



YAKIMA TRIBUTARY ACCESS & HABITAT PROGRAM

Core Team MINUTES

April 16, 2008 (Yakima)

Attendees: Heather Simmons-Rigdon, Dave Myra, Carol Ready, RC&D; Anna Lael, DJ Shook, KCCD; Mike Tobin, David Child, Justin Bader, NCCD; Richard Visser, Jen Scott, WDFW; Henry Fraser, YN; David Gerth, KCT; Rebecca Wassell, MCRFEG; Pat Monk, BOJC; Alex Conley, YRFWRB; Erin Fuhrer, BCD; Ken Schuster, Ecology.

1. ADMINISTRATION

- a) Approve Agenda ✓
- b) Approve March Minutes ✓
- c) 08-09 SOW & Budget – Work Elements (WE), Environmental Compliance work limited to projects with direct BPA implementation money, so some projects removed from list. Can revisit later. Pre-award in place to be able to spend funds in April and contracts are expected to be in place before the end of April.
- d) Quarterly Review - Expense plus capital contracts plus Cowiche. (ok).
- e) Ellensburg Mtgs - May 21 at Days Inn; July, Sept, Nov at Kittitas Fire Dept.

2. UPDATE ON PROJECTS, PERMITS AND MONITORING

a) NYCD (DC)

Boyd Brown project We need to monitor the wells performance before we can proceed with planning and permit updating for the gravity diversion removal project in the summer of 2008. The ringwell is being drawn down by the drilled well. DOE hydro geologists helped us run some pump tests with transducers, and we are meeting with the landowner, and DOE to discuss options next week. A current MOA with Yakima County will fund the gravity diversion removal. The YTAHP, NYCD funds and EQIP have helped with this project.

Schneider Project Planting and fencing projects are continuing and the project is a success. We've completed tours this last month for WDFW and the Yakima County Commissioners. Everyone needs to go see the site! A few of the rootwads needed to be constructed to offer more habitat benefit lower down in the stream channel. It's a lesson learned! We'll share a PowerPoint presentation today showing some pictures of the project. DC provided a PowerPt show on project.

Fines Project The irrigators have reviewed the permitting designs prepared by our Conservation District engineers, and we are holding a TWG meeting next Tuesday the 22nd at 1pm. The passage designs are a result of TWG and WDFW review and advice. We are working on a landowner agreement for construction access with the Ahtanum Ridge Business Park. A facilities agreement is signed and in place with the irrigators, UCIP LLC. Pat Schille and I are working on an interagency agreement for use of WDFW's Mitchell Act funding. The Yakima Construction Shop may construct the project, and our engineers support the opportunity, but want to insure that roles and goals are clearly identified in a MOA. We'll share the idea with our Board today for approval. We have recently been awarded a grant to the MCRFEG for additional funding. The bulk of project funding will come from YTAHP, the WDFW's Mitchell Act and the DOE water metering program.

Cowiche Creek Water Users Association & Yakima Tieton Irrigation District Hookup We are waiting for the BOR engineering report on canal capacity. The BOR engineer wants to do some ground proofing once irrigation water is turned on, but early indication shows that this project may go forward. We will know what our next steps may be in project planning as we continue to work with the BOR. If a hook up doesn't occur the Lower and Upper Lust diversions will need to be screened. The **Upper Lust** fish passage project was implemented with the expectation that the unscreened diversion would be removed. It doesn't allow for an adequate diversion for the irrigators. Further, the Conservation District engineers visited the **Upper Lust** site and feel that we may need to discuss the

fish passage at the last constructed weir. We'd like to know if the core team thinks we should possibly implement some repairs.

Cowychee Ditch Fish Screening & Water Conservation Project Chris Landreau submitted a draft report for cultural resource compliance for the project. We have prepared and submitted a draft landowner agreement for the Cowychee Ditch Company lawyer to review. We are on hold as Lisa Pelly with Washington River Conservancy is preparing a valuation of water rights for the users that will be presented to the Ditch's Board, Justin Bader and Jack Myrick are working on piping for the users through the Irrigation Efficiencies Program, and Richard Visser with WDFW has been helping as our Fish and Wildlife partner. We hope to be ready to prepare presentations for the Ditch Companies annual meeting on YTAHP (fish screening and habitat improvement in this case), Washington Rivers Conservancy (to discuss water trusting and sales programs) and on the Irrigation Efficiencies Program for piping. Later this spring NYCD recommends that we hold a YTAHP technical work group meeting to introduce the project and visit the site. With WDFW (Mitchell Act-screen), SRFB, irrigation efficiency program and YTAHP funding we can implement this priority project in our highest priority stream.

North Fork Ahtanum Gauging Station Fish Passage and Flow Monitoring Project NYCD is assisting AID in securing an access easement. The landowners are reviewing the NYCD landowner agreement draft. We have drafted a facilities agreement that is being reviewed by AID and the landowner. Additionally, the Wapato Irrigation Project, Yakama Nation and Washington Department of Natural Resources want to continue flow monitoring at the site, and their access with the landowners and coordination with the AID needs to occur. We completed a TWG project review period that focused on the two project objectives, fish passage and water metering, and currently several project partners, including the NYCD, WDFW, RC&D, and YBF&WRB are helping gather additional information to assist the TWG and the Conservation District Engineers. A design concept has not fully been chosen and an additional TWG meeting will be needed. The bulk of project funding will come from a SRFB grant and YTAHP. Additionally, NYCD has been awarded a USFWS grant for additional funding for the project. Reiss Landreau Research is completing some edits to the final report for cultural resource compliance.

Herke Gravity Fish Screens on Ahtanum Creek Our NYCD Board Chairmen, Gail Thornton has made a good contact with the Herke Family on addressing the last large unscreened gravity diversions on the Ahtanum system. I spent Monday morning with the Herkes touring the ranch to insure we understand their needs and to discuss fish screening. The two north bank gravity diversions could possibly be consolidated to one upper diversion and the NYCD needs to work with Brandon Rogers with the YN on the south bank gravity diversion on tribal land. The 2nd report of the court clearly gives the users the right to divert above their adjudicated right during high flow events, so the largest hurdle we'll face in trying to design a fish screening fix, will be what to do with the excess volumes that will be diverted during the spring. What does the YTAHP core team think about screen sizing? We purpose that we have a TWG meeting early in project planning, probably this spring during irrigation season to come up with ideas on what to do. Is it to early to apply for a SRFB grant?

Naches Cowiche Undershot Siphon and telephone siphon on Cowiche Creek NYCD needs to coordinate with the Naches Cowiche Canal Company to address the low flow fish passage needs at the site. A March 2006 initial TWG recommended vortex rock weirs for the site which would also help back water the phone company siphon just upstream and trap bedload to protect the siphons. This project has been on hold as we monitor the W. Powerhouse Road bridge replacement project and potential Yakima County road widening. I'll continue to work with David Garretson on initial planning of the project. We may apply for 2008 SRFB funding for the project. No other project updates from last month are available.

Blue Slough Fish Screening, a side channel of the Yakima River The NYCD has been working with the water users on Blue Slough a side channel of the Yakima River that's diverted near the Sportsman's State Park. YTAHP will work with specific users for fish screening. One of the landowners, Jesse Haverlo installed a compliant self cleaning fish screen on his own. Our stream assessment identified some fish passage needs in Blue Slough too. We may apply for 2008 SRFB funding to address the needs of the project.

Broadway Irrigation Company Fish Screening Project on Wide Hollow Creek NYCD needs to coordinate with the Broadway Irrigation Company and WDFW's Yakima Construction Shop as we see this as an opportunity to screen a diversion in a highly traveled area and showcase the project with signs or a kiosk. No other project updates from last month are available.

Pump Screen Projects With the start of irrigation season we've assisted Jay Russell and the Naches Wonderland Campers with their fish screen installations. These are projects from fall 2007.

We are beginning the fish screening planning process with **Santos Cantu** a water user on the South Fork Cowiche Creek. Once I get a few more landowner on board I'll get Jerry Anhorn with Walla Walla Community College onsite for screen evaluations for design.

The other water users we will be targeting for pump screening under our 2008-2009 Statement of Work will be the: **Riley, Kisner, Mortenson** sites on Cowiche Creek, and the **Melville & Wilson** sites on Rattlesnake Creek. Additionally we've identified 2 other placeholders, one of which may be the **Riches**, a landowner referred by George Marshall with the Ahtanum Irrigation District and **John Blair** a referral from Santos Cantu.

Other Projects Justin Bader continues to work with the water users on the Nile and Rattlesnake Ditch for piping and water conservation projects. We performed a tour of the project for our Conservation District engineers. Brian Schmidt is working on additional SOW planting projects.

Items of Interest The Master Gardner's spring plant sale is May 2nd and 3rd at the NYCD plant material facility. We are facilitating the Cowiche Creek Tributary Team meeting on May 6th at 6:30pm. It's a chance for landowners and natural resource managers to meet. Several agencies/groups will have presentations, and the highlight will be YTAHP's efforts in the basin.

b) KCCD (AL)

We were invited to an event for Guide Fisherman on the Yakima River. Suzanne and I re-worked our booth and had it set up. Presentations were given by Morris Uebelaker, Scott Nicolai & Richard Visser and Todd Pearsons & Gabe Temple. The event was co-hosted by the local chapter of Trout Unlimited. The president, Glen Rose, stated that they are interested in volunteering on projects. We will be talking with him more. We provided maps and handouts for the Fly One event last Saturday. It was hosted by Peter Nisbet. He's offered the participation fees to us to be used on local projects.

Jack & Indian Creek The 70% designs were reviewed by the Technical Work Group on March 21st. We discussed a whole host of issues including easements from the neighboring landowner (American Forest Land), fire hazard prevention requirements for the contractor, a rock pit owned by AFL that may be a source for the project, and a number of County Engineer comments on the design. The engineers are currently working on the 95% designs. I've worked with Marla at AFL to get a draft of their access agreement that will allow us to be on their property for the project. We finished the JARPA and submitted it in late March. The SEPA notice was published in the Daily Record on April 3. It will be published in the Northern Kittitas County Tribune April 17. The project (funded by SRFB, Western Federal Forest Hwys, Kittitas County and YTAHP) will be constructed this summer.

Lower Reecer Creek I talked again with Kelly McCaffrey (Washington Water Trust) about the offers to purchase the water right. There are still offers on the table and apparently 2 or 3 parties interested in buying the land (with or without the water). Mark continues to work on the pipelines for Jewett/Morgan and Fagalde. He and Ryan are working with Jack Myrick on the designs. Mark has also submitted the easement information to John Akers at the City. John Jewett was in last week to talk about the project status. Mark is planning a meeting with Jewett and Doris Morgan next week. The pipeline parts of the project (funded by Ecology and YTAHP) should be installed this spring or summer.

Fogarty Ditch We have been waiting for nearly 2 years for the water right changes for Frank Payne to occur. Mr. Payne is converting to a ring well. His water is Warren Act water and it requires the cooperation of the USBR water rights attorney for changes to be made. Between the USBR attorney

and staff changes at Ecology, this part of the Fogarty Ditch project (funded by Ecology) has been delayed significantly.

Wilson Creek Riparian Restoration Project The planting project (funded by SRFB) continues. The riparian area was treated with herbicides two years ago and the planting crew continues to work on the additional planting and maintenance.

Cherry Creek The engineers with RH2 met with the irrigators in late March. They are beginning the design and engineering. This project (funded by SRFB, Ecology and YTAHP) could happen this fall.

Coleman Creek I have moved forward with task orders for both ESM and RH2 Engineering to survey and then engineer & design a screen and passage facility for the Nisbet diversion on Coleman Creek. The field work for the surveying took place two weeks ago. The Burris diversion is likely to be decommissioned as the landowners are working on an irrigation efficiencies project that will result in the entire creek right being trusted. The fish screen and passage part of the project (funded by Ecology, Irrigation Efficiencies, YTAHP) is slated for this fall.

Parke Creek Ryan is beginning to work on the designs for removing the old Eslinger/Sorenson diversion on Parke Creek. He presented the project (funded - YTAHP/Ecology) to the Technical Work Group for the first time on March 21. If funding is available, the diversion could be removed this fall.

Caribou Creek The Caribou Creek project (funded by FRIMA, City of Kittitas grant, Ecology) is expected to happen this fall. The contract for the FRIMA funds is currently being extended.

Lmuma Creek The pump and fish screens at the Yakima River should be installed this month. The riparian planting projects continue. The project (funded by Ecology, Irrigation Efficiencies, Community Salmon funds) should be complete by fall.

Currier Creek/EWC Canal The project (funded by SRF, Ecology, YTAHP and EWC) is nearly complete. There are two or three remaining items-the gates are not yet installed, the power is not yet in to the fish screen and there are some issues with the motor for the screen cleaner. The cost of the change order to convert from overhead to underground power supply is currently being considered by Belsaas & Smith. The gates have been ordered, but are not here yet. The last update was that the gates could have shipped earlier this week. The EWC canal is being primed and will be operating by the time the gates get here. The vendor has not been able to provide a delivery date. I wrote a letter to Belsaas & Smith regarding the gates and they responded requesting an extension to install the gates. The Board of Supervisors approved an extension to the end of June. In addition EWC is working with the landowner to determine appropriate compensation for damage to the field. The pipeline along the north access road was replaced with the hydrants for the landowner. DJ and Victor Strand (he leases the land from Lorraine Spurling) walked the field to determine the areas that were damaged.

c) KCT (DG)

CURRIER CREEK Pott Diversion – WCC planting crew on site April 7 to plant selection of riparian species as per plan developed by DJ Shook. NOAA Restoration Center personnel (4) visited Currier Creek (Pott) for a site tour of restoration projects.

Deneen Barriers (5) Two most downstream relic diversions removed in February. WCC planting crew did reveg as per DJ's plan during week of April 7-11. Three upstream barriers have been site prepped (limbed and cleared) but stream flows are up and soon timothy production and irrigation will preclude mobilization. May have to wait until September to finish these three barrier removals (discussions with work force about resuming work still in progress).

TANEUM CREEK PASSAGE PROJECTS Bruton Diversion- TWG review in Olympia March 5 with Bob Barnard, Pat Powers, Barb McIntosh indicated that constructed channel solution at Bruton had problems. Paul Tappel (FISHERIES CONSULTANTS, INC.), added to the engineering and design team, proposes a simpler concept at Bruton using an expanded pool and weir fishway with supporting instream and dam modifications for adult and juvenile passage.

KCT requests a YTAHP TWG is scheduled soon for introduction of the concept.

KCT executed a construction funding contract with Ecology April 1, 2008.

Taneum Canal Co. Diversion – Construction funding contract executed with Ecology April 1, 2008.

Paul Tappel pondering passage solution design proposal and will focus on TCC after Bruton is solved.

CLE ELUM RIVER ENGINEERED LOG JAMS Design and Permitting - ENTRIX (Tim Abbe) developing specific exhibits for use in permit applications. Jen Scott has a draft Biological Assessment for ESA consultation and sponsor is editing the Draft. Work scheduled may be delayed until 2009-2010 because of changes in Suncadia's development schedule (staging of up to 400 root-on trees). Proposed staging area for trees is on Federal land and approvals are necessary.

d) RC&D (CR)

Reecer Floodplain Project (RF) Ecology indicated the RF project will be awarded \$223,000 (now up to ¾ funding). RC&D submitted first SRFB invoice voucher for RF (1st quarter 2008). JS and I took Paul Wagner and John Nuggent, KWA EcoScience, on a tour of the RF project and a reference site (WDFW upland habitat site above Currier Siphon). Paul works with monitoring of SRFB projects and RF was selected in the category of constraintment. ALEA Kiosk grant application is under review.

Annual Report I am still working on the Oct 06-Mar 08 report. I will reduce the text and emphasize the accomplishments and project metrics.

e) Mid-Columbia Fisheries (RW)

On May 9th I will be 100% with RFEG. The Board approved working on Reecer Floodplain project and issuing construction contract(s). CR and I will be working on how this happens. **Yonkers-Naches** ESA consultation, Gina McCoy is conducting a technical review. **Powell Ditch** project will use irrigation return flow water to create/enhance a wetland. **Spring Creek** (Simon) re-route near lower Union Gap.

Whiskey Creek Possibility to get fish to upper Naneum Creek w/o going under Ellensburg in Wilson Crk. Currently working with Cascade Land Conservancy, WDFW on Fabian Kuchin's property (University Way/Reecer Crk Rd) on habitat enhancement (1870 water right). **Anglers Meeting** (RFEG-Trout Unlimited sponsored, in Ellensburg) Well attended. Working on brochure re opportunity for anglers to donate to Yakima River habitat improvement projects.

3. PROJECT MONITORING (OVER ALL PROCESS)

JS Cowiche spawning survey April 29 or May 2, 8.

MT Post project evaluation – what needs fixing, Weir elevations, LWD movement. Pot. To include in permit ~1 year fix it opportunity (allowing project to see high and low flow operation). Could be YTAHP budget line-item.

RV What went Right - hold an Annual Field Tour? To show TWiG/design team post project conditions.

4. ITEMS OF INTEREST

a) Jay Marcotte and Peter Lofy will be at May core Team meeting (Days Inn, Ellensburg).

b) Alex Conley –Provided copies of the review draft **Yakima Steelhead Recovery Plan** (March 24, 2008). Request comments: Early May (9th?). to be incorporated into NMFS Columbia Recovery Plan. New funding commitments at BPA may have local ramifications (BPA-Tribes Funding Agreement). Existing \$139M expense + ~\$40M capital; new BiOp ~\$20-40M (steelhead related); BPA-Tribes MOU ~\$80M/yr for 10 years.

BPA will be separating types of work (hatchery, monitoring, habitat) for review, which may be good.

c) Jen Scott – Passage Criteria Kittitas Projects Tour April 23 with Robes (USFWS) and Justin Yeager (NMFS). April 30 Tour for Judy dela Vern of Cle Elum, NF Ahtanum re bull trout.

5. MEETINGS: May 21, 2008, 9:30 a.m. LOCATION: Days Inn, 901 Berry Rd, Eburg.

April 23/30 Services Tours (see JS)

May 2-3 Plant Sale (see NYCD)

May 6 Cowiche Creek Tributary Team meeting, 6:30pm at NYCD

May 7 Flow Chart meeting

May 13 Protocol Meeting, 9 am at NYCD