



YAKIMA TRIBUTARY ACCESS & HABITAT PROGRAM

Core Team Meeting Minutes

19 April, 2006 9am-Noon

PLACE: East Selah DOT meeting room

Attendance: David Child, Pat Monk, Henry Fraser, Michael Tobin, Paul Cleary, Richard Visser, Carol Ready, Anna Lael, Ed Harrell

1. ADMINISTRATION

- a) Approve Agenda: No additions to the agenda
- b) Approve October Minutes: No changes or additions, accepted as e'mailed.
- c) Monthly project status meeting w/ KCCD and NYCD?: Ed talked about the meeting he had with Anna, Carol, Hank, and David Gerth to discuss KCCD / YTAHP projects. He said this was very helpful and suggested that a similar meeting take place each month, one in Ellensburg and one with NYCD. Mike said it would be best to set a standard date for the meeting. He suggested the Monday before the Core Team meeting. Carol and Hank thought it would be a good way to coordinate project efforts. Ed will get with Anna about finding a time and day that will work for everyone. Richard said that when the new WDFW permit person is hired it would be good to have him/her attend those meetings.

2. UPDATE ON CURRENT PROJECTS

- a) NYCD: David reported that the pump screen at Snow Mountain Ranch has been installed. Mike said that it took longer than expected because of the electrical work and the time needed to schedule work, then get it inspected before other work could be done. The YTAHP portion of the revegetation work at Snow Mountain Ranch has been completed.

Phase II of the Thornton planting project is substantially complete, David says it looks like a park. Mike explained that the seeding machine used for distributing grass seed did not work very well because of the unevenness of the ground. He said that next time under similar conditions he is going to try planting germinated grass plugs. This may work better.

- b) KCCD: Carol reported that the Bureau portion of the Fogarty Ditch project is nearing completion. YTAHP has some minor screening and passage projects associated with the Fogarty Ditch. These projects have not been started yet. Some design work needs to be finished and the Conservation District engineering position has not been filled yet.

Carol also reported on the status of hiring someone for the construction management phase of the Manastash project. The top candidate has both a cultural and natural resource background.

Carol reported that efforts to move ahead on the Currier Creek / Ellensburg Water Company siphon are picking up. She is trying to get the original design work that was done years ago by MHW. She is talking to BPA about how to get the plans. Hank said that since the work was paid for with public money MHW shouldn't have any proprietary rights to the plans. Mike asked Carol to keep him informed about how this goes because he needs to get the original plans on the Fines project from MHW.

Hank reported that the funding to do a feasibility study on improvements to the Bruton and Taneum diversions on Taneum Creek has been approved.

Pat mentioned a meeting he had in which discussion came up about developing closer working ties between YTAHP and YRBWEP. He said there may be a chance to identify projects on tributaries and make a request to Congress for funding. Pat said maybe we could invite YRBWEP (Walt Larrick) to a Core Team meeting to discuss how the process works. Ed said he would talk further with Pat about inviting Walt to a meeting.

Anna reported that she had advertised to fill Rusty's engineering position and only one application came in. She is going to re-advertise and hope for a better response. Anna said the City of Kittitas has received additional funding for the Caribou Creek Bridge and road work which involves the reconfiguration of the Gibbs irrigation diversion on Caribou Creek. There is still some discussion going on about how to best administer the funding.

3. UPDATE ON PENDING PROJECTS

a) NYCD: David said the Shaw/Knox project is moving ahead. It is hoped that construction can take place during July and August. The permitting is underway. Richard said that final design work is needed for permits from the Corp and Yakima County. Paul said there is a little work to be done on completing the design, it will be completed soon. Pat mentioned that Steve Kropp had left a note in the Shaw/Knox file about doing a Wetlands delineation. Mike and David said they could probably have Brian do this in house.

David reported that Diversion-31 has gone through the TWG review and was ready to begin the permitting process. Pat asked about the status of design work needed for the Corp permit. Paul said it could be ready in about three weeks. David said they hope to construct the project in late FY-06.

David also reported that work is continuing on the Upper and Lower Lust diversion projects. Permitting is almost done. They hope to remove/modify the diversions in early FY-07.

Design and engineering work has also been started for; the Boyd Brown diversion removal and installation of a ring well, instream habitat improvements and fencing on the Schneider/Green/Wilkinson site, and passage improvements on the Cowiche/Naches undershot siphon.

Lastly, David reported that four pump screen designs had been completed and the screens should be installed within a couple of weeks.

b) KCCD: Anna said that discussions are continuing with landowners for two projects on Coleman Creek upstream from the FY-05 project. Also, for the projects on Lmuma Creek and Little Naneum.

Anna and Carol have talked to BPA officials about the benefits of paying landowner power costs for converting to pump diversions instead of doing expensive fish passage improvements. BPA seems to be interested in exploring that option. There will need to be some administrative mechanism set up to fund power cost beyond a single contract year. Anna and Carol said they will work on a proposal to BPA for additional funding to pay power costs for a certain number of years. Possibly, YTAHP funds could be used for this.

Hank said the Pott/Pautzke pipeline project is dead because of land ownership changes. There is some maneuvering going on between buyer and seller regarding the Pott property and this is causing delays in moving ahead on removal of the diversions. Hank is still hoping that agreements can be reached to remove the Pott and Puatzke diversions this fiscal year, as well as the Durand diversion.

Anna said that Dana Postlewait has taken a look at the Durand diversion. Some additional engineering work is needed there.

4. ITEMS OF INTEREST

a) Update by WDFW on hiring of permit person: Richard explained that the work on permits for YTAHP projects is going okay but it needs a lot of babysitting to keep things moving. That is the main requirement in getting the permits through the process in a timely way. WDFW has advertised for the YTAHP permit person. They have not received any applications yet. It will be another week before the deadline for applications is reached. They expect to have interviews possible the 4th and 5th of May or the 11th and 12th. Either Dave or Ed will sit in on the interviews.

b) Carol explained that the ownership and long term maintenance of diversion and fish passage structures is still an issue. Landowners do not want the responsibility and expense. BPA is trying to determine what to do. WDFW has expressed some willingness to take on the ownership and maintenance but they would need funding from BPA to do it.

Carol again mentioned the possibility of training from the Corp of Engineers on permit requirements. She said it may take about four hours and June may be a good time to do it.

c) David reported that they had a good turnout for their Cowiche Trib Team meeting. Mike said the metering program is going well. The letter from DOE regarding metering requirements is encouraging people to come to the District and is giving the District an opportunity to get their foot in the door with some landowners.

d) Richard reported that the Yakima Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board (the newly combined Yakima Sub-basin Planning Board and Yakima Salmon Recovery Board) has hired, or at least offered the director job to Alex Connelly.

Richard also asked for comments on the question of having presentations before the local Review Board regarding the BPA FY-07-09 funding proposals. There are 24 local project proposals and the Review Board is concerned about having time for the presentations. Mike said that if some applicants did presentations and others did not it could make the selection process unfair. Either everyone should do it or none. Carol said the presentations can contribute a lot of information to the reviewers about the projects and it is valuable for those making recommendations to know the projects as well as possible. David said it would be good to be able to show the reviewers before and after photos of past projects to give them a good idea of the results they can expect from the YTAHP proposal.

Richard said he would convey these comments to the rest of the local Review Board. If there are presentations they will be in early June.

5. Next meeting: May 17, 2006, 9am –noon

Location: Kittitas County PUD, 1400 E. Vantage Hwy. Ellensburg