

## Rocky Reach Meeting Minutes

**To:** Distribution List  
**From:** Michelle Smith  
**Date:** May 15, 2002  
**Subject:** Rocky Reach Social Sciences  
**Attendees:** Refer to Sign-Up Sheet  
**Location:** Chelan PUD Conference Room, Wenatchee, WA  
**Time:** 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

### Meeting Purpose

To review study results and to review next steps for identifying protection, mitigation and enhancement (PME) measures.

Prior to the meeting, Michelle Smith, Chelan PUD (PUD), introduced Kris Pomianek. Kris will be working with the relicensing team as the Community Relations and Recreation Specialist.

### History of Existing Parks

In addition to the agenda topics, Michelle Smith, Chelan PUD (PUD), provided a background on the history of Rocky Reach Exhibit R.

Michelle (PUD) explained that in 1968 the PUD added four generating units onto Rocky Reach, which triggered the FERC requirement for a recreation plan. Gregg Carrington (PUD) added that a major license amendment is similar to the licensing process and that some of the same steps have to be followed. Michelle (PUD) mentioned that the planning process began in 1974. During that time the PUD held many public meetings to discuss potential sites. The recreation plans focused on the PUD funding land acquisitions, construction and development of the recreation sites while implementing operating agreements with local and state agencies. The Exhibit R recreation plan for Rocky Reach was approved in 1976.

Michelle (PUD) said that due to Washington State Park budget cuts, Chelan PUD and State Parks are working together to develop an agreement for a long-term operation and maintenance plan for Lincoln Rock, Daroga and Confluence parks. These three parks are currently owned by Chelan PUD and operated by Washington State Parks. Michelle explained that while it's assumed a long-term plan could take six months to one year to develop, Chelan PUD and State Parks might initiate an interim plan to help with immediate needs.

Gregg (PUD) discussed that for the new license the PUD would concentrate on enhancements at existing parks. Jim Eychaner, Washington State Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation (IAC), agreed, but would not leave out the potential for future development. Gregg (PUD) added that maintaining and improving existing parks with a focus on making them self-sustaining and less dependent on assistance was an important element in future park planning.

Jim Fisher, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), commented that it is important to keep updating a recreation plan throughout the life of the new license, especially as recreation interests and trends change.

## Review of Studies (see handouts)

Michelle (PUD) provided a handout of study results from the Project Lands Management, Socioeconomics, Recreation Needs Forecast & Analysis and Recreation Inventory studies. She mentioned that the map for the Project Lands Management study should be completed in June and at that time the report can be finalized.

Michelle (PUD) recapped the Sept. 27 working group meeting, where the group discussed cumulative impacts and concluded that the issues identified could be addressed at the Project level and a Cumulative Impact Analysis was not needed. Also at the Sept. 27 meeting the working group agreed there was no need for additional studies.

## Protection, Mitigation & Enhancement (PME) Discussion (see handout)

Gregg (PUD) reviewed a handout that can be used by working group as a guide in assessing potential PME.

Jim (BLM) asked how change would be addressed; i.e., short vs. long-term demands. Gregg (PUD) agreed that it is difficult to predict the future. At Lake Chelan for example, flexibility was built into the management plans of the new license through the implementation of advisory committees. The advisory committees would allow flexibility and reallocation of funds if the resources and resource plans needed to be changed over time. Jim (IAC) proposed using the adaptive management approach to address change. He suggested re-evaluating the projects every six years to coincide with the PUD's recreation Form 80. Jim (BLM) commented that a well-designed monitoring plan could help anticipate future issues as well as avoid additional studies. Gregg (PUD) commented that the PUD's responsibility is not to address recreation needs of the area, but instead to help address the needs. He also mentioned that he feels the PUD's current monitoring plan is good. Michelle (PUD) suggested inviting Greg Jones (PUD parks department) to the next working group meeting to discuss the current park-monitoring plan.

The next step is for the group to begin identifying PMEs. Jim (IAC) recommended adding consistency with the planning document (SCORP) to the list of considerations. Michelle (PUD) stated she would make the change.

Gregg (PUD) addressed #5 (legal authority) under further evaluation of PMEs. Michelle (PUD) provided the group with a handout that discusses Chelan PUD's Community Infrastructure Expenditures and guidelines on how the PUD can provide funding for projects.

The group discussed methods of listing the potential PMEs. Jim (IAC) said that the Recreation Needs Forecast would be a good reference for formulating the initial list and then compare the list to the criteria and SCORP. He did not recommend using the "wish list" method.

The working group will begin listing potential PMEs at the June 26 meeting.

## Schedule

Michelle (PUD) reviewed the tentative timeline for Rocky Reach Relicensing:

May - Nov. 2002	...Identify and analyze PMEs
Jan. 2003	..... Submit review copy of draft License Application (LA) and Preliminary Draft Environmental Assessment (PDEA)
April 2003	..... Submit first draft LA and PDEA
Dec. 2003	..... Submit final review copy of LA and PDEA
June 2004	..... Final PDEA and LA to FERC

## Other Business

The working group discussed and agreed to establish a regularly scheduled monthly meeting. The agreed day was the fourth Wednesday of every month (day prior to a Rocky Reach full relicensing meeting) from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

The next working group meeting will be on June 26 at the BLM office, 915 Walla Walla Street, Wenatchee, WA.

## Action Items

- ✓ Michelle will invite Greg Jones to the June working group meeting to discuss current park monitoring methods.

- ✓ Michelle will add *consistencies with SCORP and other planning documents* to considerations for evaluation PMEs handout.
- ✓ Michelle will set up a meeting with the Entiat Focus Group to discuss Entiat issues.

Reference materials are posted on the Web site, [www.chelanpud.org/rr\\_relicense](http://www.chelanpud.org/rr_relicense). Please contact Rosana Sokolowski, (888) 663-8121, Extension 6371, if hard copies are required.

- ✓ Sign-up Sheet
- ✓ Distribution List
- ✓ Recreation, Socioeconomic and Project Lands Management Study, Summary
- ✓ Recreation Use Assessment, Recreation Inventory and Recreation Needs Forecast Study, Summary
- ✓ Community Infrastructure Expenditures Handout
- ✓ Considerations for Evaluating PMEs