

Final Meeting Minutes



Aquatic Settlement Work Group

To: Aquatic SWG Parties **Date:** March 18, 2016
From: John Ferguson, Chair (Anchor QEA, LLC)
Re: Final Minutes of the February 10, 2016 Aquatic SWG Meeting

The Aquatic Settlement Work Group (SWG) met in-person at Wells Dam in Azwell, Washington, on Wednesday, February 10, 2016, from 10:15 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Attendees are listed in Attachment A of these meeting minutes.

I. Summary of Action Items

1. 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).
2. 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).
3. 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).
4. 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). *(Note: 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.)*
5. **The Aquatic SWG meeting on March 9, 2016, will be held by conference call (Item VII-1).**

II. Summary of Decisions

1. The Aquatic SWG members present approved the 2015 Juvenile Lamprey Habitat Evaluation Study Report (Item VI-2).
2. The Aquatic SWG members present approved the 2016 Lamprey Approach, Passage, and Enumeration Study Plan, as revised (Item VI-3). *(Note: Steve Lewis provided USFWS approval of*

the plan via email on February 9, 2016, contingent on incorporation of USFWS edits and comments.)

3. The Aquatic SWG members present approved the 2016-2017 Bull Trout Passage and Take Monitoring at Wells Dam and Twisp River Weir Study Plan, contingent on incorporating comments received from USFWS, which were reviewed and discussed during the meeting on February 10, 2016 (Item VI-4). *(Note: Steve Lewis provided USFWS approval of the plan via email on February 9, 2016, contingent on incorporation of USFWS edits and comments. Lewis also provided an email accepting the revisions in the final study plan on February 23, 2016.)*
4. The Aquatic SWG members present approved the 2015 Wells Dam Gas Abatement Plan (GAP) and Total Dissolved Gas (TDG) Report, contingent on approval by the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology; Item VI-5). *(Note: Charlie McKinney provided Ecology's approval of the report via email on February 18, 2016, as distributed to the Aquatic SWG by Kristi Geris on February 29, 2016.)*
5. The Aquatic SWG members present approved the 2016 Wells Dam GAP and Bypass Operating Plan (BOP), contingent on approval by Ecology (Item VI-6). *(Note: Charlie McKinney provided Ecology's approval of the plan via email on February 18, 2016, as distributed to the Aquatic SWG by Kristi Geris on February 29, 2016.)*
6. The Aquatic SWG members present approved the 2016 Aquatic Settlement Agreement (ASA) Action Plan, as revised (Item VI-7).

III. Agreements

1. The Aquatic SWG members present agreed to a March 1, 2016, deadline to transfer surplus white sturgeon off site that are in excess of the Douglas PUD 5,000-fish White Sturgeon Program, in order to grow program fish to the target size at release (Item VI-9).

IV. Review Items

1. Kristi Geris sent an email to the Aquatic SWG on February 8, 2016, notifying members that the Draft 2015 Aquatic Nuisance Species Management Plan Annual Report is available for a 30-day review period, with edits and comments due to Chas Kyger by Tuesday, March 8, 2016.
2. 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.

V. Documents Finalized

1. The Final 2015 Juvenile Lamprey Habitat Evaluation Study Report that was approved by the Aquatic SWG on February 10, 2016, was distributed to the Aquatic SWG by Kristi Geris on February 11, 2016 (Item VI-2).

2. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) filing of the Douglas PUD TDG Reasonable and Feasible Analysis, which was finalized following receipt of Ecology's approval letter on January 25, 2016 (Aquatic SWG approved December 10, 2014), was distributed to the Aquatic SWG by Kristi Geris on March 15, 2016.
3. The Final 2016-2017 Bull Trout Passage and Take Monitoring at Wells Dam and Twisp River Weir Study Plan that was approved by the Aquatic SWG on February 10, 2016, was distributed to the Aquatic SWG by Kristi Geris on February 19, 2016 (Item VI-4).
4. The FERC filing of the Final 2015 Wells Dam GAP and TDG Report that was approved by the Aquatic SWG on February 10, 2016, was distributed to the Aquatic SWG by Kristi Geris on February 29, 2016 (Item VI-5).
5. The FERC filing of the Final 2016 Wells Dam GAP and BOP that was approved by the Aquatic SWG on February 10, 2016, and by the Wells Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) Coordinating Committee on January 26, 2016, was distributed to the Aquatic SWG by Kristi Geris on February 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. No additions or changes were requested by Aquatic SWG members present; however, Ferguson added refreshers on ASA rules and regulations concerning review periods and Decision Items.

The revised draft January 13, 2016, 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. She said she also added under the Decision Items, Ecology's approval of the Douglas PUD TDG Reasonable and Feasible Analysis. Geris explained that the analysis was approved by the other Aquatic SWG Technical Representatives on December 10, 2014, contingent on approval by Ecology, and Ecology provided Douglas PUD with a letter of approval on January 22, 2016, as distributed to the Aquatic SWG on January 25, 2016. Geris said the Douglas PUD TDG Reasonable and Feasible Analysis was also added to the Documents Finalized section, and will be included as an attachment to the final January 13, 2016, conference call minutes. Lastly, she said distribution of the second Revised Draft 2016 Lamprey Approach, Passage, and Enumeration Study Plan on February 5, 2016, and notification of the Draft 2015 Aquatic Nuisance Species Management Plan Annual Report review period were also added to the Review Items section of the revised draft January 13, 2016, conference call minutes. Aquatic SWG members present approved the January 13, 2016, conference call minutes, as revised.

Ferguson reviewed action items from the last Aquatic SWG conference call on January 13, 2016, and follow-up discussions were as follows (note: the following italicized item numbers correspond to agenda items from the January 13, 2016, meeting):

- *Bob Rose will discuss internally the CCTs' proposed criteria for culling juvenile white sturgeon and 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 USFWS (Item VI-1).*
This action item will be carried forward.
- *Andrew Gingerich will coordinate with Kristi Geris to distribute details regarding the next Aquatic SWG meeting on February 10, 2016, to be held in-person at Wells Dam in Wenatchee, Washington (Item VI-3).*
Gingerich provided these details to Geris on January 29, 2016, which Geris distributed to the Aquatic SWG that same day.
- *Bob Rose will provide a report detailing the 2015 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-10).*
This action item will be carried forward.

2. DECISION: Draft 2015 Juvenile Lamprey Habitat Evaluation Study Report (Chas Kyger):

Chas Kyger said Kristi Geris sent an email to the Aquatic SWG on December 4, 2015, notifying members that the Draft 2015 Juvenile Lamprey Habitat Evaluation Study Report was available for a 45-day review period, with edits and comments due to Kyger by Tuesday, January 19, 2016. Kyger said no comments were received from Aquatic SWG members on the draft report.

The Aquatic SWG members present approved the 2015 Juvenile Lamprey Habitat Evaluation Study Report, and the final report was distributed to the Aquatic SWG by Geris on February 11, 2016.

3. DECISION: Revised Draft 2016 Lamprey Approach, Passage, and Enumeration Study Plan

(Chas Kyger): Chas Kyger said Kristi Geris sent an email to the Aquatic SWG on December 4, 2015, notifying members that the Revised Draft 2016 Lamprey Approach, Passage, and Enumeration Study Plan was available for a 45-day review period, with edits and comments due to Kyger by Tuesday, January 19, 2016. Following a coordination call with members of the Aquatic SWG on February 1, 2016, Kyger provided a second Revised Draft 2016 Lamprey Approach, Passage, and Enumeration Study Plan on February 5, 2016, which Geris distributed to the Aquatic SWG that same day.

The Aquatic SWG members present approved the 2016 Lamprey Approach, Passage, and Enumeration Study Plan, as revised. *(Note: Steve Lewis provided USFWS approval of the plan via email on February 9, 2016, contingent on incorporation of USFWS edits and comments.)*

John Ferguson recalled the email from the YN to the Aquatic SWG sent on January 13, 2016, indicating that the YN would not accept the study plan in its current form. Ferguson said the purpose of the coordination call on February 1, 2016, was to discuss and address the YN's comments on the draft study plan; however, even with the coordination call and distribution of the revised study plan, the YN has not yet provided a response. Ferguson said he will follow up with Bob Rose regarding YN approval of the 2016 Lamprey Approach, Passage, and Enumeration Study Plan, as revised. *(Note: Ferguson contacted Rose on February 11, 2016, and discussed the coordination call and changes to the study plan, and emailed Rose the latest documents so he could easily locate them. 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. Rose provided no comments on the Aquatic SWG-approved study plan. Based in his discussion with Rose, Ferguson took this to mean Rose had approved the revised study plan for 2016.)*

- 4. DECISION: Draft 2016-2017 Bull Trout Passage and Take Monitoring at Wells Dam and Twisp River Weir Study Plan** (Andrew Gingerich): Andrew Gingerich said Kristi Geris sent an email to the Aquatic SWG on January 5, 2016, notifying members that the Draft 2016-2017 Bull Trout Passage and Take Monitoring at Wells Dam and Twisp River Weir Study Plan was available for a 30-day review period, with edits and comments due to Gingerich by Monday, February 8, 2016.

Gingerich said USFWS provided comments on the draft study plan the afternoon of February 9, 2016. He said USFWS comments consisted of about 90% requests for clarifications; however, the other 10% may require further discussion regarding the proposed analyses. John Ferguson asked if obtaining approval of this study plan is constrained by contracting or other factors. Gingerich replied that yes, Douglas PUD is using the same contractor for steelhead, Pacific lamprey, and bull trout activities, and Douglas PUD would ideally prefer to include all activities under one contract as opposed to using separate contracts.

The Aquatic SWG requested to review the USFWS comments that may require further discussion. These comments were discussed, as follows:

Section 3.5 Statistical Analyses and Reporting, fourth bullet (pages 19 to 20)

Steve Lewis' comment indicated that USFWS does not fully agree with removing a fish from passage statistics analyses when that fish genetically assigns to a local population or sub-basin

located downstream of the Project. The comment further indicated USFWS believes passage should apply to all fish.

Gingerich said there is enough genetic information available to assign fish to a natal stream. He said if a fish genetically typed to the Entiat River enters the Wells Dam tailrace and swims into the ladder, but then turns around and migrates back downstream, this cannot be considered failed passage. Rather, he said the fish may just be homing to its natal stream and using the Project area for foraging. Jason McLellan suggested that because the real reason for not passing is unknown, both types of fish should be included in the analyses (i.e., those genetically assigning to a downstream location and those not). Gingerich agreed.

Section 3.5 Statistical Analyses and Reporting, sixth bullet (page 20)

Lewis' comment asked about the thought process behind removing from analyses some cases of fall downstream passage at Wells Dam since bull trout are not required to overwinter below Wells Dam and may simply overwinter in the Wells Dam forebay or pool.

Gingerich said it is known that fish overwinter in the Wells Reservoir. He said if a fish migrates upstream to spawn, then migrates back down to the Wells Dam forebay but not to the tailrace, the fish may just be overwintering in the forebay, and this does not necessarily indicate that downstream passage was unsuccessful. McLellan asked if there are available data about behavior indicative of passage (e.g., movements). Gingerich said during the spring and summer, behavior is more predictable based on spawning migration. He said historical passive integrated transponder (PIT)-tag detection data indicate that bull trout that move downstream of Wells Dam one year usually do it in following years, but this is not consistent every year so assuming what a fish's behavior will be is impossible. He added that when a fish passes Wells Dam, both survival and passage success rates will be evaluated. He said methods to objectively evaluate this are explained in the study plan assumptions. Ferguson suggested collecting and reporting all data and explaining how those data are categorized, which will ultimately be available in a final draft report for Aquatic SWG review and approval.

The Aquatic SWG members present approved the 2016-2017 Bull Trout Passage and Take Monitoring at Wells Dam and Twisp River Weir Study Plan, contingent on incorporating comments received from USFWS, which were reviewed and discussed during the meeting on February 10, 2016. *(Note: Steve Lewis provided USFWS approval of the plan via email on February 9, 2016, contingent on incorporation of USFWS edits and comments.)*

The Final 2016-2017 Bull Trout Passage and Take Monitoring at Wells Dam and Twisp River Weir Study Plan was distributed to the Aquatic SWG by Kristi Geris on February 19, 2016. *(Note: USFWS submitted a second set of comments on February 10, 2016, in addition to the set provided on February 9, 2016. Douglas PUD incorporated both sets of USFWS comments into the*

revised draft, and Lewis provided an email accepting the revisions in the final study plan on February 23, 2016.)

5. DECISION: Draft 2015 Wells Dam Gas Abatement Plan and Total Dissolved Gas Report

(Andrew Gingerich): Andrew Gingerich said Kristi Geris sent an email to the Aquatic SWG on January 5, 2016, notifying members that the Draft 2015 Wells Dam GAP and TDG Report was available for a 30-day review period, with edits and comments due to Gingerich by Monday, February 8, 2016. Gingerich said no comments were received on the draft report from Aquatic SWG members. He said Douglas PUD previously met with Charlie McKinney and Mark Peterschmidt (Ecology) to discuss the report, and Gingerich recently sent a follow-up email to McKinney and Peterschmidt regarding obtaining Ecology's approval of the report. Gingerich said Douglas PUD would like to request Aquatic SWG approval of the report contingent on Ecology's approval, in order to move closer to filing the report with FERC at the end of February 2016.

The Aquatic SWG members present approved the 2015 Wells Dam GAP and TDG Report, contingent on approval by Ecology. *(Note: McKinney provided Ecology's approval of the report via email on February 18, 2016, as distributed to the Aquatic SWG by Geris on February 29, 2016.)*

The FERC filing of the Final 2015 Wells Dam GAP and TDG Report was distributed to the Aquatic SWG by Geris on February 29, 2016.

6. DECISION: Draft 2016 Wells Dam Gas Abatement Plan and Bypass Operating Plan

(Andrew Gingerich): Andrew Gingerich said Kristi Geris sent an email to the Aquatic SWG on January 5, 2016, notifying members that the Draft 2016 Wells Dam GAP and BOP were available for a 30-day review period, with edits and comments due to Gingerich by Monday, February 8, 2016. Gingerich recalled that Ecology's review and approval of the 2016 plan is required in order to adjust the TDG standard for the fish bypass season. He said he noted in the follow-up email he recently sent to Charlie McKinney and Mark Peterschmidt that this plan was also out for review. John Ferguson said this plan was also discussed with the Wells HCP Coordinating Committee and approved on January 26, 2016.

The Aquatic SWG members present approved the 2016 Wells Dam GAP and BOP, contingent on approval by Ecology. *(Note: McKinney provided Ecology's approval of the plan via email on February 18, 2016, as distributed to the Aquatic SWG by Geris on February 29, 2016.)*

The FERC filing of the Final 2016 Wells Dam GAP and BOP, which was also approved by the Wells HCP Coordinating Committee on January 26, 2016, was distributed to the Aquatic SWG by Kristi Geris on February 29, 2016.

- 7. DECISION: Draft 2016 Aquatic Settlement Agreement Action Plan** (Andrew Gingerich): Andrew Gingerich said Kristi Geris sent an email to the Aquatic SWG on January 12, 2016, notifying members that the Draft 2016 ASA Action Plan was available for a 30-day review period, with edits and comments due to Gingerich by Wednesday, February 10, 2016. Gingerich recalled that the action plan is not required by FERC; rather, it is drafted each year to help show what is expected in the year to come. He said no comments were received on the draft plan outside of those discussed during the last Aquatic SWG meeting on January 13, 2016. He recalled John Ferguson's request to add to the white sturgeon section Aquatic SWG approval of the broodstock and breeding plan, which Gingerich said was added, as requested.

The Aquatic SWG members present approved the 2016 ASA Action Plan, as revised.

- 8. 2016 Snow Telemetry Water Forecast Update** (Andrew Gingerich): Andrew Gingerich projected the U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service Snow Telemetry (SNOTEL) webmap (available at <http://www.wcc.nrcs.usda.gov/snow/>). He said most of the water that Wells Dam receives is from the Upper Columbia Basin in Canada. He noted that SNOTEL does not include data for Canada, and unfortunately, he was unable to locate an online resource that summarizes those data as well as SNOTEL. He said, with regard to Washington, the percent of official median is high in the eastern Cascade Mountains, which will all drain into the Columbia River. He noted that it gets dryer moving east into the Columbia Basin. Jason McLellan said the CCT somewhat track snow pack in Canada and, currently, it is at least average.

Gingerich projected the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Northwest River Forecast Center webmap (available at <http://www.nwrfc.noaa.gov/rfc/>). He said, looking at the 120-day forecast (percent of average) again, the eastern Cascade Mountains look fairly wet. John Ferguson asked about potential TDG issues, and Chas Kyger said it depends on when Grand Coulee Dam releases water and how much.

Gingerich said, in summary, December 2015 and January 2016 were wetter than in previous years. He said, however, these values can decrease depending on what happens in the spring. He recalled that last year, there was a lot of water in the spring and, essentially, no freshet in June and July when normal peak flows arrive.

- 9. Wells White Sturgeon Rearing Update** (Andrew Gingerich): Andrew Gingerich projected a Wells White Sturgeon Summary (Attachment B), which was distributed to the Aquatic SWG by Kristi Geris following the meeting on February 10, 2016. Gingerich said the summary details fish on station at Wells Hatchery as of the end of January 2016. He said there are more than 7,400 fish on station, which are all larval-origin. He recalled that brood year (BY) 2013 larval-origin fish size at release was on average about 199 grams each, and BY 2014 fish were

only about 130 grams each. He said this year, Douglas PUD would like to grow BY 2015 fish closer to 199 grams each, similar to BY 2013 fish. He said fish currently on station are on average about 56 grams each. Jason McLellan asked about the water temperature in the tanks, and Gingerich said the temperature is probably about 56°F (or 13.3°C). Gingerich added that, typically, fish growth increases when surplus fish are moved off station. McLellan recommended, if possible, increasing the water temperature to 62.6°F (or 17°C). Gingerich said hatchery staff will likely be more receptive to increasing the water temperature when about 2,500 fish are moved off station. He recalled discussing during the Aquatic SWG meeting on November 12, 2015, possibly transferring surplus BY 2015 fish to Canadian partners in the Upper Columbia White Sturgeon Recovery Initiative Program (UCWSRIP). McLellan said all required permitting is in place except the USFWS Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) permit. He added that all permit application materials have been submitted, and now UCWSRIP is just waiting to receive the permit.

Gingerich said, ideally, Douglas PUD would like to move surplus fish off station by March 1, 2016, to provide adequate time to grow fish to the target size at release. He asked what the alternative plan is if the CITES permit is not approved by March 1, 2016. McLellan said this was a topic of discussion during a Lake Roosevelt co-manager meeting, and it was decided to scute mark and release the surplus fish into Lake Roosevelt if permits are not obtained in time. Chad Jackson agreed that, from the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) standpoint, the alternative plan should be whatever the co-managers decide. Gingerich noted that if this CITES permit is not obtained, this may not be the only opportunity to move fish to Canada. McLellan agreed and said there are different ways to obtain a CITES permit. He explained that if fish are moved frequently, master files are established. He said individual permits still need to be obtained; however, establishing a master file expedites the CITES permit process. He said, at one point, WDFW had a master file; however, it was not maintained. He said he believes a request has been submitted to reinstate that master file, so transferring fish to Canada may be more feasible in the future. John Ferguson asked what permits are needed to release surplus fish into Lake Roosevelt, and Jackson said it depends on who transports the fish. McLellan speculated that WDFW would transport the fish. Jackson asked if the surplus fish are PIT tagged, and McLellan said they are not. McLellan added that it is not ideal to PIT tag fish fewer than 30 grams in size. He said he has PIT-tagged fish weighing 20 to 25 grams under special circumstances; however, those 14-gram fish (smallest in Attachment B) cannot take a PIT tag. Ferguson asked when the surplus fish will be PIT tagged, and McLellan said surplus fish will be PIT tagged and scute marked just prior to release. McLellan said, generally, it is ideal to PIT tag 1 to 3 months prior to release to assess metrics like mortality and in-hatchery tag retention. He added that survival rates may vary considering naïve fish will be released into a unique environment as opposed to going back into a hatchery tank where feed is provided.

Ferguson asked about the protocol to reduce the Wells White Sturgeon Program size from 7,418 to 5,000 fish. Gingerich said Wells Hatchery staff prefer to move the smallest fish off station. He added that this is not surprising, considering staff are being told program fish need to be larger (199 grams at release). McLellan said the average size at release for white sturgeon is incredibly variable. He said average size at release of direct gamete-origin Marion Drain white sturgeon is 200 grams. He said, throughout the past 15 years in the Columbia River in Washington, the average size at release has been roughly 180 to 185 grams, versus 75 grams in the Columbia River in Canada, where they must heat the water, which is expensive. He said the survival relationship is about 50% survival for fish weighing 100 grams at release, 86% survival for fish weighing 200 grams at release, and survival is in the high 90th percentile for fish weighing 300 grams at release. He said, based on these statistics, it would be ideal to grow fish to 300 grams at release. Gingerich said Douglas PUD is willing to further discuss how to select which fish get transferred off station. McLellan suggested staggered release groups, and Gingerich said at Wells Hatchery there is a capacity issue. Gingerich recalled that last year, Douglas PUD had to ask Marion Drain to hold the BY 2015 fertilized eggs longer because there was no room for them on station at Wells Hatchery. McLellan said the CCT understands the constraints and advocates that the selection is as unbiased as possible.

Gingerich said fish health is good for BY 2015 fish on station at Wells Hatchery, noting that most tanks have zero mortalities (see Attachment B). He also noted, however, the 68 mortalities in Tank 7, which are the smallest fish on station. He recalled that in previous months, there had been 300 mortalities per month, so now fish health is much better. McLellan recalled, that in the past couple of years, one or two tanks have consistently had issues, and he asked if Tank 7 was one of those tanks. He asked, if it is, can the tank be investigated to determine the cause of the issue. Gingerich said fish health has been tested and results came back negative. McLellan suggested the issue might be some dynamic about that particular tank. Chas Kyger suggested it may have something to do with only rearing the smallest fish in that particular tank. Gingerich said Douglas PUD can ask hatchery staff about this. McLellan acknowledged that the Wells White Sturgeon Program has historically been a success, as previously discussed within the Aquatic SWG; however, he said he still thinks Douglas PUD needs to strive for the highest possible in-hatchery survival rates to reduce domestic selection.

Jackson suggested, in case the CITES permit is not obtained in time, making preparations for a BY 2015 transfer to Lake Roosevelt this year and a BY 2016 transfer to Canada next year. McLellan said he thinks UCWSRIP will request that Douglas PUD hold the surplus BY 2015 fish as long as possible; however, if the Aquatic SWG indicates the fish need to be transferred off station, UCWSRIP will adjust, as necessary.

The Aquatic SWG members present agreed to a March 1, 2016, deadline to transfer surplus white sturgeon off site that are in excess of the Douglas PUD 5,000-fish White Sturgeon Program, in order to grow program fish to the target size at release.

10. Aquatic Settlement Agreement Rules and Regulations Refresher (John Ferguson):

John Ferguson suggested distributing a refresher on ASA rules and regulations concerning review periods and Decision Items. He said the refresher should include ASA language describing protocols for review deadlines and Aquatic SWG approval of Decision Items. He said, for example, Decision Items need to be approved by the Aquatic SWG Technical Representative (opposed to technical support staff). He said also, if an agency needs more time to make a decision, that agency must provide notice to the Aquatic SWG in advance of the decision date requesting additional time. He said a refresher will be distributed to the Aquatic SWG following the meeting. (*Note: Kristi Geris distributed a refresher email to the Aquatic SWG Technical Representatives, as discussed, on February 18, 2016.*)

VII. Next Meetings

1. **Upcoming meetings** (John Ferguson): The Aquatic SWG meeting on March 9, 2016, will be held by conference call.

Upcoming meetings are as follows: March 9, 2016 (conference call); April 13, 2016 (TBD); and May 11, 2016 (TBD).

List of Attachments

Attachment A – List of Attendees

Attachment B – Wells White Sturgeon Summary, January 2016

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
Chad Jackson	Technical Support	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Jason McLellan	Aquatic SWG Technical Representative	Colville Confederated Tribes