

Rocky Reach Wildlife Forum Meeting Minutes

Date: July 28, 2009

Time: 9:30 am – 12:00 noon

Location: Chelan PUD Headquarters, Wenatchee, WA
Commissioners Board Room

Call in number: (509)661-4844, Password is 4000.

Meeting called by: Jeff Osborn,
Chelan PUD

Type of meeting: RRFF Meeting

Note taker: Debby Bitterman

RRWF Representatives

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Tonasket, Patrick	CCT	(509) 634-	Patrick.Tonasket@colvilletribes
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RRFF Participants

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ATTENDEES IN BOLD

Meeting Purpose: First meeting of the Rocky Reach Wildlife Forum to begin Rocky Reach license implementation

Minutes

Jeff Osborn highlighted several key points contained in the Settlement Agreement:

- Rocky Reach Wildlife Forum is a decision-making body that will make decision through consensus as defined in the Settlement Agreement. A member's abstention or non-participation regarding the decision or recommendation shall not preclude consensus.
- Signatories to the Settlement Agreement are the RRWF representatives for their respective agencies and will be voting members: Chelan PUD, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the U.S. Bureau of Land Management, the U.S. National Park Service, the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Washington State Department of Ecology, the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission, the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, the City of Entiat, Alcoa, and the Yakama Nation.
- The RRWF include the public and additional agency participants.
- The list of voting members, RRWF Representatives, and the public and additional agency members, RRWF Participants, will be posted on the agenda and the meeting minutes.
- Agendas will contain and clearly identify issues on which the forum-voting members will be asked to make a decision at the meeting. (See Settlement Agreement 15.1.4)

- Designated alternate may vote in absence of the agency voting member.

Action Item:

- ✓ Each agency will submit a confirmation letter to Chelan PUD naming their RRWF voting Representative, Core Policy member (individual more senior within their organization than representative on forums), alternate Policy member (individual not a member of a forum) and Senior Executive (individual more senior within organization than the core representative).
- ✓ Jeff will provide to the RRWF the link to the Rocky Reach Fish Forum draft Operating Protocols to review for consideration whether to adapt the same operating protocols.

Jeff noted that the License Article 403 requires that within one year of the issuance date (February 19, 2009) of the license, the licensee shall file, for Commission approval, a Wildlife Habitat Management Plan. This plan shall be updated and filed, for Commission approval, every five years thereafter. In addition, Chelan PUD shall implement measures identified by FERC in Article 404 for Ute Ladies' Tresses monitoring and conservation.

Von Pope gave a brief summary of the Wildlife Habitat Management Plan (Plan). It was noted that the Plan would not be implemented until FERC approval has been received.

- The Plan is consistent with the Settlement Agreement.
- Von noted that the maps within the Plan should be upgraded: i.e. naming should be consistent.
- Von suggested that the License Order Reporting and Consultation section be include in the Plan.

Jeff confirmed that at the next RRWF meeting, Janel Duffy and Rosana Sokolowski will explain how to calculate net present value calculations and M&E match funds process.

Action Item:

- ✓ Each agency needs to review their own section of the Plan and provide comments to Von by August 31st.
- ✓ Von will revise and submit to the Forum a final draft by September 15th for their final comments
- ✓ Forum will discuss the final draft at the next forum meeting that will be held in October

Von reported that Sun Cove property conservation easement was moving forward.

Von informed the Forum that Chelan PUD proposes to continue wintering bald eagle and goose nesting surveys at the same interval and frequency as done in recent years, Von reported there are approximately 30 artificial nesting platforms, which were erected as part of the 1991 proposed Rocky Reach pool raise, which was rejected in 1996. Many of these structures are no longer used due to disrepair and vegetation overstory. Chelan PUD proposed no future maintenance of Canada goose nesting platforms on Rocky Reach Reservoir.

Action Item:

- ✓ Forum gives direction and clarification to Chelan PUD regarding the artificial nesting platforms future.

Von gave a brief summary regarding Article 404, Ute Ladies' -Tresses Management Plan. There is actually no specific plan; rather, the FERC identified several components for monitoring and conservation of the species.

- The integrated noxious weed program has is being implemented with some spraying and release of biological controls for noxious weeds in areas where Ute Ladies' Tresses are present in the project area.
- Annual monitoring of flowering plants will continue.
- Chelan PUD Lands Department will initiate the process for acquiring rights necessary to conserve Ute Ladies' Tresses populations on private land within the project boundary as directed in Article 404.
- By December 31 of each year following the issuance of the license, Chelan PUD shall file an annual report with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Bureau of Land Management, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, and Washington Natural Heritage Program documenting monitoring results and noxious weed control measures.

Action Item:

- ✓ Von or Jeff will email to the Forum potential meeting dates in October.