



YAKIMA TRIBUTARY ACCESS & HABITAT PROGRAM

Core Team Meeting Minutes

17 January, 2007

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

**Attending: David Child, Carol ready, Pat Monk, Anna Lael, Ed Harrell,
David Gerth, Dave Myra, Jen Scott, Henry Fraser, Ken Schuster.**

1. ADMINISTRATION

- a) Approve Agenda: Dave asked if there were any additions to the agenda. There were none and the agenda was approved.
- b) Approve December Minutes: Dave asked if there were any corrections or additions to the December meeting minutes. There were none and the minutes were approved as e'mailed.
- c) Update on funding and contracts: Ed reported that Jay Marcotte (BPA) has said the current BPA contracts will be extended for two months to the end of March. The extension is necessary because the final decision on FY -07 -09 funding will not be made in time to complete a final FY-07 contract before the end of the current contract which is January 31. Ed said he has finished expanding the current scopes of work and budgets (both the Capital and Expense contracts) to include work anticipated during the next two months. These would be submitted to BPA on January 18th.
- d) Reschedule June meeting to June 27? Ed explained that according to the 2007 Calendar sent out by KCCD the Washington Association of District Employees Training session will be on June 20, 2007. This is the normal Core Team meeting date. So it was suggested that we begin thinking about rescheduling the Core Team meeting. A possible date is June 27th. A final decision on rescheduling will be made at a later date.

2. UPDATE ON CURRENT PROJECTS, PENDING PROJECTS, PERMITS AND MONITORING

- a) NYCD: David reported that he had met with Joel Freudenthal regarding coordination of work on Rattlesnake creek and the Boyd Brown project. Joel told him the County has some flood control funds for use on Rattlesnake Creek near its confluence with the Naches River. This is also near the Boyd Brown diversion. The problem is that sand, gravel, and cobbles have accumulated at the mouth of Rattlesnake Creek and during low flow periods the water actually goes sub-surface, creating a barrier to fish passage. Strategies considered by the engineers is to remove some of the cobble and gravel. Because of the work NYCD plans to do on the Boyd Brown diversion the County is considering

providing the flood control funds to NYCD and NYCD would manage the instream work to remove the excess material can be done at the same time. David said he will continue working with the County and effected landowners to determine how to best proceed. He said there needs to be another Technical Work Group meeting on site to consider options. This should occur after the snow has melted. The hope is that instream work can be done in late Fall 2007 and stream bank planting can be done in Spring 2008. Jennifer will be working on permits for the project.

David said that Gina McCoy and Jennifer had visited the Ahtanum Creek gage station to determine possible alternatives for improving fish passage at this site. Jennifer said Gina thought a pool and shut system might be appropriate. David said there will be a "stakeholders" meeting to discuss the Ahtanum gage project on January 25th. at the Yakima Ag. Service Center. An item on the agenda is how to fund the project. Actual construction work on this project would probably be part of the 2008 Scope of Work.

Planning for the Schneider, Green, Wilkinson, habitat project is coming along. David said there will be a meeting with the landowners next week to go over the plans. The pre-design work should be finished in a couple of weeks.

Planning on the Cowiche Water Users Association pipeline project is moving along. NYDC staff will be a meeting with the CCWUA tonight (Jan. 17th). NYCD staff and the CCWUA will be meeting with the Yakima Tieton Irrigation Dist. next week.

David said that some additional work is needed at the Upper Lust project to correct a problem with the J-hook that was installed. Some of the rocks have shifted moving the thalweg closer to the bridge abutment. This is causing some concern for the bridge. The engineers believe they have a way to fix the problem. This work must be done as soon as possible because of possible Steelhead presence. There is funding available from the SRFB grant. Jennifer is working on getting any necessary permits.

Dave M. asked David about the status of the legal agreement between CCWUA and YTID concerning "wheeling" water to CCWUA through YTID facilities. David said Mike Tobin was managing work on the agreement. Dave M. explained what he understood about the agreement and the concern by CCWUA members with possible future responsibility for YTID facility debt.

David reported on the Van Wyke off channel water supply project. On site work will be funded by EQIP. YTAHP/NYCD will be helping with permits and coordination. Hank asked if Van Wyke had water rights on the spring water that will be used.

b) KCCD: Anna reported that the Ludwick pipeline was under construction and is currently being pushed under I-82. The landowner had talked to her about upgrading the pipe to a larger size to permit eventual conversion to a sprinkler system. This was done with the landowner paying the difference. The instream work on Parke Creek for the Ludwick and Sorenson pump diversions has been completed for now. In two years the old diversion structure will be removed.

On Wilson Creek the work to install new cranes for seasonal removal of the pump screens has been put on hold because of the cold weather. The concrete work will resume as soon as it is warm enough.

Anna said she and Engineers from Fish-pro will be meeting with John Acres at the City of Ellensburg on January 24th. to discuss the Reecer Creek Durand/Fagaldi project.

Jennifer is working on getting the Biological Assessment for the Lmuma Creek habitat project. The landowner is working on electrical upgrading of the pump that will pump additional water from the Yakima River to replace water not diverted from Lmuma Creek.

There may be an issue with the proposed projects for Burris and Nisbet. Now it seems DOE is requiring that any water saved be put in trust for perpetuity rather than for a time specified by the landowner. It is unknown why DOE has made this change from the requirement for "Fish Benefit" as proposed in the original Water Conveyance Infrastructure grant.

DOE has agreed to fund a portion of the Town Ditch Currier Creek siphon project. But they will only pay a percentage of each invoice, so the other funding needs to be available concurrent with the DOE funding. Pat Monk will be working on the BA and JARPA for the Currier Creek siphon project. Pat says he needs to coordinate with Jennifer on timing of the Cultural Resource Survey and possibly any other permits required. The last piece of the puzzle is fiscal year 2007 funding from YTAHP for engineering and permitting on the project.

The Cherry Creek project has received funding from SRFB. Construction will probably be in 2009.

David G. reported that work on removal of the Pott diversion is moving along again. Most of the permits are in place. Jen said that BPA would like some edits made to the Cultural Resource survey done by Tucker. David said they still need to get a signed landowner agreement, and there is some concern about getting equipment into the site because once the ground thaws it will be too muddy.

David said the report on alternatives for the Bruton diversion is almost completed. He and Hank will take it around to the stakeholders when its done. Due to landowner desires there are two alternatives being considered, either lower the dam or leave it the same height. Pat asked if the Bureau of Reclamation has to sign off on any corrective work done at the Bruton site. Hank said yes they do. He has been keeping BOR up to date on what is being discussed so when a decision is made they will be on board. Carol asked if WSDOT needs to be involved because of the proximity to the I-90 bridge. Hank said, no the I-90 bridge will not be affected. But the county bridge is close to the dam and they will be coordinating any proposed work with the county.

Work toward getting two gravity screens installed on Swauk Creek, on the Deneen development, is progressing. Jen has the permits completed. Hank hopes to get the screens installed before the irrigation season starts.

3. PROJECT MONITORING (OVER ALL PROCESS)

a) January 26th meeting in Ellensburg: Jennifer said she has started to compile the data collected so far from their monitoring trips. She is still waiting to get the necessary permit for continuing the monitoring. Jen said that Richard is continuing to discuss monitoring possibilities with Alex Conley.

The meeting in Ellensburg on January 26, is to discuss the monitoring plan and also start discussions about a plan for improving fish access to upper Naneum Creek.

David mentioned that he was contacted by a consultant out of Seattle who wants to monitor the proposed Schneider, Green, Wilkinson habitat project. Anna said the consultant was probably from the firm, TechTech. They have been hired by the SRFB to review some of the projects, once they're completed, that receive SRFB funding.

4. ITEMS OF INTEREST

a) Strategic Plan Review and Update: Ed explained that this was on the agenda to keep the discussion going from last months meeting. Also he had talked with Richard and Jen, Richard had suggested that Jen could do some preliminary review and rewrite of portions of the Strategic Plan and then bring those to the Core Team. Jen said she could look at how the Plan fits the way we have been doing things, she could also incorporate in more detail the revised Monitoring Plan and changes made to the project prioritization process.

Carol asked if Jen would be using "text mark-up and comment" format in her rewrite. Jen said yes she would. Carol said she could help with the review and rewrite, since she had written most of the original Strategic Plan draft back in 2004.

On an unrelated subject there was some general discussion about how to formalize Core Team membership for the Kittitas Conservation Trust. Because the goals of the KCT and YTAHP mesh so well everyone felt it is important to continue our close cooperation. KCT provides another contact with landowners and can develop projects beneficial to YTAHP goals (as well as KCT goals) and YTAHP can assist KCT with project permitting and agency coordination.

There was discussion of what constitutes formal Core Team membership but not any real determination of what that is. Generally it seemed that some kind of MOU would help clarify the desire for continuing cooperation. Dave and Ed and David G. will work on finalizing this agreement.

b) Consideration of issuing RFQ for Cultural Survey consultant: Ed explained that again this item was left over from last months meeting. There was general discussion about the need or advantages of developing a list of potential consultants to do Cultural Resource surveys. David C. said that he and Mike have asked Yakima County to include Cultural Resource consultants on their Small Works Roster. When this is done NYCD can select anyone off of this list to do Cultural Surveys. Anna said that they can use the Yakima Small Works Roster too. It was suggested that if anyone has a person they would like to work with, they should see that the person gets on the Yakima list.

Hank said it would be better to have a list of consultants to choose from rather than one person hired to do all of the Cultural Surveys. This way if one person is busy, someone else can be used.

Ken said it would be good to have people that BPA is comfortable with. This could reduce the number of questions BPA raises and the time needed to get a Report approved.

Jennifer again said there is an advantage to having one person do the Cultural Resource surveys, or at least several of them, because then they can do all of their Olympia research at one time and save the cost of multiple trips to Olympia. Coordinating the timing of several studies will not create a problem because this type of study has a long shelf life and can be used many months after it has been researched.

David G. remarked that a RFQ is not a commitment to hire someone, so it might be a good idea to go through the process to learn who is available.

David C. mentioned that he had talked with Dave Woody at the Yakama Nation and Dave Woody has said he could be hired at times, to do the Cultural Resource Surveys.

5. **NEXT MEETING: February 21, 2007, 9:30 a.m. – noon**
Location: USDA Service Center conference room,
1606 Perry St. Yakima (509-454-5736 Ext. 129)