

FINAL MEMORANDUM

To: Wells, Rocky Reach, and Rock Island HCPs
Coordinating Committees

Date: August 23, 2016

From: John Ferguson, HCP Coordinating Committees
Chairman

Cc: Kristi Geris

Re: Final Minutes of the July 26, 2016, HCP Coordinating Committees Meeting

The Wells, Rocky Reach, and Rock Island Hydroelectric Projects Habitat Conservation Plans (HCPs) Coordinating Committees met at the Radisson Gateway Hotel, in SeaTac, Washington, on Tuesday July 26, 2016, from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Attendees are listed in Attachment A to these meeting minutes.

ACTION ITEM SUMMARY

- Chelan PUD will provide a Rock Island Powerhouse 1 Maintenance Update during the next Coordinating Committees meeting (Item I-C).
 - Chelan PUD will provide a summary regarding the Rock Island Powerhouse 1 Units B1 to B4 modernization outage through 2020 and what effects this may have on spill and overall generation capacity at the project (Item I-C).
 - Jeff Korth will inquire internally whether the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) still has fixed radio telemetry sites installed at Rock Island or Rocky Reach dams (Item III-A).
 - Chelan PUD will provide a table and written explanation of the maintenance (upgrades) being proposed to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) for Rock Island Powerhouse 1 Units B1 to B4, including how the upgrades differ from current conditions, to Kristi Geris for distribution to the Coordinating Committees (Item III-B).
 - Anchor QEA, LLC, will coordinate with Denny Rohr (Priest Rapids Coordinating Committee [PRCC] Facilitator) to determine meeting logistics for future Coordinating Committees meetings to be held in Wenatchee, Washington, including logistics for the quarterly, joint HCP/PRCC sessions (Item VI-A). *(Note: Kristi Geris distributed an*
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email to the Coordinating Committees and PRCC on August 8, 2016, indicating that future Coordinating Committees meetings and joint Coordinating Committees/PRCC sessions will be held at the Grant PUD office located at 11 Spokane Street (second floor), Wenatchee, Washington, beginning with the Coordinating Committees meeting on October 25, 2016.)

- **The Coordinating Committees meeting on August 23, 2016, will be held via conference call (Item VI-B).**

DECISION SUMMARY

- The Rocky Reach HCP Coordinating Committee representatives present approved the Closure of Rocky Reach Adult Fishway Orifice Gates Statement of Agreement (SOA; Item III-A).
- The Rocky Reach HCP Coordinating Committee representatives approved via email on August 15, 2016, ending spill at Rocky Reach Dam at midnight that night.

AGREEMENTS

- The Coordinating Committees representatives present agreed that per the Wells Project HCP, 2000 Wells Project Interim Biological Opinion (BiOp), 2003 BiOp, and Hatchery Permits 1196, 1347, and 1395, trap operators at Wells Dam have the flexibility to trap spring Chinook salmon outside the protocols used to date (16 hours per day, 3 days per week), in order to achieve broodstock collection targets as prescribed and in consultation with the annual Wells HCP Coordinating Committee-approved Broodstock Collection Protocols (Item V-A).

REVIEW ITEMS

- Kristi Geris sent an email to the Coordinating Committees on August 10, 2016, notifying them that a Wells Project Land-use Permit Application (City of Pateros) was available for a 60-day review period, with edits and comments due to Kahler by Monday, October 10, 2016.
 - Kristi Geris sent an email to the Coordinating Committees on August 15, 2016, notifying them that Amendment Requests to Remove Unconstructed Small Turbines from Licenses were available for review, with comments due to Lance Keller by
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September 15, 2016.

FINALIZED DOCUMENTS

- The 2015 Biological Evaluation of the Rocky Reach Juvenile Fish Bypass System Report was finalized following a 30-day review period, which ended June 16, 2016, and the final report was distributed to the Coordinating Committees by Kristi Geris on July 25, 2016.
- The 2015 Rock Island Dam Smolt Monitoring Program and Gas Bubble Trauma Evaluation Report was finalized following a 30-day review period, which ended June 24, 2016, and the final report was distributed to the Coordinating Committees by Kristi Geris on July 25, 2016.

I. Welcome

A. Review Agenda (John Ferguson)

John Ferguson welcomed the Coordinating Committees and asked for any additions or changes to the agenda. Lance Keller added a Chelan PUD Subyearling Chinook Salmon Phase III Designation update.

B. Meeting Minutes Approval (John Ferguson)

The Coordinating Committees reviewed the revised draft June 22, 2016, meeting minutes. Kristi Geris said a second revised version was distributed on July 25, 2016, which included clarifications by Jeff Korth on two statements he made during the HCP Hatchery Committees Update, Broodstock Collection for Methow Programs. Coordinating Committees members present approved the late revisions. Geris said all other comments and revisions received from members of the Committees were incorporated into the revised minutes. Coordinating Committees members present approved the June 22, 2016, meeting minutes, as revised.

C. Last Meeting Action Items (John Ferguson)

Action items from the Coordinating Committees meeting on June 22, 2016, and follow-up discussions, were as follows. (*Note: italicized text corresponds to agenda items from the meeting on June 22, 2016*):

- *Tracy Hillman will present an overview of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA's) Salmon Population Summary (SPS) database following the Coordinating Committees meeting on July 26, 2016 (Item I-C).*

This will be discussed following today's meeting.

- *Chelan PUD will provide a Rock Island Powerhouse 1 Maintenance Update during the next Coordinating Committees meeting (Item I-C).*

This will be discussed during today's meeting and will also be carried forward.

- *Anchor QEA, LLC, will inquire with Greg Fraser (USFWS) his interest in sharing with the Coordinating Committees his presentation on Entiat River History and Impacts to Chinook Salmon, which Fraser recently presented to the HCP Hatchery Committees (Item II-A).*

Fraser offered to provide this presentation during the Coordinating Committees meeting on August 23, 2016. Fraser's presentation will be distributed to the Coordinating Committees closer to the meeting date. *(Note: Fraser's presentation will be postponed until the next in-person meeting.)*

- *Jeff Korth will provide a statement for Coordinating Committees review and approval regarding the Yakama Nation's (YN's) request concerning obtaining Chelan and Grant PUDs Methow spring Chinook salmon broodstock; the statement will be distributed by Friday, June 24, 2016, and a vote via email will be due Friday, July 1, 2016 (Item II-A).*

This will be discussed during today's meeting.

- *Chelan PUD will consult with Grant PUD regarding the process undertaken when completing turbine runner modernizations at Priest Rapids Dam (Item III-A).*

This will be discussed during today's meeting.

- *Chelan PUD will provide a summary regarding the Rock Island Powerhouse 1 Units B1 to B4 modernization outage through 2020, and what effects this may have on spill and overall generation capacity at the project (Item III-A).*

This action item will be carried forward.

- *Scott Carlon will contact Bryan Nordlund (National Marine Fisheries Service [NMFS], retired) and Lance Keller will contact Grant PUD regarding any assessments conducted following the closure of the orifice gates (OGs) at Priest Rapids Dam (Item III-B).*
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This will be discussed during today's meeting.

- *Chelan PUD will provide a draft SOA for the proposed Rocky Reach OG closure to Kristi Geris for distribution to the Coordinating Committees no later than 10 calendar days prior to the Coordinating Committees meeting on July 26, 2016; Chelan PUD will request approval of the SOA during the meeting on July 26, 2016 (Item III-B).*

Lance Keller provided the draft SOA to Geris on July 12, 2016, which Geris distributed to the Coordinating Committees that same day. This will be further discussed during today's meeting.

- *John Ferguson and Denny Rohr will further discuss logistics for quarterly, joint HCP/PRCC sessions convened to continue discussions regarding subyearling Chinook salmon passage studies (Item IV-A).*

This will be discussed during today's meeting.

II. HCP Tributary and Hatchery Committees Update

A. HCP Tributary and Hatchery Committees Update (Tracy Hillman)

Tracy Hillman said the HCP Hatchery Committees did not meet in July 2016, due to lack of agenda items. He said they did discuss a couple items via email. He said the Rock Island and Rocky Reach HCP Hatchery Committees approved the use of surplus summer Chinook salmon from the Entiat National Fish Hatchery (NFH) if sufficient numbers of summer Chinook cannot be collected from the Eastbank Outfall for the Chelan Falls Summer Chinook Salmon Program in 2016. Hillman said Chelan PUD also distributed a proposal to conduct a pilot adult trapping effort at the outlet structure of the water conveyance canal for the Chelan Tailrace Pump Station. He said the purpose of the pilot effort is to find a more reliable location for collecting broodstock in 2017 and beyond. He added that the pump station provides flow to Reach 4 of the Chelan River Habitat Channel, and summer Chinook salmon aggregate there. The next HCP Hatchery Committees meeting will be on August 17, 2016.

Hillman updated the Coordinating Committees on the following actions and discussions that occurred during the last HCP Tributary Committees conference call on July 14, 2016.

- *General Salmon Habitat Program Proposals:* The HCP Tributary Committees reviewed seven full proposals. Prior to review, an update was provided on how much
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money is currently in each Plan Species Account—about \$5.5 million in the Rock Island account, about \$2 million in the Rocky Reach account, about \$1.3 million in the Wells account, equaling about \$8.9M total. The following four proposals were approved:

1. The Wenatchee Sleepy Hollow Floodplain Acquisition proposal, submitted by the Chelan-Douglas Land Trust, intends to protect 2,700 feet of riverbank and 37 acres of high-quality riparian and floodplain habitat on the lower Wenatchee River (river mile [RM] 2.7 to 3.2). The total cost of the project is \$661,000, and the sponsor requested \$165,250. The Rock Island HCP Tributary Committee approved.
 2. The Silver Side Channel Acquisition proposal, submitted by the Methow Salmon Recovery Foundation, intends to protect 95.8 acres, including off-channel floodplain habitat, wetlands, riparian habitat, and agricultural lands on the middle Methow River (RM 34.3 to 35.3). The total cost of the project is \$801,470, and the sponsor requested \$236,406. The Wells HCP Tributary Committee approved.
 3. The Burns-Garrity Restoration Design proposal, submitted by Cascade Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group, intends to prepare a restoration design that will improve instream, off-channel, and floodplain habitat on 30 acres of land on the lower Chewuch River (RM 2.3 to 2.8). The total cost of the project is \$177,335, and the sponsor requested \$45,550. The Rocky Reach HCP Tributary Committee approved.
 4. The Beaver Fever proposal, submitted by Trout Unlimited, intends to install beaver dam analogs (BDAs) in tributaries of the Wenatchee River basin, to reestablish beavers, increase habitat complexity, moderate water temperatures, augment stream flows, trap fine sediments, and improve riparian and off-channel connectivity. The total cost of the project is \$279,278, and the sponsor requested \$108,226. The Rock Island HCP Tributary Committee approved. Hillman said all project approvals included conditions; however, with this project it was especially emphasized that all money from the Rock Island Plan Species Account will be used to purchase and install BDAs, and no funds from the account will be used to trap, acclimate, or relocate
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beavers. John Ferguson asked what a BDA entails. Hillman explained that a BDA is simply wooden fence posts driven into the streambed perpendicular (or at an angle to) flow, with woody material racked around the fence posts. He said the BDA functions like a beaver dam, and often times beavers also build on top of the structure. He said research on BDAs in the John Day Basin show significant benefits, as described in a paper titled, “Ecosystem experiment reveals benefits of natural and simulated beaver dams to a threatened population of steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*)” (Attachment B), which was distributed to the Coordinating Committees by Kristi Geris following the meeting on July 26, 2016. Hillman said Trout Unlimited is trying to replicate these successes. Hillman cautioned, however, that BDAs must be used wisely; BDAs need to be installed in somewhat entrenched areas with some wood recruitment. Jim Craig suggested sharing research on BDAs with the U.S. Forest Service, considering their reluctance to install such structures. Jeff Korth agreed site selection is key, and said he is somewhat reluctant to relocate beavers because it seems if habitat in a certain area supports beavers, then the beavers would already be there.

Hillman said three proposals were rejected, as follows:

1. The Nason RM 2.3 Side Channel Reconnection Design proposal, submitted by Chelan County Natural Resource Department (CCNRD), intends to reconnect a 0.36- to 0.53 mile-long, high-flow channel to the mainstem on lower Nason Creek near RM 2.3. The total cost of the project is \$149,778, and the sponsor requested \$23,000. The HCP Tributary Committees elected not to fund this project because it has become too complex and expensive, and those complex and expensive additions may not provide significant additional benefit. Specifically, the HCP Tributary Committees questioned the proposed creation of a right-angle connection at the upstream end of the side channel, considering the amount of fine sediment that recruits to Nason Creek. The HCP Tributary Committees recommended looking farther upstream for a reconnection point. Hillman said this project may still move forward via funding from the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB).
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2. The Thermal Refuge in the Wenatchee Basin proposal, submitted by CCNRD, intends to identify locations of cold-water seeps and functioning cold-water refugia, as well as identify possible protection and restoration opportunities to increase thermal refugia within the Upper Wenatchee River, Nason Creek, Chiwawa River, and the Little Wenatchee River. The total cost of the project is \$48,807, and the sponsor requested \$7,321. The HCP Tributary Committees elected not to fund this project because the proposed approach (ground-based longitudinal profiles and spot-checking cold seeps) is more expensive and somewhat flawed compared to late-fall or early-winter forward-looking infrared (FLIR) imaging, which is more practical for identifying and characterizing thermal refugia. During review of draft proposals, the HCP Tributary Committees recommended that the sponsor include FLIR imaging in the final proposal; however, the sponsor did not.
 3. The Peshastin Irrigation Pump Exchange Preliminary Design proposal, submitted by CCNRD, intends to increase late summer flows by up to 30 cubic feet per second (cfs) in the lower 2.4 miles of Peshastin Creek, via a newly designed pump exchange facility. The total cost of the project is \$199,393, and the sponsor requested \$29,909. The HCP Tributary Committees elected not to fund this project because they believe the most biological benefit would come from removing the irrigation diversion from Peshastin Creek (as also stated during the draft proposal process). Ferguson said 30 cfs is fairly substantial. Hillman agreed, and said the project will likely receive funding from SRFB. Hillman said the HCP Tributary Committees received a letter from Mike Kaputa (CCNRD Director) indicating he understood the HCP Tributary Committees' position.
- *Okanagan Nation Alliance Field Trip.* Another field trip in Canada is planned for October 12 and 13, 2016. The HCP Tributary Committees and PRCC Habitat Subcommittee will attend the tour, and the HCP Coordinating Committees are also invited.
 - *Next Steps.* The next meeting of the HCP Tributary Committees will be on August 11, 2016.
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III. Chelan PUD

A. DECISION: Rocky Reach Orifice Gate Closure SOA (Lance Keller)

Lance Keller said the Closure of Rocky Reach Adult Fishway Orifice Gates Draft SOA was distributed to the Coordinating Committees by Kristi Geris on July 12, 2016. Keller recalled discussing this proposal at length, including distributing: 1) an initial proposal with photographs on April 26, 2016; 2) a summary of historical radio telemetry data demonstrating use of the OGs for adult fish passage on May 24, 2016; and 3) a description of logistics and mechanics of the proposed closure of the OGs on June 17, 2016.

Keller read the Agreement Statement of the draft SOA (see final SOA; Attachment C). He said he spoke with Scott Carlon about comparing daily fish count data with historical counts to determine any delays (as a result from closing the OGs), and they both agreed this method should suffice. Keller said he also spoke with Curt Dotson (Grant PUD), and Dotson did not recall completing an analysis following the closure of the OGs at Priest Rapids Dam. Keller said this SOA is an effort to achieve appropriate entrance differentials at Rocky Reach Dam without requiring modifications inside the fishways.

Bob Rose said the Yakama Nation (YN) is supportive of the SOA, and also requested that Steve Hemstrom and Tracy Hillman discuss this during the next Rocky Reach Fish Forum to establish a monitoring strategy for Pacific lamprey. Keller emailed the request to Hemstrom during the meeting on July 26, 2016.

Kirk Truscott suggested that Chelan PUD monitor passive integrated transponder (PIT)-tag data from Rock Island Dam through Rocky Reach Dam, and compare those data to past years as a means to assess passage delays associated to the OGs. Keller said Chelan PUD can do this. He added that PIT-tag analysis opportunities are few and far between in this area; however, Chelan PUD will monitor the available locations. John Ferguson asked where detection points are located, and Keller replied they are downstream of the count windows at Rock Island and Rocky Reach dams. Truscott asked if there are any fixed radio telemetry sites installed at Rock Island or Rocky Reach dams. Jeff Korth said he does not believe so, but will inquire internally.

The Rocky Reach HCP Coordinating Committee representatives present approved the Closure of Rocky Reach Adult Fishway Orifice, Gates SOA. The final SOA (Attachment C) was distributed to the Coordinating Committees by Geris on July 27, 2016.

B. Rock Island Powerhouse 1 Maintenance Update (Lance Keller)

Lance Keller recalled providing updates to the Coordinating Committees about turbine blade issues discovered in Rock Island Dam Powerhouse 1 Units B1, B2, B3, and B4, which are the original units installed at Rock Island Dam in 1933. Keller said he misspoke during the Coordinating Committees meeting on June 22, 2016, when he stated that Chelan PUD planned to completely rehabilitate Units B1 to B4 from the ground up. He said the rehabilitation will actually be of a smaller scale, and based on discussions with FERC, the effort will fall under what FERC views as maintenance. Keller said this effort is different from the process Grant PUD undertook, because modifications at Priest Rapids Dam involved redesign of a significant number of turbine and flow control components, and the redesign at Rock Island Dam will only involve some of the turbine components. Keller reviewed what will and what will not change, as follows.

The following components of the turbine will not change:

- No change to generator nameplate (i.e., capable power generation) or authorized project hydraulic capacity (i.e., 220,000 cfs). (*Keller noted that FERC considers changes to the project hydraulic capacity to be beyond maintenance.*)
- No change to authorized capacity (i.e., 20,700 kilowatt).
- No civil works.
- No change to diameter of the intake or draft tube discharge structures.
- No change to wicket gate height (i.e., the unit cannot pass more flow).
- No change to operations with fixed blades (HCP No-Net-Impact met under these conditions).
- No change to the partially spherical discharge liner (although, minimize gaps where blade tips meet liner).
- No work on stator core.

The following components of the turbine will change:

- Turbine horsepower (HP) will change from 32,000 HP to 30,000 HP (head for Powerhouse 1 units updated to 39.7 feet). (*Keller noted that he believes the lower HP is related to newer, more efficient technology.*)
- Smaller oil-free hub (no gaps at hub).
- New fixed propeller runner optimized for the current operating head and flow (currently manually adjustable Nagler-type propeller turbines).
- More efficient four-blade turbine runner, instead of six-blade turbine runner.
- Replaced governor controls.
- Rated operating head will change from 45-foot head to 39.7-foot head to provide consistency with the operating head of Powerhouse 2.
- Upon installation and testing, revised best gate operation for the units will be submitted to FERC.

Keller said the timeline is the same for the units to be fully operational by March 2020 in time for a 2020 confirmation study when Chelan PUD will evaluate survival through the new units. He said the proposed modern design is structured for optimum flow, more power generation, and benefits to fish passage survival. He said Chelan PUD is moving forward and very conscious of the survival standard, which is why the runner design will not change to a Kaplan style, and there will be a decrease in blade number to decrease strike points. He said, with regard to Chelan PUD's action item to provide a summary on what effects the outage/rehabilitation may have on spill and overall generation capacity at the project, he still needs to contact Marcie Steinmetz (Chelan PUD Water Resource Specialist), who has been away on vacation.

John Ferguson asked how many units will be rehabilitated. Keller replied seven, including Units B1 to B4 and B5 to B7 (the latter have a slightly larger capacity). He added that the rehabilitation of Units B5 to B7 was scheduled prior to and separate from the rehabilitation of Units B1 to B4, due to the discovery of cracked blades. Keller said Units B9 and B10 were recently rehabilitated around 2008 to 2010. Ferguson asked what role, if any, the Coordinating Committees will have in the design process. Keller said the Rock Island Dam rehabilitation will not require the same participation from the Coordinating Committees as the Priest Rapids Dam rehabilitation needed from the PRCC, because the Rock Island Dam

rehabilitation involves so much less, as formerly discussed. He said FERC has requested that Chelan PUD provide a notification letter that the maintenance will be performed, and meeting minutes will be appended to the letter to demonstrate consultation with the Coordinating Committees. He said Brett Bickford (Chelan PUD Engineering and Project Management Director) has also offered to field questions about the rehabilitation during a future meeting. Alene Underwood (Chelan PUD HCP Hatchery Committees Representative) said Chelan PUD will provide this draft letter to the Coordinating Committees for review, prior to submitting to FERC. Kirk Truscott requested that the draft letter include an explanation of what will change compared to existing conditions. Underwood said Chelan PUD will provide a table and written explanation of the maintenance (upgrades) being proposed to FERC for Rock Island Powerhouse 1 Units B1 to B4, including how the upgrades differ from current conditions. Underwood also suggested that the Coordinating Committees first review the draft letter to determine whether Bickford is needed for further explanations.

IV. Douglas PUD

A. Ongoing Wells Project Studies Update (Tom Kahler)

Bull Trout Study

Tom Kahler said, during the last Coordinating Committees meeting on June 22, 2016, he mistakenly reported that collection of bull trout for the study was complete; however, at that time, collection was not complete (although no more fish were collected at Wells Dam). He said collection extended into July 2016, and ultimately 14 bull trout were captured at Wells Dam; the remaining study fish were obtained from the Twisp Weir. He said because most study fish were obtained from the Twisp Weir, the focus of the study switched more on the Twisp River, which Kahler believes is appropriate considering the bulk of the Methow River run is from the Twisp River.

Pacific Lamprey Study

Kahler recalled discussing during the last Coordinating Committees meeting on June 22, 2016, fish counters observing a sockeye salmon entering the newly installed lamprey enumeration structure backwards, turning around, and exiting the structure. Kahler said since then, more sockeye salmon have done this, and one did not make it out. He said Wells

Dam staff removed the upper portion of the enumeration structure in the west fish ladder and will modify and replace it in August 2016, between the sockeye salmon and steelhead runs. He said the reason this happened is because the dimensions of the parts received were larger than those specified in the design, and the parts were not cut down to size. Thus, the tunnel exit was 3 inches tall rather than 1.5 inches. He said an enumeration structure with correct entrance and exit dimensions is also ready to be installed in the east fish ladder, which should be installed soon because lamprey counts at Rocky Reach Dam are increasing.

B. Wells Hatchery Modernization (Tom Kahler)

Adult Handling Facility

Tom Kahler said the Adult Handling Facility is generally complete (functional), and now only needs finishing work. He said, in addition to the design problems previously described during past Coordinating Committees meetings, the electronarcosis system was not performing as expected, so the contractor worked with hatchery staff to make the necessary adjustments.

Volunteer Channel

Kahler said the volunteer channel is a structure that has been in place since the hatchery was built in the 1960s, and was the means by which hatchery returns entered the hatchery. He said the channel, which in the past was largely fed by surface water, has always been attractive to fish, and now is even more attractive because cold groundwater is discharged down the channel from the new Adult Handling Facility (rather than down the facility drain as in the past). He said groundwater from the four large dirt ponds still drains into the channel downstream of the trap, and once those ponds are filled later this summer when river temperatures are high, the attractiveness of the channel will only increase. Because of the increased attractiveness from the cold groundwater from the Adult Handling Facility, hatchery staff are now burdened with processing a larger number of fish during broodstock collection than in past years. He said they would likely retrofit the trap system to enable fish not needed for broodstock or surplus to voluntarily return to the river.

West Fish Ladder Trap

Kahler said, originally, fish from the west fish ladder trap were conveyed to a pond to sort,

via a 30-inch pipe that went through a dewatering structure, and by the time the pipe dropped into the steelhead pond, flow was a trickle. He said the pipe now leads directly into a raceway without passing through a dewatering structure. To reach the raceway, a section of 18-inch pipe was added to the end of the 30-inch pipe. Consequently, the pipe now discharges at an extremely high velocity and, since the pipe enters perpendicular to the long-axis of the raceway, the fish can hit the raceway wall opposite the pipe mouth. He said a fix for this is still under discussion, and in the meantime, the trap is not being used. At the very least, the discharge volume of the pipe will be reduced to prevent fish from hitting the opposite wall.

Conveyance Fishway

Kahler said the newly constructed fishway between the upstream end of the volunteer channel and the Adult Handling Facility now includes two 90-degree angles where fish have started jumping out of the fishway. He said a contractor installed netting over the fishways to prevent fish from jumping out.

Dirt Ponds

Kahler said last summer a contractor installed bird netting over two of the four dirt ponds, dramatically increasing steelhead survival from ponding to release. He said the contractor could not cover the remaining two dirt ponds last summer because of excavation activity and access issues associated with the ongoing hatchery modernization project. He said this summer a contractor is installing bird netting over Dirt Pond 1, and that project is nearly complete. He said a transmission tower in Dirt Pond 2 precludes using the same methods used for covering the other ponds. However, since Pond 2 is used for summer Chinook subyearlings, which only occupy the ponds for a few months and are released early at a smaller size than the steelhead, those fish are not subjected to the degree of avian predation observed in the steelhead ponds.

V. All

A. Methow Spring Chinook Broodstock / Tangle-netting (All)

John Ferguson said, following several email discussions, tangle-netting for Methow spring Chinook salmon broodstock was approved by the HCP Hatchery Committees and began last

week. He said the Coordinating Committees are now tasked with continuing discussions regarding trapping protocols. Jeff Korth said nothing is needed in terms of modifications to permit language; rather, he believes the task will be addressing the correct size of the Methow Conservation Program. Ferguson suggested first addressing the trapping protocol discussion and memorializing an agreement or decision in the administrative record. Scott Carlon said he spoke with Craig Busack (NMFS HCP Hatchery Committees Alternate), and Busack prefers trapping to tangle-netting. Korth suggested reviewing the email distributed by Kahler on July 8, 2016, which Korth believes succinctly summarizes trapping provisions in the respective permits (Attachment D). Tom Kahler read his email (Attachment D) and noted that the typical trapping protocols have been modified in the past, per Coordinating Committees approval, which has served as the vehicle by which the NMFS Hydropower Division exercised their authority to modify the protocols. Ferguson suggested developing an agreement to allow additional trapping, as needed, without requiring Coordinating Committees approval each time. Kahler countered that the Wells HCP Coordinating Committee must not relinquish their prerogative for supervising activities that could potentially impede fish passage, and clarified that no specific agreement was necessary because, per the requirements of the Wells HCP, the Wells HCP Coordinating Committee already reviews the annual broodstock collection protocols that include the trapping schedules.

The Coordinating Committees representatives present agreed that per the Wells Project HCP, 2000 Wells Project Interim BiOp, 2003 BiOp, and Hatchery Permits 1196, 1347, and 1395, trap operators at Wells Dam have the flexibility to trap spring Chinook salmon outside the protocols used to date (16 hours per day, 3 days per week), in order to achieve broodstock collection targets as prescribed and in consultation with the annual Wells HCP Coordinating Committee-approved Broodstock Collection Protocols.

Ferguson asked how best to address the size of the Methow Conservation Program. Korth suggested that WDFW add this as an agenda item for the next HCP Hatchery Committees meeting. He added that, pending discussions, the topic may also be elevated to the Coordinating Committees.

B. Subyearling Chinook Salmon Workshop Additional Debrief (All)

John Ferguson noted that the draft workshop minutes are out for PUD review and will be finalized and distributed to the committees soon. Ferguson said, after review of the draft workshop minutes, it seems the objectives of the workshop were met. He also recalled the Coordinating Committees agreement to convene quarterly, joint HCP/PRCC sessions to continue discussions regarding subyearling Chinook salmon passage studies.

Tom Kahler thanked Jim Craig, Jeff Korth, and Kirk Truscott for inviting their respective fellow agency members to provide presentations and discussions.

Lance Keller recalled that an impetus for the workshop was that Grant and Chelan PUDs are due under their respective agreements to evaluate the phase designation for subyearling Chinook salmon. He said, based on discussions from the workshop, it seems everyone agrees that survival studies are not yet feasible for subyearlings. He said Chelan PUD plans to present a draft SOA maintaining subyearling Chinook salmon in Phase III (Additional Juvenile Studies) during the Coordinating Committees meeting on August 23, 2016. He said this SOA is not intended to end discussions on subyearlings. Korth asked if Grant PUD is planning the same thing, and Keller said yes, Grant PUD is thinking along the same lines.

VI. HCP Administration

A. Eastern Washington and HCP/PRCC Joint Session Meeting Locations

John Ferguson recalled his action item to coordinate with Denny Rohr about future meeting logistics in Wenatchee, Washington. He said Rohr plans to confirm arrangements with the PRCC during their meeting tomorrow on July 27, 2016. Anchor QEA will coordinate with Rohr following the PRCC meeting to determine meeting logistics for future Coordinating Committees meetings to be held in Wenatchee, Washington, including logistics for the quarterly, joint HCP/PRCC sessions. *(Note: Kristi Geris distributed an email to the Coordinating Committees and PRCC on August 8, 2016, indicating that future Coordinating Committees meetings and joint Coordinating Committees/PRCC sessions will be held at the Grant PUD office located at 11 Spokane Street (second floor), Wenatchee, Washington, beginning with the Coordinating Committees meeting on October 25, 2016.)*

B. Next Meetings

The next scheduled Coordinating Committees meeting is on August 23, 2016, to be held by conference call. Jim Craig said he will let Greg Fraser know the Coordinating Committees plan to postpone Fraser's presentation on Entiat River History and Impacts to Chinook Salmon until the next in-person meeting (to be determined).

The September 27, 2016, meeting will be held by conference call or in-person at the Radisson Hotel in SeaTac, Washington, as is yet to be determined.

The October 25, 2016, meeting will be held in-person at the Grant PUD Wenatchee Office in Wenatchee, Washington (to be confirmed).

VII. PRESENTATION: NOAA's Salmon Population Summary Database

A. PRESENTATION: NOAA's Salmon Population Summary Database (Tracy Hillman)

Following the Coordinating Committees meeting, Tracy Hillman provided an overview of NOAA's Salmon Population Summary database and browser.

VIII. List of Attachments

Attachment A	List of Attendees
Attachment B	Ecosystem experiment reveals benefits of natural and simulated beaver dams to a threatened population of steelhead (<i>Oncorhynchus mykiss</i>) (Bouwes et al. 2016)
Attachment C	Closure of Rocky Reach Adult Fishway Orifice Gates, Final SOA
Attachment D	Wells Dam Trapping Provisions Email (Kahler, July 8, 2016)

Attachment A
List of Attendees

Name	Organization
John Ferguson	Anchor QEA, LLC
Kristi Geris	Anchor QEA, LLC
Tracy Hillman†	BioAnalysts
Lance Keller*	Chelan PUD
Alene Underwood††	Chelan PUD
Tom Kahler*	Douglas PUD
Scott Carlon*	National Marine Fisheries Service
Jim Craig*	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Jeff Korth*	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Kirk Truscott**	Colville Confederated Tribes
Bob Rose**	Yakama Nation

Notes:

- * Denotes Coordinating Committees member or alternate
 - ** Denotes Coordinating Committees member or alternate, joined by phone
 - † Joined by phone for the HCP Tributary and Hatchery Committees Update and NOAA's Salmon Population Summary Database presentation
 - †† Joined by phone for the Chelan PUD items
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