

HCP Policy Committee Conference Call Final Meeting Notes

1/14/15

Policy members present on the call:

Keith Truscott - Chelan PUD
Jim Craig - USFWS
Steve Parker – Yakama Nation
Ritchie Graves – NOAA
Jeff Korth – WDFW
Shane Bickford – Douglas PUD
Kirk Truscott – Colville Confederated Tribes

Policy Committee members opened the call with a recognition that there was a proposal brought forward on January 9, 2015 to investigate the option of selecting a qualified candidate that would be acceptable to all signatory parties thereby resolving the current differing selection opinions of the Policy Committee representatives. The proposal directed the PUD's to initiate a discussion with Tracy Hillman to see if he had an interest and would be willing to accept the responsibility of chairperson for the Douglas and Chelan HCP Hatchery Committees and/or HCP Coordinating Committees.

Chelan and Douglas PUD updated the Policy Committee regarding their conversations with Tracy and the outcome that Tracy was definitely interested in the chairperson duties for the HCP Hatchery Committees and/or HCP Coordinating Committees. There were 2 points raised by Tracy that he wanted the Policy Committee members to be aware of and discuss as part of the selection process:

- 1) His interest in HCP Committee chairperson responsibilities was open to chairing Hatchery or Coordinating committees independently or as a combined responsibility.
- 2) He would need concurrence from the Policy Committee that the perceived or potential for conflict of interest with BioAnalysts, Inc. work associated with hatchery M&E or other work product would not be an issue; i.e., BioAnalysts would still be able to competitively bid work stemming from the HCP Hatchery Committees provided sufficient controls are in place to ensure equal opportunity and a competitive selection process.

None of the HCP Policy Committee members thought that BioAnalysts' or Tracy's role in the hatchery M&E programs presented a conflict of interest.

The following conflict of interest and full-disclosure statement was developed to provide clarification and written documentation to support the administrative record of the selection process:

The Parties to the Wells, Rocky Reach, and Rock Island Anadromous Fish Agreements and Habitat Conservation Plans (HCPs) have unanimously selected Dr. Tracy Hillman to be the chair of the HCP Hatchery Committees. The Policy representatives of the Parties have made this decision with the full knowledge that BioAnalysts, Inc. participates in the HCP hatchery monitoring and evaluation (M&E) programs in both the Wenatchee and Methow basins, that Dr. Tracy Hillman co-leads the implementation of Chelan PUD's hatchery M&E program, and that Dr. Hillman participates in the Hatchery Effectiveness Technical Team (an ad-hoc subcommittee of the HCP Hatchery Committees, convened by assignment of the Hatchery Committees). In these roles, BioAnalysts, Inc. currently performs the following activities:

- Systematic snorkel surveys for juvenile abundance in the Chiwawa River and reference rivers.

- Spawning surveys for summer Chinook in the Methow and Wenatchee basins and in the Chelan River and Tailrace.
- Data review and analysis, and final reporting on M&E activities.
- Monthly reporting on M&E activities.
- Development of HCP M&E Plans and Reports.

The Parties to the HCPs have agreed that BioAnalysts, Inc., and specifically, Dr. Hillman's role in the aforementioned programs does not present a conflict of interest precluding Dr. Hillman from performing the functions required as the Chair of the HCPs Hatchery Committees. It is important to note that none of the HCP Committees chairs are a voting member in any of the HCP Committees. To guard against the perception of conflicts of interest in the future, Dr. Hillman, as the HCP Hatchery Committees chair may be asked to recuse himself from Hatchery Committees decisions that may affect the outcome or may provide a perceived effect on the outcome associated with awarding future M&E contracts.

The HCP Policy Committee members indicated that it would be in the best interest of the vital HCP administrative record and annual report to have Tracy chair the Hatchery Committee and have John Ferguson chair the Coordinating Committee. Policy Committee members acknowledged the benefit of this arrangement and maintaining the effectiveness of Anchor QEA support for the administrative record through John Ferguson and associated Anchor QEA support staff.

The formal proposal to select Tracy Hillman as HCP Hatchery Committee chair and John Ferguson as HCP Coordinating Committee chair was requested for a vote. Policy Committee members voted unanimous approval.

As a post approval action, the Policy Committee engaged in a discussion about the coordination of effort between the HCP Hatchery Committees and the Priest Rapids Hatchery Subcommittee; recognizing it is important and appropriate at times to have well coordinated efforts yet maintaining the unique attributes of each of the committees. Specifically Policy Committee members valued the momentum and working relationship currently in place with the Priest Rapids Hatchery Subcommittee and were greatly in favor of that continuing forward. Policy Committee members requested a follow-up with Tracy Hillman to determine whether he had any interest or intent to compete for the facilitator role under the Priest Rapids process (hatchery or coordinating) should that opportunity present itself in the future.

Chelan and Douglas PUD's pledged to have that discussion with Tracy and would get back to the Policy Committee on the outcome of that discussion (follow-up e-mail stating Tracy had no interest in facilitation of the Priest Rapids committees was sent to Policy Committee members 1/14/15).