

Memorandum

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

Date: September 7, 2020

From: John Ferguson, HCP Coordinating Committees Chairman

cc: Kristi Geris

Re: Final Minutes of the July 28, 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, July 28, 2020, from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 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).
- Douglas PUD will provide a link to the Hallauer Act, or Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 54.16.220, to Kristi Geris for distribution to the HCP Coordinating Committees (Item III-B). *(Note: Tom Kahler provided this link during the conference call on July 28, 2020, which Geris distributed to the HCP Coordinating Committees following the conference call that same day.)*
- Douglas PUD will inquire internally regarding the Colville Confederated Tribes' (CCT's) comment on Wells Project Land-Use Permit Application for #LUP 143-01, about requesting that the property owner move operations farther upland in order to provide a wider riparian buffer similar in width to the opposite shoreline of the Okanagan River (Item III-B).
- Anchor QEA will coordinate to add Katy Shelby (Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife [WDFW] Technical Support) to the HCP Hatchery Committees primary email distribution list and provide Shelby with HCP Hatchery Committees extranet site access, as approved by the HCP Coordinating Committees (Item V-A). *(Note: Kristi Geris notified Mike Tonseth and Chad Jackson [WDFW HCP Hatchery Committees Representative and Alternate, respectively], Tracy Hillman [HCP Hatchery Committees Chairman], and Sarah Montgomery [HCP Hatchery Committees Support Staff] of this approval following the conference call on July 28, 2020; and Geris contacted Julene McGregor [Douglas PUD Information Services Staff] to request extranet access for Shelby that same day, as discussed.)*
- The HCP Coordinating Committees meeting on August 25, 2020, will be held at 9:00 a.m., by conference call (Item V-D).

Decision Summary

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

Agreements

- HCP Coordinating Committees representatives present agreed to add Katy Shelby to the HCP Hatchery Committees primary email distribution list and provide Shelby with access to the HCP Hatchery Committees extranet site (Item V-A).

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 (Item III-B).

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. No additions or changes were requested.

B. Meeting Minutes Approval (John Ferguson)

The HCP Coordinating Committees reviewed the revised draft June 23, 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 June 23, 2020 conference call minutes, as revised.

C. Last Meeting Action Items (John Ferguson)

Action items from the HCP Coordinating Committees meeting on June 23, 2020, and follow-up discussions, were as follows. (*Note: Italicized text corresponds to agenda items from the meeting on June 23, 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 will be discussed during today's conference call and will also be carried forward.

- *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).*

Lance Keller said Chelan PUD filed the letter and comment/response matrix with FERC on July 2, 2020.

- *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).*

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.

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 July 9, 2020:

- *Monitoring Proposal:* The HCP Tributary Committees received a monitoring proposal from the Okanagan Nation Alliance titled *ORRI Effectiveness Monitoring and Restoration Prioritization (2020–2024) Project*. The purpose of the project is to monitor the effectiveness of enhancement actions within three project sites: Penticton Channel, Oliver Site, and Okanagan Falls. The cost of the monitoring project over a five-year period is \$99,000. After review and discussion, the HCP Tributary Committees indicated an interest in possibly funding some components of the project. However, before the Committees can support these monitoring components, the Committees need additional information from the project sponsor. Once the sponsor responds with additional information, the Committees will make a funding decision.
- *Project Presentations:* The HCP Tributary Committees heard presentations from both Chelan County Natural Resources Department and the Methow Salmon Recovery Foundation. The Chelan County Natural Resources Department described six different projects to the Committees, while the Methow Salmon Recovery Foundation outlined design concepts on the Sugar Levee Project, which is an HCP Tributary Committees targeted project located on the Methow River. The Committees provided feedback and recommendations to the project sponsors. Next month, the Yakama Nation will discuss 12 potential projects with the HCP Tributary Committees. This is in response to the Committees' request to be included in early discussions during the development of conceptual, preliminary, and final designs.
- *Chiwawa Nutrient Enhancement Project:* Cascade Fisheries (CF) reported to the HCP Tributary Committees that it does not appear CF will receive cost-free carcass analogs this year. He recalled that CF is adding carcass analogs to the middle segment of the Chiwawa River. The

Rock Island Plan Species Account supports a portion of the monitoring of this project. The company that makes the analogs (AmCan) had to lay off staff due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In order to continue the third year of nutrient enhancement work, CF would need about \$90,000 to purchase 40,000 pounds of analogs from a different vendor this year. If CF is unable to secure free analogs in the future, CF will need about \$270,000 for analogs over the next 3 years. The CF asked the HCP Tributary Committees if the Committees would be willing to fund the purchase of the analogs this year and possibly over the 3-year period. Although the Committees see some value in the project, the Committees are not willing to provide any additional funding for this project.

- *Next Meeting:* The next meeting of the HCP Tributary Committees will be on August 13, 2020.

Hillman updated the HCP Coordinating Committees on the following actions and discussions that occurred during the HCP Hatchery Committees conference call on July 15, 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. With help from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Northwest Fisheries Science Center, the Committees are evaluating density dependence and carrying capacity within spring Chinook salmon spawning aggregates.
- *Differentiating Natural-Origin Okanogan and Methow Spring Chinook Salmon (joint):* The CCT are working on methods to differentiate natural-origin Okanogan spring Chinook salmon from natural-origin Methow spring Chinook salmon at Wells Dam. This work is needed to prevent the collection and incorporation of natural-origin Okanogan spring Chinook salmon into Methow Hatchery programs. The CCT are currently looking at elemental signature analyses as a means to differentiate natural-origin spring Chinook salmon. John Ferguson asked if this elemental signature analysis is being used elsewhere and how does it work? He asked what tissues are analyzed and that otoliths cannot be used for this, correct? Kirk Truscott said an otolith analysis would not provide the desired results. He said the CCT have used otolith elemental analysis to differentiate summer Chinook salmon in the Okanogan River Basin from the mainstem Columbia River summer Chinook salmon. He said in the Okanogan River, the CCT have also used this analysis for resident fish. Ferguson asked about a timeframe to obtain results. Truscott said it can be as short as one week, similar to other genetic analyses. He said the CCT are also currently analyzing whether there is enough

differentiation between subbasins in the Okanogan and Methow rivers to differentiate between spring Chinook salmon. He said the CCT are looking at what information exists on the elemental constituents in the two major river basins. Ferguson asked, for the purpose of developing a baseline? Truscott said this is correct.

- *COVID-19 and Hatchery Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Activities (joint)*: Each member of the HCP Hatchery Committees discussed the effects of COVID-19 on their respective M&E activities. Overall, very little has changed since last month. Monitoring is occurring within the hatcheries and crews are operating smolt traps. Broodstock collections are proceeding as planned and monitoring crews are planning to conduct spring Chinook salmon spawning surveys this year.
- *Chiwawa Spring Chinook Salmon Broodstock Collection (Rock Island/Rocky Reach)*: Chelan PUD reported that trapping began for spring Chinook salmon broodstock at the Chiwawa Weir on July 6, 2020. Trapping at the weir was delayed this year because of high flows in the Chiwawa River. The goal is to collect 84 natural-origin spring Chinook salmon at the weir.
- *Chelan Falls Summer Chinook Salmon Broodstock Collection (Rock Island/Rocky Reach)*: Chelan PUD reported that because of the COVID-19 pandemic, Chelan PUD was unable to install the adult summer Chinook salmon trap in the Chelan River habitat channel in time to collect broodstock for the Chelan Falls program. Therefore, broodstock for the program will be collected at the Wells Fish Hatchery volunteer trap. Chelan PUD intends to install the Chelan River trap this month and test it. Any fish collected during testing will be surplus (i.e., the fish will not be incorporated into broodstock).
- *Methow Hatchery Spring Chinook Salmon Broodstock Collection (Wells)*: Douglas PUD reported that enough spring Chinook salmon broodstock were collected for the Methow Hatchery Program. Given the COVID-19 pandemic and the low number of returning spring Chinook salmon, that there was a concern broodstock targets might not be met.
- *Requested Change in Distribution List (Administration)*: WDFW requested that McLain Johnson (former WDFW Fish Biologist) be replaced by Katy Shelby (new WDFW Fish Biologist) on the HCP Hatchery Committees primary email distribution list. Shelby will provide technical support to the Committees. The HCP Hatchery Committees approved the request and are requesting approval from the HCP Coordinating Committees.
- *Next Meeting*: The next meeting of the HCP Hatchery Committees will be on August 19, 2020.

III. Douglas PUD

A. Wells Dam 2020 Bypass Operations Update (Tom Kahler)

Tom Kahler said bypass operations at Wells Dam have been consistent with the Bypass Operating Plan and there are no anomalies to report.

B. Wells Project Land-use Permit No. LUP 143-01 (Tom Kahler)

Tom Kahler said 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 Kahler no later than Friday, August 14, 2020.

Kahler said it might be useful to describe some of the history behind these Wells Project land-use permit applications, particularly for those located way upstream in the Okanogan River. He explained that at the time of the development of the Wells Project boundary, Douglas PUD was required by FERC to acquire all lands within a footprint of what would be a worst-case scenario backwater effect. He said that Douglas PUD had a short window of time between when Douglas PUD received the order to proceed with the project from FERC and the deadline for obtaining all affected properties within the project boundary. He said Douglas PUD chose to coordinate directly with the landowners with a goal of establishing positive relationships with the residents around the Wells Project rather than relying on the eminent domain process to acquire properties. He said there was a huge effort to obtain these properties, and also in the middle of this process a law was passed by the Washington State Legislature (referred to as the Hallauer Act). Kahler said the name under the RCW is *Columbia River Hydroelectric Projects - Grant Back Of Easements To Former Owners*, but Senator Hallauer of Omak, Washington promoted this law. Kahler said the Hallauer Act applies to all Columbia River PUDs and requires that for all privately owned lands acquired for the purpose of a hydroelectric project reservoir, the PUD has to grant an easement to the former owners for use of the land, with provisions. Kahler said he can provide a link to the Hallauer Act, or RCW 54.16.220, to Geris for distribution to the HCP Coordinating Committees. *(Note: Kahler provided this link during the conference call on July 28, 2020, which Geris distributed to the HCP Coordinating Committees following the conference call that same day.)*

Kahler said there was a process that property owners had to go through, per the Hallauer Act, and some did this. He said the idea was that the State Legislature did not want the PUDs depriving property owners of the use of land that those people already had, even though the PUDs also wanted these property owners to continue to have the same opportunity to use the land as long as this use did not interfere with the purpose of the project (as required under the FERC license). He said the Hallauer Act set the tone of what the local government wanted (i.e., the PUDs needed to obtain land but not deprive property owners of the use of the lands, which had been primarily agricultural along the Okanogan River and in the Wells Reservoir proper). He said, in summary, Douglas PUD went through a major process of trying to obtain lands from landowners by agreement, rather than taking the land from the owners through eminent domain and incurring the animus associated with this process. He said this sometimes was in the form of a longstanding and

often verbal agreement between the Douglas PUD and the landowner, where the intent was to solidify these agreements as actual permits over time as there were opportunities to do so.

Kahler said this Wells Project Land-Use Permit Application for #LUP 143-01 is one of these properties. He said from before Douglas PUD obtained the property until the present, the landowners used the property as a farm and grew vegetables. Kahler said Douglas PUD granted the landowners continued use of this property even though Douglas PUD now owns it. He said the mother recently turned the property over to a son, which presented a good opportunity to solidify this usage with a formal permit. He said this property is located along the Okanogan River well above any area that is influenced by normal project operations; however, Douglas PUD had to own the land because in an extreme flood event the location is within the mandated inundation zone.

Kahler said changing how the land under these agreements and permits is used has been discussed; however, changing how the land is used is not in the spirit of the original agreements. He said, additionally, it would be a complicated process to go back into these land files to determine what exactly these landowners were given, and sometimes this would not be clear due to the verbal agreements. He said, in the meantime, Douglas PUD is not lax on enforcing regulations on project lands. He said Douglas PUD tours the entire reservoir twice per month and if residents are violating the terms of their permit or agreement, Douglas PUD will notify the landowner to correct the infraction and take legal action if needed.

Scott Carlon asked if most of these residents obtain water via pumps off the Columbia River or from groundwater wells. Kahler said most water is obtained from pumps off the river, and in the 2004 to 2011 timeframe, Douglas PUD went through a process with guidance from Bryan Nordlund (National Marine Fisheries Service [NMFS], retired) and per the FERC license, to require everyone to install a NMFS-compliant screen system on their pump intakes. Carlon asked if this is also part of the permitting process (to require that pumps are screened properly). Kahler said yes, as far as he knows (this is only required for what FERC considered major withdrawals)..

Kirk Truscott said he and Kahler discussed this application and he asked Kahler if Douglas PUD could condition the permit on moving operations farther upland in order to provide a wider riparian buffer similar in width to the opposite shoreline of the Okanogan River. Kahler said he will inquire internally about this request.

IV. Chelan PUD

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

Lance Keller said work is continuing on Turbine Unit B4; however, Chelan PUD is not yet confident about releasing a return-to-service date for the unit at this time. Keller recalled that Turbine Unit B4

is the first of the small units at the powerhouse to be rehabilitated, so there is a bit of a learning curve associated with rehabilitating this first unit, and crews should be more efficient with regard to the timelines for rehabilitating Turbine Units B1 to B3. He said Chelan PUD is confident the return-to-service date for Turbine Unit B4 will be well in advance of the 2021 Rock Island survival check-in study. He said he hopes to provide a firmer return-to-service date for Turbine Unit B4 during the HCP Coordinating Committees meeting on August 25, 2020.

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

Lance Keller said work continues on Turbine Unit C2 and the return-to-service date remains at the end of October 2020. He said the Turbine Unit C7 return-to-service date has slipped because as he understands, when the Kaplan tube was extracted it was bound up tightly and the tube was damaged. He said the procurement process for a replacement part has taken additional time and the earlier estimated return-to-service date of November 2020 has shifted back to the end of 2020. However, this date depends on when the new Kaplan tube arrives onsite. He recalled that Turbine Unit C3 is the unit operating in a hydraulic blade blocked configuration. He said due to previous observations of water and oil in the hub, the unit is now taken out of service every 3 weeks to drain the hub and assess how much water is coming in from outside, and to confirm the integrity of the trunnion seal and bushing to ensure there are no releases of oil to the river. He said crews conducted a service outage in early July 2020, drained the water/oil mixture off, and did not observe any oil loss or water intrusion into the governor system. He said crews returned the unit to service and the next scheduled service for Turbine Unit C3 is scheduled to occur on August 3, 2020. He said he will share the results of the August 3, 2020 servicing during the HCP Coordinating Committees meeting on August 25, 2020.

V. HCP Administration

A. HCP Hatchery Committees Primary Email Distribution List – Katy Shelby, WDFW Technical Support (John Ferguson)

John Ferguson said the HCP Hatchery Committees requested to add Katy Shelby to the primary email distribution list and provide Shelby with access to the extranet site. Ferguson recalled that Shelby will replace Mclain Johnson. Chad Jackson said he has nothing further to add.

HCP Coordinating Committees representatives present agreed to add Shelby to the HCP Hatchery Committees primary email distribution list and provide Shelby with access to the HCP Hatchery Committees extranet site. Anchor QEA will coordinate to add Shelby to the HCP Hatchery Committees primary email distribution list and provide Shelby with HCP Hatchery Committees extranet site access, as approved by the HCP Coordinating Committees. *(Note: Kristi Geris notified Mike Tonseth and Jackson, Tracy Hillman, and Sarah Montgomery of this approval following the*

conference call on July 28, 2020, and Geris contacted Julene McGregor to request extranet access for Shelby that same day, as discussed.)

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

John Ferguson asked if there are any new updates HCP Coordinating Committees members have to share.

Lance Keller said over the last month, Chelan PUD offices have been open to staff as long as staff wear masks. Keller said now Chelan PUD is encouraging all non-essential staff to work from home through the remainder of 2020, which includes all biological staff. He said everyone is still available via email and cell phone.

Chad Jackson said WDFW is close to reopening all laboratories and returning staff to offices, including scale readers, coded wire tag operations, and fish health laboratories. He said WDFW and other State agencies have also been furloughed for the past four Fridays in July and will be furloughed once per month through the end of 2020. He said this may potentially delay some services and some services may not be available. Ferguson noted that he understands the 1-day furlough will vary among State agencies, so not all State employees will be furloughed on the same day from August through December 2020.

Kirk Truscott said the CCT extended the partial government shutdown to the end of September 2020. He said certain actions, many policy-related, may take longer to get through the process. Ferguson asked if some policy staff are not working, and Truscott said this is correct.

Scott Carlon said the NMFS offices remain closed. He said staff receive regular updates about how to reopen but no timeline on when offices will reopen. He said he is doubtful offices will reopen before the end of 2020; however, business is as usual with staff working remotely from home.

Ferguson said the HCP Policy Committees had intended to convene in-person back on May 5, 2020; however, due to COVID-19, this meeting was rescheduled to September 1, 2020. He said recently, there have been emails circulating to determine whether members of the Committees still want to convene this meeting on September 1, 2020, which looks like it will need to be via WebEx. He said these discussions are revolving around either delaying the meeting again because of the benefit of meeting in-person (especially because there are two to three new members to the Committees), or convening a meeting via WebEx to address one or more pressing topics. He said there will be more to come on this once a decision is made.

No other updates were shared by the HCP Coordinating Committees.

C. Subyearling Chinook Salmon Studies – Next Quarterly Check-In (John Ferguson)

John Ferguson said this is a reminder that the next subyearling Chinook salmon studies quarterly check-in will be during the HCP Coordinating Committees meeting on August 25, 2020.

Tom Kahler said Douglas PUD reviewed the CCT comments on the *Wells Project Subyearling Chinook Life-History Study 2011–2013 Draft Final Report* and provided responses back to the CCT asking whether additional dialogue is needed or if the report is ready to present to the Wells HCP Coordinating Committee. Kirk Truscott said he plans to work offline with Kahler on this.

D. Next Meetings (John Ferguson)

The next scheduled HCP Coordinating Committees meeting is on August 25, 2020, to be held by conference call.

The September 22 and October 27, 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
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