

Memorandum

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

Date: September 22, 2020

From: John Ferguson, HCP Coordinating Committees Chairman

cc: Sarah Montgomery, Kristi Geris

Re: Final Minutes of the August 25, 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, August 25, 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).
- The HCP Coordinating Committees meeting on September 22, 2020, will be held at 9:00 a.m., by conference call (Item VI-C).

Decision Summary

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

Agreements

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

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.
- The *Chelan PUD Rocky Reach and Rock Island HCPs Draft 2020 Fish Spill Report* was distributed to the HCP Coordinating Committees by Kristi Geris on September 19, 2020 and is available for a 30-day review with edits and comments due to Lance Keller by October 19, 2020.

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:

- Scott Carlon asked for an update about Rock Island Dam relicensing. Lance Keller said he can provide an update, and Ferguson added this as an item for Chelan PUD.

B. Meeting Minutes Approval (John Ferguson)

The HCP Coordinating Committees reviewed the revised draft July 28, 2020, conference call minutes. Sarah Montgomery said all comments and revisions received from members of the Committees were incorporated into the revised minutes. HCP Coordinating Committees members present approved the July 28, 2020, conference call minutes, as revised.

C. Last Meeting Action Items (John Ferguson)

Action items from the HCP Coordinating Committees meeting on July 28, 2020, and follow-up discussions, were as follows. (*Note: Italicized text corresponds to agenda items from the meeting on July 28, 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 be carried forward.
- *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).*
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 Okanogan River (Item III-B).*
Tom Kahler said he discussed this item with the Douglas PUD lands department. The department will not make changes to the original agreement unless there is a Federal Energy Regulatory Commission obligation to do so. Kahler said if there was an obligation, Douglas PUD would modify the permit; otherwise, they will not make unilateral changes to these types of agreements. Kirk Truscott thanked Kahler for looking into this item and said he understands the constraints. He said he was looking for a cooperative process to provide additional riparian buffer. Kahler said the issue is that there is a road along the bank so it would be difficult to move, and this was not a discussion topic as part of the initial permitting process.

- *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).*

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.

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 August 13, 2020:

- *Vandervort Appraisal Discussion:* In June 2020, the HCP Tributary Committees reviewed a Small Projects Application from the Methow Salmon Recovery Foundation titled, "Methow River – Vandervort Property Appraisal Project." The purpose of the project was to fund an appraisal to determine the value of the Vandervort property at the upper end of the Silver Side Channel Project area, located on the Methow River near RM 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 sponsor requested \$9,250 from HCP Plan Species Account Funds. The HCP Tributary Committees declined the opportunity to fund the project at that time because of several unknowns and uncertainties. The Committees invited the sponsor to a future meeting to discuss the Committees' concerns. Chris Johnson (Methow Salmon Recovery Foundation) joined the conference call and responded to the Committees' questions and concerns. Following the discussion, the Wells HCP Tributary Committee agreed to contribute \$9,250 to fund the appraisal, which will be conducted by the Committees' approved appraiser.
- *Yakama Nation Project Presentations:* The HCP Tributary Committees convened with the PRCC Habitat Subcommittee to hear presentations from the Yakama Nation (YN) on nine potential habitat enhancement projects located in the Wenatchee, Entiat, and Methow subbasins. These projects are in various stages of development. The YN gave the presentations in response to the HCP Tributary Committees' request to be included in early discussions during the development of conceptual, preliminary, and final designs. The HCP Tributary Committees

provided feedback and recommendations to the YN. The HCP Tributary Committees asked to be included in future discussions on these projects.

- *Next Meeting:* The next meeting of the HCP Tributary Committees will be on September 10, 2020.

Hillman updated the HCP Coordinating Committees on the following actions and discussions that occurred during the HCP Hatchery Committees conference call on August 19, 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 HCP Hatchery Committees and PRCC HSC continued their discussion on revising the size of the Wenatchee spring Chinook 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 (NOAA) Northwest Fisheries Science Center, the Committees are evaluating density dependence and carrying capacity within spring Chinook salmon spawning aggregates. John Ferguson asked how the modeling analysis is written up. Hillman said there will be a report on the subject at some point. He said one model is NOAA's life cycle model (an effort led by NOAA employee Rich Zabel), another model is being built by Mark Sorel (a NOAA contractor who is developing the model as part of his PhD dissertation at the University of Washington), and the third is a tool that Keely Murdoch and WDFW staff put together during the last recalculation, which is being updated with more recent information.
- *COVID-19 and 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 conducting spring Chinook spawning surveys.
- *Chiwawa Spring Chinook Salmon Broodstock Collection (Rock Island/Rocky Reach):* WDFW began trapping 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. WDFW was able to collect 70 natural-origin spring Chinook salmon at the weir, and the overall target is 84 fish for the Chiwawa program. An additional 18 spring Chinook salmon were collected at Tumwater Dam. During tapping at the weir, 70 bull trout were encountered (the encounter limit at the weir is 123 bull trout).
- *Okanagan Sockeye Salmon Draft Statement of Agreement (Rock Island/Rocky Reach):* Chelan PUD responded to comments they received on their draft Okanogan Sockeye Salmon

Obligation and Reintroduction Program Statement of Agreement (SOA). Based on comments received, Chelan PUD decided to submit two separate SOAs; one will address the success of the sockeye salmon program and the other will address future obligations. Chelan PUD will prepare a whitepaper describing the success of the program. Chelan PUD will also give a presentation to the Committees during the September meeting regarding the sockeye program. The SOAs will be submitted to the Committees following the September meeting.

- *Predation at Eastbank Fish Hatchery (Rock Island/Rocky Reach)*: Chelan PUD reported that birds have consumed several thousand juvenile spring Chinook salmon at Eastbank Fish Hatchery (roughly 12,000 Nason Creek conservation fish, 23,000 Nason Creek safety-net fish, and 15,000 Chiwawa fish). To reduce predation, the lethal removal of birds by the U.S. Department of Agriculture has begun and Chelan PUD is in the process of installing netting over the rearing raceways. Jim Craig asked if this was an issue in previous years. Hillman said he is not sure. Lance Keller said he is also not sure about previous years, but added that in 2020, an extensive effort utilizing trail cameras was able to determine that crows and herons are the primary predators.
- *2021 Hatchery M&E Implementation Plan (Rock Island/Rocky Reach)*: Chelan PUD submitted their draft 2021 Hatchery Monitoring and Evaluation Implementation Plan for review. Comments from the Committees are due on September 4, 2020.
- *Methow Hatchery Spring Chinook Broodstock Collection (Wells)*: Douglas PUD reported that collection of spring Chinook salmon at the Twisp weir fell one female short of the target of eight female spring Chinook salmon for the Twisp program. Douglas PUD was able to make up the deficit by adding production to the Methow-Chewuch spring Chinook salmon program.
- *Next Meeting*: The next meeting of the HCP Hatchery Committees will be on September 16, 2020.

III. Chelan PUD

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

Lance Keller said during the last HCP Coordinating Committees meeting, he provided an update that the maintenance schedule for Turbine Unit B4 was continuing to shift. He said though the schedule could still change again due to COVID-19, the tentative return to service date for B4 is December 2020. He said Chelan PUD is happy with this timeline because it is well in advance of the Rock Island juvenile survival study planned for 2021. He said he will continue providing updates on maintenance in Powerhouse 1 at future meetings.

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

Lance Keller said Chelan PUD continues work to bring Turbine Unit C2 back into service, with an estimate return to service date of November 2020.

He said maintenance work on Turbine Unit C3 also continues. He said the turbine hub was drained in early August 2020, to assess if water from the river in the hub had entered the governor oil system. Then, there was an assessment to determine whether any oil from the governor was getting into the hub and escaping into the river. He said inspection of the drained hub shows that this is not the case, and that water and oil are both being properly contained within the hub. He said C3 was scheduled to return to service in late August or early September 2020, but with the progress being made on C2, it makes more sense to start the overhaul on C3 while also addressing the turbine bushing issue. He said C3 will most likely not return to service between the HCP Coordinating Committees meeting and September 4, 2020. He said by the HCP Coordinating Committees meeting in September 2020, he hopes to have an estimate for the timeline for the overhaul of C3.

He said maintenance on Turbine Unit C7 also continues. He said the Kaplan pipe was damaged when the unit was disassembled, and Chelan PUD is working to procure a new pipe. The return to service date for C7 is currently estimated as February 2021.

C. 2020 Rocky Reach and Rock Island Summer Fish Spill (Lance Keller)

Lance Keller said he provided an update on summer fish spill for Rocky Reach and Rock Island dams to the HCP Coordinating Committees on August 18, 2020. He said at Rock Island Dam as of August 17, 2020, all three of the criteria to end summer fish spill had been met. He said the current model estimates showed that 95% of the subyearling run had migrated pass Rock Island Dam by August 5, 2020, and based on the start date of May 23, 2020, for summer fish spill, the model estimated that we achieved spill coverage for 95% of the outmigration on August 5, 2020, as well. He said in looking at the 5 prior days of index counts, three out of the 5 counts were below 0.3% of the cumulative index count, averaging 0.25% during the August 14 to August 18, 2020, period. This criterion was achieved on August 17, 2020, but Chelan PUD continued summer fish spill for an additional day to ensure that index counts continued to trend lower. Given that all three of the required criteria to end summer spill had been met at Rock Island Dam, and daily index counts continued to trend downward, Chelan PUD ended summer fish spill at Rock Island Dam on August 18, 2020, at 2400 hours.

He said his email on August 18, 2020, also provided an update on Rocky Reach summer fish spill. As of August 18, 2020, two of the three criteria to end summer fish spill had been met. He said the current model estimates showed that 95% of the subyearling run had migrated pass Rocky Reach Dam by August 15, 2020, and based on the start date of May 23, 2020, for summer spill, the model

estimated that we achieved spill coverage for 95% of the outmigration on August 15, 2020. He said over the 5 days prior to August 18, 2020, however, all of the daily index counts were greater than 0.3% of the cumulative index count, averaging 1.06% during the August 14 to August 18, 2020, period. Due to daily index counts remaining higher than the 0.3% criteria, summer spill at Rocky Reach Dam will continue until the daily index counts fall below 0.3% of the cumulative index count. He said now that it has been an additional week, over the last 5 days daily index counts are averaging right around 0.3% of the cumulative index count, with the last two days falling under the threshold. He said Chelan PUD will be watching today's index count to assess whether to end summer spill tonight or extend it another day. He noted that 58 smolts passed on August 23, 2020, and 25 smolts passed on August 24, 2020, which is 0.10% of the cumulative index count. Keller said once today's data are available, Chelan PUD will assess whether the criteria to end summer spill have been met. He said he will provide an email update to the committees today on the decision to end summer fish spill. He said ending summer fish spill with only six days remaining in August 2020 leaves little chance that an exceedance could occur. He said he also plans to draft a summary of the summer fish spill program for discussion at the HCP Coordinating Committees meeting in September 2020.

D. Rock Island Confirmation Survival Study Request for Proposal Update (Lance Keller)

Lance Keller said as he described last month, Chelan PUD released an RFP for the Rock Island Confirmation Survival Study. He said Chelan PUD received four complete proposals and an internal team of six staff reviewed them and selected a contractor. He said contract negotiations are ongoing and he will provide another update in September once the contract is awarded. He said the four proposals were all very good and he looks forward to working with the selected contractor, Chelan PUD staff, and John Skalski (University of Washington) to draft the study design, which will be provided to the Rocky Reach HCP Coordinating Committee for review this winter. He said there will be a lot of activity in the Committee related to this topic between now and April 2021.

E. Rock Island Relicensing Update (Lance Keller)

Lance Keller said Chelan PUD is beginning to prepare for Rock Island relicensing (note: Rock Island relicensing is due by the end of 2028). He said one of the first steps is working internally to define the stakeholder group. He said one question was whether to include NOAA in the list of stakeholders, based on the fact that NOAA did not sign the Rocky Reach license, but are a signatory to the Rocky Reach HCP. It was decided in discussions with Jeff Osborn (Chelan PUD) that NOAA would be included on the stakeholder list. He said outreach to the stakeholder group will begin in September or October, at which point Chelan PUD will provide a general timeline for the relicensing process and contact information. He said Chelan PUD has designated Janel Ulrich (Chelan PUD

Manager of Hydro Licensing) to lead the Rock Island relicensing effort. He said Ulrich was involved in the Rocky Reach relicensing process and brings a unique skillset to this task, which will be her focus moving forward. Scott Carlon thanked Keller for the update.

IV. Douglas PUD

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

Tom Kahler said Douglas PUD ended bypass operations at Wells Dam shortly after midnight on August 19, 2020. He said the bypass has been operated according to the plan since the last meeting. He noted that debris was removed from the units 9 and 10 in the forebay; when those units were off, the bypass bay for unit 10 was also closed. He said spillway 10 has a flap gate that was also closed whenever the contractor was working on debris, and units 9 and 10 were off according to the bypass operating plan. He said Douglas PUD adjusted some of the data due to default settings for the flap gate sensor, which were registering the flap gate as open whenever the lockout-tagout procedure shut off the main power to the sensor. He summarized that there were no deviations from the plan and summer spill was terminated accordingly.

V. Chelan PUD / Douglas PUD

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

Tom Kahler said Douglas PUD received comments from the CCT in September 2019 on the report, *Wells Project Subyearling Chinook Life-History Study 2011–2013 Draft Final Report*, to which Douglas PUD responded around late June 2020. Kirk Truscott said the CCT are still reviewing Douglas PUD's responses to comments and he will provide an update when the review is complete.

VI. 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. There were none.

B. WDFW HCP Policy Committees Representation (John Ferguson)

John Ferguson said he received an email from Chad Jackson explaining that Michael Livingston (WDFW, Yakima, Washington office) will be attending the HCP Policy Committees meeting on September 1, 2020, and will act as the representative when Jackson is not available. Ferguson said James Brown's (former WDFW HCP Policy Representative) position is vacant, so his duties are being assigned to staff from other offices. Ferguson said he will introduce himself to Livingston and other

new HCP Policy Committees representatives before the call, which will focus on issues related to sockeye salmon sampling at Wells Dam.

C. Next Meetings (John Ferguson)

The next scheduled HCP Coordinating Committees meeting is on September 22, 2020, to be held by conference call.

The October 27 and November 24, 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.

VII. List of Attachments

Attachment A List of Attendees

Attachment A
List of Attendees

Name	Organization
John Ferguson	Anchor QEA, LLC
Sarah Montgomery	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
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