



YAKIMA TRIBUTARY ACCESS & HABITAT PROGRAM

Core Team MINUTES

May 21, 2008 9:30am- 12 Noon (Days Inn, Ellensburg)

Attendees: Heather Simmons-Rigdon, Dave Myra, Carol Ready, RC&D; Anna Lael, DJ Shook, KCCD; Mike Tobin, David Child, NYCD; Jen Scott, Richard Visser, WDFW; Hank Fraser, YN; Ken Schuster, Ecology; Alex Conley, YBFWRB; Pat Monk, US BOR YRBWEP; David Gerth, KCT; Becca Wassell, RFEG; Jay Marcotte, Peter Lofy, Dawn Borse, BPA.

1. ADMINISTRATION

Introductions

- a) Approve Agenda ✓
- b) Approve April 16 Minutes ✓
- c) Update on BPA Contracts – Signed ~ April 21, vouchers for April ok'd.
- d) Kittitas County Mtg. Location – Kittitas County Fire Department meeting room 102 N Pearl (former City of Eburg council chambers). Parking at 2nd & Pearl.
July 23, September 17, November 19

2. UPDATES ON PROJECTS, PERMITS AND MONITORING

a) NYCD (DC)

Boyd Brown (Rattlesnake): We need to insure the water users are whole with their water source 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 hydrogeologists helped us run some pump tests with transducers, and their and our contracted hydrogeologist's recommendation is to decommission the ringwell and drill a small diameter well to serve Shelly Ward. We are meeting with Pacific Power and the landowner next week to further plan the well drilling and will solicit bids from drillers as soon as possible. Boyd's drilled well is meeting his need. A current MOA with Yakima County will fund the gravity diversion removal. The YTAHP, NYCD funds and EQIP have helped with this project.

Schneider (Cowiche): Planting, maintenance/weeding and fencing projects are continuing. The project is a success. On April 28th we had help planting the Wilkinson property from a classroom of Wide Hollow Elementary School 5th graders. It was a great partnership with the Yakima Basin Environmental Education Program (Bob Tuck).

Fines (Ahtanum): Our engineers are updating the drawings from input from the April 22nd TWG meeting. Jen has been doing our permit writing, and we're hopeful for implementation this fall. We have shared a draft 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 as the Yakima Construction Shop will construct the project. We were on site last week to identify construction staging areas and probable fill locations. Our engineers and Board support the opportunity to work with the YCS. We have been awarded a grant by the MCRFEG for funding and recently submitted an application for USFWS 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 and Yakima Tieton Irrigation District Hookup: The BOR engineer wants to do some ground proofing for canal capacity in June, but early indications show 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.

Cowychee Ditch Fish Screening and Water Conservation: A cultural resource compliance report is in draft stage. A draft landowner agreement is being reviewed by the Cowychee Ditch Company lawyer. Lisa Pelly with Washington River Conservancy and the NYCD met with the ditch companies president and secretary last week to share the research that had been done on valuation of water rights for the users. That information is currently being shared with the ditch's board and member. We continue to work on plans for piping with the users through the Irrigation Efficiencies Program. We hope to be ready to prepare presentations for the Ditch Companies annual meeting on YTAHP (screening and habitat improvement), WA 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. The engineers have begun an initial survey. With WDFW (Mitchell Act for screen), SRFB, irrigation efficiency program and YTAHP funding we can implement this priority project in our highest priority stream.

NF Ahtanum Gauging Station Passage & Flow Monitoring: We have requested through the USFWS from Barry Southerland with the NRCS for additional geomorphic assistance. A more thorough survey will be completed upstream/downstream of the site. A design concept has been agreed upon. Another TWG meeting will be held after more data is gathered. NYCD is assisting AID in securing an access easement. The landowners are reviewing a draft NYCD landowner agreement. We have drafted a facilities agreement that is being reviewed by AID and the landowner. Additionally, the Wapato Irrigation Project, YN and WA DNR want to continue flow monitoring, and their access with the landowners and coordination with the AID needs to occur. 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 has completed and we've submitted the final report for cultural resource compliance.

Herke Gravity Fish Screens (Ahtanum): We are working on the last large unscreened gravity diversions on the Ahtanum system. We have recently spent time on the Herke Ranch with NRCS to explore future opportunities for water conservation and fish screening. The two north bank gravity diversions could possibly be consolidated to one upper diversion and Brandon Rogers with the YN is taking the on the south bank gravity diversion on tribal land. I assured Brandon that YTAHP would like to help however we can. 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. We propose an early TWG meeting and would like to set TWG date today. We have completed a SRFB pre-application for the project.

Naches Cowiche Undershot Siphon (and telephone siphon on Cowiche Creek): NYCD is working with the Naches Cowiche Canal Company to address the low flow fish passage needs at the site. The president of the NCCC, David Garretson attended our Cowiche Creek Tributary Team meeting on May 6th. A March 2006 initial TWG recommended vortex rock weirs for fish passage, which would also help backwater 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 and Dan Butler (ditch rider) on initial planning of the project. We are completing a pre application for SRFB funding.

Blue Slough Fish Screening (side channel of the Yakima River): The NYCD has been working with the water users on Blue Slough that's diverted near the Sportsman's State Park. YTAHP will work with specific users for fish screening. One landowner, Jesse Haverlo installed a

compliant self cleaning fish screen on his own. Our stream assessment identified some fish passage needs. We are working with the Yakima River Basin Water Enhancement Program (YRBWEP) on funding the projects. YRBWEP has recently purchased the KOA near the side channels source and owns the Roy property near the end of the channel.

Pump Screen Projects:

Santos Cantu and **Craig Scheibne** (NYCD Pump Screen Site 7), are water users on the South Fork Cowiche Creek. I am trying to get a few more landowners on board as Jerry Anhorn with Walla Walla Community College is coming up to the Yakima Valley to do our first round of pump screen assessments. He'll be bringing students up on June 5th.

Other water users are targeting for pump screening under our 2008-2009 Statement of Work:: **Riley, Kisner, Mortenson** (Cowiche) and the **Melville & Wilson** (Rattlesnake). Additionally we've identified other placeholders, one of which may be the **Riches**, a landowner referred by George Marshall with the AID or **John Blair** a referral from Santos Cantu.

We have 2 landowners above Wenas Lake that would like to get pump fish screens, and Eric Egbers recently referred another, a Mr. Dave Archamboau for pump screening. Again, this is not priority anadromous fish habitat, as it's above the impassable reservoir, but native species including rainbow and cutthroat trout could benefit.

Other Projects: Justin Bader continues to work with water users on the Nile and Rattlesnake Ditch for piping and water conservation projects. Brian Schmidt is working on additional planting projects and managing the maintenance activities for our restoration activities.

Items of Interest: Our annual Cowiche Creek Tributary Team meeting May 6 went well. Attendance was down compared to previous years. Landowners heard about the DOE TMDL, YN Cowiche Creek efforts, and about steelhead recovery planning from the Yakima Basin Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board. Several agencies/groups gave presentations or provided handouts, and YTAHP's efforts in the basin were highlighted in the last presentation.

Jay Carmony will be leaving our Washington Conservation Corps as our crew leader. Anyone that knows a potential candidate needs to send them to the DOE for information.

b) KCCD (AL)

Jack Creek/Indian Creek The bid package for this project was published last week. The engineers estimate is nearly \$300,000 over my current budget. I'll be looking for additional funding if the bids are in line with the engineers estimate. I will be coordinating cultural resource monitor during construction of the project. I received a call earlier this month from grant manager for the Western Federal Lands Hwy funds. He let me know that they need to complete a NEPA checklist as well. We are already doing that through BPA. Jennifer Scott has worked closely with WFLHD to share all the information necessary for the NEPA checklist. At this time, I don't anticipate any project delays due to this new task.

EWC/Currier Creek A number of issues need to be resolved for this project. The service panel and motor (for fish screen) are being addressed by the engineers and the consultants. There are leaks in the siphon. We can't do much about those until the end of the season when we can get in the siphon and inspect it.

Lower Reecer Creek We are meeting with the landowners to discuss the new pump stations. They are asking us to help them work with the City to deal with ownership and maintenance issues. No action has occurred on the Durand diversion.

Parke Creek Ryan is working on the design of the removal of the Eslinger/Sorenson Diversion. We are hoping to remove the diversion this fall.

Coleman Creek The Burris diversion is likely to be abandoned. Burris has agreed to place his saved water in trust in perpetuity. The engineers at RH2 are working on screening and passage designs on the Nisbet diversion.

Caribou Creek We are no longer able to pay for engineering assistance for the Caribou Creek project. I will be contacting the City of Kittitas shortly to let them know.

Cherry Creek Engineering and design work continues. I talked with the engineer last week and he state that it may be possible to move the Jacobs diversion up to Moe Road and keep it a gravity diversion. He'll continue to work on the options.

Lmuma Creek The screens are in the river and the diversion is functioning. Riparian planting continues.

I am preparing **SRFB pre-applications** for Coleman Creek (planning and design), Nelson Creek (barrier removal), and Riparian Planting projects.

c) KCT (DG)

Pott Diversion (Reecer/Currier): WCC crew will be watering the new riparian plantings every two weeks through September.

Deneen Barriers (5 Reecer/Currier): Two most downstream relic diversions removed in February 2008. WCC planting crew will be watering new riparian plants through September. Landowner has authorized KCT to draft a Habitat Restoration Plan for Currier and Reecer Creeks where they flow through his property (between Hwy 10 and Town Canal). The Plan will include a Coho salmon rearing pond for re-introduction of salmon into Currier Creek.

Bruton Diversion (Taneum): A new Preliminary Design Report-*Fish Passage Improvements for the Bruton Diversion Dam on Taneum Creek, May 12, 2008* is in circulation for review and comment. YTAHP Technical Work Group will be contacted by the Administrator about availability of the Report, either electronically or hard copy. The Report describes a fish passage solution that works simultaneously with the existing Bruton Canal and Diversion Dam by correcting the fatal flaws in the fishway and spillway. The Report has been delivered to Reclamation, WDFW, SRFB, and Ecology.

Taneum Canal Co. Diversion: Topographical survey files of the Taneum Canal site and surrounding area (gathered by Huibregtse Louman in 2007) will be transmitted to Paul Tappel, design engineer consultant, for fish passage preliminary concept development.

Cle Elum River ELJs: Design/Permitting - ENTRIX (Tim Abbe) has delivered a Permit Set of 14 sheets for distribution to stakeholders and regulators. Anchoring strategy has evolved to a "core box with boulders" with a "gravel recruitment bar" on the downstream flank. Cobble and boulder materials from the excavation for the new pilot channel into the Domerie side channel will be

used for the ballast in the core boxes. KCT meets with Suncadia in early June to coordinate clearing of the logs that are scheduled for the log jams. Design comments being solicited from federal, state and local jurisdictions.

d) RC&D (CR)

Reecer Creek Floodplain Restoration Project: Working with Ecology to prepare grant agreement (\$223,000). Did not received ALEA grant for kiosks, so Ecology allowed us to transfer \$10,000 to a new Information and Education task. The Ecology grant brings us to $\frac{3}{4}$ funding. The project was not awarded NOAA Open Rivers Initiative grant (limited 08 funding), however the reviewers liked the project and I was encouraged to apply for funds this fall under the ORI and Community Restoration Program. RC&D is working with Mid-Columbia RFEG to define roles and responsibilities for this project, with RFEG holding construction contracts. I am working with BW on planning, coordination, City Inter-local.

Re TWG: CR suggested we communicate with TWG member's supervisors to relate the goals of the TWG process (efficiency, design inputs for best solution, no last-minute permit delays) and encourage TWG meeting participation or at least e-mail response to TWG announcements.

e) Mid Columbia RFEG (BW)

Whiskey Creek The Cascade Land Conservancy is planning to submit a SRFB proposal for the acquisition or easements on portions of the Kuchin property. In order to move that proposal forward, we are looking into possible fixes for the culverts beneath the railroad tracks. Our ALEA application for the bridge removal on Coleman Creek was not funded, so we will seek other funding sources for that project. We are considering a SRFB planning application to look at how the plumbing of the area could be modified, and whether there is a potential to remove the diversion from Coleman Creek altogether.

Swauk Creek We will a SRFB application for planning and design for channel restoration on Swauk, from the confluence with Iron Creek upstream to the culvert below Swauk Campground. WSDOT is planning to improve that culvert in the near future.

Jack Creek We are submitting a SRFB proposal for Jack Creek road realignment. This would be moving 1.5 miles of the road up onto a terrace, away from the streambanks. The project is just upstream of the culvert that will be replaced in 2008.

Crystal Creek There is a potential for restoration work in Crystal Creek, in Roslyn and Cle Elum. A preliminary meeting on 5/20 generated lots of good ideas and a plan to move forward.

Funded Projects

Reecer Creek Floodplain: We are working on an inter-local agreement to define the roles and responsibilities of the various project partners.

Yonkers (Naches River): We are still working on permitting for the Yonkers/Naches River project, in which the return flow of Powell Ditch would be routed back into a historic wetland complex. Temperature modeling indicated that this reroute is unlikely to negatively affect water temperature in the Naches River side channel.

Spring Creek: A field meeting on Spring Creek brought us very close to agreed upon widths and alignment for the stream on the Simon property.

Cle Elum River: Pre-bid documents for riparian restoration work near the bridge on the Cooper Lake Road, should be mailed out in the next 2 weeks.

3. DISCUSSION WITH/PRESENTATION BY BPA REPRESENTATIVES (JM, PL, DB)

Would like to acknowledge DM's efforts re Pisces.

JM Capital fits with Policies, 15 yr lifespan with total project budget >\$1 over three years: Expense is everything else. If a project is not on the Capital List, it can still be done under Expense budget.

(CR-BPA base support is invaluable for YTAHP to get projects planned, engineered and permitted, usually with outside dollars for implementation (SRFB, Ecology WI, NRCS, RFEG).)

New emphasis from BPA is that a portion of BPA funding must be included in project *implementation* (install, construct).

If you would like to influence BPA budget, comment to NPCC, CBFWA and/or get to BPA VP. Some mention of the new funding plan or MOA with tribes and states, YN, MT, ID (Nez Perce, OR and WA did not sign). MOA will fund fish activities for 10 years at a given rate. It is uncertain how this will affect the existing Fish & Wildlife Program or BiOp Implementation funding.

4. ITEMS OF INTEREST

a) WDFW Protocol Training – June 26, Yakima

b) YRB Fish & Wildlife Recovery Board (AC): The Steelhead Recovery Plan is available (includes YTAHP actions), will be incorporated in to the NOAA Recovery Plan. BPA support helps tremendously.

5. NEXT MEETING: June 18, 2008, 9:30 a.m. – noon

USDA Service Center, 1606 Perry St. Yakima (454-5736 x 128)

1. Powerpoint presentations of Kittitas and Yakima projects

NYCD – David Child: review of projects, before/after photos, future projects.

RC&D – Carol Ready: Reecer Creek Floodplain Restoration Project.

KCCD – Anna Lael: review of projects before/after, future projects.

LUNCH at *Los Cabos*

FIELD VISITS to KCCD Projects