



YAKIMA TRIBUTARY ACCESS & HABITAT PROGRAM

Core Team Meeting Minutes

August 20, 2008 9:30am- 12 Noon, Yakima

ATTENDEES: Dave Myra, Heather Simmons-Rigdon, Carol Ready, RC&D; Becca Wassell, Mid-Columbia RFEG; Alex Conley, YRBFWRB; DJ Shook, KCCD; Mike Tobin, Justin Bader, NYCD; David Child, YB BOJC (irrigators); Ken Schuster, Ecology.

1. ADMINISTRATION

- a) Approve Agenda ✓
 - b) Approve July Minutes ✓ (with spelling change for Kauzlarick Ditch)
 - c) Accrual Reports BPA request, September on PISCES for 2004 forward.
- Other: September meeting re Budget Status for line item changes. (Sept 3, 2008)
Annual Report – CR provided to RC&D on CD in WORD and PDF.
JenS added info to YTAHP Project Status Reports (Strategic Plan step #)

2. UPDATES

a) NYCD (MT/JB)

Shelly Ward Drilled Well Project: We received three bids from Arcadia, Bluestar, and Arcadia Well Drilling Companies and awarded the bid to Arcadia which had the lowest bid. We will be coordinating with Arcadia as well as Akland Pump who will be supplying power and installing the pump to start the construction by next week. The key will be to have all aspects of the project done as soon as possible to allow Shelly to test the well within the irrigation season.

Cowiche Creek Water Users Association and Yakima Tieton Irrigation District Hookup: An assessment was done last month to determine the capacity and integrity of YTID's conveyance systems to see if it could handle additional water. The unofficial word is that the test went well and there were no problems with YTID's conveyance system handling the extra water. We are waiting to hear from the YTID as to their intentions with moving forward to allow connection with the Cowiche Water User's Association.

Cowychee Ditch Fish Screening and Water Conservation Project: Communication with the Cowychee Ditch Association indicates that users are still trying to decide whether they want to remain on the ditch or sell their water. There is also the possibility for some of the users to switch over to YTID water. But, this will depend on whether an agreement can be made between YTID and CCWUA and also whether the infrastructure can hold extra water.

Herke Ranch Fish Screen Project We have continued to work with the landowner to get a better understanding on their water use and needs. This is an important aspect of the project in that it provides more information to help us determine the locations and proper sizing of fish screens to allow for Mr. Herke's right to excess flows, as well as his consumptive use water right.

Naches Cowiche Undershot Siphon and telephone siphon on Cowiche Creek This project will more than likely be turned into a design only project, based on the multiple unknown outcomes of infrastructure changes in the immediate area. These are primarily the construction of the new intersection on Cowich Canyon and Powerhouse Rd, potential widening of Powerhouse Road bridge, and a headcut traveling up Cowiche Creek after the Alaskan Steep Pass is removed at the mouth, which is anticipated in the next 2-3 years. The next step for this project is to facilitate a meeting between all parties involved, mainly representatives from the city and county to get a dialog going so they can communicate with each other on what they are respectively doing in the area and how we can work with them.

Pump Screen Projects: We are still working with a particular landowner to ease concerns he has with our landowner agreement. Once, we get things settled with him, we will have all landowner agreements and JARPA's signed by the end of this week and we can begin the bid process for getting the screens constructed.

b) KCCD (DJS)

KCCD provided staff to help the Yakama Nation release coho in Reecer Creek, Currier Creek and Wilson Creek. About 3,000 fish were released.

Jack Creek/Indian Creek: I received a call from Matt Joerin at the Western Federal Lands Highway Division. He told me that he could provide another \$150,000 for the project. The paperwork should be in the mail shortly. Meanwhile David Gerth is working with BPA to try to secure another \$275,000 for the project. I supplied him with all the details and worked in PISCES (BPA's project software) to update the potential contract for the funds. It will be as late as November before we know whether those funds are available.

Lower Reecer Creek: Mark, Ryan and I met with John Akers at the Dolarway site to talk about the location of the pump stations. We are moving them a few hundred feet up Reecer to Dolarway. I drafted the agreement between the City, the irrigators and the District. John Ufkes has reviewed it and we will send it to the City and the irrigators for review this week. AL attended the City Council meeting earlier this week and witnessed the council give John Akers permission to negotiate the agreement.

Coleman Creek: I presented the application to SRFB Technical Advisory Group for the engineering and design work at EWC-Coleman Creek and feasibility for alternate delivery options for downstream EWC users. DJ worked to add flow monitoring locations at the EWC-Coleman site to begin collecting flow data in the creek and the adjacent ditches. He and I met with the landowner (Don Fuqua) to talk about the project.

The Technical Work Group meeting for Coleman Creek included the conceptual designs for the Nisbet diversion. It is a pump diversion which helps with the options for screening and passage. The design will move forward with the hope of implementing this winter.

Naneum Creek: I met again with the group working on a strategy to get fish up into the upper Naneum Creek watershed. DJ has worked to get permission to measure flow at several more locations. We think that WDFW will be able to provide some training on the stream assessment protocol in September. We have another meeting and a tour scheduled for 8/18.

Cherry Creek: The Technical Work Group meeting was held for this project as well. There were comments from the County engineer and the WDFW engineer that will have significant impacts on the conceptual design. The biggest impediment to the design is the undersized bridge at Moe Road. Mark will be talking with the irrigators and adjacent landowners about potential other options. IN the meantime, the engineers (RH2 out of Wenatchee) are on hold.

Lmuma Creek/Lyle Creek Projects: Both of these projects were funded by the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation. That grant ended in April and the final reports and voucher were due the end of the July. I completed the report. We ended up returning nearly \$10,000 of the \$45,000 grant. The funds returned were for activities that did not happen- the planting on Lyle Creek, the rock weirs and fencing on Lmuma Creek did not happen.

Cabin Creek River Mile 0.5: DJ *new project* to the group. **Goals:** The project will improve fish passage at river mile 0.5 and riparian habitat from river mile 0.2 to river mile 0.5 on Cabin Creek.

The Yakima Tributary Access and Habitat Program (YTAHP) and the Kittitas County Conservation District propose to design, fabricate and install a bridge to replace two undersized culverts on Cabin Creek. The District also aims to improve fish habitat through a riparian planting and other instream work. Cabin Creek is a tributary to Dry Creek which is a left bank tributary to the Yakima River in WIRA 39. The current culverts were identified as slope barriers with 33% passability during a 2002 stream assessment. There are no known barriers upstream on Cabin Creek. The amount of quality salmonids habitat upstream of the proposed project on Cabin Creek is also unknown. The 2002 stream assessment went to river mile .87 after which the stream runs through multiple channels bounded by reed canary grass and/or shrubs. The Dry Creek system is used by salmonids for rearing habitat which was witnessed by Pat Monk in a snorkel survey on a barrier removal project on Dry Creek and Cabin Creek in 2005.

The two culverts are undersized for spring high flows. The landowner has recently excavated a side channel and installed a new culvert to help handle the spring flow. WDFW was notified by a nearby landowner of the illegal instream work. Brent Renfrow visited the site and instructed the landowner to contact the KCCD to have the problem rectified in an approved manner.

The Williams Family owns property containing .3 miles of Cabin Creek. The land is currently in pasture or not used. The KCCD is currently looking into the possibilities of using CREP to help fund the riparian planting and buffer fence for this project.

Discussion: Mike Tobin suggested adding the river mile to the name of the project to avoid confusion. Mike Tobin suggested implementing a riparian forest buffer. The YTAHP Group agreed to support further work on the project.

c) KCT (not in attendance)

d) RC&D (CR)

Reecer Floodplain Restoration project revegetation meeting Aug 6, working toward reveg plan, pre-project weed management, irrigation, plant needs. Preparing supplemental engineering RFP to do anything Gina McCoy is not, including assistance with reveg, budget, and construction oversight. 2nd Quarter Invoice prepared. YTAHP Annual Report prepared, comments included.

e) Mid Columbia Fisheries (BW)

The channel realignment project on Spring Creek is on hold, pending landowner decisions.

Met with the South Naches Irrigation District to discuss the enhancement of rearing habitat near the outlet of Kauzlarich Ditch. They are concerned about the implications for management of the Powell Ditch system, and I am working with WDFW to address those concerns.

Project work on the Cle Elum River Floodplain Restoration: Cooper Bridge, Phase 2 project is underway. We placed approximately 30 logs in the floodplain, and blocked vehicular access to the river.

We are working with KCCD to do additional plantings along Lmuma Creek this fall.

We will be returning to a previous project site to do some adaptive management on Taneum Creek (Stovall property) this fall.

We are working with KCCD, YBEEP, and the Weiss family to explore restoration options in Crystal Creek, which flows through Roslyn and Cle Elum.

I plan to request YTAHP permitting assistance with the Jack Creek restoration project, which includes approximately 2 miles of the creek upstream from the culvert, and 1/2 mile downstream. I'll rename the project so that it is easily distinguishable from other Jack Creek work.

3. PROJECT MONITORING

a) Scheduled, contact Jen Scott for information or with changes.

4. ITEMS OF INTEREST

a) Strategic Plan now On-line at KCCD (www.kccd.net), Current Projects: YTAHP)

b) KCCD Project Proposal: Don Williams Culvert Removal, Bridge and Riparian. DJ provided information on this potential 2009 project and requested an OK for YTAHP compatibility (Step 1?). The Core Team gave the project a nod.

5. NEXT MEETING: Month date, 2008, 9:30 a.m. – noon

Kittitas County Fire Dept. – 102 N. Pearl, Ellensburg