



YAKIMA TRIBUTARY ACCESS & HABITAT PROGRAM

Core Team Meeting Minutes

Kittitas County PUD, 1400 E. Vantage Hwy. Ellensburg

17 May, 2006 9am-Noon

Attending: Henry Fraser, David Child, William Meyer, Anna Leal, Pat Monk, Dave Myra, Eric Egbers, Carol Ready, Michael Tobin, Ken Schuster, Ed Harrell. (Brent Renfro arrived at the end of the meeting and talked to some people afterward)

1. ADMINISTRATION

a) Approve Agenda: Carol asked to add update on her position with the Water Purveyors to Items of Interest.

b) Approve April Minutes: Dave M. asked if there were any changes or corrections to the minutes. There being none the April Minutes were approved as e'mailed.

c) Yakima Basin Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board (YBFWRB) review of Yakima Basin BPA applications June 5 and 6, 2006: Dave M. talked about his conversation with Frank Sweet and the transition to the new Yakima Basin Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board. There was some concern expressed about how the new entity will deal with the BPA Funding presentations and the upcoming SRFB application process because its staff is so new.

Carol said she is willing to give the YTAHP Proposal presentation. She will ask others for information if she needs it.

2. UPDATE ON CURRENT PROJECTS and 3. UPDATE ON PENDING PROJECTS

a) NYCD: David C. reported on NYCD projects. Their focus short term is the Shaw/Knox project on Ahtanum Creek. The permitting for this project is about finished. David has talked to Kathy Reed at Dept. of Ecology and hopes that she will assist with an informal Wetland Delineation. The hope is to go to construction in July or August.

Diversion-31 is also inline for possible construction in FY-06. David explained the issues with creating a side channel and the difficulty with returning fish to the main channel. Therefore the fish screen will be located near the diversion point.

David reported that the planting at the Lesh, Garretson, and Thornton, projects has been completed. The power to the Snow Mountain Ranch pump has been installed.

William asked about the clearing the landowner has done in the floodplain at the Garretson project. David said Yakima County has given the landowner a cease and desist order. NYDC is working with Eric Bartrand at WDFW, Yakima County, and the landowner to find some mitigations for the landowners activities in the flood plain.

David is working with four landowners on the installation of pump screens. Two on the Cowiche and two on the Wenas. The permitting is just about complete. Pat advised that it will probably be July before the BA is signed off by BPA and (NOAA ?). Dave M. asked about getting a programmatic permitting system set up for pump screens since they are so simple, with limited in-stream work. David C. said that Walla Walla is working with a programmatic permitting system. If they can do it why can't we. William said he would contact the person in Walla Walla and find out how to streamline the process here.

David said that other pending projects includes the Boyd Brown diversion removal. The EQIP program will fund construction of a ring well for Boyd Brown and once it is functional the diversion on Rattlesnake Creek can be abandoned.

Mike reported on the status of the Lust projects. The agreements are being negotiated. The draft design for removal of the upper Lust diversion is completed. Preliminary designs are needed for processing the EQIP application for the new delivery system. SRFB funding for this project will go away in April of 2007, so this project needs to be completed before then.

b) KCCD: Anna reported that the Rob Attcheson piping project, which is a component of the multiple Fogarty ditch projects, is complete. The USBR fish screen has been installed. Anna will attend the USBR Technical Work Group meeting May 18th. to discuss what else needs to be done on the Fogarty Ditch. There may be several small items that KCCD will work on.

William asked if there will be any planting or fencing associated with the Fogarty projects. Anna suggested that it would be good to have everyone with an interest in the projects go out to the site and determine what additional work is needed.

Anna said the landowner agreement with Frank Payne has been finalized. Everything is ready to go for construction of the ring well once Mr. Payne has completed the change in point of diversion process.

Anna also gave an update on the search to fill Rusty's engineering position. She had no viable applicants so she may hire one or two Engineer Trainees. She has talked to Paul Cleary and other Conservation District Engineers about overseeing

the Trainees. It looks like this approach might work. The cost of contracting with private Engineering Firms is too high. Anna hopes to get at least one Trainee person on board as soon as possible.

Anna said she is also working on three pump screen projects.

Ken asked about water metering for the Fogarty projects. Anna said that metering has not been addressed. It is one of those remaining items that needs to be looked at. There is some question about how the metering would be paid for and who would pay.

The engineering costs for the Caribou Creek (Gibbs) project is becoming a concern. Anna said she will be meeting with the Gibbs, the City of Kittitas and their engineers (Gray & Osborn), and the KCCD engineers (R2) next week to iron out the remaining issues.

Engineering work on the Eslinger/Sorenson pump screen project on Parke Creek is nearly finished. Paul Cleary will help finish it up.

As reported before the Dry Creek project is complete, however, an issue has come up regarding the Scott ditch diversion. Because of this, rather than close the project Anna is holding on to some remaining SRFB project funding to cover any contingencies that may come up.

Anna said some questions had come up on the Lyle Creek diversion removal project regarding crossing under I-82. These seem to have been taken care of and construction is anticipated this fall (FY-07).

The WCC has done some planting on Wilson Creek at the Ellensburg Sewer Treatment plant and have put up some electric fencing. Watering the new plants is being done by hand.

The pump screen problems for Ludwick and Sorenson on Wilson Creek have not been completely solved. There are some silting problems with the Pump Right screens provided. Paul Cleary is working on a way to correct this.

The proposal by a professional engineering consultant for the lower Reecer Creek project was \$80,000. Anna thought this was too high so Paul Cleary has also looked at the Durand project on lower Reecer Creek. He came up with a fairly simple roughened channel concept which Anna described. In order for Fagalde et al. to tie in with the new Durand diversion, Fagalde needs to get approval of a change in point of diversion.

Regarding pending projects, Anna continues to pursue the Lmuma Creek habitat improvements upstream from the SR-821 bridge and transfer of water diversion to the Yakima River so the Lmuma Creek diversion can be abandoned.

The two Coleman Creek projects are still being pursued.

New fish screen projects for diversions on Mercer, Wilson and Whiskey Creeks have also recently been requested.

The Four seasons (Causeland) fish screen has been vandalized. Four landowners using water from this diversion may be interested in having individual screens at their diversions off of the ditch. This ditch is an old side channel of the Yakima river and the side channel habitat may be worth reclaiming.

Anna said that Pat Schille has mentioned to her that he talked to landowners on upper Mercer Creek with irrigation diversions and it may be good to work with them on screening options.

Hank reported that he has not heard back from the landowners in regard to the former Pott/Pautzke pipeline proposal. He says they are probably waiting to see how the City Comprehensive Plan update will affect the property before they consider what to do.

Carol said that the Currier Creek / EWC siphon project is still \$150,000 short, but she is confident that this amount can be found from some source before too long. She said that it may be possible to stage the project in a way that will enable it to get started without waiting for all the funding up front.

c) Permits (Richard): Richard was not able to attend the meeting. Dave M. asked Pat and David C. how the permitting seemed to be going. David C. said that Richard and Pat have been a big help. Dave M. gave an update of the hiring process, for the YTAHP/WDFW permit person, as he knew it. Four people had filed applications. None seemed to have the qualifications as specified in the job announcement. There was one candidate who seem like she could work into the position. Perry had said maybe we could interview a couple and decide after that what to do. There was some talk about possibly housing the permit person in Ellensburg. Anna said she may be able to find space for one more person.

4. ITEMS OF INTEREST

a) Update on hiring of person to fill YTAHP/WDFW permit position: This is covered above at 3.c) Permits

Dave M. asked Ken if he wanted to give an update on the water metering process. Ken said it was working good.

Carol gave an update on her future employment situation. There is some uncertainty about the future of the Kittitas County Water Purveyors. The organization may sunset next year. Carol is exploring options for staying involved with YTAHP, including possibly contracting directly with the RC&D.

b) US Army Corp of Engineers training: Ed reported that he has heard back from about ten people who are interested in the Army Corp of Engineers training on permit applications. Carol said she has contacted others who are interested. Ed said that Dave Brown with the City of Yakima has offered the use of City meeting rooms if needed. Ed will contact Jason Lehto at USACE to determine a time, preferably in July, and place for the training session.

Eric mentioned that the Screening Workshop will be held in Yakima, September 12-14, 2006.

5. Next meeting: June 21, 2006, 9am –noon
Location: USDA Service Center conference room,
1606 Perry St. Yakima (509-454-5736 Ext. 129)