

Memorandum

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

Date: March 23, 2021

From: John Ferguson, HCP Coordinating Committees Chairman

cc: Kristi Geris

Re: **Final Minutes of the February 23, 2021, HCP Coordinating Committees Conference Call**

The Wells, Rocky Reach, and Rock Island Hydroelectric Projects Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) Coordinating Committees met by conference call on Tuesday, February 23, 2021, from 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 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 and the Colville Confederated Tribes (CCT) will further discuss the protocols for selecting study fish for the 2021 Rock Island Dam Survival Confirmation Study, specifically regarding rejecting fish based on fish condition, and will report back to the HCP Coordinating Committees about what was discussed (Item III-B).
- Chelan PUD will distribute the draft *Chelan PUD Tagging and Fish Husbandry QA/QC Plan* (Tagging and Fish Husbandry QA/QC Plan) for Rock Island HCP Coordinating Committee review and will include notes about which components of the draft plan are still under internal revision (Item III-B). *(Note: this plan was distributed, as discussed, by Kristi Geris on February 27, 2021.)*
- Chelan PUD will review field logs from previous Rock Island Dam Survival Studies to try to determine the number of fish rejected as potential study fish based on fish condition and the criteria used in making these determinations (Item III-B). *(Note: Lance Keller provided graphs summarizing size and condition information regarding yearling Chinook salmon study fish selection to Kristi Geris on March 22, 2021, which Geris distributed to the HCP Coordinating Committees that same day.)*
- Chelan PUD will provide the schedule for when power outages for the left fish ladder (5- to 10-minute duration) and center fish ladder (4- to 8-hour duration) at Rock Island Dam will occur to install new power and fiber optic conduit, when the schedules are available, and will provide a summary of the actual power outages once the installation is complete (Item III-I). *(Note: Lance Keller provided this update to Kristi Geris on March 5, 2021, which Geris distributed to the HCP Coordinating Committees that same day.)*
- Chelan PUD will provide the repair schedule for the crack at spillway pier 1 at Rock Island Dam when the schedule is available (Item III-I).

- Anchor QEA, LLC (Anchor QEA), will add discussion of the Fish Passage Center (FPC) memorandum *Eliminating Rock Island from the Regional Smolt Monitoring Program* to the agenda for the HCP Coordinating Committees conference call on June 22, 2021, and HCP Coordinating Committees representatives will contact Chelan PUD if they would like to discuss the memorandum sooner (Item III-J). (Note: Kristi Geris added this topic to the HCP Coordinating Committees June 22, 2021, conference call agenda, as discussed.)
- Anchor QEA will coordinate to add Andrew Gingerich (Douglas PUD Natural Resources Supervisor) to the HCP Hatchery Committees email distribution list (Item VI-A). (Note: Kristi Geris notified Tracy Hillman, Larissa Rohrbach, and Sarah Montgomery to add Gingerich to this list, as discussed.)
- Chelan PUD, Douglas PUD, and Anchor QEA will discuss possible adjustments to the timing of review and approval of HCP documents for implementation in 2022 (Item VI-C). (Note: these discussions are underway and will be further discussed during the HCP Coordinating Committees conference call on March 23, 2021.)
- The HCP Coordinating Committees meeting on March 23, 2021, will be held at 9:00 a.m., by conference call (Item VI-E).

Decision Summary

- Rocky Reach and Rock Island HCP Coordinating Committees representatives present approved the *2021 Rocky Reach and Rock Island HCP Action Plan* (Item III-C).
- Wells HCP Coordinating Committee representatives present approved the *2021 Wells HCP Action Plan* (Item IV-A).
- Wells HCP Coordinating Committee representatives present approved the *Wells Hydroelectric Project 2021 Total Dissolved Gas Abatement Plan* (and appended *Wells Bypass Operating Plan*), as revised (Item IV-B).
- The 2020 Wells HCP Annual Report was approved by the Wells HCP Coordinating Committee on March 5, 2021, after no disapprovals were received prior to the 30-day review period deadline.

Agreements

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

Review Items

- The draft *Study Plan to Measure Yearling Chinook Survival through the Rock Island Hydroelectric Project in 2021* (2021 Rock Island Dam Survival Confirmation Study Plan) was distributed to the Rock Island HCP Coordinating Committee by Kristi Geris on

- January 21, 2021. Chelan PUD will request approval of this plan during the HCP Coordinating Committees conference call on March 23, 2021 (Item III-A).
- The draft *Statistical Plan for the 2021 Yearling Chinook Salmon Survival Study at Rock Island Dam* (Statistical Plan) was distributed to the Rock Island HCP Coordinating Committee by Kristi Geris on January 25, 2021. Chelan PUD will request approval of this plan during the HCP Coordinating Committees conference call on March 23, 2021 (Item III-A).
 - The draft *2018 Public Utility District No. 1 of Douglas County Northern Pikeminnow Removal and Research Program* (Douglas PUD 2018 Northern Pikeminnow Annual Report) was distributed to the Wells HCP Coordinating Committee by Kristi Geris on February 12, 2021, and is available for a 30-day review with edits and comments due to Tom Kahler by March 12, 2021 (Item IV-C).
 - The draft *2019 Public Utility District No. 1 of Douglas County Northern Pikeminnow Removal and Research Program* (Douglas PUD 2019 Northern Pikeminnow Annual Report) was distributed to the Wells HCP Coordinating Committee by Kristi Geris on February 12, 2021, and is available for a 30-day review with edits and comments due to Tom Kahler by March 12, 2021 (Item IV-C).
 - The *Northern Pikeminnow Predator Control Program Rocky Reach and Rock Island Hydroelectric Projects Draft Summary Report 2019* (Chelan PUD 2019 Northern Pikeminnow Annual Report) was distributed to the Rocky Reach and Rock Island HCP Coordinating Committees by Kristi Geris on February 16, 2021, and is available for a 30-day review with edits and comments due to Lance Keller by March 16, 2021 (Item III-D).
 - The *Northern Pikeminnow Predator Control Program Rocky Reach and Rock Island Hydroelectric Projects Draft Summary Report 2020* (Chelan PUD 2020 Northern Pikeminnow Annual Report) was distributed to the Rocky Reach and Rock Island HCP Coordinating Committees by Kristi Geris on February 16, 2021, and is available for a 30-day review with edits and comments due to Lance Keller by March 16, 2021 (Item III-D).
 - The *2020 Rock Island Dam Smolt Monitoring Program and Gas Bubble Trauma Evaluation Draft Report* (2020 Rock Island Smolt and Gas Bubble Trauma Evaluation Report) was distributed to the Rocky Reach and Rock Island HCP Coordinating Committees by Kristi Geris on February 16, 2021, and is available for a 30-day review with edits and comments due to Lance Keller by March 16, 2021 (Item III-E).
 - The *2020 Biological Evaluation of the Rocky Reach Juvenile Fish Bypass System Draft Report* (2020 Rocky Reach Juvenile Fish Bypass System Report) was distributed to the Rocky Reach and Rock Island HCP Coordinating Committees by Kristi Geris on February 16, 2021, and is available for a 30-day review with edits and comments due to Lance Keller by March 16, 2021 (Item III-E).

- The draft 2020 Rock Island HCP Annual Report and draft 2020 Rocky Reach HCP Annual Report were distributed to the Rock Island and Rocky Reach HCP Coordinating Committees by Kristi Geris on February 17, 2021, and are available for a 30-day review with edits and comments due to Geris by March 18, 2021.
- The draft *Rock Island Dam Smolt Monitoring and Gas Bubble Trauma Evaluation Plan 2021* (2021 Rock Island Bypass Monitoring Plan) was distributed to the Rock Island HCP Coordinating Committee by Kristi Geris on February 19, 2021, and is available for a 30-day review with edits and comments due to Lance Keller by March 19, 2021 (Item III-E).
- The draft *2021 Rocky Reach Juvenile Fish Bypass System Operations Plan* was distributed to the Rocky Reach HCP Coordinating Committee by Kristi Geris on February 19, 2021, and is available for a 30-day review with edits and comments due to Lance Keller by March 19, 2021 (Item III-E).
- The draft *2021 Fish Spill Plan, Rock Island and Rocky Reach Dams Public Utility District No. 1 of Chelan County* (2021 Rock Island and Rocky Reach Fish Spill Plan) was distributed to the Rock Island and Rocky Reach HCP Coordinating Committees by Kristi Geris on February 23, 2021, and is available for a 30-day review with edits and comments due to Lance Keller by March 23, 2021 (Item III-F).
- The FPC memorandum *Eliminating Rock Island from the Regional Smolt Monitoring Program* was distributed to the HCP Coordinating Committees by Kristi Geris on February 23, 2021. Chelan PUD will further discuss this memorandum during the HCP Coordinating Committees conference call on June 22, 2021 (Item III-J).
- The draft Tagging and Fish Husbandry QA/QC Plan was distributed to the Rock Island HCP Coordinating Committee by Kristi Geris on February 27, 2021, and is available for a 30-day review with edits and comments due to Lance Keller by March 27, 2021 (Item III-B).
- The *HCP HCs and PRCC HSC-Approved Upper Columbia River 2021 BY Salmon and 2022 BY Steelhead Hatchery Program Management Plan and Associated Protocols for Broodstock Collection, Rearing/Release, and Management of Adult Returns* (2021 Broodstock Collection Protocols) were distributed to the Wells HCP Coordinating Committee by Kristi Geris on March 18, 2021. Douglas PUD will request approval of these protocols during the HCP Coordinating Committees conference call on March 23, 2021 (Item II-A).
- The draft SOA, *Approval of the 2021 Study Plan, Statistical Plan, and Tagging and Husbandry QAQC Plan for the 2021 Rock Island Yearling Chinook Confirmation Survival Study*, was distributed to the HCP Coordinating Committees by Kristi Geris on March 22, 2021 (Item III-A).

Finalized Documents

- The final *2021 Wells HCP Action Plan* was distributed to the Wells HCP Coordinating Committee by Kristi Geris following the HCP Coordinating Committees conference call on February 23, 2021 (Item IV-A).
- The final *Wells Hydroelectric Project 2021 Total Dissolved Gas Abatement Plan* (and appended *Wells Bypass Operating Plan*) was distributed to the Wells HCP Coordinating Committee by Kristi Geris on February 25, 2021 (Item IV-B).

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.

- Tom Kahler added Douglas PUD 2018 and 2019 Northern Pikeminnow Annual Reports.
- Lance Keller added 2021 Rock Island and Rocky Reach Fish Spill Plan.
- Kirk Truscott added timing of review and approval of HCP documents under HCP Administration.
- Scott Carlon added a FPC memorandum to remove Rock Island Dam from the Smolt Monitoring Program (SMP) under Chelan PUD.
- Ferguson added an update on a future HCP Policy Committees meeting.

B. Meeting Minutes Approval (John Ferguson)

The HCP Coordinating Committees reviewed the revised draft January 26, 2021, conference call minutes. Kristi Geris said all comments and revisions received from members of the Committees were incorporated into the revised minutes. Geris said she also added distribution of several draft documents under the Review Items. HCP Coordinating Committees members present approved the January 26, 2021, conference call minutes, as revised.

C. Last Meeting Action Items (John Ferguson)

Action items from the HCP Coordinating Committees meeting on January 26, 2021, and follow-up discussions, were as follows. (*Note: Italicized text corresponds to agenda items from the meeting on January 26, 2021*):

- *Chelan PUD will continue providing Rocky Reach Dam and Rock Island Dam turbine unit maintenance updates as information becomes available (Item I-C).*
This will be discussed during today's conference call and will be carried forward.

- *Douglas PUD will distribute the revised draft plan, 2021 Total Dissolved Gas Abatement Plan, which will include revisions to the appended Wells Hydroelectric Project Spill Playbook, as discussed during today's conference call (Item IV-C).*

Douglas PUD provided a revised draft plan to Kristi Geris following the HCP Coordinating Committees conference call on January 26, 2021, which Geris distributed to the Wells HCP Coordinating Committee that same day.

- *Chelan PUD will review the 2020/2021 Rock Island and Rocky Reach Adult Fishway Winter Maintenance update with the Yakama Nation (YN) after today's conference call, because Keely Murdoch needed to leave the call early (Item V-G).*

Lance Keller provided this update to Murdoch via email following the HCP Coordinating Committees conference call on January 26, 2021, as discussed.

- *Anchor QEA will coordinate to add Brandon Kilmer (Douglas PUD Methow Fish Hatchery Supervisor) to the HCP Hatchery Committees secondary email distribution list and provide Kilmer with HCP Hatchery Committees extranet site access, as approved by the HCP Coordinating Committees (Item VI-B).*

Kristi Geris notified Tracy Hillman, Larissa Rohrbach, and Sarah Montgomery of this approval following the HCP Coordinating Committees conference call on January 26, 2021.

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 February 11, 2021:

- *Time Extension Request:* The Wells HCP Tributary Committee received a time extension request from Inter-Fluve on the Enloe Dam Removal Concept Plan Project. Inter-Fluve is having difficulty securing all the necessary sediment data and analyses from U.S. Geological Service. Given this delay, which appears to be related to the pandemic, the Wells HCP Tributary Committee agreed to extend the contract from March 31, 2021, to May 31, 2021.
- *Scope Change Request:* The Rock Island HCP Tributary Committee received a scope change request from Chelan County Natural Resources Department (CCNRD) on the Lower Chiwawa Floodplain Reconnection and Instream Enhancement Project. CCNRD asked to change the spatial scale of the project from 3.25 river miles (RMs) to 12.25 RMs on the lower Chiwawa River. There is no change in the cost share from the Committee. The Rock Island HCP Tributary Committee approved the scope change. Kirk Truscott asked if the scope change is conducting the same actions approved for the 3.25 RMs to an additional 9 RMs? Hillman clarified that CCNRD will evaluate opportunities for improvements to the lower 12.25 RMs instead of 3.25 RMs. He said U.S. Bureau of Reclamation is funding most of this effort (\$90,000

contribution), and the Rock Island HCP Tributary Committee is contributing \$26,000. He said CCNRD is not requesting more money from the Rock Island HCP Tributary Committee.

- *Sugar Project Discussion:* The Methow Salmon Recovery Foundation (MSRF) described the status of the Sugar Project. Specifically, MSRF responded to questions and comments provided by the Committees and presented updated concepts for consideration by the Committees. The purpose of the presentation was to update the Committees on the proposed concepts and secure support or modifications from the Committees on the proposed conceptual designs. The Committees will hold a conference call on Monday, March 1, 2021, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m., to discuss the proposed concepts. At that time, the Committees will decide which concepts they support, which concepts they do not support, and which ones need modifications.
- *Upper Beaver Creek Discussion:* The MSRF discussed the Upper Beaver Creek Project with the Committees. The purpose of the discussion was to update the Committees on current design concepts and seek feedback on the eastern floodplain component of the project. The Committees provided feedback on a preferred design. MSRF will further develop the concept and ask the Committees for a final review.
- *Chewuch River Mile (RM) 4.2 Enhancement Project:* In June 2020, the HCP Tributary Committees received a General Salmon Habitat Program application from the YN titled *Chewuch RM 4.2 Fish Enhancement Project*. The purpose of the project was to restore side channel and floodplain connectivity, increase instream complexity, and restore habitat forming processes that will benefit salmonids at river miles (RMs) 4.2 to 4.6 on the Chewuch River, a tributary to the Methow River. The total cost of the project was \$659,351. The YN requested \$137,866 from HCP Plan Species Account Funds. In June 2020, the Committees declined the opportunity to fund this project but indicated they were open to discussing the project further with the YN. Since then, the Committees have had extensive discussions with the YN and the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology). Following these discussions, and after reviewing all the supplemental materials provided by the YN and discussing the project with the consultant, the Wells HCP Tributary Committee chose to contribute \$137,866 to the project.
- *Review of Draft Rock Island, Rocky Reach, and Wells HCP Action Plans:* The HCP Tributary Committees reviewed the tributary sections of the draft 2021 Rock Island, Rocky Reach, and Wells HCP Action Plans. The Committees approved the respective plans with no edits or comments.
- *Review of HCP Tributary Committees' Policies and Procedures:* The HCP Tributary Committees are in the process of reviewing their Policies and Procedures document. The Committees have identified a few edits to improve clarity. These edits will be reviewed and finalized during the HCP Tributary Committees meeting on March 1, 2021.

- *Plan Species Account Deposits:* Both Chelan PUD and Douglas PUD deposited funds into the Plan Species Accounts at the end of January 2021. Chelan PUD deposited \$817,905 into the Rock Island Plan Species Account and \$387,375 into the Rocky Reach Account. Douglas PUD deposited \$296,984 into the Wells Account. The current unallocated balance within each account is \$6,125,201 within the Rock Island Plan Species Account, \$3,006,022 within the Rocky Reach Account, and \$2,502,764 within the Wells Plan Species Account. Thus, the unallocated balance summed across accounts is \$11,633,987.
- *Next Meeting:* The next meeting of the HCP Tributary Committees will be on March 1, 2021, and the Committees will join the Upper Columbia Regional Technical Team on March 10 and March 11, 2021 to listen to project sponsors present their proposed projects.

Hillman updated the HCP Coordinating Committees on the following actions and discussions that occurred during the HCP Hatchery Committees conference call on February 17, 2021 (*note: joint HCP Hatchery Committees/PRCC Hatchery Subcommittee items are noted by "joint," Wells HCP Hatchery Committee items are noted by "Wells," and Rock Island and Rocky Reach HCP Hatchery Committees items are noted by "Rock Island/Rocky Reach"*):

- *Okanagan Sockeye Comprehensive Evaluation Summary (joint):* Ryan Benson and Howie Wright with the Okanagan Nation Alliance gave a presentation titled *Okanagan Sockeye Re-Introduction Program Update*. Benson and Wright provided a summary on the history of the project including a review of the cultural and social significance of salmon to the Okanagan Nation. They described the rationale for the program, results from the risk assessment, and identified program milestones. They then described the success of the program and concluded that the program has been very successful. All members of the HCP Hatchery Committees agreed that the program has been successful. Chelan PUD will distribute a draft Statement of Agreement (SOA) seeking concurrence on the success of the Okanagan Sockeye Re-Introduction Program for approval during the next meeting. The SOA is in response to the Skaha Lake and Okanagan Lake Sockeye Reintroduction SOA approved in 2010.
- *Pre-spawn Mortality (joint):* Andrew Murdoch with Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) gave a presentation titled *Chiwawa Spring Chinook Pre-spawn Mortality*. He provided an overview of methods and models used to estimate pre-spawn mortality and spawner demographics, and identified significant covariates included in the models to improve precision and reduce bias. He then showed survival results, which varied based on origin and sex, but those differences were not statistically significant. Lastly, he described next steps, which includes completing analyses for Nason Creek, White River, and Little Wenatchee River spring Chinook salmon. WDFW also intends to expand the work into the Entiat and Methow River basins. The HCP Hatchery Committees will use these data and other

information to re-evaluate the allocation of production between conservation and safety net programs.

- *2021 Broodstock Collection Protocols (joint):* The PUDs and WDFW are updating the broodstock collection protocols. A draft of the protocols will be provided to the Committees on February 26, 2021. Comments are due back to the PUDs and WDFW by March 5, 2021. A final draft will be submitted to the HCP Hatchery Committees by March 12, 2021. The Committees will review and vote to approve the 2021 Broodstock Collection Protocols on March 17, 2021. The Committees will then distribute the protocols to the Wells HCP Coordinating Committees by March 18, 2021, for review and approval. *(Note: The HCP HCs and PRCC HSC-Approved Upper Columbia River 2021 BY Salmon and 2022 BY Steelhead Hatchery Program Management Plan and Associated Protocols for Broodstock Collection, Rearing/Release, and Management of Adult Returns (2021 Broodstock Collection Protocols) were distributed to the Wells HCP Coordinating Committee by Kristi Geris on March 18, 2021. Douglas PUD will request approval of these protocols during the HCP Coordinating Committees conference call on March 23, 2021.)*
- *COVID-19 and Monitoring and Evaluation Activities (joint):* Each member of the HCP Hatchery Committees discussed the effects of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) on their respective monitoring and evaluation activities. Nothing has changed since last month.
- *2021 Rock Island and Rocky Reach HCP Action Plan (Rock Island/Rocky Reach):* The Rock Island and Rocky Reach HCP Hatchery Committees reviewed and approved the hatchery sections of the draft 2021 Rock Island and Rocky Reach HCP Action Plan.
- *2021 Steelhead Release Plan (Rock Island/Rocky Reach):* Chelan PUD briefly described the 2021 Steelhead Release Plan they are preparing for review by the Committees. The plan will describe the release of steelhead over the next three years. The Committees will review the plan during the HCP Hatchery Committees meeting on March 17, 2021. Once approved, the plan will be appended to the 2021 Broodstock Collection Protocols.
- *2021 Wells HCP Action Plan (Wells):* The Wells HCP Hatchery Committee reviewed and approved the hatchery portion of the draft 2021 Wells HCP Action Plan.
- *Winthrop National Fish Hatchery Summer Steelhead Early Maturation Sampling (Wells):* U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) discussed their plan to evaluate the effects of rearing environment on early maturation in summer steelhead. USFWS intends to lethally sample about 300 steelhead per year from the Wells Fish Hatchery and the Winthrop National Fish Hatchery. The study would occur over a 2-year period using juveniles from the 2020 and 2021 brood years. USFWS will write up the study plan and share it with the Committee. The Committee will review and approve it during the HCP Hatchery Committees meeting on March 17, 2021.

- *Acclimation of YN Coho Salmon in the Twisp Pond:* Each year, according to the Douglas PUD Coho No Net Impact SOA, the YN needs approval from the Wells HCP Hatchery Committee to have additional juvenile coho salmon acclimated in the Twisp Pond. Douglas PUD acclimates roughly 30,000 spring Chinook salmon and about 30,000 coho salmon in the pond. The YN would like Douglas PUD to acclimate roughly an additional 73,000 coho salmon in the pond in 2021. Thus, the total number of fish in the pond would be roughly 133,000 fish. Importantly, even with the additional 73,000 coho salmon in the pond, the rearing density is low for both spring Chinook and coho salmon. Coho salmon have been acclimated successfully with spring Chinook salmon in the Twisp Pond in past years.
- *Addition of Andrew Gingerich to the HCP Hatchery Committees Distribution List (Wells):* Douglas PUD requested the addition of Andrew Gingerich, Natural Resources Supervisor, to the HCP Hatchery Committees email distribution list. The HCP Hatchery Committees approved the addition of Gingerich to the distribution list and is asking the HCP Coordinating Committees for approval.
- *Next Meeting:* The next meeting of the HCP Hatchery Committees will be on March 17, 2021.

III. Chelan PUD

A. DECISION: 2021 Rock Island Confirmation Survival Study Plan and Appended Statistical Plan (Lance Keller)

The draft 2021 Rock Island Dam Survival Confirmation Study Plan was distributed to the Rock Island HCP Coordinating Committee by Kristi Geris on January 21, 2021, and was available for a 30-day review with edits and comments due to Lance Keller by February 22, 2021. The draft Statistical Plan was distributed to the Rock Island HCP Coordinating Committee by Geris on January 25, 2021, and was available for review with edits and comments due to Keller by February 22, 2021. Keller said no comments were received on either document, and he asked if there are any questions or comments now, prior to Chelan PUD requesting approval of the documents.

Kirk Truscott asked if the Tagging and Fish Husbandry QA/QC Plan is not included in the study plan. Keller said this is correct, that Chelan PUD planned to distribute the draft Tagging and Fish Husbandry QA/QC Plan prior to today's conference call; however, the plan is still being drafted in coordination with Blue Leaf Environmental and is forthcoming. Truscott asked if approving the study plan and Statistical Plan means, by default, approval of the husbandry plan? Keller said this is a good point and suggested that, because all documents are not yet available for review as planned, it might be more appropriate to develop an SOA for approval of all three documents for decision during the HCP Coordinating Committees meeting on March 23, 2021. John Ferguson asked if Chelan PUD is proposing to postpone approval of the study plan and Statistical Plan. Keller said Chelan PUD can be

amendable to this but, considering that we are getting closer to the study date, he would like to know of any questions or concerns about these documents today. No other questions or comments were raised by Rock Island HCP Coordinating Committee representatives present. *(Note: the draft SOA, Approval of the 2021 Study Plan, Statistical Plan, and Tagging and Husbandry QA/QC Plan for the 2021 Rock Island Yearling Chinook Confirmation Survival Study, was distributed to the HCP Coordinating Committees by Geris on March 22, 2021.)*

Keller noted that Chelan PUD is receiving material deliveries today for the vertical I-beam structures to be mounted on the face of Rock Island Dam to position acoustic telemetry receivers, and the dam operators are starting to schedule unit outages to provide clearance to deploy divers to install the structures.

B. Tagging and Fish Husbandry QA/QC Plan (Lance Keller)

Lance Keller said the Tagging and Fish Husbandry QA/QC Plan goes into detail about how fish will be collected, tagged, and released, including how equipment will be disinfected. He said as far as a timeline, collection of a single replicate and transport to the tagging site will occur on the same day. The following day fish will be tagged with an acoustic tag, fish will recover for 24 hours overnight, and then the fish will be released the following day. He said this methodology is based on a literature review that indicates that keeping handling of study fish to 48 hours can minimize the stress factors related to migratory delays. He said today, he would like to discuss the length of study fish that will be tagged.

Keller shared on the WebEx observed lengths of juvenile Chinook salmon at the Rocky Reach Juvenile Sampling Facility (RRJSF) from 2016 to 2020. He said for reference, the previous survival study targeted collecting study fish of 140 millimeters (mm) to 220 mm in length. He said this was mainly driven by the size of the acoustic tag and tag burden. He said the 2021 Rock Island Dam Survival Confirmation Study will use an injectable Juvenile Salmonid Acoustic Telemetry System tag but will not be injected; rather, the tagger will make an incision with a scalpel, insert the tag, and close the opening with one suture. Because the new tag is lighter, this will drastically reduce tag burden. He said although the tag size and weight are reduced, the overall length of the tag is longer because, instead of stacking the components inside of the tag, these were assembled in a chain. He said National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association has cautioned researchers to be conscientious of this. He said considering the length of this Juvenile Salmonid Acoustic Telemetry System tag, fish lengths from previous survival studies, and the past few years of fish length data for the juvenile Chinook salmon outmigration collected at the RRJSF, Chelan PUD is proposing to use a minimum fish length of 120 mm and maximum length of 220 mm. He said the past few years of data collected from the RRJSF shows an upward (or larger) trend in the lengths of outmigrating fish. He explained that each day at the RRJSF, length data are taken on the first 100 fish collected of each species, and

after this, collected fish are observed for condition and injury only. He said given last year's daily sample data across the juvenile yearling Chinook salmon outmigration, targeting a 120- to 220-mm size range would have represented approximately 92% of the outmigration. He said the size range used in previous studies only represented 66% of the outmigration. He said Chelan PUD sees this as an opportunity to encompass more of the general size range of outmigrating fish, and past years' data suggest there will be enough fish within this size range to meet the required sample sizes for control and test replicates.

Jim Craig said he appreciates using smaller fish in the study sample. Keely Murdoch agreed, and added that including 120-mm fish is an improvement compared to past studies; however, she still has concerns because the smaller size fish are the wild fish. She said these survival studies are supposed to represent run-of-the-river fish and she feels this size range is still eliminating a lot of the wild yearling Chinook salmon outmigration. Keller said selecting a fish size range is a bit of a balancing act because the criteria need to encompass enough fish to meet sample size requirements for all replicates and be cognizant of tag burden. He said based on data from past years, there are not a lot of fish in the size ranges below 120 mm.

Kirk Truscott asked about the number of fish being targeted for collection. Keller said the study is targeting 37 fish for the test replicates and 28 fish for the control replicates, and an additional 15% will be collected to provide extra fish in case a fish is rejected on the tagging table. He said this equates to a need to collect 43 fish for each test replicate and 33 fish for each control replicate. Truscott asked if the goal is to limit test and control replicates to a fish size range equal to the average of the observed lengths of juvenile Chinook salmon at the RRJSF from 2016 to 2020? Keller said no, the completed observed fish size range is based on the results of a retrospective analysis at the end of each juvenile outmigration year and would be very tough to represent on a daily basis. Keller said criteria for selecting study fish include the following: 1) fish length; 2) percent descaled can be no more than 20%; 3) no fish that is injured; and 4) no fish marked with a passive integrated transponder (PIT)-tag. He said due to the high variability in collection numbers, fish that meet the collection criteria cannot be passed over in hopes of collecting a fish in a specific 10-mm size range, as this might result in not meeting sample size targets for a daily collection. Truscott said he is trying to think about how this selection process may or may not represent the run-at-large. He said there are so few fish for each replicate. He asked, for example—what if fish in the 140- to 160-mm size range are collected in one day and the sample size targets are met—would this be representative of the run-at-large? Keller said the selection process will be performed by one individual at the RRJSF, Dennis Leitchfield, a seasoned RRJSF Foreman who has done a great job of representing fish proportions in targeted size ranges for past studies. Keller said, ultimately, the selection process is at the mercy of the available fish passing through the RRJSF on a given day. Truscott asked, in the end, will there be data comparing the overall length frequencies of fish sampled at the RRJSF versus which

fish sizes were used for the study? Keller said every acoustically tagged study fish will have length and weight data associated with it, so Skalski can calculate statistics across test and control replicates. Truscott said it is also important that length frequencies for test and control fish are similar to the overall length frequencies for all fish passing the project. Keller agreed and said the struggle is that understanding what the overall proportion is needs to be calculated retrospectively after all fish have passed the project.

Truscott said he understands the rationale behind the criteria to exclude fish with high descale or injury; however, those are run-of-the-river fish that are being excluded from the study. Keller said this is a good point and he explained that the goal of the study is to measure project effects. He said if an injured fish is used in the study and does not survive through the project, it would be difficult to say if this was due to injury, tag effects, surgical tagging effects, or something else. He said using injured fish in the study introduces biases that cannot be controlled or equally canceled out across test and control replicates, so these criteria eliminate these fish to increase confidence that survival estimates are measuring survival through and associated with the project. Truscott said he understands this logic, but this is not representative of run-at-large fish because not all fish are large, robust fish. Keller noted that it is not uncommon for a hatchery to release fish early because fish are sick, and if these fish are used in a study this would not be an evaluation of project effects; rather, it would be an evaluation of a hatchery program. Truscott suggested that Chelan PUD and the CCT further discuss the protocols for selecting study fish for the 2021 Rock Island Dam Survival Confirmation Study, specifically regarding rejecting fish based on fish condition, and will report back to the HCP Coordinating Committees about what was discussed.

Ferguson asked when Chelan PUD expects to distribute the draft Tagging and Fish Husbandry QA/QC Plan for review. Keller said hopefully soon and that details are still being discussed about how to configure the tag site for holding fish post-tagging. He said in previous studies, fish were tagged and then placed back in the release vessel; however, with this methodology, the first fish tagged were subject to opening and closing of the vessel lid multiple times compared to the last fish tagged, which is a bias. He said Chelan PUD is discussing with Blue Leaf Environmental about building a post-tagging structure with buckets to transfer either one quarter or half of the tagged fish at a time from a recovery bucket back to the release vessel in an effort to eliminate this possible bias. He said he does not foresee these details as being a deal breaker on how to conduct the study and suggested that Chelan PUD distribute the draft Tagging and Fish Husbandry QA/QC Plan for Rock Island HCP Coordinating Committee review, including notes about which components of the draft plan are still under internal revision. *(Note: The draft Tagging and Fish Husbandry QA/QC Plan was distributed to the Rock Island HCP Coordinating Committee by Kristi Geris on February 27, 2021, and is available for a 30-day review with edits and comments due to Keller by March 27, 2021.)*

Truscott asked if Chelan PUD can provide the proportions of fish rejected for tagging based on fish condition in past studies. Keller said he will need to review past field logs, but his initial guess is the number of rejected fish once at the tagging site was not tracked. He said every transfer of fish has been water-to-water from collection of the study fish at the RRJSF to release, reducing the occurrence of descaling or injury during holding and transport that would result in collected fish being rejected on the tagging table. He said with these sample sizes, densities also remain low. He said there might be a few fish that were rejected at tagging, but not a lot. He noted that in 2008, the study fell short of the 93% juvenile survival standard and Chelan PUD believes, based on discussions with the tagging crew, those study fish compared to other years were not as robust with regard to how fish responded to the MS-222 and overall health observed during the tagging process. He said, however, that was the condition of the majority of yearling Chinook salmon passing through the RRJSF that year, and if these fish were excluded then replicate sample size targets would not have been met. Keller said Chelan PUD will review field logs from previous Rock Island Dam Survival Studies to try to determine the number of fish rejected as potential study fish based on fish condition and the criteria used in making these determinations. *(Note: Keller provided graphs summarizing size and condition information regarding yearling Chinook salmon study fish selection to Geris on March 22, 2021, which Geris distributed to the HCP Coordinating Committees that same day.)*

C. DECISION: 2021 Rock Island and Rocky Reach HCP Action Plan (Lance Keller)

The draft *2021 Rocky Reach and Rock Island HCP Action Plan* was distributed to the Rocky Reach and Rock Island HCP Coordinating Committees by Kristi Geris on January 21, 2021, and was available for a 30-day review with edits and comments due to Lance Keller by February 22, 2021. Keller recalled that the Rocky Reach and Rock Island HCP Tributary and Hatchery Committees already approved those respective portions of the action plan, as Tracy Hillman reported earlier. Keller said no comments were received from Rocky Reach and Rock Island HCP Coordinating Committees representatives.

Rocky Reach and Rock Island HCP Coordinating Committees representatives present approved the *2021 Rocky Reach and Rock Island HCP Action Plan*.

D. Chelan PUD 2019 and 2020 Northern Pikeminnow Annual Reports (Lance Keller)

The draft Chelan PUD 2019 and 2020 Northern Pikeminnow Annual Reports were distributed to the Rocky Reach and Rock Island HCP Coordinating Committees by Kristi Geris on February 16, 2021, and are available for a 30-day review with edits and comments due to Lance Keller by March 16, 2021. Keller said these documents report catch rates and highlight differences compared to past years of the removal program. He said in summary, there were 2 years of successful Northern Pikeminnow removal in the Rocky Reach and Rock Island reservoirs.

E. 2020 Rock Island Smolt and Gas Bubble Trauma Evaluation Report, 2021 Rock Island Bypass Monitoring Plan, 2020 Rocky Reach Juvenile Fish Bypass System Report, and 2021 Rocky Reach Juvenile Fish Bypass System Operations Plan (Lance Keller)

The draft 2020 Rock Island Smolt and Gas Bubble Trauma Evaluation Report and draft 2020 Rocky Reach Juvenile Fish Bypass System Report were distributed to the Rocky Reach and Rock Island HCP Coordinating Committees by Kristi Geris on February 16, 2021, and are available for a 30-day review with edits and comments due to Lance Keller by March 16, 2021. Keller said both reports are similar to past years with nothing out of the ordinary to report.

The draft 2021 Rock Island Bypass Monitoring Plan and draft *2021 Rocky Reach Juvenile Fish Bypass System Operations Plan* were distributed to the Rock Island and Rocky Reach HCP Coordinating Committees by Geris on February 19, 2021, and are available for a 30-day review with edits and comments due to Keller by March 19, 2021. Keller said the draft 2021 Rock Island Bypass Monitoring Plan proposes the same operations compared to previous years, with one new item to conduct biological monitoring of resident fish for gas bubble trauma in response to an increase in the total dissolved gas limit from April 1 to June 30, 2021, per Ecology. He said the draft *2021 Rocky Reach Juvenile Fish Bypass System Operations Plan* also proposes the same operations compared to previous years, except now that both Turbine Units C1 and C2 are available, the soft-limit set point of 12,500 cubic feet per second (12.5 kcfs) per unit will be used, as well as 3 kcfs for both surface collector entrances into the RRJSF (normal operations).

F. 2021 Rock Island and Rocky Reach Fish Spill Plan (Lance Keller)

The draft 2021 Rock Island and Rocky Reach Fish Spill Plan was distributed to the Rock Island and Rocky Reach HCP Coordinating Committees by Kristi Geris on February 23, 2021, and is available for a 30-day review with edits and comments due to Lance Keller by March 23, 2021. Keller said there is one key change to highlight for 2021. He said at Rock Island Dam, mechanical crews have been working to replace the operators on automated spill gates 17 and 25. He said due to impacts of COVID-19, there have been delays in those repairs, and it does not look like the contractor will meet the planned completion date of spring 2021. Therefore, Chelan PUD will configure spill gates 26 and 18 to notch gate operation during spring spill so project survival can be tested under the desired spill configuration (utilizing the three full over/under [spill gates 32, 31, 30] and six notch gate [spill gates 1, 26, 16, 18, 24, 29] configuration). He said the contractor repairing the crack at spillway pier 1 also missed the return-to-service date; therefore, there are still restrictions in this area. He said to address spillway capacity and dam safety concerns during spring spill, a mechanical crew will be placed on 24/7 standby to operate manual spill gates, if needed. He said additionally, during summer spill, operators may request to convert notch gates 26 and 18 to full gate functionality should river

flow remain high into June and July. He said these operations are explained further on pages 7 and 8 of the draft spill plan, and he asked Rock Island and Rocky Reach HCP Coordinating Committees representatives to contact him with questions.

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

Lance Keller said there will be a shift in the return-to-service date for Turbine Unit B4 and he will report the new date to the HCP Coordinating Committees once it is known.

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

Lance Keller said mechanical crews are still working on Turbine Unit C3 and Turbine Unit C7. He said the return-to-service date for Turbine Unit C3 is still the end of May 2021. He said the return-to-service date for Turbine Unit C7 may be slightly delayed to April or May 2021, as mechanical crews wait to receive a new part. He recalled that, in Turbine Unit C7, the Kaplan tube was damaged during removal of the pipe and the estimated 6-month delivery for the replacement part has been delayed.

I. 2020/2021 Rock Island and Rocky Reach Adult Fishway Winter Maintenance (Lance Keller)

Lance Keller reviewed adult fishway maintenance updates at Rock Island Dam and Rocky Reach Dam, as follows:

Rocky Reach Dam

Keller said the adult fish ladder at Rocky Reach Dam was watered up on February 18, 2021, which was ahead of the February 28 deadline. He said Chelan PUD appreciates the Rocky Reach HCP Coordinating Committee's approval of the time extension on the front end of the maintenance period to provide more time to complete the required work.

Rock Island Dam

Keller recalled he last reported that the right and center fish ladders were out-of-service at Rock Island Dam. He said on January 28, 2021, maintenance was completed and the center fish ladder was returned to service, and on January 29, 2021, the left fish ladder was taken out of service. He said a fish rescue was performed and crews recovered 12 steelhead/Rainbow Trout and 1 Sculpin, all of which were returned to the Rock Island Dam forebay alive and healthy. He said maintenance is scheduled to be completed on the left fish ladder by February 25, 2021, and on the right fish ladder by February 26, 2021. He said in summary, all three fish ladders at Rock Island Dam should be operational by the end of February 2021.

Keller said, regarding repair of the crack at spillway pier 1, the power and fiber optic conduit is located inside the concrete of the spillway, and the repairs require abandoning the existing conduit

and installing a new conduit externally on the downstream side of the spillway. He explained that this conduit delivers power to the center fish ladder from the left fish ladder, including the power and fiber optic feeds for the PIT-tag arrays and fish counting camera. He said the contractor hopes to complete the conduit work in early March 2021, which will entail cutting power at both center and left fish ladders in order to land the power on each end. He said the outage for the left fish ladder is estimated to be 5 to 10 minutes, and for the center fish ladder it is estimated to be 4 to 8 hours. He said the outage for the center fish ladder is longer due to safety concerns. He said the outage will remove the ability to adjust the spill gates and velocities within the fish ladders but will not require dewatering the entire ladder. He said operators have been instructed to set the ladder configurations so it remains within criteria. At the same time, operational constraints will be placed on the Rock Island Reservoir and with power participants to maintain pool elevation to allow the center fish ladder to stay in criteria. He said Chelan PUD believes these operations will have no impacts to fish passage. He said should fish pass through a PIT-tag array, the code will be stored in the reader and offloaded once power is restored.

Keller noted that the contractor's preferred time frame to install the new conduit was September to October; however, Chelan PUD pushed back on this and changed it to March, given that during September and October there are typically high numbers of adult summer Chinook and coho salmon passing Rock Island Dam. He said Chelan PUD will provide the schedule for when power outages for the left fish ladder (5- to 10-minute duration) and center fish ladder (4- to 8-hour duration) at Rock Island Dam will occur, in order to install a new power and fiber optic conduit when the schedules become available, and will provide a summary of the actual power outages once the installation is complete. *(Note: Keller provided this update to Kristi Geris on March 5, 2021, which Geris distributed to the HCP Coordinating Committees that same day.)*

John Ferguson asked about the timeline for the crack repair. Keller said Chelan PUD is currently negotiating a revised timeline because the contractor missed the repair window and now does not have full use of the area due to spring and summer spill. He said Chelan PUD will also provide the repair schedule for the crack at spillway pier 1 at Rock Island Dam when the schedule is available.

J. Rock Island Dam and Smolt Monitoring Program (John Ferguson)

John Ferguson said the FPC memorandum *Eliminating Rock Island from the Regional Smolt Monitoring Program* was distributed to the HCP Coordinating Committees by Kristi Geris prior to the HCP Coordinating Committees conference call on February 23, 2021. Ferguson said he does not view this topic as urgent and the purpose today is to simply make the Rock Island HCP Coordinating Committee aware of this memorandum. He suggested revisiting this memorandum in June 2021, including hearing from Chelan PUD about impacts, pros, and cons of this action.

Scott Carlon agreed this topic is not urgent and said Ritchie Graves, National Marine Fisheries Service Columbia Hydropower Branch Chief, is interested in obtaining feedback from the Rock Island HCP Coordinating Committee about the proposal to eliminate SMP at Rock Island Dam starting in 2022. Carlon said he does not have a strong opinion on the matter, but the proposal does include eliminating indexing at Rock Island Dam, and he knows Grant PUD relies on this for timing of smolt movement operations. Ferguson asked if Graves requested a comment deadline, and Carlon said he did not. Carlon said Graves also solicited feedback from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Science Center, who provided a quick response but requested additional time for review.

Lance Keller said this is something Chelan PUD has been hearing about from FPC for a few months now. Keller said he understands this memorandum was just distributed to the HCP Coordinating Committees; however, Chelan PUD has discussed this internally quite a bit and can address questions offline, as needed. He said for today, he wants to note that some believe there may be a tagging effect at Rock Island Dam, but opinions about this vary. He also noted that Chelan PUD relies on run time information to indicate when to initiate spring spill and on the collection of subyearling Chinook salmon at the Rock Island Dam bypass trap to ensure spill coverage is provided for the subyearling outmigration and to indicate when to transition from spring to summer spill, per the Rock Island HCP. He said FPC is proposing a 100% exit of the SMP at Rock Island Dam, and if this should occur this includes funding for indexing activities. He said, however, Chelan PUD would continue collecting index samples to inform the spill program.

Keely Murdoch said this information is helpful. She said she thinks the points brought up by FPC in the memorandum were concerning negative survival bias; however, the activities Chelan PUD is proposing do not include PIT-tagging. Keller said this is correct, that PIT-tagging is part of SMP and not included in Chelan PUD activities, which only include conducting daily indexing and gas bubble trauma monitoring as required by Ecology. He said Chelan PUD has supported other tagging activities and predation studies funded by Grant PUD, and these opportunities will still be available if Grant PUD chooses to continue these efforts.

Anchor QEA will add discussion of the FPC memorandum *Eliminating Rock Island from the Regional Smolt Monitoring Program* to the agenda for the HCP Coordinating Committees conference call on June 22, 2021, and HCP Coordinating Committees representatives will contact Chelan PUD if they would like to discuss the memorandum sooner. (Note: Geris added this topic to the HCP Coordinating Committees June 22, 2021, conference call agenda, as discussed.)

IV. Douglas PUD

A. DECISION: 2021 Wells HCP Action Plan (Tom Kahler)

The *Draft 2021 Wells HCP Action Plan* was distributed to the Wells HCP Coordinating Committee by Kristi Geris on January 20, 2021, and was available for a 30-day review with edits and comments due to Tom Kahler by February 19, 2021. Kahler said no comments were received.

Wells HCP Coordinating Committee representatives present approved the *2021 Wells HCP Action Plan*. The final plan was distributed to the Wells HCP Coordinating Committee by Geris following the HCP Coordinating Committees conference call on February 23, 2021.

B. DECISION: 2021 Total Dissolved Gas Abatement Plan (Tom Kahler and Andrew Gingerich)

The draft plan, *Wells Hydroelectric Project 2021 Total Dissolved Gas Abatement Plan* (and appended *Wells Bypass Operating Plan*), was distributed to the Wells HCP Coordinating Committee by Kristi Geris on January 8, 2021. A revised draft plan was distributed by Geris on January 26, 2021. Edits and comments were due to Tom Kahler by February 8, 2021. Kahler said no comments were received from the Wells HCP Coordinating Committee. Andrew Gingerich noted that the Aquatic Settlement Work Group approved this document on February 10, 2021, and Douglas PUD hopes to file the final approved document with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) this week.

Wells HCP Coordinating Committee representatives present approved the *Wells Hydroelectric Project 2021 Total Dissolved Gas Abatement Plan* (and appended *Wells Bypass Operating Plan*), as revised. The final plan was distributed to the Wells HCP Coordinating Committee by Geris on February 25, 2021.

C. Douglas PUD 2018 and 2019 Northern Pikeminnow Annual Reports (Tom Kahler)

The draft Douglas PUD 2018 and 2019 Northern Pikeminnow Annual Reports were distributed to the Wells HCP Coordinating Committee by Kristi Geris on February 12, 2021, and are available for a 30-day review with edits and comments due to Tom Kahler by March 12, 2021. Kahler said these reports are in a new streamlined format. He said he already received comments from Jim Craig.

D. 2020/2021 Wells Dam Winter Maintenance (Tom Kahler)

Tom Kahler said winter maintenance in the east fish ladder is complete. He recalled that winter maintenance in the west fish ladder was completed at the end of January 2021. He said crews have begun watering up the east fish ladder, but it is not yet completely watered up. He guessed the ladder would be returned to service this week.

V. Chelan PUD / Douglas PUD

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

John Ferguson asked if Chelan PUD or Douglas PUD have updates on subyearling Chinook salmon studies. No updates were shared.

VI. HCP Administration

A. HCP Hatchery Committees Email Distribution List – Andrew Gingerich (John Ferguson)

John Ferguson said Andrew Gingerich is the new Douglas PUD Natural Resource Supervisor and will be added to the HCP Hatchery Committees email distribution list. Anchor QEA will coordinate to add Gingerich to this list. *(Note: Kristi Geris notified Tracy Hillman, Larissa Rohrbach, and Sarah Montgomery to add Gingerich to this list, as discussed; also to note, Gingerich was added to the HCP Policy Committees email list.)*

B. COVID-19 Updates (John Ferguson)

John Ferguson asked if there are any updates HCP Coordinating Committees members would like to share regarding impacts of COVID-19 on HCP activities. No updates were shared.

C. Timing of Review and Approval of HCP Documents (Kirk Truscott)

Kirk Truscott asked if it is possible to have a more protracted schedule for review and approval of the several HCP reports and plans during this time of year. He said, for example, right now there are 15 documents out for review, which is quite a few for just one representative, and this does not include documents for review under other committees. He said he is not comfortable giving just a cursory review prior to approving the documents.

John Ferguson said he understands this concern and noted that many of these schedules are driven by FERC deadlines. He asked if the PUDs have thoughts and suggested maybe prioritizing FERC-required documents. Tom Kahler agreed and said Douglas PUD has flexibility to deprioritize Northern Pikeminnow reporting because there is no requirement for approval of these documents. Lance Keller said the same is true for Chelan PUD; the Northern Pikeminnow reports can be pushed out. He said, however, many of these schedules are just the nature of natural resources timelines. He said certain documents cannot be drafted until certain times. Truscott said he recognizes the timing issue.

Scott Carlon asked if it makes sense to request an extension on the filing date for the annual report with FERC. He said often times agencies need to go to FERC to change deadlines. Keller said this is a

good point and noted that Chelan PUD requested a time extension in 2020 from FERC for a Rocky Reach Dam Operations Plan, so there was time to finalize another document to be included in that plan. He said for example with bypass documents, unfortunately, while the operations plan is fairly straightforward, Chelan PUD does not want to distribute this plan until after the previous year's report is available because the last report informs the following year's plan.

Andrew Gingerich said first, he is sympathetic both for those drafting and reviewing these documents. Gingerich agreed with Ferguson that the driver behind most of these deadlines is FERC. Gingerich also agreed with Carlon that the PUDs can request a change in deadlines from FERC. Gingerich also agreed with Keller that it makes sense to distribute certain documents before others. Gingerich said another consideration is if these review schedules are moved further out, this then runs into field season. He said he would be amenable to making adjustments as it makes sense, but maybe by going through this process it might make more sense not to make changes. Truscott said he would appreciate it if the PUDs can review which documents filed with FERC could be pushed out and which cannot for further discussion at a future meeting. He said he understands documents like the *Wells Hydroelectric Project 2021 Total Dissolved Gas Abatement Plan* (and appended *Wells Bypass Operating Plan*) cannot be pushed out, but he suggested considering some of the other reports such as the HCP annual reports. Ferguson asked if Truscott is interested in adjusting deadlines in 2021, or if this can be a consideration for 2022. Truscott said he was thinking 2022.

Chelan PUD, Douglas PUD, and Anchor QEA will discuss possible adjustments to the timing of review and approval of HCP documents for implementation in 2022. *(Note: these discussions are underway and will be further discussed during the HCP Coordinating Committees conference call on March 23, 2021.)*

Carlon noted that if adjusting deadlines eases a time burden for the HCP Committees, it may do the same for the National Marine Fisheries Service. Gingerich also noted that deadlines associated with survival studies occurred last year, this year, and will again next year, but then will be done for awhile.

D. HCP Policy Committees Meeting (John Ferguson)

John Ferguson said Anchor QEA is working towards scheduling an HCP Policy Committees conference call. He recalled last May 2020, trying to convene an in-person meeting to touch base and provide a general overview of HCP activities; however, due to COVID-19 this did not occur. He said discussions are now underway about convening a conference call in the May 2021 timeframe. Ferguson told Keely Murdoch that he emailed David Blodgett, III, asking about the YN's preference to convene a virtual meeting in May 2021 or delay until an in-person is possible. Ferguson said, based on HCP Policy Committees comments received to date, the Committees are leaning towards a

conference call. He said the purpose of this call will be to touch base and review HCP activities over the past year.

E. Next Meetings (John Ferguson)

The next scheduled HCP Coordinating Committees meeting is at 9:00 a.m. on March 23, 2021, to be held by conference call.

The April 27 and May 25, 2021, 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
Kristi Geris	Anchor QEA, LLC
Tracy Hillmant†	BioAnalysts
Lance Keller*	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
Kirk Truscott*	Colville Confederated Tribes
Keely Murdoch*	Yakama Nation

Notes:

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