

Final Conference Call Minutes



Aquatic Settlement Work Group

To: Aquatic SWG Parties **Date:** April 13, 2016
From: John Ferguson, Chair (Anchor QEA, LLC)
Re: Final Minutes of the March 9, 2016 Aquatic SWG Conference Call

The Aquatic Settlement Work Group (SWG) met by conference call on Wednesday, March 9, 2016, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Attendees are listed in Attachment A of these conference call minutes.

I. Summary of Action Items

1. Anchor QEA, LLC, will incorporate edits, as discussed, to the Aquatic SWG Revised Draft February 10, 2016, Meeting Minutes, and will redistribute the minutes for final review, with approval via email due within 1 week of distribution (Item VI-1). *(Note: Kristi Geris revised the minutes, as discussed, and distributed the draft for approval on Friday, March 11, 2016.)*
2. Bob Rose will discuss internally the Colville Confederated Tribes' (CCT's) proposed criteria for culling juvenile white sturgeon and will report back to the Aquatic SWG (Item VI-1).
3. Bob Rose will provide a report detailing the 2015 Yakama Nation (YN) Lamprey Translocation Releases in the Methow Basin, including the 2016 release, monitoring and evaluation plans, and the YN Pacific Lamprey Supplementation and Monitoring Frameworks, once available, to Kristi Geris for distribution to the Aquatic SWG (Item VI-1).
4. Aquatic SWG members will submit their approval, disapproval, or abstention on the Draft Aquatic Nuisance Species Management Plan (ANSMP) Annual Report via email to Chas Kyger (with a copy to Kristi Geris) by Wednesday, March 16, 2016. The draft report for review was distributed to the Aquatic SWG by Geris on March 9, 2016, prior to the meeting (Item VI-6). *(Note: Votes were submitted and the report was approved; see Summary of Decisions.)*
5. Douglas PUD will consider requesting permission from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to combine all Aquatic Settlement Agreement (ASA) Annual Reports and deadlines into one submittal, and will report back to the Aquatic SWG (Item VI-7).
6. **The Aquatic SWG meeting on April 13, 2016, will be held by conference call (Item VII-1).**

II. Summary of Decisions

1. Aquatic SWG members approved the 2015 ANSMP Annual Report, as revised, via email as follows: Douglas PUD approved on March 9, 2016; the CCT approved on March 10, 2016; the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) approved on March 11, 2016; the YN approved on March 17, 2016; the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) conditionally approved on March 17, 2016, pending incorporation of suggested edits; and the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) abstained (did not vote; Item VI-6). *(Note: Douglas PUD indicated WDFW's suggested edits would be incorporated into the final report, as distributed on March 18, 2016.)*

III. Agreements

1. The Aquatic SWG members present agreed to submit their approval, disapproval, or abstention on the Draft ANSMP Annual Report via email to Chas Kyger (with a copy to Kristi Geris) by Wednesday, March 16, 2016 (Item VI-6).

IV. Review Items

1. Kristi Geris sent an email to the Aquatic SWG on March 1, 2016, notifying members that the Draft 2015 Douglas PUD Water Temperature Annual Report is available for review, with edits and comments due to Andrew Gingerich by close of business (COB) Wednesday, April 6, 2016 (Item VI-2).
2. Kristi Geris sent an email to the Aquatic SWG on March 18, 2016, notifying members that the Draft 2015 Aquatic Settlement Agreement Annual Report is available for a 45-day review period, with edits and comments due to Geris by Wednesday, May 4, 2016 (Item VI-7).
3. Kristi Geris sent an email to the Aquatic SWG on March 31, 2016, notifying members that the Draft 2015 Bull Trout Management Plan and Incidental Take Annual Report is available for review, with edits and comments due to Andrew Gingerich by COB Friday, May 6, 2016 (Item VI-3).
4. Kristi Geris sent an email to the Aquatic SWG on April 4, 2016, notifying members that the Draft 2015 Pacific Lamprey Management Plan Annual Report is available for a 30-day review period, with edits and comments due to Chas Kyger by Wednesday, May 4, 2016.
5. Kristi Geris sent an email to the Aquatic SWG on April 4, 2016, notifying members that the Draft 2015 Resident Fish Management Plan Annual Report is available for a 30-day review period, with edits and comments due to Chas Kyger by Wednesday, May 4, 2016.
6. Kristi Geris sent an email to the Aquatic SWG on April 6, 2016, notifying members that the Draft 2015 Water Quality Management Plan Annual Report is available for review, with edits and comments due to Andrew Gingerich by Monday, May 9, 2016.
7. Kristi Geris sent an email to the Aquatic SWG on April 6, 2016, notifying members that the Draft 2015 White Sturgeon Management Plan Annual Report is available for review, with edits and comments due to Andrew Gingerich by Monday, May 9, 2016.

V. Documents Finalized

1. The Final 2015 ANSMP Annual Report was distributed to the Aquatic SWG by Kristi Geris on March 29, 2016 (Item VI-6).

VI. Summary of Discussion

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 opened the meeting. Ferguson reviewed the agenda and asked for additions or other changes to the agenda. Chas Kyger added a Decision Item on the Draft 2015 ANSMP Annual Report.

The revised draft February 10, 2016, meeting minutes were reviewed. Kristi Geris said all comments and revisions received from members of the Aquatic SWG were incorporated into the revised minutes, and there were no outstanding edits or questions to discuss. Steve Lewis asked if Bob Rose submitted an official approval of the 2016 Lamprey Approach, Passage, and Enumeration Study Plan. Ferguson said he contacted Rose on February 11, 2016, and discussed the coordination call held on February 1, 2016, and changes to the study plan. He also emailed Rose the latest documents so Rose could easily locate them. Ferguson said Rose indicated he would review the documents that evening and contact the Aquatic SWG right away with any concerns regarding the Aquatic SWG-approved study plan. Ferguson said Rose provided no comments on the study plan, and based on his discussion with Rose, Ferguson took this to mean Rose had approved the revised study plan for 2016. Andrew Gingerich suggested incorporating Ferguson's and Rose's discussion into the revised draft February 10, 2016, meeting minutes, and redistributing for review and approval. Patrick Verhey asked what changes were made to the plan (note: Verhey was on annual leave during these discussions). Gingerich said there were several, which were thoroughly discussed during the coordination call on February 1, 2016, and documented in notes distributed to the Aquatic SWG by Geris on February 2, 2016. Verhey said he will review the notes and contact Gingerich if he has further questions. Anchor QEA will incorporate edits, as discussed, to the Aquatic SWG Revised Draft February 10, 2016, Meeting Minutes, and will redistribute the minutes for final review, with approval, via email, due within 1 week of distribution. *(Note: Geris revised the minutes, as discussed, and distributed the draft for approval on Friday, March 11, 2016.)*

Aquatic SWG members approved the February 10, 2016, meeting minutes, as revised, via email as follows: Douglas PUD, WDFW, and the CCT approved on March 14, 2016; USFWS approved on March 15, 2016; and Ecology and the YN abstained (did not vote).

Ferguson reviewed action items from the last Aquatic SWG meeting on February 10, 2016, and follow-up discussions were as follows (note: the following italicized item numbers correspond to agenda items from the February 10, 2016, meeting):

- *Bob Rose will discuss internally the Colville Confederated Tribes' (CCT's) proposed criteria for culling juvenile white sturgeon, and will report back to the Aquatic SWG (Item VI-1).*
This action item will be carried forward.
- *Steve Lewis will investigate what actions are required of agencies conducting Pacific lamprey translocation activities in the Mid-Columbia Basin, with regard to Section 7 consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS; Item VI-1).*
Lewis suggested closing this action item for now. Andrew Gingerich agreed, considering the Aquatic SWG is not proposing a formal translocation plan at this time. Gingerich suggested revisiting this item in the future, if needed. Patrick Verhey agreed, but noted that there is still benefit for everyone to continue to be transparent about translocation plans.
- *Bob Rose will provide a report detailing the 2015 Yakama Nation (YN) Lamprey Translocation Releases in the Methow Basin, and the YN Pacific Lamprey Supplementation and Monitoring Frameworks, once available, to Kristi Geris for distribution to the Aquatic SWG (Item VI-1).*
Steve Lewis suggested broadening this item to include 2016 release, monitoring, and evaluation plans. Patrick Verhey asked how translocating lamprey in the Methow Basin is relevant to the Wells Project and the Aquatic SWG. Lewis suggested that translocation in the Methow Basin could have effects on the Wells Project and should continue to be discussed. Verhey asked about the nature of these effects. For example, he discussed if Lewis believes the Aquatic SWG would have authority to influence release numbers in the Methow Basin or if translocation in the Methow Basin might provide opportunities for other studies under the ASA Pacific Lamprey Management Plan. Lewis said he believes both are possibilities. This action item will be carried forward and will include 2016 release, monitoring, and evaluation plans.
- *John Ferguson will follow up with Bob Rose regarding YN approval of the 2016 Lamprey Approach, Passage, and Enumeration Study Plan, as revised (Item VI-3).*
Ferguson contacted Rose on February 11, 2016, and Rose indicated he would contact the Aquatic SWG by later that evening with any concerns regarding the Aquatic SWG-approved study plan.

2. Draft 2015 Water Temperature Annual Report (Andrew Gingerich):

Andrew Gingerich said Kristi Geris sent an email to the Aquatic SWG on March 1, 2016, notifying members that the Draft 2015 Douglas PUD Water Temperature Annual Report is available for review, with edits and comments due to Gingerich by COB Wednesday, April 6, 2016. Gingerich said Douglas PUD will request approval of this report during the Aquatic SWG meeting on April 13, 2016.

Patrick Verhey asked whom Douglas PUD has been coordinating with at Ecology. Gingerich replied, Charlie McKinney; however, McKinney is retiring soon, so now Douglas PUD is communicating with Mark Peterschmidt (Ecology). Gingerich said McKinney approved the 2015 Wells Total Dissolved Gas Annual Report and the 2016 Gas Abatement Plan and Bypass Operations Plan; however, now Ecology is in the process of hiring new staff.

3. Draft 2015 Bull Trout Management Plan and Incidental Take Annual Report

(Andrew Gingerich): Andrew Gingerich said the Bull Trout Management Plan and Incidental Take Annual Report is submitted to USFWS as part of Douglas PUD's requirement for incidental take reporting. Gingerich said the report is due to USFWS by April 15, 2016, so the Aquatic SWG will receive the draft report for review very soon. John Ferguson asked if the report will be available for a 30-day review with approval in April 2016, and Gingerich said that is correct because the report is due to FERC by May 31, 2016.

Kristi Geris sent an email to the Aquatic SWG on March 31, 2016, notifying members that the Draft 2015 Bull Trout Management Plan and Incidental Take Annual Report is available for review, with edits and comments due to Gingerich by COB Friday, May 6, 2016.

4. 2016-2017 Bull Trout Passage and Take Monitoring at Wells Dam and Twisp River Weir Study

(Andrew Gingerich): Andrew Gingerich said everything is moving forward in preparation for this study, including securing a contractor, obtaining radio-telemetry receivers from Grant PUD, and ordering supplies (e.g., tags). Gingerich asked that Aquatic SWG members contact him with questions.

5. Wells White Sturgeon Inventory Update (Andrew Gingerich):

Andrew Gingerich recalled that last month, the Aquatic SWG agreed that if the USFWS Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) permit was not secured by March 1, 2016, the CCT would transfer surplus white sturgeon off site for release in Lake Roosevelt. Gingerich said the CITES and other various permits were all processed, and on March 4, 2016, a B.C. Hydro representative picked up approximately 2,200 surplus larval-origin fish from Wells Hatchery to transfer to Canada. Gingerich said fish transferred included 180 fish per tank (fish are graded by size per tank, so there is a good representation of fish sizes), and average fish size was 100 to 120 grams. He said there are now approximately 5,200 fish on station at Wells Hatchery. He said, with reduced density, hatchery staff plan to grow the fish out to about two fish per pound during the next 3 months.

6. DECISION ITEM: Draft 2015 Aquatic Nuisance Species Management Plan Annual Report

(Chas Kyger): Chas Kyger said Kristi Geris sent an email to the Aquatic SWG on February 8, 2016, notifying members that the Draft 2015 ANSMP Annual Report is available for a 30-day review period, with edits and comments due to Kyger by Tuesday, March 8, 2016. Kyger said

Jason McLellan provided CCT comments on the draft report on February 29, 2016, which Geris distributed to the Aquatic SWG that same day. Kyger said the CCT requested adding additional information clarifying future activities and plans, specifically regarding Northern pike discovered in Lake Roosevelt and Rufus Woods reservoirs. Kyger said he added this information, as requested, including plans to perform scoping this year and next year to verify Northern pike are not present in the Wells Reservoir. He said a revised draft report was distributed to the Aquatic SWG by Geris today, March 9, 2016, prior to the meeting. Kyger apologized for not including this item on the agenda as a Decision Item, and said if Aquatic SWG members are not yet ready to approve, Douglas PUD will request approval via email sometime prior to the April 1, 2016, deadline to FERC.

Patrick Verhey asked about the observations of Northern pike in the Rufus Woods Reservoir. Kyger said Northern pike were discovered there last year, and the CCT received funding for monitoring and removal. Kyger said he is uncertain about population levels or exact locations, but efforts are aimed to be proactive, specifically in the Okanogan River.

(Note: Kyger later clarified via email, which was distributed to the Aquatic SWG by Geris on March 11, 2016, that Northern pike observations in the Rufus Woods Reservoir was an error; observations have only been in Lake Roosevelt.)

Steve Lewis requested 1 additional week to review the revised draft report. He also asked if, during biological monitoring for total dissolved gas (TDG) at the Rocky Reach bypass sampler, there has been an increase in aquatic nuisance species. Kyger said Douglas PUD only actively monitors that location when there is a TDG exceedance. He said most encounters are incidental while performing other activities. He said to this end, the CCT also suggested adopting new techniques to actively monitor for species of concern that may not be encountered incidentally, which is why the revised draft report includes the recommendation for additional monitoring.

The Aquatic SWG members present agreed to submit their approval, disapproval, or abstention on the Draft ANSMP Annual Report via email to Kyger (with a copy to Geris) by Wednesday, March 16, 2016. Aquatic SWG members approved the 2015 ANSMP Annual Report, as revised, via email as follows: Douglas PUD approved on March 9, 2016; the CCT approved on March 10, 2016; USFWS approved on March 11, 2016; the YN approved on March 17, 2016; WDFW conditionally approved on March 17, 2016, pending incorporation of suggested edits; and Ecology abstained (did not vote). *(Note: Douglas PUD indicated WDFW's suggested edits would be incorporated into the final report, as distributed on March 18, 2016.)*

The Final 2015 ANSMP Annual Report was distributed to the Aquatic SWG by Geris on March 29, 2016.

7. Draft 2015 ASA Annual Report and ASA Management Plan Annual Reports (Chas Kyger):

Chas Kyger said the other Draft 2015 ASA Management Plan Annual Reports will be available for review soon. The Draft 2015 ASA Annual Report will be distributed to the Aquatic SWG for a 45-day review on Friday, March 18, 2016. Kyger said all management plan annual reports are due to FERC by May 31, 2016.

Patrick Verhey noted that WDFW, and likely Aquatic SWG members from other agencies, have several reports and documents to review between December and February, and suggested changing the review deadline for Aquatic SWG reports to later than April 15, if possible. Kyger said he is uncertain about the flexibility of FERC deadlines; however, he said Douglas PUD could try drafting documents quicker, within reason, to provide longer review period. He also suggested combining deadlines, as previously discussed. Verhey said he believes it is worth asking FERC, noting that adjusting the deadlines would facilitate a more quality review. John Ferguson suggested, in the spirit of consolidation and efficiency, revisiting the request to combine annual reporting and deadlines. Verhey said the May 31 deadline seems reasonable to him, and he would be supportive of combining annual reporting. Kyger said Douglas PUD could pursue this request again. Ferguson suggested combining the management plan annual reports into the ASA Annual Report, as appendices.

Douglas PUD will consider requesting permission from FERC to combine all ASA Annual Reports and deadlines into one submittal, and will report back to the Aquatic SWG.

VII. Next Meetings

1. **Upcoming meetings** (John Ferguson): The Aquatic SWG meeting on April 13, 2016, will be held by conference call.

Upcoming meetings are as follows: April 13, 2016 (conference call); May 11, 2016 (TBD); and June 8, 2016 (TBD).

List of Attachments

Attachment A – List of Attendees

Attachment A List of 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
Steve Lewis	Aquatic SWG Technical Representative	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Patrick Verhey	Aquatic SWG Technical Representative	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Chad Jackson	Technical Support	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife