

Memorandum

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

Date: May 25, 2021

From: John Ferguson, HCP Coordinating Committees Chairman

cc: Kristi Geris, HCP Coordinating Committees Support

Re: **Final Minutes of the April 27, 2021, HCP Coordinating Committees Conference Call**

The Wells, Rocky Reach, and Rock Island Hydroelectric Projects Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) Coordinating Committees met by conference call on Tuesday, April 27, 2021, from 9:00 a.m. to 9:40 a.m. Attendees are listed in Attachment A to these conference call minutes.

Action Item Summary

- Chelan PUD will continue providing Rocky Reach Dam and Rock Island Dam turbine unit maintenance updates as information becomes available (Item I-C).
- Chelan PUD will provide the repair schedule for the crack at spillway pier 1 at Rock Island Dam when the schedule is available (Item I-C).
- Chelan PUD will provide, via email, weekly status updates on the progress of the 2021 Rock Island Dam Survival Confirmation Study (Item IV-A). *(Note: Lance Keller has provided these weekly updates since May 5, 2021, [3 total to date], which Kristi Geris has distributed to the HCP Coordinating Committees, as discussed.)*
- Anchor QEA, LLC, will follow up with National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), the Colville Confederated Tribes (CCT), and Denny Rohr (Priest Rapids Coordinating Committee Chairman) regarding the rescheduled HCP Coordinating Committees conference call on July 22, 2021, from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. (Item V-C). *(Note: NMFS and the CCT are unavailable to attend the rescheduled meeting, but Anchor QEA plans to coordinate with NMFS and the CCT before and after the July meeting, as needed.)*
- The HCP Coordinating Committees meeting on May 25, 2021, will be held at 9:00 a.m., by conference call (Item V-C).

Decision Summary

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

Agreements

- HCP Coordinating Committees representatives present agreed to reschedule the HCP Coordinating Committees conference call on July 27, 2021, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., to July 22, 2021, from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. (Item V-C).

Review Items

- The Fish Passage Center memorandum *Eliminating Rock Island from the Regional Smolt Monitoring Program* was distributed to the HCP Coordinating Committees by Kristi Geris on February 23, 2021. Chelan PUD will further discuss this memorandum during the HCP Coordinating Committees conference call on June 22, 2021.
- The Fish Passage Center memorandum *Monitoring Avian Predation for the Upper Columbia River – An alternative to marking fish at Rock Island Dam* was distributed to the HCP Coordinating Committees by Kristi Geris on April 5, 2021. Chelan PUD will further discuss this memorandum during the HCP Coordinating Committees conference call on June 22, 2021.
- Notification of Wells Project Land-Use Permit Application for LUP 4-06 was distributed to the HCP Coordinating Committees by Kristi Geris on April 28, 2021.

Finalized Documents

- There are no documents that have been recently finalized.

I. Welcome

A. Review Agenda (John Ferguson)

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

- Lance Keller added initiation of spring spill at Rock Island Dam.
- Anchor QEA added notification of the next scheduled HCP Policy Committees meeting.

B. Meeting Minutes Approval (John Ferguson)

The HCP Coordinating Committees reviewed the revised draft March 23, 2021, conference call minutes. Kristi Geris said all comments and revisions received from members of the Committees were incorporated into the revised minutes. She also added distribution of the final 2021 Broodstock Collection Protocols under the Finalized Documents. HCP Coordinating Committees members present approved the March 23, 2021, conference call minutes, as revised.

C. Last Meeting Action Items (John Ferguson)

Action items from the HCP Coordinating Committees meeting on March 23, 2021, and follow-up discussions, were as follows. (*Note: Italicized text corresponds to agenda items from the meeting on March 23, 2021*):

- *The CCT will contact Chelan PUD to discuss possible edits to the 2020 Rock Island HCP Annual Report and 2020 Rocky Reach HCP Annual Report to more clearly show that Chief Joseph*

Hatchery production met No Net Impact (NNI) obligations, and Anchor QEA, LLC, will communicate to the HCP Coordinating Committees edits made to the reports, if any (Item I-A). This coordination occurred, and Chelan PUD provided a revised Table 5 for inclusion in both reports, which Kristi Geris distributed to the HCP Coordinating Committees on March 25, 2021.

- *Chelan PUD will continue providing Rocky Reach Dam and Rock Island Dam turbine unit maintenance updates as information becomes available (Item I-C).*

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

- *Chelan PUD will provide the repair schedule for the crack at spillway pier 1 at Rock Island Dam when the schedule is available (Item I-C).*

Lance Keller said this schedule is continually changing and is currently on hold due to initiation of spring spill at Rock Island Dam. No work can be conducted at spillway pier 1 while spill gate 1 is operating in the notch gate configuration. The crack has been repaired, but there is still additional work to complete. He hopes to have a better understanding of the full repair schedule in the next couple of weeks. This action item will be carried forward.

II. HCP Hatchery and Tributary Committees Update

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

Tracy Hillman updated the HCP Coordinating Committees on the following actions and discussions that occurred during the HCP Tributary Committees conference call on April 8, 2021:

- *Time Extension Request:* The Rock Island HCP Tributary Committee received a time extension request from Trout Unlimited on the City of Leavenworth Fish Screen Project. Because of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic, the sponsor has been unable to complete a few tasks associated with the project. As a result, they requested a time extension from November 30, 2020, to June 30, 2021. The Rock Island HCP Tributary Committee approved the time extension.
- *General Salmon Habitat Program Application:* The HCP Tributary Committees received a General Salmon Habitat Program application from Washington Water Trust titled *Cascade Orchards Icicle Creek Flow Restoration Project*. The purpose of the project is to add 11.9 cubic feet per second of flow to Icicle Creek by removing the Cascade Orchards Irrigation Company diversion at Icicle Creek river mile (RM) 4.5 and installing an automated on-demand pump station at RM 1.9. The instream flow water right will be permanently protected in the Washington State Trust Water Rights Program. The total cost of the project was \$5,350,000. The sponsor requested \$500,000 from HCP Plan Species Account Funds. The Rock Island HCP Tributary Committee elected to contribute \$500,000 to the project.

- *General Salmon Habitat Program Pre-Proposals:* The HCP Tributary Committees received 14 General Salmon Habitat Program pre-proposals. These are cost-share proposals with the Salmon Recovery Funding Board. The Committees identified six projects that did not warrant a full proposal, because these did not have strong technical or biological merit or were not cost effective (low benefits per cost). The Committees solicited full proposals for eight projects. Final applications are due on May 28, 2021. The proposed projects are located in the Wenatchee, Entiat, and Methow River basins.
- *Next Meeting:* The HCP Tributary Committees will participate with the Upper Columbia Regional Technical Team on virtual project tours on May 10 to May 11, 2021. The next meeting of the HCP Tributary Committees will be on May 13, 2021.

Hillman updated the HCP Coordinating Committees on the following actions and discussions that occurred during the HCP Hatchery Committees conference call on April 21, 2021 (*Note: Joint HCP Hatchery Committees/PRCC Hatchery Subcommittee items are noted by "Joint," Wells HCP Hatchery Committee items are noted by "Wells," and Rock Island and Rocky Reach HCP Hatchery Committees items are noted by "Rock Island/Rocky Reach"*):

- *Okanagan Sockeye Salmon Reintroduction SOA (Joint):* Based on feedback from members of the Rock Island and Rocky Reach HCP Hatchery Committees, Chelan PUD submitted a revised draft Statement of Agreement (SOA) regarding the success of the Okanagan Sockeye Salmon Reintroduction Program. During the April meeting, both Committees approved the SOA.
- *Spring Chinook Salmon PIT-Tagging at Priest Rapids Dam (Joint):* Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) reported that they will be passive integrated transponder (PIT)-tagging adult spring Chinook salmon at the Off-Ladder Adult Fish Trap at Priest Rapids Dam beginning this year (note: upon interrogation at the trap, spring Chinook salmon that already have a PIT-tag would not receive another PIT-tag as part of this study; rather, these fish will be passed through without further handling). The purpose of the work is to produce accurate and precise estimates of spring Chinook salmon escapements at multiple spatial scales. Data from this effort will be fed into the patch-occupancy model, which was developed originally for steelhead. WDFW intends to PIT-tag 15% of the spring Chinook salmon passing Priest Rapids Dam. Results from this work will be used to estimate proportionate natural influence (PNI), proportion of hatchery-origin spawners, overshooting, and migration patterns.

- *Wenatchee River PIT-Tag Detection Barge (Joint)*: WDFW reported that they will install a PIT-tag interrogation barge in the lower Wenatchee River this year. The barge was constructed by West Fork Environmental and will improve the detection of PIT-tagged juvenile fish. Detections at the barge will be used to estimate parr-to-smolt and smolt-to-smolt survival rates and migration timing of juvenile fish. Hillman projected on WebEx a photograph of this type of sampling barge, and he noted that the detection range of the PIT-tag readers that extend down into the water column is approximately 40 inches. A similar barge may also be used in the Methow River Basin.
- *Multi-Population PNI Model (Joint)*: NMFS and WDFW gave a presentation on the possible use of a multi-population, spring Chinook salmon, PNI model for the Wenatchee River Basin. They discussed the scale of the model, possible definitions for populations, various model outputs, and management implications. The Committees are reviewing the information presented and will discuss it further over the next several meetings.
- *Hatchery Production Recalculation (Joint)*: The Committees began discussing recalculation of hatchery production needed to achieve no net impact for all Plan Species. As described in the HCPs, the Committees need to adjust hatchery production levels (but not original inundation mitigation) every 10 years based on changes in average annual adult returns of Plan Species, changes in adult-to-smolt survival rates, and changes in smolt-to-adult survival rates from hatchery production facilities. The Committees reviewed the last recalculation process, including the amount of time needed to complete the exercise, methods used, data used, sensitivity analysis, and the development of the implementation plan. Over the next few months, the Committees will review and approve methods and data for the 2024-2033 implementation plan. The goal is to have an approved plan by the end of this year.
- *COVID-19 and Monitoring and Evaluation Activities (Joint)*: Each member of the HCP Hatchery Committees discussed the effects of COVID-19 on their respective monitoring and evaluation activities. There were no significant changes since last month.
- *Next Meeting*: The next meeting of the HCP Hatchery Committees will be on May 19, 2021.

III. Douglas PUD

A. Wells Project Land-Use Permit Applications (Tom Kahler)

Tom Kahler recalled, during the last meeting, the Wells HCP Coordinating Committee requested to be notified (in lieu of a second review) of Wells Project Land-Use Permit Applications where there is no change in the previously permitted land use or activities, but there is a change in land ownership. Since then, a number of these applications have been received and distributed to the Committee by Kristi Geris, as described in Table 1.

Table 1. Wells Project Land-Use Permit Applications

Application No.	Distribution Date
LUP 32-02	March 31, 2021
LUP 342-03	April 6, 2021
LUP 311A-03	April 9, 2021
LUP 788-03	April 21, 2021
LUP 312B-04	April 21, 2021

Kahler was surprised by the volume of applications. He asked whether the Wells HCP Coordinating Committee wants to keep receiving these. He recalled it was Kirk Truscott who requested to be notified of changes in permit holders so he could track what is going on around the reservoir. Because Truscott is not in attendance today, Kahler suggested that he continue to send these notifications, as requested. If there is ever a rethinking of this, please notify Douglas PUD and he will stop distributing these emails. He asked Beau Patterson (Douglas PUD Lands Department) whether this is the normal rate of incoming applications, and Patterson indicated that land ownership changes are higher than normal, and Douglas PUD does regularly receive these types of applications.

IV. Chelan PUD

A. 2021 Rock Island Dam Survival Confirmation Study Update (Lance Keller)

Lance Keller said an email notification for the initiation of the Rock Island Dam Survival Confirmation Study was distributed to the HCP Coordinating Committees by Kristi Geris on April 21, 2021. Initially, 30-minute samples each day were only producing approximately 38 fish. He reached out to HCP Coordinating Committees members regarding hatchery releases and found that while some releases were on schedule, some were held back to wait for higher river flows. Then Chelan Falls Hatchery and Chief Joseph Hatchery released fish, totaling approximately 2 million smolts, and on Wednesday, April 21, 2021, crews observed a large increase in the number of yearling Chinook salmon passing through the Rocky Reach Juvenile Fish Bypass. On the same day, crews transported the first group of survival study fish, which were tagged on Thursday, April 22, 2021. The first test replicate was released in the tailrace of Rocky Reach Dam on Friday April 23, 2021. As of this morning, a total of three test replicates have been released in the tailrace of Rocky Reach Dam. Based on the schedule, the last replicate will be released in the tailrace of Rocky Reach Dam on Friday, May 21, 2021, and the last control replicate will be released in the tailrace of Rock Island Dam on Saturday, May 22, 2021. Blue Leaf is monitoring all gear at Rock Island Dam and the autonomous receivers, and everything is staying in place. Today or tomorrow, Blue Leaf will check the gear at Sunland Estates and Crescent Bar. The gear will not be brought to the surface; rather, all of the autonomous receivers are

equipped with a beacon tag that can be used to make sure the equipment is remaining in place where it was deployed. Additionally, every acoustic tag used to date did activate and was functioning properly right before release. Currently, there are more than 100 tags in the water.

John Ferguson asked about the tag vendor, and Keller said it is Advanced Telemetry Systems (ATS). Keller said when ATS assembles the tag at the factory, they turn the tag on briefly to test it. If any issues arise with acoustic tags during research, it is usually upon activation during the tagging procedure, and typically there is minimal failure after tagged fish are released. Therefore, Chelan PUD is very pleased with the quality of the survival study tags to date.

Ferguson asked if Chelan PUD plans to provide routine updates on the progress of the study. Keller said he can provide weekly status updates via email and suggested maybe sending these updates each Tuesday of the week. These updates will be brief, containing information such as fish released to date and number of tags out. Keely Murdoch, Jim Craig, and Chad Jackson said they would like to receive these updates. Chelan PUD will provide, via email, weekly status updates on the progress of the 2021 Rock Island Dam Survival Confirmation Study. *(Note: Lance Keller has provided these weekly updates since May 5, 2021, [3 total to date], which Kristi Geris has distributed to the HCP Coordinating Committees, as discussed.)*

B. Initiation of Spring Spill at Rock Island Dam (Lance Keller)

Lance Keller said spring spill was initiated at Rock Island Dam on April 17, 2021. Daily bypass trap counts of juvenile spring migrating species did not indicate a need to initiate spring spill earlier to provide spill for 95% of the spring species out-migration. Chelan PUD has been monitoring daily spill targets and to date, Rock Island Dam has been able to achieve the daily spring spill target of 10%.

C. Rock Island Dam Powerhouse 1 Maintenance Update (Lance Keller)

Lance Keller recalled during the last meeting, reporting that Chelan PUD did not anticipate Turbine Unit B4 being operational at the initiation of the 2021 Rock Island Dam Survival Confirmation Study. Since then, the return-to-service date has moved out again to July 2021. Therefore, Turbine Unit B4 will be out of service for the duration of the study. Chelan PUD will continue to provide updates as repairs progress.

D. Rocky Reach Dam Turbine Units Maintenance Update (Lance Keller)

Lance Keller said the return-to-service date for Turbine Unit C7 is now June 2021, and the return-to-service date for Turbine Unit C3 is now July 2021. Chelan PUD will continue to provide updates as repairs progress.

V. HCP Administration

A. COVID-19 Updates (John Ferguson)

John Ferguson asked if there are any updates HCP Coordinating Committees members would like to share regarding impacts of COVID-19 on HCP activities.

Chad Jackson said beginning last week, WDFW started implementing a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for in-person professional gatherings. This SOP limits all in-person professional gatherings (indoor and outdoor) to a maximum of ten people and indoor gatherings may not exceed 25% of the allowed room capacity. WDFW is also encouraging all people planning to attend an in-person meeting to first complete an online health screening. Social distancing and personal protective equipment will also be encouraged. Keely Murdoch said the Yakama Nation has not yet provided guidance on returning to in-person meetings, so she is interested in seeing what other agencies are doing. Jackson said he can send out WDFW's SOP and COVID-19 monitoring guide. *(Note: Jackson provided these documents to Kristi Geris following the conference call on April 27, 2021, which Geris distributed to the HCP Coordinating Committees that same day.)*

No other updates were shared.

B. HCP Policy Committees Conference Call on June 8, 2021 (John Ferguson)

John Ferguson received confirmation from all HCP Policy Committees representatives to convene a virtual meeting on June 8, 2020, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. The goals and objectives of this meeting are to review how the HCPs function (notably for the new HCP Policy Committees representatives): he and Tracy Hillman (HCP Tributary and Hatchery Committees Chairmen) will provide updates on how things are going from the Chairmen's perspectives, and he will ask HCP Policy Committees representatives to share their thoughts on HCP implementation over the past year.

C. Next Meetings (John Ferguson)

The next scheduled HCP Coordinating Committees meeting is on May 25, 2021, at 9:00 a.m., to be held by conference call. The next Subyearling Chinook Salmon Studies Quarterly Check-In will be on the agenda.

The June 22, 2021, meeting will be held by conference call.

Regarding the July 27, 2021, meeting, John Ferguson has a scheduling conflict and hopes the HCP Coordinating Committees can accommodate convening the meeting 1 week earlier.

HCP Coordinating Committees representatives present agreed to reschedule the HCP Coordinating Committees conference call on July 27, 2021, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.; to July 22, 2021, from

1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Anchor QEA will follow up with NMFS, the CCT, and Denny Rohr regarding the rescheduled HCP Coordinating Committees conference call on July 22, 2021, from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. *(Note: NMFS and the CCT are unavailable to attend the rescheduled meeting, but Anchor QEA plans to coordinate with NMFS and the CCT before and after the July meeting, as needed.)*

VI. List of Attachments

Attachment A List of Attendees

Attachment A
List of Attendees

Name	Organization
John Ferguson	Anchor QEA, LLC
Kristi Geris	Anchor QEA, LLC
Tracy Hillmant	BioAnalysts
Lance Keller*	Chelan PUD
Bill Towey	Chelan PUD
Tom Kahler*	Douglas PUD
Andrew Gingerich*	Douglas PUD
Jim Craig*	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Chad Jackson*	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Keely Murdoch*	Yakama Nation

Notes:

- * Denotes HCP Coordinating Committees member or alternate
- † Joined for the HCP Hatchery and Tributary Committees update