



YAKIMA TRIBUTARY ACCESS & HABITAT PROGRAM

Core Team Meeting Minutes

19 January 2005, 9am-Noon

**PLACE: USDA Agricultural Service Center (NYCD Office)
1606 Perry Street, Yakima (509) 454-5736**

Attending: Carol Ready, Eric Egbers, Jonathan Kohr, Suzanne Blakeney, Stephen Kropp, Hank Fraser, Ed Harrell, Brandon Rogers, Perry Harvester, Dave Nunn, Pat Monk, Mike Tobin.

1. ADMINISTRATION

- a) Approve Agenda: Ed asked if there were any changes or additions to the agenda. Carol asked if consideration of her request for YTAHP funding support of the Currier Creek / Ellensburg Water Co. canal siphon project could be added to the agenda. It was added.
- b) Approve December Minutes: Ed asked if anyone had any corrections or additions to the December Minutes. There were none.

2. INVENTORY TEAMS

- a) KCCD: Anna Lael was absent due to high water in the Teanaway River. Carol reported that Anna was proofing Inventory reports and getting them ready to send out. Hank said that 132 miles of streams have been surveyed in Kittitas County.
- b) NYCD: Dave Nunn reported that Inventory reports for the upper Naches tributaries are done in draft form. These include surveys of Rattlesnake, Rock, Gold and Nile creeks. A total of 106 miles of streams have been surveyed in north Yakima County.

3. TRIBUTARY TEAMS

Mike and Dave reported that they are considering the best way to work with a Tributary Team for Ahtanum Creek. There is very little activity right now because there is no new information for the Trib Teams to discuss.

4. MANASTASH PROJECT-UPDATE (Carol)

Some aspects of the project are ready to go and these will move ahead. There is still some struggle with the change in point of diversion / water rights review issue. Reed Ditch, the second largest ditch, does need to be moved. There has been legislation proposed to address the point of diversion / water rights review issue. The engineering firm working on the Manastash projects, Fish Pro, is doing good work.

5. Request for YTAHP Funding Support, Currier Creek Siphon, Water 2025 Grant (Carol)

Carol explained that she is preparing a USBR Water 2025 Grant application to complete funding for the Currier Creek siphon project at the EWC canal / Currier Creek intersection. In support of the grant application Carol is requesting a letter from the Core Team expressing "strong consideration" of allocating \$80,000 of the Fiscal Year 2006 YTAHP Budget to this project. She reminded the Core Team of the \$126,534 in YTAHP funds already invested in this project through previous design work and the purchase of project materials. Carol also explained that there is a lot of interest to improve passage and habitat in the lower Reecer / Currier Creek system.

Hank asked about the status of the Pott diversion and other downstream barriers. Pat Monk said he believes these barriers can be taken care of once land owner agreements are in place. He said SRFB has shown the lower Reecer / Currier Creek system is a priority.

Eric commented that there are a number of stream surveys being finalized that may identify additional priorities.

Dave said that project priority depends a great deal on having willing land owners.

Stephen said the SSHEAR assessments are primarily used to prioritize projects along a particular tributary and not necessarily between tributaries. He felt that the lower Reecer / Currier Creek system offered some good habitat.

After considerable discussion of the project benefits and how it fits in with other projects that need to be completed along lower Reecer Creek the general consensus was to support the Water 2025 Grant request. That support will be in the form of a letter stating the Core Team's intention to strongly consider allocating \$80,000 of the YTAHP FY 2006 Budget to the Currier Creek siphon project at the EWC canal / Currier Creek intersection. Also, if residual FY 2005 funds become available near the end of FY-05 these funds will be considered for this project. If used, the FY-05 funds will be subtracted from the \$80,000 of FY-06 funding requested.

A letter so stating was signed by Ed Harrell on behalf of the Core Team and given to Carol for inclusion in the grant application. (Copy below)

6. TWG MEETINGS

- a) Set date for TWG meeting regarding Ahtanum Creek Projects (SRFB) for Fish Screens. (MikeT.)

Mike said he would like to have the TWG do a site visit to a couple of pending projects on the upper Ahtanum and one on the lower Cowiche. The TWG site tour has been scheduled for February 10, 2005. People are to meet at the North Yakima Conservation District at 9 a.m. The project tour will look at the

Garretson Diversion on lower Cowiche Creek, and at the Shaw-Knox and Lesh Diversions on upper Ahtanum Creek. Mike Tobin, NYCD, will prepare background information, project description, and photos to be sent out to TWG members.

- b) Confirm TWG meeting date (2/8/05) for Fogarty Ditch and Lower Reecer Creek projects. (Stephen K.)
Stephen said that due to some questions that need to be addressed regarding the Fogarty Ditch and fish trap questions concerning Reecer Creek, the TWG meeting tentatively scheduled for February 8th has been postponed. (Subsequent to the Core Team meeting there has been a TWG meeting scheduled for February 23rd in Ellensburg. The subject of this meeting will be the Jack Creek and Indian Creek culvert projects.)

7. ITEMS OF INTEREST

- a) Lower Reecer Creek Diversion update (Hank)
Hank reported on his talks with Todd Pierson about the Reecer Creek diversion near Irene Rinehart Park. Todd suggested that due to the existing concrete structure this would be a good place to install a fish trap for monitoring purposes. The structure now creates a barrier problem. Hank said the barrier issue may be solved by creating a roughened channel to raise the stream bed. There was discussion about the value to YTAHP of the data collected in monitoring the fish trap. Also of the hazards the trap creates to fish passage. Hank said that he will be meeting with Dave Siler, a fish trap expert, at the site on February 4th. Dave Siler may provide more information about the practicality of the trap and how valuable it might be.
- a.1) Mike asked if we could briefly discuss the Yakima Tieton Irrigation District / Cowiche Lust projects, because Perry Harvester was present and had some helpful information. The main question is how much payment will YTID require in order to begin providing YTID water to Lust et al. so that the Lust diversions from the Cowiche can be eliminated. Perry said it is necessary to get this amount tied down as soon as possible. It is possible that the full amount could be funded through the Water Acquisition Program. The payment needs to be written into the Water Acquisition contract. The deadline for water acquisition is the end of January. There is a meeting scheduled January 24th. Between Dave Myra, Mike Tobin, Perry Harvester, and possibly others to reach some conclusion on this.
- b) Confidential pre-assessment of water rights (Stephen Kropp, Perry Harvester, Suzanne Blakeney)
Stephen provided some background on the reason for confidential water rights evaluations. He explained the purpose is to provide project proponents and property owners an early indication of any potential water rights issues and concerns. Perry explained a flow chart of how the process could work. The benefit of having the Washington Water Trust review the water right situation is that they are not obligated to take enforcement action if they discover any questionable water use. Suzanne said that the information

collected on the pre-review form will be useful if a change in point of diversion is requested. DOE will not be given the pre-review forms but the project proponent will have the information and can provide it to DOE. This can help facilitate the POD change.

The Washington Water Trust is willing to do the pre-reviews for one year to see how it works. If it becomes evident that this is creating a big work load for WWT then they will have to explore some way to get compensated.

There was some discussion about water rights being “parked” in the Trust and how contacts can be written to assure that the water rights will be available, under agreed conditions, in the future.

Perry mentioned that there is a lot of confusion among water users about the difference between consumption water and conveyance water. Water rights owners often believe they also have ownership of the conveyance water. It is important to help the water rights owners understand the distinction.

Suzanne began going over the pre-review form. There was a little confusion about some of the terminology used and some duplicate information requested. Generally it was recognized that the form will be vital in collecting the necessary information, but it needs some redrafting.

Stephen handed out a Project Planning and Permitting Timeline to show how the Water Rights pre-review fits into the process. It is important to get these water rights questions answered early because the viability of the project depends on the existence and proper use of adequate water rights.

8. Other-

- a) Fish Screen Available – (2.5 cfs, aluminum, 7ft in length, ~ 3.5 ft tall, with 12” outlet pipe. Constructed in consultation with NRCS and Yakima Screen Shop. Carol has pictures. The manufacturer: Doss Roberts, Ellensburg.) Carol passed around photos of the fish screen manufactured by Doss Roberts in Ellensburg. She said if anyone wanted more information she would give them Mr. Roberts phone number.

Meeting adjourned at 12-noon.

9. Next meeting: February 16, 2004, 9am –noon

Location: It will be in Ellensburg the precise location is to be determined.



YAKIMA TRIBUTARY ACCESS & HABITAT PROGRAM

January 19, 2005

To Whom it May Concern

The Yakima Tributary Access & Habitat Program supports the Ellensburg Water Company's application to the US Bureau of Reclamation for **Water 2025** funding to assist in implementing the *Ellensburg Water Company Canal-Currier Creek Intersection Separation by Siphon* project.

While YTAHP has yet to formally prepare and approve a FY 2006 (Oct 1 2005-Sept 30 2006) budget, the YTAHP Core Team intends to give strong consideration to funding the Currier Creek Siphon project at the \$80,000 level. In addition, if any FY 2005 funds become available through project delays or reallocations, the Core Team will support the project through design review, permitting, contracting assistance or procurement. YTAHP has already contributed to the EWC-Cooke Creek Siphon project (completed 2003) and is eager to see its previous investment in the EWC-Currier Creek Siphon project (\$126,534) finalized by completion of the project.

The Reecer Currier Creek complex is tributary to the Yakima River in a reach identified as high priority and is the subject of both YTAHP funding and Washington State Salmon Recovery Board Funding projects through the Kittitas County Conservation District. Completing the Currier Creek Siphon project will add to the available habitat for listed anadromous, reintroduced anadromous and resident fish.

YTAHP is a collaborative effort of the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Yakama Nation, North Yakima Conservation District, Kittitas County Conservation District and Kittitas County Water Purveyors and coordinated through the USDA Resource Conservation and Development Council. YTAHP has supported numerous fisheries enhancement projects, many in conjunction with irrigation efficiency projects, in the Yakima River Basin. Project funding has come from several areas, including state programs, tribal, local, sponsor, ratepayer and federal sources.

Cordially,

Ed Harrell
Yakima Tributary Access & Habitat Program Manager
for YTHAP Core Team