWG were drafting this SOA², it was known that the run would be low in some years, so in high-run years the plan was to collect extra fish. He said depending on what happens in 2021—which run data indicate the numbers may be higher—the program might still fall short of meeting its goal of translocating 500 fish per year. He said the question is whether the Aquatic SWG thinks the total number of fish translocated is enough to conduct another passage study or should Douglas PUD continue translocation while the Aquatic SWG develops the next study plan.

Lewis said this all makes sense, and he just does not want to get into a scenario where the Aquatic SWG does not know what to do after the 4 years of translocation expires. He said he also does not quite understand how to measure pheromone levels after the 4-year window. Kyger said Douglas PUD's understanding, per the SOA², is to move forward with an approach and passage study in 2022, regardless of numbers achieved during translocation, unless the Aquatic SWG thinks more translocation is needed. He said the decision is up to the Aquatic SWG.

Lewis asked, regarding Chelan PUD's concern about where Pacific Lamprey are translocated, is the ultimate decision about where fish can be collected and translocated the jurisdiction of the Joint Fisheries Parties (JFP)? Kyger said the current SOA² is an agreement with Grant PUD for Douglas PUD to collect Pacific Lamprey from Priest Rapids Dam over 15 days of trapping and to translocate within or upstream of the Wells Project, and anything above and beyond this needs to be negotiated with the JFP. He said he understands that regional workgroups agreed this was a good use of fish, and as Ralph Lampman previously noted³, this number of fish is only a small proportion of the total run and is not that consequential. Kyger said this could change if the run is really low. RD Nelle said, during the last Priest Rapids Fish Forum meeting, he thinks Grant PUD said Douglas PUD's portion constituted 30% of the total run in 2020. Nelle said the run is down compared to past years and at the time of the SOA² this proportion was only 10%. He asked if 30% is okay and said maybe in the short-term; however, some people might have concerns about taking Pacific Lamprey that could be heading to the Wenatchee and Entiat rivers and instead releasing the fish upstream of Wells Dam.

Ferguson asked when Douglas PUD and the Aquatic SWG want to begin these discussions as a formal agenda item, including discussing translocation results to date and study plan

³ 2020 Pacific Lamprey Translocation discussion (Item VI-3), during the Aquatic SWG conference call on September 9, 2020.

development. Kyger suggested next month, during the Aquatic SWG conference call on February 10, 2021. He said Douglas PUD intended to start these discussions with a presentation summarizing past studies (a current Douglas PUD action item); however, the agenda has been focused on the upcoming 2021-2022 Bull Trout Radio-Telemetry Study and other annual documents. He said now that these are clearing up a bit, Douglas PUD can focus on Pacific Lamprey. He said he thinks a presentation will be a good starting point, including a review of what was done in the past, what was learned, and how this guides future plans. He said the presentation will also include a summary of translocation efforts and numbers to date.

Lewis asked if there is a master document that encompasses all regional translocation numbers, including where Pacific Lamprey were collected and translocated. Kyger said he is tracking Douglas PUD efforts to date, and the only overlap is the fish that the CCT collected from Douglas PUD to translocate farther up into the Okanogan River Basin. Kyger said Douglas PUD counts these fish as part of the Douglas PUD program. Lampman said he has been compiling a comprehensive table that is up to date through BY2019. He said he needs to update the table with BY2020 data and can check this with Kyger's table, then share the completed table share during the Aquatic SWG conference call on February 10, 2021. Kyger said this would be helpful. Lewis asked if the table includes the CCT efforts, and Lampman said his table does include these data. Douglas PUD and the YN will produce a comprehensive table summarizing Pacific Lamprey translocation efforts completed to date by Douglas PUD, the YN, and the CCT, for discussion during the Aquatic SWG conference call on February 10, 2021. *(Note: Gingerich provided an edited translocation table to Lampman for discussion.)*

10. Review of the Aquatic SWG Chair (Andrew Gingerich):

Andrew Gingerich said briefly, 3 years have gone by quickly and Anchor QEA's contract to serve in the Chair position, as required by the *Aquatic Settlement Agreement (ASA)*, will again come to an end in May 2021. Gingerich read Section 11.3 of the ASA titled, *Chair of the Aquatic SWG*, as follows:

The Aquatic SWG shall evaluate the performance of the Chair at least every 3 years or upon request of two or more members of the Aquatic SWG.

Gingerich said first, he does not recall a time in the last 6 years (of the current Chair position) where he has been approached about the Chairmanship role. He said, however, Douglas PUD does want to have these conversations with the Aquatic SWG. He said about 1 or 2 months ago, he distributed an email indicating the need to review the Chair role and solicited feedback from Aquatic SWG members. He said not surprisingly, he received affirmation and positive feedback from the membership in support of Anchor QEA continuing to serve in the Chair role. He said Anchor QEA has been in good standing over the years, and Douglas PUD and the Aquatic SWG appreciates the work done by John Ferguson, Kristi Geris, and the Anchor QEA team. Gingerich said this feedback gives the green light to enter into another 3-year contract starting in May 2021. He noted that there is also language in the ASA that review of the Chair can be brought up again, if needed. He said Douglas PUD appreciates all the feedback received and asked Aquatic SWG members to contact him with questions or concerns.

Ferguson said he and Geris appreciate the feedback and both really enjoy working with Douglas PUD and the Aquatic SWG and are very happy to be able to continue in the next 3 years.

Steve Lewis thanked Ferguson for his ongoing efforts in pointing the Aquatic SWG in the right direction. Lewis said he appreciates Ferguson's input and insight on these issues and tricky discussions. Ferguson thanked Lewis and said he appreciates working with this group, notably a group that functions so well together. Ferguson said it is a pleasure to serve a group that has good technical discussions and communicates well.

VII. Administration

1. Upcoming Meetings (John Ferguson):

The Aquatic SWG meeting on February 10, 2021, will be held by conference call.

Other upcoming meetings include March 10 and April 14, 2021 (TBD).

List of Attachments

Attachment A List of Attendees

Attachment B Wells FH BY2020 White Sturgeon Rearing and Surplus Update

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	Aquatic SWG Technical Alternate	Douglas PUD
Steve Lewis	Aquatic SWG Technical Representative	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
RD Nelle	Aquatic SWG Technical Support	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Breann Zimmerman	Aquatic SWG Technical Representative	Washington State Department of Ecology
Patrick Verhey	Aquatic SWG Technical Representative	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Ralph Lampman	Aquatic SWG Technical Representative	Yakama Nation
Jason McLellan*	Aquatic SWG Technical Representative	Colville Confederated Tribes

Notes:

* Joined conference call around 10:30 a.m. (was not present during the approval of the December 9, 2020, conference call minutes)