

## FINAL MEMORANDUM

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

**From:** John Ferguson, HCP Coordinating Committees  
Chairman

**Cc:** Kristi Geris

**Re:** Final Minutes of the May 24, 2016, HCP Coordinating Committees Conference  
Call

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The Wells, Rocky Reach, and Rock Island Hydroelectric Projects Habitat Conservation Plans (HCPs) Coordinating Committees met by conference call on Tuesday May 24, 2016, from 9:30 to 10:45 a.m. Attendees are listed in Attachment A to these conference call minutes.

### ACTION ITEM SUMMARY

- 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 II-A).
  - Jeff Korth will provide project documents regarding Trout Unlimited's Leavenworth Diversion Screening Project to Kristi Geris for distribution to the Coordinating Committees (Item II-A). *(Note: Korth provided these documents following the meeting on May 24, 2016, which Geris distributed to the Coordinating Committees that same day.)*
  - Chelan PUD will provide a Rock Island Powerhouse 1 Maintenance Update during the next Coordinating Committees meeting (Item IV-A).
  - Chelan PUD will provide a summary of historical radio telemetry data demonstrating use of the orifice gates (OGs) at Rocky Reach Dam for adult fish passage (Item IV-C). *(Note: Lance Keller provided this summary following the meeting on May 24, 2016, which Kristi Geris distributed to the Coordinating Committees that same day.)*
  - Chelan PUD will provide details regarding the logistics and mechanics of the proposed closure of the OGs at Rocky Reach Dam (Item IV-C). *(Note: Lance Keller provided these details on June 17, 2016, which Kristi Geris distributed to the*
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*Coordinating Committees that same day.)*

- Chelan PUD will provide the Draft 2015 Rock Island Juvenile Fish Bypass Report for Coordinating Committees review (Item IV-D). *(Note: Lance Keller provided the draft report on May 25, 2016, which Kristi Geris distributed to the Coordinating Committees that same day.)*
- Anchor QEA will finalize and distribute the agenda for the 2016 Subyearling Chinook Salmon Workshop (Item V-A). *(Note: Kristi Geris distributed the final workshop agenda to the Coordinating Committees on June 16, 2016.)*
- Coordinating Committees representatives will provide to Kristi Geris a list of attendees to the 2016 Subyearling Chinook Salmon Workshop, as those lists are finalized (Item V-A).
- The 2016 Subyearling Chinook Salmon Workshop on **June 21, 2016**, will be held **in-person** at the Red Lion Hotel in SeaTac, Washington (Item V-B).
- The Coordinating Committees meeting on **June 22, 2016**, will be held **in-person** at the Radisson Hotel in SeaTac, Washington (Item V-B).

## **DECISION SUMMARY**

- There were no decisions approved during today's conference call.

## **AGREEMENTS**

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

## **REVIEW ITEMS**

- Kristi Geris sent an email to the Coordinating Committees on May 18, 2016, notifying them that the Draft 2015 Rocky Reach Juvenile Fish Bypass System Report is available for a 30-day review, with edits and comments due to Lance Keller by Thursday, June 16, 2016 (Item IV-D).
  - Kristi Geris sent an email to the Coordinating Committees on May 25, 2016, notifying them that the Draft 2015 Rock Island Juvenile Fish Bypass System Report is available for a 30-day review, with edits and comments due to Lance Keller by Friday, June 24, 2016 (Item IV-D).
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## FINALIZED DOCUMENTS

- There are no documents that have been recently finalized.

### I. Welcome

#### A. Review Agenda (John Ferguson)

John Ferguson welcomed the Coordinating Committees and asked for any additions or changes to the agenda. The following revisions were requested:

- Tom Kahler added updates on: 1) trapping at Wells Dam; and 2) Wells Dam bypass passive integrated transponder (PIT)-tag detection system.
- Lance Keller added a notice to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to cancel installation of microturbines at Rocky Reach and Rock Island dams.

#### B. Meeting Minutes Approval (John Ferguson)

The Coordinating Committees reviewed the revised draft April 26, 2016, conference call minutes. Kristi Geris said all comments and revisions received from members of the Committees were incorporated into the revised minutes. She said she also added the Draft 2015 Rocky Reach Juvenile Fish Bypass System Report under the review items. Coordinating Committees members present approved the April 26, 2016, conference call minutes, as revised.

#### C. Last Meeting Action Items (John Ferguson)

Action items from the Coordinating Committees meeting on April 26, 2016, and follow-up discussions, were as follows. (*Note: italicized text corresponds to agenda items from the meeting on April 26, 2016*):

- *John Ferguson will communicate developing details about the 2016 Subyearling Chinook Salmon Workshop to the Coordinating Committees during the monthly Coordinating Committees meetings (Item I-C).*  
This will be discussed during today's conference call.
  - *Lance Keller will provide the schedule for repairing Rock Island Dam Powerhouse 1 Unit B2 to Kristi Geris for distribution to the Coordinating Committees (Item I-C).*  
This will be discussed during today's conference call.
  - *Tom Kahler will discuss with Jeff Fryer (Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish*
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*Commission [CRITFC]) the Coordinating Committees' contingencies for approving CRITFC's annual request to tag sockeye salmon at Wells Dam in 2016, including: 1) using AQUI-S to anesthetize any fish and tagged in excess of the 800 specified in the CRITFC request letter, and tagging no more than 1,000 fish throughout the entire run; or 2) using MS-222 to anesthetize the fish and tagging no more than 800 fish throughout the entire run (Item III-A).*

Kahler discussed this with Fryer, as requested, and the Wells Coordinating Committee approved the request, as memorialized in last month's meeting minutes.

- *Chelan PUD will provide a summary of discussions held in the early-2000s regarding a request to close orifice gates (OGs) at Rocky Reach Dam, including historical radio telemetry data demonstrating use of the OGs for adult fish passage (Item IV-A).*

This will be discussed during today's conference call.

- *Chelan PUD will provide the Draft 2015 Rocky Reach and Rock Island Juvenile Fish Bypass Reports for Coordinating Committees review by Friday, April 29, 2016 (Item IV B).*

Lance Keller provided the Draft 2015 Rocky Reach Juvenile Fish Bypass Report to Kristi Geris on May 17, 2016, which Geris distributed to the Coordinating Committees on May 18, 2016. This will be further discussed during today's conference call.

## **II. HCP Tributary and Hatchery Committees Update**

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

Tracy Hillman updated the Coordinating Committees on the following actions and discussions that occurred at the last HCP Hatchery Committees meeting on May 18, 2016:

- *U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Bull Trout Consultation Update:* USFWS is currently working on the Wenatchee River Spring Chinook Salmon, Steelhead, and Summer Chinook Salmon programs. Comments were received from permit applicants, and USFWS is now incorporating those comments into the final draft permits. Regarding the Methow Spring Chinook Salmon Program consultation, USFWS is still working on the technical assistance letter stating that the existing 2012 Biological Opinion (BiOp) for the Wells Project license provides sufficient language for the program.
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- *National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Consultation Update:* The Wenatchee River Steelhead BiOp is almost complete. Progress is also being made on the Methow Spring Chinook Salmon BiOp. NMFS is drafting an Environmental Assessment to complete the National Environmental Policy Act process. NMFS is also working on gene-flow guidelines for Methow River steelhead.
  - *Chelan Falls Summer Chinook Salmon Broodstock Collection:* Chelan, Douglas, and Grant PUDs are discussing different methods for collecting summer Chinook salmon broodstock for the Chelan Falls Program at Wells Hatchery.
  - *Straying and Homing Fidelity Vernacular:* Chelan PUD expressed frustration with the inconsistency of how “straying” and “homing” are defined. The term “straying” is typically used to address genetic straying; however, it is also used to describe behavioral straying. Chelan and Douglas PUDs are working together to develop clear definitions of the terms to help keep HCP documents and permits clear and consistent. Hillman also introduced a new tool to interpret data contained in the NOAA SPS database. He suggested the tool will be helpful when drafting the 5-Year Hatchery Monitoring and Evaluation reports. He said the tool was developed with the Bonneville Power Administration as part of the Federal Columbia River Power System BiOp. He said the purpose of the tool is to process data from the NOAA SPS database and provide outputs in easily interpreted formats regarding population age structure, status, and trends. He further explained that the NOAA SPS database is simply a huge spreadsheet, and through this tool, the user can request certain data, and the tool can generate plots and show correlations so the user does not need to do this manually. He said the tool was mainly structured for managers, and added that he will provide a presentation on the NOAA SPS database and application of the tool to the HCP Hatchery Committees during their next meeting on June 15, 2016. John Ferguson asked about the location of the database and who maintains it. Hillman said Rich Hinrichsen (Hinrichsen Environmental Services) maintains the database, and there is a web address to access the database; however, Hillman plans to provide that link after the presentation. Hillman said he obtained permission to share the tool; however, it still needs minor tweaking. He offered to provide a presentation of the database and tool to the Coordination Committees, and some members expressed interest. Jeff Korth suggested providing the presentation at the end of a
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monthly meeting, so those interested can stick around, and those not interested in it may leave. Ferguson also suggested holding the presentation following the meeting in July 2016, because the June 2016 meeting will be followed directly by the Priest Rapids Coordinating Committee meeting. Hillman agreed to present an overview of the NOAA SPS database following the Coordinating Committees meeting on July 26, 2016.

- *HETT Update:* The HCP Hatchery Committees will review Appendices 2 through 6 during the next HCP Hatchery Committees meeting on June 15, 2016.
- *Next Meeting:* The HCP Hatchery Committees' next scheduled meeting will be on June 15, 2016.

Hillman updated the Coordinating Committees on the following actions and discussions that occurred at the last HCP Tributary Committees meeting on May 12, 2016:

- *General Salmon Habitat Program Draft Proposals:* The HCP Tributary Committees received 14 draft proposals, all of which are cost shares with the Salmon Recovery Funding Board. The HCP Tributary Committees reviewed and identified eight projects that did not warrant a full proposal, because they were inconsistent with the intent of the Tributary Fund, did not have strong technical merit, or had low benefits per cost. Full proposals were solicited from the remaining six projects, which are due on Friday, July 1, 2016. The proposed projects are located in the Okanogan, Methow, and Wenatchee river basins. No projects are located in the Entiat River Basin.
  - *General Salmon Habitat Program Application:* Trout Unlimited submitted an application titled, Leavenworth Diversion Screening Project. The purpose of the project is to install a NMFS-compliant fish screen on the City of Leavenworth Icicle Creek Diversion to prevent salmonid entrainment. The diversion is located at river mile 5.7 on Icicle Creek upstream from the Boulder Field. The total cost of the project is about \$162,000, of which the sponsor requested about \$130,000 and the remaining cost share will be covered by the fish screen vendor. The HCP Tributary Committees were unable to make a funding decision, because they were surprised that the City of Leavenworth was not contributing financially to the project. The HCP Tributary Committees asked the sponsor to seek some level of funding (match) from the City, and recommended that the City contribute up to about 25% of the
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total cost. The HCP Tributary Committees sent Trout Unlimited a letter with this request and will revisit the proposal after the sponsor responds. The HCP Tributary Committees were in favor of the proposed project, but are hoping the City will contribute to the cost share. Ferguson asked how this project is applicable to the HCP Tributary Committees. He said it seems more like a bioengineering project instead of a tributary or habitat production project. Hillman said the HCP Tributary Committees have funded screening projects in the past and these projects improve freshwater survival by reducing entrainment. He said fish passage will be provided at the boulder field. Bob Rose asked if the plans are available for the proposed fish passage structure at the boulder field. Hillman said he believes the plans are mostly developed, and construction is scheduled to start soon. Tom Kahler said he also recalled seeing some plans; however, he was not sure what stage of development they were in. He also said he believes the project is permit-ready; however, he is unsure of the start date. He recalled, for some reason, the start date was pushed back 1 year. Hillman said, at one point the County raised concerns with the project, which may have delayed the start date; however, everything is now moving forward. Rose asked who is discussing this process. Jim Craig said this project is being vetted within the Icicle Workgroup, and Korth said the project is also being vetted within a subcommittee of the Icicle Workgroup. Korth said he has the project documents, which include three options. He said he believes Option 1 is being implemented. He said he will provide project documents regarding Trout Unlimited's Boulder Field Passage Project to Kristi Geris for distribution to the Coordinating Committees.

*(Note: Korth provided these documents following the meeting on May 24, 2016, which Geris distributed to the Coordinating Committees that same day.)*

- *Time Extension:* The Rocky Reach HCP Tributary Committee received a time extension request from Chelan-Douglas Land Trust on the Entiat Stillwaters Gray Reach Acquisition Project. The sponsor indicated they are still negotiating with two property owners and requested to extend the period of the project to March 31, 2017. The Rocky Reach HCP Tributary Committee approved the time extension.
  - *Next Steps:* The HCP Tributary Committees' next scheduled meeting will be on June 9, 2016.
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### **III. Douglas PUD**

#### *A. Trapping at Wells Dam (Tom Kahler)*

Tom Kahler said the contractor constructing the new Adult Handling Facility as part of the Wells Hatchery Modernization scheduled an arbitrary date to disconnect and reconnect the pipeline from the west fish ladder to the new facility. Kahler said Douglas PUD requested that the contractor not disconnect the pipe any earlier than necessary. He said the contractor was amenable to this request and will execute the process at the last possible moment. He added that disconnecting and reconnecting the pipe is not a lengthy process. He said trapping at the west fish ladder has experienced only a brief hiatus when the contractor had proposed to disconnect and reconnect the pipe, but normal trapping resumed when it was determined that the cessation for trapping was not necessary since the contractor was not ready to implement that action. He said trapping is back to its normal configuration, and everything is functioning routinely. He said the modernization is still on schedule and commissioning of the new Adult Handling Facility is scheduled for June 1, 2016.

#### *B. Wells Dam Bypass PIT-tag Detection System (Tom Kahler)*

Tom Kahler said the new PIT-tag antennas installed in the top frame section of Bypass Bay 2 are operational with a temporary cable configuration. He recalled the issue with installation of the proper conduit run below the intake deck. He said installation of the conduit will be completed this week, and the readers will be momentarily disconnected in order to pull the cables through the conduit and reconnect to the master controller.

Kahler said the sampler began sampling on April 27, 2016, and to date has had 45 detections. He said, during part of that time, the reservoir was low and the antennas were out of the water; therefore, there was a gap in the capability of the readers to detect tags. He said detections include a few Winthrop Fish Hatchery steelhead, several coho salmon, and a number of orphan tags from tag files that still need to be downloaded.

### **IV. Chelan PUD**

#### *A. Rock Island Powerhouse 1 Maintenance Update (Lance Keller)*

Lance Keller recalled that Chelan PUD identified issues with the turbine blades on

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Rock Island Dam Powerhouse 1 Unit B2. He said Rock Island Dam Powerhouse 1 Units B1, B3, and B4 are similar to Unit B2, and an initial analysis of the turbine blades on Units B1, B3, and B4 showed the same signs of metal fatigue that were identified on Unit B2. He said Chelan PUD took all units out of service for further analysis to determine the severity of the fatigue; however, to his knowledge, the results have not yet been released. He said an internal meeting to discuss the status of the metal in the turbine blades keeps getting postponed. He suggested that this be a revolving agenda item, and said that Chelan PUD will provide a Rock Island Powerhouse 1 Maintenance Update during the next Coordinating Committees meeting. He also noted that the work on Unit B2 will not affect the rehabilitation schedule for Units B5 to B8 (described during the Coordinating Committees meeting on October 27, 2015).

*B. Rocky Reach Large Turbine Unit Maintenance Update (Lance Keller)*

Lance Keller recalled, during the Coordinating Committees meeting on January 28, 2014, Chelan PUD provided a maintenance update on the Rocky Reach large turbine units. He recalled, as described in a fact sheet distributed to the Coordinating Committees by Kristi Geris on January 24, 2014, Chelan PUD's plan to bring the Kaplan units back online one by one in a temporary, fixed blade, 31-degree position. He also recalled the servo rod repairs (stainless steel rod that delivers oil to the servo motor) in Units C8, C9, C10, and C11. He said Unit C8 was scheduled to be brought back online, but then head-cover issues were identified, so the unit remained offline. He said at the same time, cracks were identified in the wheels of the bridge crane required to hoist the turbines for repair. He said Chelan PUD intends to restore all four Kaplan units to service; however, this is largely dependent on fabrication and delivery of repair components. He said Rocky Reach engineers provided a new repair schedule for the Rocky Reach large turbine units, as follows:

<b>Repair</b>	<b>Estimated Date</b>
Bridge Crane	December 2017
Unit C8	May 2017
Unit C9	October 2018
Unit C10	December 2020
Unit C11	November 2019

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Keller said the repair date for Unit C8 is largely driven by the issue with the bridge crane and head cover. He said repair of the bridge crane is being fast tracked internally, with an emergency declaration. He said these are the best repair date estimates available at this time.

*C. Proposed Rocky Reach Orifice Gate Closure (Lance Keller)*

Lance Keller recalled Chelan PUD's action item to provide a summary of discussions held in the early 2000s regarding a request to close OGs at Rocky Reach Dam. He recalled that these discussions took place when Chelan, Douglas, and Grant PUDs convened under one Mid-Columbia Coordinating Committee. He said upon his review, the discussions in question were all regarding OGs at Grant PUD projects, and there was no mention of OGs at Rocky Reach Dam.

Bob Rose said he recalled the decision was made to close the OGs at Grant PUD projects. Keller said that is correct; all Grant PUD project OGs were closed in the early 2000s and remain closed to date. Rose asked if the concern at that time was whether fish would migrate in and out of the gates, and Keller said that is correct. Rose said he recalled the Mid-Columbia Coordinating Committee concluded it was better to close the OGs than to let fish fall out of the gates. Keller said that is also Chelan PUD's interpretation of the discussions. He said the ultimate conclusion was that closing additional entrances and improving entrance velocities by holding an appropriate head differential will have an overall positive benefit compared to leaving those entrances open.

Keller recalled another Chelan PUD action item to provide a summary of historical radio telemetry data demonstrating use of the OGs at Rocky Reach Dam for adult fish passage. He said Thad Mosey (Chelan PUD Biologist and Spill Coordinator) already provided this summary, and Keller will provide it for distribution following the conference call. Keller said Mosey copied verbatim graphs and summary conclusions from applicable studies. Keller said analyses include adult spring, summer, and fall Chinook salmon use of the gates. He said the data summarize net entrance per fish, per species, and per orifice, among other things. He encouraged Coordinating Committees members to review the summary and noted that he or Mosey will gladly review the results with members, as requested. *(Note: Keller provided this summary following the meeting on May 24, 2016, which Kristi Geris distributed to the*

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*Coordinating Committees that same day.)*

Bob Rose asked if Pacific lamprey are included in the analyses. Keller said there are Pacific lamprey data associated with the 2004 analyses, which are included in the summary. He said Chelan PUD also discussed closing the OGs at Rocky Reach Dam during the last Rocky Reach Fish Forum (RRFF) meeting, and members asked Chelan PUD to coordinate with the Rocky Reach HCP Coordinating Committee to address any concerns.

John Ferguson asked about timing for the proposed implementation date. Keller said, if the Rocky Reach HCP Coordinating Committee approves closing the OGs at Rocky Reach Dam, Chelan PUD plans to implement the proposal in mid- to late-August 2016. He said Chelan PUD is looking forward to a healthy discussion regarding this topic during next month's in-person Coordinating Committees meeting on June 22, 2016, and is open to voting during that time. He said, however, a vote can also wait until the meeting in July 2016. He said Chelan PUD will provide a draft Statement of Agreement to discuss in June 2016, in case members are ready to vote at that time.

Rose asked about the logistics and mechanics of the proposed OG closures at Rocky Reach Dam. Keller recalled photos of the OGs, which were distributed to the Coordinating Committees by Geris on April 26, 2016. Keller said it is his understanding the closure is fairly easy; however, he said he can provide further details for distribution regarding the logistics and mechanics of the proposed closure of the OGs at Rocky Reach Dam. *(Note: Keller provided these details on June 17, 2016, which Geris distributed to the Coordinating Committees that same day.)*

*D. Draft 2015 Rocky Reach and Rock Island Juvenile Fish Bypass Reports (Lance Keller)*

Lance Keller said Kristi Geris sent an email to the Coordinating Committees on May 18, 2016, notifying them that the Draft 2015 Rocky Reach Juvenile Fish Bypass System Report is available for a 30-day review, with edits and comments due to Keller by Thursday, June 16, 2016. Keller said the Draft 2015 Rock Island Juvenile Fish Bypass Report will be distributed soon. *(Note: Keller provided the draft Rock Island report on May 25, 2016, which Geris distributed to the Coordinating Committees that same day.)*

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*E. Notice to FERC to Cancel Installation of Microturbines at Rocky Reach and Rock Island Dams (Lance Keller)*

Lance Keller said, in response to the 2000-2001 Western U.S. Energy Crisis, FERC issued a FERC Order on March 14, 2001, requesting that licensees increase generation at their respective projects. Keller said Chelan PUD developed a conceptual plan to deploy microturbines in the fishways to increase generation capacity. He said the plan was submitted on May 1, 2001, and FERC approved the plan on March 14, 2002. He said, however, subsequent analyses showed that upgrading the existing turbines to increase their efficiency would provide a greater increase in generation than installing the new microturbines; therefore, the new microturbines were never installed. He said Chelan PUD plans to provide a letter to FERC by mid-June 2016, canceling installation of the microturbines. He added that Chelan PUD will also notify the RRFF during the meeting in June 2016.

## **V. HCP Administration**

*A. 2016 Subyearling Chinook Salmon Workshop*

John Ferguson said no comments were received on the draft workshop agenda, and Anchor QEA will finalize and distribute the final agenda for the 2016 Subyearling Chinook Salmon Workshop. Ferguson said he received an email from Jeff Korth indicating that Andrew Murdoch (Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife [WDFW]) will provide a presentation on scale data, and Mike Tonseth (WDFW) will be the third WDFW representative to attend the workshop. Ferguson said Marty Leidtke (U.S. Geological Survey) did not want to focus on tag technology; however, Curt Dotson (Grant PUD) said he can present on that. Ferguson said he still needs to coordinate with Tom Kahler regarding presenters and presentation titles for Session 4, and also touch base with Billy Connor (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service) and John Skalski (Columbia Basin Research). *(Note: Kristi Geris distributed the final workshop agenda to the Coordinating Committees on June 16, 2016.)*

Kahler said Douglas PUD convened an internal call, and all presenters are now identified; however, the order of presenting still needs to be decided. Lance Keller said Chelan PUD is still pulling together data, and he plans to coordinate with Peter Graf (Grant PUD) to verify

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there is no overlap in presentation materials. Bob Rose asked if each entity is allowed three attendees, and Ferguson said that is correct. Ferguson asked that Coordinating Committees representatives provide to Geris a list of attendees to the 2016 Subyearling Chinook Salmon Workshop, when those lists are finalized.

*B. Next Meetings*

The 2016 Subyearling Chinook Salmon Workshop will be held June 21, 2016, at the Red Lion Hotel in SeaTac, Washington, and the regularly scheduled Coordinating Committees meeting will be held June 22, 2016, at the usual Radisson Hotel location.

The July 26 and August 23, 2016, meetings will be held by conference call, or in-person at the Radisson Hotel in SeaTac, Washington, as is yet to be determined.

**VI. List of Attachments**

Attachment A      List of Attendees

**Attachment A  
List of Attendees**

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<b>Name</b>	<b>Organization</b>
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
Jim Craig*	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Jeff Korth*	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Bob Rose*	Yakama Nation

Notes:

- \* Denotes Coordinating Committees member or alternate
  - † Joined for the HCP Tributary and Hatchery Committees Update
  - †† Joined for the Chelan PUD agenda items
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