

Attendees: Dave Myra, Carol Ready, Heather Simmons-Rigdon, RC&D; Richard Visser, Jennifer Scott, WDFW; Becca Wassell, Mid-Columbia RFEG; Anna Lael, DJ Shook, Kittitas County Conservation District; Mike Tobin, Justin Bader, North Yakima CD; Angie Begosh, YBFWRB; Hank Fraser, Yakama Nation; Pat Monk, USFWS; David Child, YBJB; Dan Valoff, KitCo; Greg McLaughlin, Jason McCormick, WWT; Walter Larrick, Dawn Wiedmeier, BOR.

1. ADMINISTRATION

- a) Approve Agenda ✓
- b) Approve October Minutes ✓
- c) **2010 Project List** Special meeting of project proposers. Set for Dec 5 at KCCD. DM will distribute template of BPA requested info. Master list will then be presented and discussed at Dec 17 Core Team.

2. PROJECT UPDATES

a) NYCD (JB, MT)

Shelly Ward Drilled Well Project: Ringwell will be decommissioned when ground freezes. This will insure that damage to Boyd's pasture will be kept to a minimum.

Cowiche Creek Water Users Association and Yakima Tieton Irrigation District Hookup: Another Cowiche Creek Restoration meeting took place earlier this month in which a Fish Restoration Strategy for the Cowiche Basin was released for review by members of the meeting. Several key restoration strategies set forth within the plan, including but not limited to irrigation diversion screening, barrier removal, and increased instream flows would benefit anadromous fish and overall health and productivity of the watershed. All these could be achieved with the CWWUA hookup with YTID. Another meeting was scheduled for YTID and BOR to discuss, identify, and address specific issues regarding the hook up and how to move forward with the process.

North Fork Ahtanum Gauge: Due to prior engagements and some health issues, Barry Sutherland postponed surveying until Nov. 24th-26th.

Herke Ranch Fish Screen Project: An exception hearing for the Ahtanum was held later in October than expected due to attorney schedules. Decisions on the rest of the exceptions are being worked on now. Because the hearing did not happen until the end of October and there was a request (which was granted) to submit some additional evidence after the hearing, it will be at least January before the decisions on the remaining exceptions come out.

Naches Cowiche Undershot Siphon and telephone siphon on Cowiche Creek: Earlier this month a meeting was held with the primary entities involved with major projects involving the area around the mouth of Cowiche Creek. Plans are in motion for removal of the Alaska Steep Pass at the mouth, infrastructure change, diversion consolidation, as well as purchasing of land that would allow for the lower end of Cowiche Creek to reclaim a portion of its original floodplain. At this point we feel it would be better to hold off on a YTAHP project for the siphon until more progress is made in the reworking of the lower end of the creek.

Pump Screen Projects: Cantu, Kisner, and Scheibner pump screens are in the permitting process. Have had no communication with Riley.

Monitoring: Completed Fines and Lamas

b) KCCD (AL, DJS)

Lower Reecer Creek – Mark and I updated the agreement with the City and then met with John Jewett, Shawn Fagalde and Dale Wilson to discuss it. They reviewed that draft and are going to provide comments. I have an appointment with John Jewett this afternoon. After his comments are incorporated,

the agreement will go back to the City. John did insist that his full water right be screened at the creek. This has necessitated a change in the designs and a decision that no on-farm irrigation system improvements would be provided. It does result in two pumps of the same size at the site, which may make maintenance and repairs easier for the City.

Coleman Creek (Nisbet)– We held a Technical Work Group meeting yesterday for this project. The design will likely change based on the discussions regarding the use of a YTAHP owned gravity screen instead of an in-stream pump screen. We are still hoping to construct this project over the winter.

Caribou Creek- We completed the fish salvage for the Caribou Creek project in Kittitas. Construction of the fish screen and ladder is underway. Another fish salvage should be scheduled soon.

Cherry Creek- Mark has another set of designs for this project. These designs include rock weirs, instream pump screens and it is located upstream of the Moe Road bridge. The designs will go out shortly to the technical work group members and then we will schedule a meeting with the landowners.

Currier Creek- We've had two recent meetings between the KCCD Board and the EWC Board to make decisions about how to proceed. We advertised for contractors to install the de-watering wells, however only one bid was received and the Boards felt that it was too high. They then moved to reject all bids. The most recent meeting of the Boards resulted in direction to use the Small Works Roster to hire a contractor to do the de-watering so an inspection of the site can occur. We were also directed to contact the engineers (R2 Resource Consultants) to get their official determination regarding whether the project has been completed per the plans and specifications. Once the siphon is dewatered and the inspection of the siphon can occur, further action can be taken to determine how the leak can be fixed.

Currier Creek Diversion Project: Using the hydro geologist's technical memo that was produced for us from RH2 engineering with the siphon repair assessment we put together bid documents to have four dewatering wells drilled around the siphon. Two well drillers showed up at the mandatory pre bid meeting, Arcadia and Blue Star. Both contractors were very concerned about the access to the West side of the creek. We sent an addendum out to eliminate the wells on the west side of the creek. The plan was to have Belsaas and Smith deal with dewatering on the west side of the creek via temporary sump points instead of permanent dewatering wells. We received one bid from Blue Star at 16,200 for two 20ft wells at 6" in diameter. The board rejected all bids for the well drilling due to the high cost. While the bidding process was going on with the well drillers a potential change order was being discussed with Belsaas and Smith, the prime contractor for the project. The change order consisted of building two coffer dams and piping currier creek over the siphon, renting pumps and operating the dewatering wells on the east side of the creek, providing dewatering on the west side of the creek, and dewatering the siphon. All of the dewatering would be maintained for one week while the siphon repair was being made. The contractor gave us a price of just below \$42,000 to do this work. This price does not include the repair work to the siphon. We decided not to execute this change order and plan to put this work out to the Kittitas County small works roster. We are considering eliminating the coffer dams in the creek and using the existing diversion structure to dewater the project area. This would require dewatering a longer stretch of creek while the siphon repairs are being made. We are also considering putting back out to bid the well drilling hoping to get smaller well drillers interested in the project. If we can get the wells drilled at a reasonable price and if they work the dewatering would be considerably cheaper.

Lmuma Creek Project: The WCC crew has completed 14 new clump plantings along Lmuma creek upstream of the original project area with help from the Regional Fisheries Enhancement Group.

Cabin Creek: This project is on hold until we finish currier project and some of the other YTAHP projects.

Coleman/Olmstead: I have working on producing a CREP proposal for the new producer on this property. The property lease will be open for public bidding again this winter.

c) KCT (HF, DG notes in absentia)

Pautzke Diversion (Currier Creek)– Landowner has agreed to permit de-construction and removal of the relic diversion structure just upstream of the Casino and has received a Draft Access agreement. Jen Scott, WDFW permit wizard, has secured all permits except the county exemption for shorelines

development. KCT is requesting YTAHP financial support for \$6,875 to match the SRFB funds available for the Pautzke Diversion removal. Cost estimate for all tasks is \$25,000. Target date for mobilization and de-construction is December, 2008 thru January, 2009.



← View downstream of the Pautzke diversion on Currier Creek. All concrete to be removed.

Deneen Barriers (5- Currier Creek)

The last three upstream barriers (just downstream of the EWC Canal) are de-constructed and removed. The banks at the worksites have been re-contoured and the disturbed area treated with jute erosion control fabric. Re-vegetation will be contracted with KCCD (D.J. Shook). KCT expects to receive from GeoEngineers (Jason Scott) a Habitat Restoration Plan for Currier Creek where it flows through Deneen's property (between Hwy. 10

and Town Canal). The Plan will include a number of constructed habitat improvements to restore complexity and rearing habitat features.

Bruton Diversion (Taneum Creek) Paul Tappel (Fish Consultants, Inc.) designed some wood modifications for the existing Bruton fish ladder that would significantly increase the chances of fish passing up the ladder. The Bureau of Reclamation recently installed these wood modifications as a temporary improvement for passage until the "final solution" is constructed. BOR also modified the water delivery infrastructure for the Bruton Ditch. Pat Monk has been assigned to develop and present hydraulic and water supply alternatives at Bruton.

Taneum Canal Co. Diversion Design at TCC awaiting solutions for Bruton to be finalized.

Cle Elum River ELJs The US Forest Service, Wenatchee-Okanogan National Forest, Cle Elum Ranger District will be the NEPA Lead Agency under a Categorical Exclusion process for environmental review. The Section 106 (Cultural) report has been completed by Chris Landreau to be included in the NEPA reports. Construction is scheduled to begin in autumn 2009. Additional construction funds have been secured from *USFWS Partners Program*, and more are being sought from *WA Dept of Ecology Water Quality Financial Assistance Program*.

d) RC&D (CR)

Reecer Creek Floodplain Restoration Project Held 2 meetings with the City (John Akers, PW; Bob Witkowski, special projects) on the supplemental engineering process. Issued and received responses for the supplemental A&E RFP (see REFG). Reviewed and recommended the RC&D board sign the Ecology grant agreement (\$223,246). Submitted a NOAA-Open Rivers Initiative request (\$268,033) for 2009.

e) Mid Columbia Fisheries (BW)

Taneum Creek On Sept. 18, Gina McCoy and Thayer Excavating completed project work on Taneum Creek at approximately RM 1. Work involved lowering the elevation of an abandoned side channel so that it will interact with the stream at lower flows.

Scott Nicolai, working with Regional Fisheries Enhancement and Yakama Nation funds, has placed more than 230 small diameter trees in Taneum Creek between River Miles 7 and 8 (approximately) since the

spring of 2008. Mid-Columbia Fisheries and the Yakama Nation intend to replicate this project on 15 other tributaries throughout the Basin with SRFB support.

Elk Meadows II Mid-Columbia Fisheries funded and participated in a small restoration project along the Yakima River at Elk Meadows II. The project involved riparian planting and placing ecology blocks to prevent motorized access to the river in an area where motorcycles and ATVs were disturbing spawning gravels. The Department of Ecology has determined that the blocks are a structure in the floodway, and we will either need to provide a “no-rise” certificate or remove the blocks from the area.

Cle Elum River Floodplain Restoration: Cooper Bridge Work on this project, in which camping and driving were relocated from the active floodplain to elevated terraces, was completed in October of 2008. The project partners began restoration work in the summer of 2007. Seven dispersed camping areas were redesigned to provide recreational access out of the active floodplain. Soils were decompacted and large wood was placed in the floodplain, and boulders and guardrail were used to prevent vehicles from entering the restored areas. An eighth camping area, previously accessed off FS Road 4600-112, was closed and restored, along with the 0.7 mile road that accessed it. The project was supported by funding from the USDA Forest Service, the National Forest Foundation, WA Department of Ecology, RIDGE/Suncadia, USFWS, the Plum Creek Foundation, the Mountaineers Foundation, and Mid-Columbia Fisheries. Additional partners included the Kittitas Conservation Trust, the Kittitas County Conservation District, the Student Conservation Association, and Central Washington University.

Naches Off-Channel Habitat Enhancement (Steve Younker property) The proposed implementation for this project has been moved to summer of 2009, pending an agreement between the landowner and the South Naches Irrigation District.

Spring Creek (Steve Simon property) Relocation of Spring Creek on Steve Simon’s property in Union Gap is pending the landowner’s decision to proceed with the project. We are nearing the end of funding availability for this project, so should the landowner decide to proceed, permitting will need to proceed quickly.

Yakima River Boulders At the angler outreach event last spring, participants generated an idea for enhancing in-stream habitat complexity in the Yakima River in the reach above Roza Dam (roughly river miles 131 – 138?). Todd Pearsons discussed rainbow trout abundance in the river, and posited that an increase in “bank” habitat would lead to a direct increase in rainbow trout abundance. Bank habitat could include side channels or natural structures in-stream, such as logs or boulders. Participants discussed the ways in which habitat complexity within the river has been reduced, and identified the interception of boulders off the hillslopes as one factor. Boulders that would otherwise be recruited to the river are intercepted by Highway 821 to the east and the Burlington Northern-Santa Fe railroad tracks to the west. Boulders are regularly cleared off the road and tracks and transported off-site.

Mark Johnston of the Yakama Nation contacted a BNSF representative in Ellensburg, and found him receptive to the idea of clearing boulders off the railroad tracks and directly into the river. I recently followed up on their initial conversation and contacted Danniell MacDonald in the BNSF Engineering Services division. Mr. MacDonald began our conversation by stating, “If it’s the right thing to do, we’ll do it.” We then discussed *how* to go about getting it done, and it looks to be an iterative process between BNSF and the groups who support the project.

Coleman Creek Doug D’Hondt (Kittitas County engineer) is interested in relocating Coleman Creek where it crosses Fairview Road northeast of Ellensburg. The creek crosses the road (or vice-versa) three times in a hundred feet or so. The county’s proposal is to create a more naturally-functioning stream channel to the east of the current alignment, and have just one road crossing. Doug asked me about potential funding sources for the project, and I was not able to think of any immediately. There is a potential for wetland enhancement in the area. Please let me know if you are aware of potential funding for this project.

I have been working with William Meyer, Hank Fraser and DJ Shook to improve riparian function along Coleman Creek on Olmstead State Park. The fields on both sides of the creek are leased for hay and sudan grass production. The lease expires in December, and State Parks has been very flexible in

working with us to include riparian protection in the new lease. They are writing the lease in such a way that the lessee is encouraged to participate in the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP).

Reecer Creek Supplemental Engineering RFP Mid-Columbia Fisheries and the Reecer project partners (RC&D, KCCD, City of Ellensburg, WDFW) are currently evaluating proposals for supplemental engineering services for the Reecer Creek Floodplain Restoration project. We received nine proposals for supplemental engineering services, and a proposal from Gina McCoy for construction oversight in the eventuality she is not employed by WDFW at the time of project implementation. John Akers, Carol Ready, Gina McCoy and Rebecca Wassell will review the supplemental engineering proposals next week and select 2 – 4 firms to interview. We anticipate hiring a firm in the second week of December.

Wilson Creek at Helen McCabe State Park The Cascade Land Conservancy submitted a proposal to NFWF's Pioneers in Conservation program for demonstration riparian planting along Wilson Creek on Helen McCabe State Park. John Eaton holds a lease for grazing on the park. The proposal is to plant half of the length of stream on the park with a traditional cattle exclusion approach, and to allow flash grazing on the other half. We are interested in seeing how flash grazing might control weed establishment within the riparian.

3. PROJECT MONITORING (JS)

Thanks to those who helped with electrofishing!

Wide Hollow Mystery minnows.

Coho coming into systems: Rock Crk (9 redds), Lower Naches (21), Homes (30), Upper Nile (6), Taneum (45), Mercer Creek (? in Ellensburg).

MOA DAHP+BPA for cultural resources. Usually will still need 106 survey.

FOLLOWUP: Reecer Creek from the mouth up to Dolarway - 4 definite redds and 2 more probable redds. We also saw about 6 live fish and one carcass. (JS + HF).

4. ITEMS OF INTEREST

a) **2009 RC&D DRAFT Annual Plan** (HSR) Distributed Plan in table format with objectives, strategies, timelines and partners. Includes YTAHP. Take a look, feedback welcome.

5. NEXT MEETING: **December 17, 2008**, 9:30 a.m **Yakima, 1606 Perry St**

1. Presentation by Bureau of Reclamation – Bruton Diversion

Goal is to remove the dam and diversion and provide fish passage and habitat. The BOR performed an interim stip of improving the fish ladder and installed flow meters. Held one meeting with 3 of 5 Bruton water users, then engaged with a 4th. Need options for irrigation season and winter stockwater. BOR has funding for 08-09 for engineering; looking for other funding sources for implementation.

PM Met with Kittitas Reclamation District to see if they can deliver water from South Branch Canal via existing lateral (#4.3). The lateral is partially piped and could be extended across I-90 to Bruton users. (see handout).

Bruton water right: when Taneum Creek is at or above 97 cfs: 2.3 cfs. When creek flow is <97 cfs: water right is 2.1% of creek flow. This project could supply piped, pressurized water to Bruton users. Water would be slightly less than water right during high flow, but much more than their current warm season allotment.