



YAKIMA TRIBUTARY ACCESS & HABITAT PROGRAM

Core Team Meeting

September 17, 2008 9:30am- 12 Noon, Ellensburg

Attendees: Heather Simmons-Rigdon, Dave Myra, Carol Ready, RC&D; Richard Visser, Jen Scott, WDFW; Anna Lael, DJ Shook, KCCD; Mike Tobin, Justin Bader, NYCD; Henry Fraser, YN; David Gerth, KCT; Becca Wassell, MC RFEG; Angie Begosh, YBFWRB, Pat Monk, US BOR; Ken Schuster, Ecology; David Child, YBJB.

1. ADMINISTRATION

- a) Approve Agenda ✓
- b) Approve August Minutes – Amend to include KCCD handout on Cabin Crk project.
- c) Second Quarter Review of SOW – Need to provide BPA with milestone accomplishments (red, yellow green dots) by October 15. Current RC&D-BPA agreement ends Mar 31, 2009. Budget meeting held Sept 3 in Ellensburg to adjust primarily NYCD and KCCD capital budgets due to delay in project and ability to use funds on other projects by Mar 09.

2. PROJECT UPDATE

a) NYCD (JB, MT)

Shelly Ward Drilled Well Project (Rattlesnake/Brown): Drilling is set to begin Thursday morning. It was originally scheduled to start on the 15th but broken equipment has pushed the timing back. Trenches were dug on the 5th in preparation for Akland to hook up of the well with power, which will be ready to go once the well has been drilled.

Cowiche Creek Water Users Assn and Yakima Tieton Irrigation District Hookup: Representatives from the BOR met with YTID's board of directors to present the results of their capacity tests. The BOR is also facilitating a series of Cowiche Creek Restoration meetings, which will bring together all the major share holders to discuss moving forward with CCWUA hook-up.

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, which may greatly increase in value, depending upon whether CCWUA switches over to YTID.

Herke Ranch Fish Screen Project (Ahtanum): This project will be submitted to SRFB as an alternate project contingent upon the Conditional Final Order of the court for the Ahtanum sub basin. There is contention over how much excess water irrigators are entitled too. Currently, there is no set limit on the amount that can be diverted during times of excess flow. We will know more about how to proceed with the project with this question is answered by the Ahtanum CFO due out in December.

Naches Cowiche Undershot Siphon and telephone siphon on Cowiche Creek: This project will not be submitted to the SRFB for funding, primarily because of unknown outcomes to the project due to infrastructure change in the immediate area. These are 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 still have commitment from Cantu, Riley, Scheibner, and Kisner on installing new pump screens, but we will be constructing the screens this winter and have them ready to go when the irrigation season starts next year. The delay is mainly due to problems coordinating meetings with Cantu and Kisner and unwillingness from Riley to work with us until after the apple harvest is over.

b) KCCD (DJ, AL)

Jack/Indian Creek We received the paperwork for the additional \$150,000 from the Western Federal Lands Hwy Division.

Lower Reecer Creek Mark and I are meeting with John Akers regarding the agreement between us, the City and the irrigators next week. Mark has also received comments from the irrigators. The agreement is moving forward, but slowly. Mark talked with John Durand and it appears that he has sold his water right. This will hopefully mean that we will be able to remove his existing diversion structure and provide passage.

Coleman Creek We have the 90% designs for the Nisbet fish screen and passage work. Mark has been working with Tom Nisbet to get his comments. We'll need to schedule another Technical Work Group meeting shortly to review this latest set of plans.

Cherry Creek We are still on hold on this project, waiting to talk with the landowners again about the possibility of moving the points of diversion upstream.

Lmuma Creek/Yakima River Project Some adjustments may be necessary at the Eaton screen on the Yakima River. Flip flop dropped the water level significantly and they've had some difficulty maintaining proper submergence. They are working with their vendor to plan any adjustments.

Currier Creek: Meeting with Dick Haapala, Agricultural Engineer for CH2M Hill – 9/5/08

After discussing the situation with Dick he stated that he would expect a cmp siphon to leak some. He said that he worked with the Yakima Tieton Irrigation District (YTID) to put some of their canal into a cmp pipe along Hwy 12 in an emergency repair situation. The decision to use cmp was made because it was readily available at the time, but it was understood that it was a temporary fix and would leak. The YTID planned to put up with the leaky cmp for the remainder of the irrigation season and then, after the irrigation season, mortar line the inside of the cmp pipe. Dick stated that he considered the mortar lined cmp a permanent structure. This repair occurred in the early 1980's.

Dick explained that the way to reinforce the mortar inside the siphon was to tack weld a mesh to the inside of the cmp and then either spray or trowel on the mortar. He said that this solution would be favorable due to its low tech nature and the availability of contractors knowledgeable in the applications required. Dick stated that the cmp would need to be de-watered, cleaned out, and power washed (not sand blasted) prior to the mortar application.

Dick and I discussed the importance of dewatering the area around the siphon to prevent buoyancy forces damaging the siphon. He suggested installing two to four infiltration wells around the siphon to allow for easy de-watering. These wells would cost more upfront but in the long run allow for easy de-watering of the area around the siphon when future maintenance is required.

Dick also mentioned that he would expect the water flowing through the cmp to start corroding the cmp very quickly. He stated to combat this issue the YTID maintains a voltage on the cmp which prevents corrosion. He suggested that the District and Ellensburg Water Company look into doing something similar.

Dick suggested I speak with John Dickman or Sunny Dufault of the YTID and talk with them about the section of their canal that is mortar lined cmp. He stated that they have a crew that maintains the mortar lined canal on a yearly basis.

Meeting with Paul Cross, Professional Engineer for RH2 Engineering – 9/5/08

After discussing the situation with Paul he stated that he does not like to design water tight structures with cmp because it is very hard to have a contractor construct the cmp in a way that would produce a watertight seal. Paul stated that he did not have a solution to the leak off of the top of his head but he was confident that he could research different alternatives that would meet the Ellensburg Water Company's needs. Paul stated that whatever the solution would be it would need to be sensitive to raising the water level in the canal above the siphon. Paul and I drove the ditch bank road to look at a few places above the siphon where the water was close to the top of the canal bank. Paul also stated

that he would be attending a conference in the next couple of weeks where pipe lining vendors would be present and he would be able to bounce some questions off of them.

Phone Conversations with Larry Browne on 9/8/08 and 9/9/08

On 9/8/08 I informed Larry of the recent meetings with engineers to discuss solutions to the leaking siphon. I described the likely easy solution of mortar lining the siphon, a possible way to fund the mortar lining, and asked Larry to speak with his board about the solution. I spoke with Larry again on 9/9/08 and he stated that his board was concerned about the freeze thaw durability of the mortar lining, the maintenance required for the lining, and how the reduced cross sectional area of the siphon would affect its capacity. Larry stated that he wants to see the YTID install and/or maintain the mortar lining and ask questions of the YTID before the board makes a decision to mortar line the siphon.

Phone Conversation with John Dickman of the YTID on 9/9/08

I spoke with John on the phone about the section of canal that was in mortar lined cmp. He stated that the purpose of the mortar lining was not to create a water tight seal, but, to increase the water handling capabilities of the pipe. John stated that due to the temperature extremes that the section of cmp is exposed to it needs a lot of maintenance. He said that the YTID hasn't needed to run their canal at full capacity for a few years and so their maintenance has dropped off causing the cmp to be less water tight. John stated that in our case having the cmp always submerged would shield it from the weather extremes and possibly make it need less maintenance. I asked John if it would be possible for Larry and I to view their crew performing their annual maintenance of the mortar lined section of canal. He said that would be fine and suggested I call him back in the middle of October after his schedule is set.

Cabin Creek RM 0.5: Last YTAHP meeting DJ presented this 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 0.87 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 0.3 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 of project at last meeting: 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.

Recent news on project: Carol Smith from the Washington Conservation Commission will be out later this month to talk to Anna, Suzanne, and I about CREP in our District. At that time we will see what is available for this project. Fish monitoring is planned for the beginning of October.

c) KCT (DG)

Nelson Creek fish passage (RCO, Family Forest & Fish, near I-90 exit 78). Replaced 24" culvert with 6'x11' squashed culvert on private forest land where Nelson enters Yakima.

Taneum Creek – WDFW evaluated constructed channel vs fishway modification. Temporary mod. To fishway at Bruton occurred (by BOR), screen gaskets, measuring devices.

Cle Elum ELJ – KCT may pay for wood removal and construct ~Oct 09.

Currier Creek – GeoEngineersto prepare Riparian Restoration Plan.

d) RC&D (CR) Reecer Creek Floodplain Restoration Project: 2nd quarter 2008 SRFB invoice submitted. NOAA Open Rivers grant application due October (~\$250,000). There is potential for Yakama Nation to offer some funding for the project, although nothing formal yet. Supplemental engineering RFP drafted (revised copy to BW). Will run by Gina McCoy and send out to YTAHP list of A&E and advertise. Drafting Revegetation Plan. Will get with DJ and BW to review and add details.

e) Mid Columbia Fisheries (BW)

So Naches Irrigation District – still working on use of wasteway as habitat.

Cle Elum – finishing up

Taneum (Scott N) LT Murray small diameter wood placement, side channel connection.

Lmuma Creek additional plantings.

Coleman Crk (State Parks, WDFW, KCCD) meeting Wed, Sept 24, 10am at WDFW, Eburg.

Crystal Creek Suzanne Wade and BW walked creek.

SRFB - Jack Creek enhancement and **Swauk Creek** enhancement?

3. PROJECT MONITORING (OVER ALL PROCESS) (JS)

October is full of opportunities for fish monitoring.

HIP no longer required for basic pump screens(!), just HPA

US ACOE: Alicia Ralph is moving to King Co; Unknown who will take over for Kittitas, Yakima Co.

4. ITEMS OF INTEREST

a) **FEMA Workshop** – 9/23 call to reserve spot.

b) **WCC** - Washington Conservation Corps - Ellensburg Crew, openings: 1 yr contract at minimum wage plus college money (via AmeriCorps). Contact 509-607-3022.

c) **KCCD Legislator Meeting** for 13th District (Holmquist, Hinkle, Warnock).

d) AB – **SRFB checks on Milestones** pending.

e) RV – Non-YTAHP project, the **Oak Flats Acquisition**, received funding from KCT, YN and RC&D partners. WDFW will withdraw application to SRFB, thus freeing up ~\$300,000. (AB -SRFB possibilities include Jack Creek, Coleman, Port of Sunnyside, with alt being Herke, Swauk, Ayman.)

Cowiche Canyon Conservancy – plants (from NYCD), and garbage removal to occur. Uncertain as to acquisition and levee setback or removal.

Lower Yakima River Assessment to proceed with Benton CD.

Wapato Reach Assessment (Union Gap to ~Satus) left bank only, restoration/side channels/ screening/levee removal or setbacks to be considered.

f) **NYCD fall Plant Sale** on Saturday, Sept 20; ~\$4.25/pot

g) **Naneum Fish Passage** discussion scheduled for Oct 22nd (Whiskey, Naneum, Wilson)

5. **NEXT MEETING:** **October 15, 2008, 9:30 a.m. – noon**
NYCD, 1606 Perry St. Yakima (454-5736 x 128)