

Memorandum

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

Date: July 28, 2020

From: John Ferguson, HCP Coordinating Committees Chairman

cc: Kristi Geris

Re: Final Minutes of the June 23, 2020 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, June 23, 2020, from 9:00 a.m. to 10:20 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 notify the Rock Island HCP Coordinating Committee when Chelan PUD submits the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) notification letter regarding the maintenance rehabilitation of Rock Island Dam Powerhouse 2 (Item III-D).
- Douglas PUD will inquire internally regarding the pedestrian access described in the Wells Project Land-Use Permit Application for No. LUP 4-06 (Item IV-B). (*Note: Tom Kahler provided clarification to Kristi Geris following the HCP Coordinating Committees conference call on June 23, 2020, which Geris distributed to the HCP Coordinating Committees that same day.*)
- The HCP Coordinating Committees meeting on July 28, 2020, will be held at 9:00 a.m., by conference call (Item V-B).

Decision Summary

- Rocky Reach HCP Coordinating Committee representatives present approved the Statement of Agreement (SOA), *Deferment of the Rocky Reach Project Confirmation Survival Study from 2021 to 2022*, as revised (Item III-A).

Agreements

- Wells HCP Coordinating Committee representatives present agreed to an informal review (opposed to a formal HCP review process) of the *Okanagan Fish and Water Management Tools (FWMT)* annual reports that are prepared by the Okanagan Nation Alliance Fisheries Department, Westbank, B.C., for the FWMT Steering Committee and Douglas PUD (Item IV-C).

Review Items

- The *Wells Project Subyearling Chinook Life-History Study 2011-2013 Draft Final Report* was distributed to the HCP Coordinating Committees by Kristi Geris on May 24, 2019.
- A Wells Project Land-Use Permit Application for #LUP 143-01 was distributed to the HCP Coordinating Committees by Kristi Geris on July 15, 2020. This application is available for a 30-day review with comments or indication of no comments due to Tom Kahler no later than Friday, August 14, 2020.

Finalized Documents

- The final SOA, *Deferment of the Rocky Reach Project Confirmation Survival Study from 2021 to 2022*, was distributed to the Rocky Reach HCP Coordinating Committee by Kristi Geris on July 10, 2020 (Item III-A).

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: 1) 2021 Rock Island Confirmation Survival Study Request for Proposals (RFP); and 2) FERC notification letter regarding the maintenance rehabilitation of Rock Island Dam Powerhouse 2
- Andrew Gingerich added: 1) 2020 Survival Verification Study update

B. Meeting Minutes Approval (John Ferguson)

The HCP Coordinating Committees reviewed the revised draft May 26, 2020 conference call minutes. Kristi Geris said all comments and revisions received from members of the Committees were incorporated into the revised minutes. HCP Coordinating Committees members present approved the May 26, 2020 conference call minutes, as revised. National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) abstained because a representative was not present during the May 26, 2020 conference call, and Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) abstained because the representative was present for only the last quarter of the May 26, 2020 conference call.

C. Last Meeting Action Items (John Ferguson)

Action items from the HCP Coordinating Committees meeting on May 26, 2020, and follow-up discussions, were as follows. (*Note: Italicized text corresponds to agenda items from the meeting on May 26, 2020*):

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

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

- *Chelan PUD will: 1) share with WDFW and NMFS what the Rock Island and Rocky Reach HCP Coordinating Committees discussed about deferring the 2021 Rocky Reach Confirmation Survival Study to 2022 and conducting the 2020 Rock Island Confirmation Survival Study in 2021 as already approved by the Rock Island HCP Coordinating Committee (on December 4, 2018); 2) ask that WDFW and NMFS provide any comments on these topics to Kristi Geris for distribution to the HCP Coordinating Committees; and 3) develop a draft SOA to defer the 2021 Rocky Reach Confirmation Survival Study to 2022 (Item IV-D).*

Scott Carlon indicated NMFS support via email on June 5, 2020, and Chad Jackson indicated WDFW support via email on June 10, 2020, of Chelan PUD's proposal to defer the 2021 Rocky Reach Confirmation Survival Study to 2022, which Geris distributed to the HCP Coordinating Committees those same days. A draft SOA to defer the 2021 Rocky Reach Confirmation Survival Study to 2022 was distributed to the Rocky Reach HCP Coordinating Committee by Geris on June 9, 2020.

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 June 11, 2020:

- *Small Projects Program Proposal:* The HCP Tributary Committees received a Small Projects Program Proposal titled, *Methow River – Vandervort Property Appraisal*. The purpose of the project is to fund an appraisal to determine the value of the property at the upper end of the Silver Side Channel Project area, located on the Methow River near river mile 35.5. The acquisition of this property would potentially allow the removal of a levee that currently isolates flow into the upper end of the Silver Side Channel. The total cost of the project was \$9,250. The sponsor requested \$9,250 from HCP Plan Species Account Funds. The HCP Tributary Committees declined the opportunity to fund this project because at this time, there are too many uncertainties and unknowns associated with the Silver Side Channel, including

the potential effect of beavers moving into the lower portion of the side channel and impacts to the landowners located in the middle of the side channel. The HCP Tributary Committees want to better understand these uncertainties; therefore, the Committees invited the project sponsor to a future meeting to discuss the project with the Committees.

- *General Salmon Habitat Program Proposals:* The HCP Tributary Committees received eight General Salmon Habitat Program (GSHP) proposals that were cost shares with the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB). In addition, the Committees received an application from the Colville Confederated Tribes (CCT) that was not a cost share with the SRFB. Members with conflicts of interest recused themselves from discussing and voting on specific proposals. Of the nine GSHP proposals reviewed, the Committees elected to fund four of them. Those that were not selected for funding had low biological benefit, needed more information, included too much excavation work, did not take advantage of the full restoration potential of a site, or had low benefits per cost. The four projects funded occur within the Wenatchee River basin and were supported by the Rock Island or Rocky Reach Plan Species Account Funds.
- *Workshops:* In coordination with the Upper Columbia Regional Technical Team and the PRCC Habitat Subcommittee, the HCP Tributary Committees are considering hosting two workshops. The first workshop would focus on the use of beavers in restoration. Although beavers are an important part of the ecosystem and are important agents of stream restoration, beavers can also harm recently completed enhancement projects. Thus, this workshop would address when and how to use beavers in restoration. The second workshop would focus on appropriate methods for reconnecting floodplain habitat. Although floodplain reconnection is an important action and has biological benefits, there are differing opinions on how to reconnect floodplains. Thus, this workshop will identify conditions favoring different approaches. Depending on logistics, the two workshops may be combined into one on the same day. John Ferguson asked about a timeframe for these workshops. Hillman said the Committees would like to convene the workshops this year, ideally in person to facilitate more participation. He said, however, given the current situation with COVID-19, convening the workshops this year may need to be via conference call.
- *Next Meeting:* The next meeting of the HCP Tributary Committees will be on July 9, 2020.

Hillman updated the HCP Coordinating Committees on the following actions and discussions that occurred during the HCP Hatchery Committees conference call on June 17, 2020 (*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"*):

- *Re-evaluation of Conservation Program Size (joint):* The Committees continued their discussion on revising the size of the Wenatchee spring Chinook salmon conservation programs. The

intent is to reevaluate the allocation of production between the conservation and safety net programs; total hatchery production will not change. The Committees reviewed updated information on carrying capacity based on stock-recruitment modeling. They also discussed preliminary pre-spawn survival estimates and will ask WDFW to present the findings at a meeting this summer or early fall.

- *COVID-19 and Hatchery Monitoring and Evaluation Activities (joint)*: Each member of the HCP Hatchery Committees discussed the effects of COVID-19 on their respective monitoring and evaluation (M&E) activities. Overall, very little has changed since last month. Monitoring is occurring within the hatcheries and crews are operating smolt traps. Steelhead spawning ground surveys remain on hold; however, researchers are evaluating the use of passive integrated transponder (PIT) tags to estimate spawning escapements in places where redd surveys were to be conducted. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) has started some low-risk fieldwork and are planning to conduct redd surveys this year.
- *Draft SOA Regarding Chelan and Grant PUD's Okanogan Sockeye Salmon Obligation and Reintroduction Program (Rock Island/Rocky Reach)*: Chelan PUD submitted a draft SOA to the Rock Island and Rocky Reach HCP Hatchery Committees for review. The draft SOA describes the success of the sockeye salmon reintroduction program based on Chelan PUD's fulfillment of its funding commitments, the continuation of the mitigation goal of establishing natural sockeye salmon production in Skaha and Okanagan lakes, Chelan PUD's commitment to continue funding the hatchery and M&E program through 2030, and the support by the Rock Island and Rocky Reach HCP Hatchery Committees for Chelan PUD to continue funding the implementation of the reintroduction program through 2031 in order to meet Chelan PUD's No Net Impact sockeye salmon obligation. Comments on the draft SOA are due to Chelan PUD by July 1, 2020. The Committees will vote on the SOA during HCP Hatchery Committees meeting on July 15, 2020.
- *Methow Hatchery Spring Chinook Salmon Broodstock (Wells)*: Douglas PUD reported that because the spring Chinook salmon run is small this year, Douglas PUD is closely monitoring the trapping activities at Wells Dam to make sure not to extract more than 33% of the natural-origin return, as defined in their permits. Douglas PUD is currently at 28% and based on forecast modeling, they should be able to collect all the broodstock needed for their Methow program. It is likely Douglas PUD will need to include some hatchery fish in their broodstock this year.
- *Next Meeting*: The next meeting of the HCP Hatchery Committees will be on July 15, 2020.

III. Chelan PUD

A. DECISION: SOA for Deferment of 2021 Rocky Reach Confirmation Survival Study to 2022 (Lance Keller)

Lance Keller said the draft SOA, *Deferment of the Rocky Reach Project Confirmation Survival Study from 2021 to 2022*, was distributed to the Rocky Reach HCP Coordinating Committee by Kristi Geris on June 9, 2020. Keller said this SOA is structured similarly to the final SOA, *Deferment of the Rock Island Project Confirmation Survival Study from 2020 to 2021*, that was approved by the Rock Island HCP Coordinating Committee on December 4, 2018. Keller read the *Agreement Statement* of the draft SOA. He said the *Background* of the draft SOA explains the timeline of schedule changes, including the COVID-19 response. He recalled an action item to reach out to both Scott Carlon and Chad Jackson, which Keller said he did, as discussed under the review of last meeting's action items. Keller asked for any additional thoughts or questions, and if not, then suggested proceeding to vote.

Kirk Truscott said the CCT is in agreement to defer; however, he suggested adding language to the *Agreement Statement* explaining that this deferment will allow the project to be under representative operations during the survival study confirmation. Keller said Chelan PUD can accommodate this request, and the Rocky Reach HCP Coordinating Committee crafted language to insert into the draft SOA.

Rocky Reach HCP Coordinating Committee representatives present approved the SOA, *Deferment of the Rocky Reach Project Confirmation Survival Study from 2021 to 2022*, as revised.

The final SOA was distributed to the Rocky Reach HCP Coordinating Committee by Geris on July 10, 2020.

B. 2021 Rock Island Confirmation Survival Study RFP (Lance Keller)

Lance Keller notified the HCP Coordinating Committees that Chelan PUD released the RFP for the 2021 Rock Island Confirmation Survival Study. Keller said the RFP was released for bid on June 17, 2020, and closes on July 17, 2020, at 2:30 p.m. He said Chelan PUD hopes to solicit proposals, conduct a thorough evaluation and interview process to identify a suitable contractor, and have a contract in place by mid- to late August 2020, so the team can start looking at study design decisions with Dr. John Skalski (Columbia Basin Research). Keller said Chelan PUD developed this somewhat aggressive schedule to try and minimize any impacts or delays due to COVID-19. He said once a contract is in place, he will notify the HCP Coordinating Committees.

John Ferguson asked if the RFP is for the 2021 Rock Island Confirmation Survival Study only or if the 2022 Rocky Reach Confirmation Survival Study is also bundled into the same contract. Keller said at this point, the RFP only includes the 2021 Rock Island Confirmation Survival Study. He said, however,

Chelan PUD will evaluate contractor performance in determining a contractor for the 2022 Rocky Reach Confirmation Survival Study. He said Chelan PUD is not required to release an RFP; rather, the District wanted to release an RFP to get an assessment of available tag technology and see about options for additional services (e.g., tagging of fish). He said Chelan PUD could perform some of these tasks in-house; however, the District has not conducted a survival study since 2011 and has lost certain critical staff since. He said this RFP seemed like a good route to determine who can provide these services to best evaluate survival in 2021.

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

Lance Keller said maintenance activities are getting closer to being back to normal. He said crews still need to adhere to social distancing and personal protective equipment requirements; however, additional activities are beginning to be conducted. He said some work has focused on Turbine Unit B4, but it is not quite back to a pre-COVID-19 workload. He said the return to service date is still not solid enough to announce, but all signs indicate there is high likelihood that Turbine Unit B4 will be returned to service before the 2021 Rock Island Confirmation Survival Study, which was a key reason for deferring the study from 2020 to 2021. He said he will notify the HCP Coordinating Committees as he learns more about the return to service date.

D. FERC Notification Letter Regarding the Maintenance Rehabilitation of Rock Island Dam Powerhouse 2 (Lance Keller)

Lance Keller recalled that a draft FERC notification letter regarding the maintenance rehabilitation of Rock Island Dam Powerhouse 2 was distributed to the Rock Island HCP Coordinating Committee by Kristi Geris on April 27, 2020, and was available for a 30-day review with edits and comments due to Keller or Jeff Osborn (Chelan PUD License Compliance Specialist) by May 27, 2020. Keller said Chelan PUD received comments from Jim Craig, which will be included in a comment matrix along with Chelan PUD's response. Keller said Chelan PUD has not yet submitted the final letter to FERC; however, he said Chelan PUD will notify the Rock Island HCP Coordinating Committee when the letter is submitted.

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

Lance Keller said similar to Rock Island Dam, some maintenance activities are returning at Rocky Reach Dam. He said some work is starting on Turbine Units C2 and C7, but the work is not yet at the capacity of pre-COVID-19. He said there have been continued inspections on Turbine Unit C3, the unit that is operating in a hydraulic blade blocked condition. He said on June 8, 2020, the unit was dewatered and the hub was drained. He said crews inspected the hub to ensure oil from the governor system was not escaping from the hub or that river water was not migrating into the governor oil. He said neither was observed and the unit was returned to service. He said the unit is

on a 3-week inspection schedule and will be taken out of service again next week for inspection. He said if anything out of the ordinary is observed, he will notify the HCP Coordinating Committees.

IV. Douglas PUD

A. 2020 Survival Verification Study Update (Andrew Gingerich)

Andrew Gingerich said Douglas PUD released the study fish for the 2020 Survival Verification Study starting in mid-April 2020 and ending in May 2020. He said there was also a few weeks of planning prior to starting the releases in mid-April 2020. He said in the field, everything went well, crews completed all releases, and Biomark performed the scanning of the fish for PIT tags prior to release. He recalled that study fish were released at the mouth of the Okanogan and Methow rivers, as well as in the Wells Dam tailrace. He said by now, the bulk of the fish have migrated through the system, but Douglas PUD was continuing to get detections every day. He said in the last couple of days, about 15 fish have been detected at Rocky Reach Dam. He said on average, of the 100,000 to 105,000 fish released, there has been about a 33% detection rate at Rocky Reach Dam, which is encouraging. He said this will help with the confidence bounds when running the statistics and estimating survival. He said Douglas PUD is working with Drs. Richard Townsend and John Skalski (University of Washington) to put together the statistical analyses. Gingerich said in the field, there were no days where crews could not complete a release, despite challenges with the weather. He said high winds affected crane and towing barge operations, which were further complicated by high river flows. Gingerich said Tom Kahler reviewed the flow duration curves and the early indication is that everything lines up well and test conditions will fall within expected ranges. Gingerich said flows started low but increased rapidly. He said at the start of releases, river flow was 60,000 to 80,000 cubic feet per second (60 to 80 kcfs) and then increased to 185 kcfs. He said he believes this will fall nicely within the flow duration curve requirement. Gingerich said Kahler is also tracking PIT-tag detections and arrival timing in the lower river at McNary and Bonneville dams. Gingerich said one important goal of the study was to release fish in a staggered fashion. He said this was intended so that releases in the Okanogan River come down and meet with releases in the Methow River, which then meet up with the releases in the Wells Dam tailrace, and then the three combined releases arrive at Rocky Reach Dam in similar distributions so the fish are traveling and experiencing similar environmental and operational conditions. Gingerich said Kahler has been able to track some of this, and the early indication is that the early release groups match up well, while the later release groups match up not quite as well due to the higher river flow, but are still very similar. Gingerich said of the early statistical data survival looks relatively good, but Douglas PUD will wait for the analytical analysis from Townsend and Skalski before providing a more comprehensive survival report. Gingerich guessed this might be in October 2020. He added, regarding physiological statistics, the plasma glucose and fat indices look comparable while cortisol and gill ATPase comparisons between

treatment and control groups will be performed by the lab. He said the final lab results are expected back from Betsy Bamberger (Douglas PUD Fish Health Specialist) in early September 2020. Gingerich said Douglas PUD can provide an update once these results are available, which are delayed due to COVID-19.

B. Wells Project Land-use Permit No. LUP 4-06 (Tom Kahler)

Tom Kahler said a Wells Project Land-Use Permit Application for No. LUP 4-06 was distributed to the Wells HCP Coordinating Committee for review by Kristi Geris on June 3, 2020. Kahler said this application is for existing unpermitted actions implemented over time by the owners of adjacent private property, but conditions for permitting those actions were already negotiated between Douglas PUD and the property owner. He said the application is just a formality of the negotiated settlement, and Douglas PUD provides the Wells HCP Coordinating Committee an opportunity to review land-use permit applications. He said Jim Craig already provided USFWS's indication of no comments (via email on June 3, 2020), and no other comments have been received to date.

Keely Murdoch asked what type of actions are the property owners doing without a permit? Kahler said the actions are events, structures, and roads that were built on Douglas PUD land years ago. He said these include residential landscaping, an access road, a pump house, and a pedestrian path that was used as a boat launch back in the 2000s. He said the only new proposed action is a 10-foot-wide pedestrian path that Douglas PUD plans to permit, but it will not be used as a boat launch.

Murdoch asked if the property owners had followed the normal process, would Douglas PUD have permitted these actions? Kahler said yes, it is customary to permit these types of actions to a property owner on Douglas PUD land. He said the actions were for a water intake for an orchard.

Kirk Truscott asked where this property is located on the Wells Reservoir, and Kahler said it is located upstream of Starr Boat Launch. Geris projected Exhibit C of the land-use permit application, which is an aerial photograph of the property. Truscott said it would be helpful if parcel numbers were provided. He added that it seems odd for a property owner to make improvements without a permit, then apply for a permit, and Douglas PUD issues one. He asked if there are penalties for not obtaining a permit in the first place? Kahler said mitigation measures associated with these actions were negotiated as part of a settlement. He said Douglas PUD acquired property needed for their FERC license from this negotiation. Truscott asked if the property owner did not obtain permits to use Douglas PUD property, is it known whether the owner obtained the appropriate water permits from the state? Kahler said he is unsure of this but assumes the owner must have because Douglas PUD would not issue a permit without other permits in place. Truscott asked if the 10-foot-wide pedestrian path is existing. Kahler said yes, it used to be used as a boat launch. Truscott asked how anyone will know if the owner uses the path as a boat launch? Kahler said he believes there is something there that interferes with getting a boat through the path. He said Douglas PUD also

conducts routine reservoir inspections. Truscott noted the disturbance to the substrate downstream from where the path is located (from the aerial photograph). Kahler said he is unsure if that area was excavated but can find out.

John Ferguson said on Google Earth, the path looks like it is now covered with shrubs. Truscott asked if the area is vegetated, what is the purpose of a pedestrian path? He said if it is to walk to the water, there are plenty of access points along the entire property line. He said if the area is overgrown with vegetation, he does not want it to be reestablished as a pedestrian path. Kahler said he is unsure about how the area is managed.

Murdoch asked, regarding Truscott's concern that the path will be used as a boat launch, is it possible to require installation of some kind of barrier so a vehicle cannot access the path? Kahler said he can find out about measures that might be employed to prevent using the path as a boat launch. Murdoch said this will be helpful, and she noted that providing a 10-foot-wide path to the river invites it to be used as a boat launch, whether it be this property owner or a future owner. She asked when the review period closes, and Geris said Friday, July 3, 2020. *(Note: Kahler later clarified comments are needed by Tuesday, June 30, 2020.)*

Kahler said it is not apparent from the aerial photographs, but the bank through this area is fairly high and the location of the proposed path may be a low spot. He explained that the area between the pedestrian path and the big tree to the south had an eroding bank, and as part of an activity necessary at this property, Douglas PUD installed bioengineered bank stabilization. He said this bank is about 4 feet above the beach. He said the area around the tree located at the point was stabilized, too. He said the bank around the pump house is also very steep with cobble substrate, about 4 to 5 feet above the ordinary high water mark. He said he believes the idea behind the pedestrian access path is to provide a location with a low angle of slope to access the river.

Andrew Gingerich noted that there is language in Section 10 of the permit application that allows for termination if the landowner sells the subject property. Gingerich said there are also other clauses to allow for termination with 60 days written notice if the owner does not adhere to permit conditions and documents. He said using a pedestrian path as a boat launch would, in theory, be terms for termination. He said he agrees a 10-foot-wide path is an attractive nuisance to use as a boat launch; however, the elevation difference or slope of the site may not support launching boats in this location.

Douglas PUD will inquire internally regarding the pedestrian access described in the Wells Project Land-Use Permit Application for No. LUP 4-06. *(Note: Kahler provided clarification to Geris following the HCP Coordinating Committees conference call on June 23, 2020, which Geris distributed to the HCP Coordinating Committees that same day. On June 30, 2020, Truscott indicated via email that based on*

the discussion during the HCP Coordinating Committees conference call on June 23, 2020, and the additional information provided by Kahler, the CCT have no additional comments. Craig also indicated no further comments from USFWS, Scott Carlon indicated no comments from NMFS, and Chad Jackson indicated no comments from WDFW that same day.)

C. Final FWMT Annual Reports (Tom Kahler)

The final FWMT annual reports for water years 2013-2014, 2014-2015, 2015-2016, and 2018-2019 were distributed to the HCP Coordinating Committees by Kristi Geris on June 3, 2020.

Tom Kahler said historically, there has been a B.C. administrative task force that includes a number of water managers such as the Okanagan Nation Alliance, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, and the B.C. Ministry of Environment, who work together to make water use decisions throughout the water year, which is October to September. He said following each year of implementation of the FWMT, this group issues what used to be called a Record of Decision. He said recently, the group decided to combine the Record of Decision with descriptions of activities included in FWMT implementation such as, all spawner surveys, water quality monitoring, lake level gauges, and other data, into an annual report; and now the group is going back retroactively to update prior year reports into this new format. He said these newly formatted annual reports are what were distributed to the HCP Coordinating Committees.

Kahler said the Wells HCP Committees have a responsibility to review all reports generated under the implementation of the Wells HCP. He said in the past, the Wells HCP Committees have elected not to review certain reports for activities that originated outside of the respective Committees activities. He said Douglas PUD has asked the Wells HCP Coordinating Committee if the Committee wanted to review these reports (in the previous format), and the Committee deferred review of these reports to the Canadian water managers. Kahler explained that the Canadian water managers first began producing these reports so that if there was a legal issue about how the water was managed there would be this Record of Decision, which shows that the managers followed a deliberative decision-making process and gave the managers defensibility regarding their decisions. Kahler noted that this turned out to be useful in 2017 when there was flooding around Okanagan Lake that caused flood damage and the Province or federal government reviewed the Record of Decision and found there was no fault of the water managers.

Kahler said there will be more of these updated annual reports issued and he asked if the Wells HCP Coordinating Committee prefers a formal review process or prefers to continue considering the reports as a record from the Canadian water managers to have as a reference, with no formal review process. Wells HCP Coordinating Committee representatives present agreed to an informal review (opposed to a formal HCP review process) of the *Okanagan Fish and Water Management Tools*

(FWMT) annual reports that are prepared by the Okanagan Nation Alliance Fisheries Department, Westbank, B.C., for the FWMT Steering Committee and Douglas PUD.

D. Wells Dam 2020 Bypass Operations Update (Andrew Gingerich and Tom Kahler)

Andrew Gingerich said bypass operations at Wells Dam have been going generally as planned, notably compared to last year when there were compliance issues at Bypass Bay 2. Tom Kahler added that this year, the bypass barriers in Spillbay 6 were pulled on May 28, 2020, and were reinstalled last week on June 16, 2020. He said pulling bypass barriers is based on Emergency Action Plan requirements, which are outlined in a table in the Bypass Operating Plan, where barriers are pulled from at least one bypass bay when flow is sustained above 200 kcfs to provide sufficient auto-hoist gate capacity to handle a load rejection without flooding the dam. He said this happened on the afternoon of May 28, 2020, after which the forecasted inflow returned back below 200 kcfs by the weekend. He said June 14, 2020, was the first day the extended flow forecast was below 200 kcfs, and a decision was made on Monday, June 15, 2020, to reinstall the barriers, which were installed in the afternoon of Tuesday, June 16, 2020. He said as Gingerich noted, everything is going well.

John Ferguson asked if there were any other variances, and Kahler said there was a little issue with interpretation of the Spill Playbook when operators pulled the barriers in Spillway 6. Kahler said time was spent with the operators to help their understanding of the spill distribution under a scenario with bypass barriers pulled (i.e., to allocate spill to the correct spillways).

V. HCP Administration

A. COVID-19 and Meeting Logistics (John Ferguson)

John Ferguson asked if there are any new updates HCP Coordinating Committees members have to share. No updates were shared.

B. Next Meetings (John Ferguson)

The next scheduled HCP Coordinating Committees meeting is on July 28, 2020, to be held by conference call.

The August 25 and September 22, 2020 meetings will be held by conference call or in-person at the Grant PUD Wenatchee Office in Wenatchee, Washington, as is yet to be determined.

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
Scott Carlon*	National Marine Fisheries Service
Jim Craig*	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Chad Jackson*	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Keely Murdoch*	Yakama Nation
Kirk Truscott*	Colville Confederated Tribes

Notes:

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