

Memorandum

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

Date: October 28, 2020

From: John Ferguson, HCP Coordinating Committees Chairman

cc: Kristi Geris

Re: Final Minutes of the September 22, 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, September 22, 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).
- HCP Coordinating Committees members will discuss within the Priest Rapids Coordinating Committee (PRCC) rescheduling the December 2020 meeting 1 week earlier to accommodate the holiday, for further discussion during the HCP Coordinating Committees meeting on October 27, 2020 (Item IV-C). *(Note: Denny Rohr [PRCC Facilitator] notified Kristi Geris and John Ferguson that the PRCC agreed to reschedule the PRCC meeting to the afternoon of December 15, 2020, to follow the HCP Coordinating Committees meeting.)*
- The HCP Coordinating Committees meeting on October 27, 2020, will be held at 9:00 a.m., by conference call (Item IV-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 a revised draft spill report was distributed on September 23, 2020. The revised draft report is

available for a 30-day review with edits and comments due to Lance Keller by October 19, 2020 (Item III-C).

- The draft *Project Survival Estimates for Yearling Chinook Migrating Through the Wells Hydroelectric Project, 2020 (2020 Spring Migrant Survival Verification Study)* was distributed to the Wells HCP Coordinating Committee by Kristi Geris on October 22, 2020. This draft report is available for a 30-day review with edits and comments due to Tom Kahler and Andrew Gingerich by November 23, 2020.
- Wells Project Land-Use Permit Application #LUP 730-01 was distributed to the HCP Coordinating Committees by Kristi Geris on October 26, 2020. This application is available for a 30-day review with comments or indication of no comments due to Tom Kahler by November 25, 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. No additions or changes were requested.

B. Meeting Minutes Approval (John Ferguson)

The HCP Coordinating Committees reviewed the revised draft August 25, 2020, conference call minutes. Kristi Geris said she added the *Chelan PUD Rocky Reach and Rock Island HCPs Draft 2020 Fish Spill Report* under Review Items. She said U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service also provided a few comments after the revised minutes were distributed, as follows:

- *HCP Tributary Committees Update, Vandervort Appraisal Discussion*: Jim Craig suggested rewording the last sentence under this bullet to be clearer. The sentence was edited for clarification and Tracy Hillman and Craig approved the revision.
- *HCP Hatchery Committees Update, Predation at Eastbank Fish Hatchery*: Craig provided suggested punctuation edits to the last sentence under this bullet; however, Tracy Hillman had also already provided edits to this sentence, which Craig approved.
- *Chelan PUD, Rock Island Relicensing Update*: Craig suggested adding a note that the relicensing of Rock Island Dam is due to be completed by the end of 2028. This edit was incorporated, and Lance Keller and Craig approved the revision.

Geris said all other comments and revisions received from members of the Committees were incorporated into the revised minutes. HCP Coordinating Committees members present approved the August 25, 2020, conference call minutes, as revised. (Note: Scott Carlon provided National Marine Fisheries Service approval of the August 25, 2020, conference call minutes via email prior to the HCP Coordinating Committees conference call on September 22, 2020.)

C. Last Meeting Action Items (John Ferguson)

Action items from the HCP Coordinating Committees meeting on August 25, 2020, and follow-up discussions, were as follows. (Note: *Italicized text corresponds to agenda items from the meeting on August 25, 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.

II. HCP Hatchery and Tributary Committees Update

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

Tracy Hillman said the HCP Tributary Committees did not meet in September 2020. The next meeting of the HCP Tributary Committees will be on October 8, 2020, when the Committees will hear presentations from the Yakama Nation and Methow Salmon Recovery Foundation.

Hillman updated the HCP Coordinating Committees on the following actions and discussions that occurred during the HCP Hatchery Committees conference call on September 16, 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"*):

- *Broodstock Collection Protocols (joint)*: Consistent with the approved 2019 Statement of Agreement¹, the HCP Hatchery Committees began the process of updating the broodstock collection protocols. The Committees are currently identifying important issues to cover in the broodstock collection protocols and identifying who will lead the writeup of certain sections of the protocols.
- *COVID-19 and 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

¹ Wells HCP Hatchery Committee Final Statement of Agreement Annual Broodstock Collection Protocols and Rock Island and Rocky Reach HCP Hatchery Committee Final Statement of Agreement Annual Broodstock Collection Protocols, both approved on September 18, 2019.

and crews are operating smolt traps. Broodstock collections are proceeding as planned and monitoring crews are conducting spring Chinook salmon spawning surveys. The Colville Confederated Tribes (CCT) reported that the fire in the Okanogan Basin has destroyed some of the CCT outbuildings and fish sampling equipment. Other members of the Committees have offered equipment from their respective agencies to help the CCT with monitoring efforts this year and next. Kirk Truscott said the offer for assistance is appreciated by the CCT.

- *2021 Hatchery M&E Implementation Plan (Rock Island/Rocky Reach)*: The Rocky Reach and Rock Island HCP Hatchery Committees reviewed and approved Chelan PUD's 2021 Hatchery M&E Implementation Plan.
- *2021 Hatchery M&E Implementation Plan (Wells)*: Douglas PUD will submit their draft 2021 Hatchery M&E Implementation Plan for review soon. Members will have 30 days to review the plan.
- *Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) Cyberattack (HCP Administration)*: WDFW recently experienced a cyberattack, which has limited email communication with WDFW representatives. Currently, WDFW staff cannot receive or send emails with attachments. Attachments can be sent to WDFW representatives through the Anchor QEA ftp site, Dropbox, or the HCP Hatchery Committees extranet site. John Ferguson said this morning he has been sending and receiving emails with attachments from the WDFW offices in Olympia, Washington, and he asked Chad Jackson if there are more recent updates on the cyberattack since the last HCP Hatchery Committees meeting on September 16, 2020. Jackson said the situation is now mostly contained; however, it is not quite 100% resolved. He said the attackers are finding different ways to trick people into opening attachments or links. He said WDFW staff can now send emails; however, if attachments need to be sent or received special clearance must be obtained from WDFW Information Technology (IT) services. He said generally, every external email with attachments gets scrubbed. Hillman cautioned Ferguson to be extra careful if he receives emails from WDFW with attachments, because he has also received a few emails about familiar projects that had zip file attachments and he was advised not to open them. Jackson agreed and said a key tip-off that an email may be fraudulent is if the email is about a subject that was dealt with a few weeks prior but now has resurfaced. Ferguson said the files he has opened were PDFs of publications but said he will be more vigilant and thanked Hillman and Jackson for this information. Ferguson asked if the WDFW cyberattack is a case of ransomware. Jackson said it seems to involve three components: 1) initial phishing to seek a way in; 2) effects on computers; and 3) ransomware. He said he understands that a total of 16 Washington State agencies experienced similar cyberattacks.
- *Next Meeting*: The next meeting of the HCP Hatchery Committees will be on October 21, 2020.

III. Chelan PUD

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

Lance Keller said regarding Turbine Unit B4 in Powerhouse 1, he previously reported a return-to-service date of December 2020. He said this date still seems possible, but there is a slight chance the outage could last into the first 1 or 2 weeks in January 2021. He said staff are continuing work on the unit while meeting COVID-19 restrictions, repairs are still fairly on schedule, and the expectation is the unit will be returned to service in plenty of time before the start of the 2021 survival check-in study.

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

Lance Keller said he previously reported that Turbine Unit C2 will return to service by November 2020, and this date is still holding true. He said he understands crews are starting the final stages of preparing the unit for commissioning.

Keller said regarding Turbine Unit C7, he previously reported a return-to-service date of February 2021. He said this schedule has moved into March 2021, mainly due to the Kaplan tube damage incurred during removal of the pipe.

Keller recalled reporting during the HCP Coordinating Committees conference call on August 25, 2020, removing Turbine Unit C3 from service and draining the hub to inspect for oil and water. He said now the unit is out of service to begin the overhaul of the unit and address the trunnion bushing issue. He said the return-to-service date is scheduled for May 2021.

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

Lance Keller said 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 him by October 19, 2020. Keller recalled that each year this report is drafted by Thad Mosey (Chelan PUD), and Keller reviewed the report, as follows.

Rocky Reach Dam – Summer Spill

Keller said the target species is subyearling Chinook salmon and the spill target is 9% of the daily average river flow. He said Chelan PUD initiated summer spill operations at Rocky Reach Dam on May 23, 2020, and ended spill on August 25, 2020. He said Program RealTime and the Columbia River Data Access in Real Time database (DART) estimated that 95% of the subyearling outmigration had passed Rocky Reach Dam on August 16, 2020. He said now that data are finalized with no additional adjustments to run timing from DART, the data indicate that spill passage was provided

for 98.7% of the subyearling outmigration passing Rocky Reach Dam. He said the cumulative index count at the Rocky Reach Juvenile Fish Bypass (RRJFB) was just shy of 26,000 subyearlings (i.e., 25,925 subyearling Chinook salmon). He said the actual summer spill percentage was 24.91%, which included 8.93% fish spill and 15.26% forced spill. Keller noted that the fish spill number is based on Mosey's requests for fish spill and forced spill is hydraulic spill exceeding the hydraulic capacity at Rocky Reach Dam. Keller recalled there were two high flow events in the Mid-Columbia River this spill season sustaining higher flows into July 2020, which were also expressed in spill. He said average river flow at Rocky Reach Dam was 163,054 cubic feet per second (160 kcfs), and average spill was almost 40 kcfs (i.e., 39,436 cfs) across 95 spill days. He said the first graph in the draft spill report is similar to past spill reports. He said the blue line represents subyearlings and the purple line represents percent spill provided at Rocky Reach Dam. He noted the variability in the subyearling outmigration and also the amount of hydraulic spill above the 9% spill target into the first week of August 2020. He said the second graph shows adipose (ad)-present subyearlings observed daily at RRJFB from May 19 to August 31, 2020. He said similar to previous years, there are very few ad-present fish observed at the beginning of the outmigration, then ad-present fish numbers gradually increase into July, and by the end of July and early August, most fish collected in the RRJFB are ad-present.

Kirk Truscott noted on the first graph that the scale for the percent spill axis does not seem correct. Keller said the scale should be in increments of 10% and he will revise this in the version for approval.

John Ferguson asked on the second graph where the presence of ad-present fish increases, is this timing consistent with other years? Keller said the overall trendline and curve is generally similar to other years, i.e., mostly ad-clipped and very little ad-present fish during the beginning of the outmigration (or May), then a mix of ad-clipped and ad-present in the middle of the outmigration (or mid-June and early July), and then mostly ad-present by the end of the outmigration (or July into August).

Rock Island Dam – Spring Spill

Keller said the target species include yearling Chinook salmon, steelhead, and sockeye salmon, and the spill target is 10% of the daily average river flow. He said Chelan PUD started spring spill operations at Rock Island Dam on April 17, 2020, and ended on May 22, 2020, at which point there was an instantaneous increase to the 20% summer spill target. He said spill was provided for 99.3% of the yearling Chinook salmon run, 99.6% of the steelhead run, and 98.7% of the sockeye salmon run. Keller noted that this includes a combination of spring and summer fish spill coverage. He explained that the spring target is 10% spill but when this transitions to 20% spill for summer, spill coverage is still being provided for spring with the instantaneous transition from that point on. He

said over 24,000 yearling Chinook salmon (i.e., 24,278 fish), about 12,000 steelhead (i.e., 11,708 fish), and more than 42,000 sockeye salmon (i.e., 42,498 fish) were counted in the sampling facility at Rock Island Dam. He said the spring spill percentage was 19.07%, including 9.86% that Mosey requested for fish spill and 9.21% of forced spill beyond the hydraulic capacity of the plant. Keller said average river flow at Rock Island Dam averaged roughly 148 kcfs (i.e., 147,944 cfs) and average spill over 36 days was averaged about 28 kcfs (i.e., 28,214 cfs). He said the third graph in the spill report shows daily index counts at the Rock Island Juvenile Fish Bypass (RIJFB) trap for yearling Chinook salmon, steelhead, coho salmon, and sockeye salmon. He said percent spill is shown by the purple line. He said during the time period from April 1 to April 16, 2020, there were very few spring species counted at the trap. He said Chelan PUD initiated spring fish spill on April 17, 2020, and then there was an increase in daily index counts for spring species. Keller said this was a good judgement call by Mosey to start spring fish spill when he did. Keller noted on the purple line there is a purple diamond that shows when spring spill transitioned to summer spill. He also noted that at this time, water and river flow exceeded both spill targets. He said this graph also illustrates the large number of coho salmon counted at the trap in May and early June 2020. He said he will correct the scale for the percent spill axis on this graph, as well. *(Note: A revised draft spill report with corrected graphs was distributed to the HCP Coordinating Committees by Geris on September 23, 2020.)*

Rock Island Dam – Summer Spill

Keller said the target species is subyearling Chinook salmon and the spill target is 20% of the daily average river flow. He said Chelan PUD initiated summer spill operations at Rock Island Dam on May 23, 2020, and ended spill on August 18, 2020. He said Program RealTime and DART estimated that 95% of the subyearling outmigration had passed Rock Island Dam on August 6, 2020. He said with the data finalized and no additional adjustments to run timing from DART, the data indicate that spill passage was provided for 99.2% of the subyearling outmigration passing Rock Island Dam. He said 18,115 subyearling Chinook salmon were counted at RIJFB. He said the summer spill percentage was 32.84% of the daily average river flow, which included 19.87% fish spill requested by Mosey and 12.97% hydraulic spill beyond powerhouse capacity. He said average river flow at Rock Island Dam was about 171 kcfs (i.e., 171,280 cfs), and average spill was over 56 kcfs (i.e., 56,280 cfs) across 88 spill days. He said in the fourth graph in the draft spill report, the teal line represents index counts of subyearlings and the purple line shows the daily spill percentage at Rock Island Dam. He said once again, the diamond on the graph represents the transition from 10% to 20% spill and noted that although summer spill operations were initiated on May 23, 2020, additional spill coverage was provided for the early part of the subyearling run prior to that date. He said then, although the target was 20% spill, due to hydraulic capacity, total daily spill at Rock Island Dam was above the 20% target, which lasted into the second week of August 2020. He said the last graph in the draft report shows a mix of ad-present subyearlings in the early counts, but the RIJFB daily counts were definitely

dominated by ad-clipped fish until mid-June 2020 when there is a peak. He said by the tail end of July 2020, the majority of fish handled at the RIJFB were ad-present.

Rocky Reach Dam and Rock Island Dam Juvenile Index Counts

Keller said Tables 1 and 2 show the daily and total counts at Rocky Reach and Rock Island dams for Plan species. He reviewed counts from 2020 compared to previous years at both Rocky Reach and Rock Island dams. He noted that the sampling procedures are different at the two facilities. He said at Rocky Reach Dam, there are four separate 30-minute instantaneous samples of fish at the RRJFB. He said at Rock Island Dam, the sample is collected via a gateway collection system at Powerhouse 2, over a 24-hour period, and an expansion is applied based on representative flows through that powerhouse compared to the entire project. He said these are slightly different ways to arrive at index counts based on different sampling protocols; however, he believes the numbers are comparable at each individual site from year-to-year.

Ferguson said comments on the draft report are due to Chelan PUD by October 19, 2020, and he asked if Chelan PUD plans to request approval of the report during the HCP Coordinating Committees meeting on October 27, 2020. Keller said this is the intent, and he asked that Rocky Reach and Rock Island HCP Coordinating Committees members reach out to him with questions and comments.

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

Lance Keller said the Chelan PUD Board of Commissioners approved the recommended contract award that was developed based on responses to their Request for Proposals. Blue Leaf Environmental, Inc. (Blue Leaf) was selected to conduct the work. Keller said Chelan PUD received four complete proposals, which were reviewed and evaluated by a 6-person internal team. He said Chelan PUD was pleased with the proposals received, and he said each was a competitive proposal. He said Blue Leaf was selected and there is now a standing contract between Chelan PUD and Blue Leaf for the 2021 survival study. Keller said Chelan PUD has a good working relationship with Blue Leaf, who currently conducts all M&E activities for the Rocky Reach White Sturgeon Management Plan. Keller said Blue Leaf expressed great interest in the study, is experienced in handling large datasets, and also conducted the last survival study for the Priest Rapids Project. Keller said Blue Leaf also has some of the most recent experience with acoustic tag studies in the region. He said Blue Leaf will now begin the process of developing a study plan, in consultation with Chelan PUD and Dr. John Skalski (University of Washington, Columbia Basin Research), which will be available for Rock Island HCP Coordinating Committee review.

John Ferguson asked about the timing of the draft study plan for Rock Island HCP Coordinating Committee review. Keller said the draft plan will likely be ready by the end of Q4 2020 (December). He noted that in the Request for Proposals, Chelan PUD already requested a draft study plan for this survival study, but a separate study plan will be drafted in consultation with Chelan PUD. He said it will essentially be very similar to what was implemented for the Phase Designation studies for the Rock Island Project, i.e., a paired release study design with release locations at the 1,000-foot mark downstream of Rocky Reach Dam and at the 1000-foot mark downstream of Rock Island Dam, and using similar downstream detection arrays. He said there should not be any surprises to the Rock Island HCP Coordinating Committee during review of the study plan, which will be comparable to the previous effort for the Rock Island Project.

Ferguson recalled that Douglas PUD planned to have a draft 2020 Survival Verification Study report available for review this fall, and now Chelan PUD will have a draft 2021 Confirmation Survival Study plan available for review in Q4 2020.

IV. HCP Administration

A. COVID-19 and Wildfire Updates (John Ferguson)

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

Chad Jackson said as of yesterday, WDFW staff have been advised to telework to the greatest extent possible through next June 2021.

Kirk Truscott said the CCT Tribal Council is currently assessing the shutdown and a decision will be made at the end of the month. He said the CCT Reservation is no longer on fire and no personnel were injured due to the fires.

No other updates were shared.

B. HCP Policy Committees September 1, 2020 Conference Call (John Ferguson)

John Ferguson said the HCP Policy Committees convened by conference call on September 1, 2020. He said all HCP Parties were present, there was really good participation, and discussions went well. He said each Party presented views from their respective agencies and organizations, and through the course of a couple of hours, unanimous support was reached to collect and tag sockeye salmon, as done in the past (for Jeff Fryer's [Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission] program), using the east fish ladder at Wells Dam, concurrent with trapping activities for the Carlton summer Chinook salmon collection program. Ferguson said the discussions revolved around what could be done, or alternatives, for trapping beyond 1 to 3 days per week to meet target sample size needs for Fryer.

Ferguson said the HCP Policy Committees developed five alternatives, including four alternatives at Wells Dam and one alternative at the Priest Rapids Dam Off-Ladder Fish Trap, which HCP Policy Committees members are now researching to prepare for further discussion at the next HCP Policy Committees call on October 6, 2020. Ferguson said a draft agenda for the HCP Policy Committees conference call on October 6, 2020 was distributed for review on September 18, 2020, along with a request for additional agenda items. Ferguson said he has started reaching out to HCP Policy and Coordinating Committees representatives who attended the HCP Policy Committees conference call on September 1, 2020, to touch base before the conference call on October 6, 2020. He said he is unsure if the HCP Policy Committees will be ready to move forward with a decision at that point, but he hopes so. He said there is still a lot of time between now and May 2021, when a decision is needed. He said this has been a good effort with a lot of good ideas, and he asked if HCP Coordinating Committees representatives present during the last HCP Policy Committees conference call had any other additional thoughts to share. Kirk Truscott, Keely Murdoch, Chad Jackson, and Tom Kahler said they have nothing additional to add.

C. Next Meetings (John Ferguson)

The next scheduled HCP Coordinating Committees meeting is on October 27, 2020, to be held by conference call.

Kristi Geris asked if HCP Coordinating Committees members wanted to start discussing alternative meeting dates for November and December 2020 to accommodate the holidays. Andrew Gingerich said he and Tom Kahler were hoping to invite Drs. John Skalski and Richard Townsend (University of Washington, Columbia Basin Research) to attend a future meeting to present on the Douglas PUD 2020 Survival Verification Study results, so it would be helpful to discuss future meeting dates sooner rather than later. Gingerich said Douglas PUD also hopes to have a draft report available for review before Skalski and Townsend present on the data.

The HCP Coordinating Committees reviewed the November 2020 calendar. The HCP Coordinating Committees meeting on November 24, 2020, is 2 days before the holiday. Kirk Truscott said he is available November 17, 2020, and is on leave the week of November 23, 2020, but can work in advance on items needing addressed. Keely Murdoch said she is on leave November 16 to 17, 2020, but can also work in advance, as needed. Chad Jackson said he is out of office the week of November 16, 2020. John Ferguson suggested keeping the HCP Coordinating Committees meeting on November 24, 2020.

The HCP Coordinating Committees reviewed the December 2020 calendar. The HCP Coordinating Committees meeting on December 22, 2020, is 3 days before the holiday. Ferguson suggested that HCP Coordinating Committees members discuss within the PRCC rescheduling the December 2020 meeting 1 week earlier to accommodate the holiday, for further discussion during the HCP

Coordinating Committees meeting on October 27, 2020. (Note: Denny Rohr notified Geris and Ferguson that the PRCC agreed to reschedule the PRCC meeting to the afternoon of December 15, 2020, to follow the HCP Coordinating Committees meeting.)

The November 24 and December 15, 2020, meetings will be held by conference call.

V. 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
Kirk Truscott*	Colville Confederated Tribes

Notes:

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