



## **YAKIMA TRIBUTARY ACCESS & HABITAT PROGRAM**

### **Core Team Meeting Minutes**

**16 May, 2007 9:30am- 12 Noon**

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

**Attending:** Erin Fuhrer, David Child, Carol Ready, Ed Harrell, Henry Fraser, Jennifer Scott, Richard Visser, Alex Conley, Dave Myra, Anna Lael, Ken Schuster, Pat Monk, David Gerth.

#### **1. ADMINISTRATION**

- a) Approve Agenda: Carol asked to add an item re: YTAHP FY-08-09 funding for Reecer Creek Floodplain project.
- b) Approve April, 2007 Minutes: Dave asked if there were any comments or corrections regarding the April minutes as distributed by Ed. There were none.

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

- a) NYCD: David C. reported, on the Boyd Brown project: Major decisions have had to be made regarding the site selection of the well, as the first location (the original proposed site) at 30 feet deep yielded only about 150 gallons per minute (gpm). After consultation on the shoreline jurisdiction with Yakima County, a second attempt was made just downstream and slightly waterward of the original site. This site only yielded about 280 gpm. David said the contracted engineer, Rusty Gigstead has been very helpful with onsite engineering needs. After, further consultation we dug test pits on Boyd Brown's property for a more suitable site. Initial estimates yielded about 500 gpm at only 10 feet deep. The site produced 700 gpm at 14 feet deep and was selected to serve Shelly and Boyd. Construction at this site is wrapping up. John Kirk and Avery Richardson at DOE have been very helpful and have provided advice onsite as we implemented the project. Funding for the ring-well will be provided by YTAHP, and the on farm improvements will be funded by NRCS's EQIP and YTAHP.

Sites one and two have been re-graded to the original grade and will be re-vegetated with native plants. The trenches are being dug for the on farm irrigation improvements.

Jennifer has been very helpful in getting the permitting for the project. We are planning to remove the gravity diversion this summer, once the sprinklers are working. The landowners are solely responsible for the site selection and future yield of the well site, as indicated in the landowner agreement. Funding for the gravity diversion removal portion of the project will be provided under an MOU

with the Yakima County Flood Control Zone District. Joel Freudenthal and David C. are currently working on the MOU.

-Schneider Project: We're at a stage in project planning where we are really getting moving on permitting. Brian Schmidt has been working closely with Schneider, Green and Wilkinson to insure that the landowners are comfortable with the designs for the project. We have secured signatures on the JARPA. After attending the Cowiche Creek Tributary Meeting held on May 10<sup>th</sup>, Mr. Schneider was more uncomfortable with the fencing portion of the project. NYCD showed photos of past projects and Gail Thornton gave a testimonial regarding how the restoration project on his property has helped his operation and the environment. Gail's comments helped Mr. Schneider greatly, and the JARPA was signed the next day. The entire Cowiche ditch company was at the meeting, so we know that another priority screening and metering project can be completed in the coming years. The Cowiche ditch company requested NYCD help.

-Fines Project: Engineering and permitting are starting for the Fines project on Wide Hollow Creek. Trent Marquis and David C. met and talked about the project, and he has given us the green light. He is in the loop for the metering (signed metering contract) and supports NYCD taking the lead on securing engineering and contractors for the fish passage and screening of the project. WDFW and the Yakima construction shop will be doing some of the work. The landowners would like to install the metering device. October 15 might be a good time to start for the landowners, but Jen will need to see when the project can be implemented. We'll make a big push to get the project permitted. We need to schedule a meeting with Pat Schille, Gina McCoy and Bob Bernard (WDFW) as soon as possible to insure that everyone is comfortable with what will be designed. Funding will come from YTAHP and the WDFW's Mitchell Act funding.

-Cowiche Creek Water Users Association and Yakima Tieton Irrigation District Hookup: The project will help provide almost 8 cfs to remain instream in a very flow limited section of Cowiche Creek. Further the project addresses screening at 2 major gravity diversions. The project involves a large irrigation pipeline and hook up into a pressurized system (YTID) and a change in point of diversion for the water users group to the Tieton River through the YTID. Dave Myra gave his assessment of the hookup. The YTID did not accept the current MOU that was prepared, so we need to find a way to think outside the box to complete this project. If a hook up doesn't occur the lower and upper Lust diversions will need to be screened.

-Pump Screens:

The Mifflin/Mortenson pump screen site on lower Cowiche Creek has been assessed by Jerry Anhorn of Walla Walla Community College for designs. Jen has begun permitting. The landowner agreement is being reviewed by the landowners.

The Barnes pump screen site on the South Fork Cowiche Creek has been assessed by Jerry Anhorn of Walla Walla Community College for designs. Jen has begun permitting. The landowner agreement has been signed.

The Borrego pump screen site on the North Fork Cowiche Creek has been assessed by Jerry Anhorn of Walla Walla Community College for designs. Jen has begun permitting. The landowner agreement has been signed.

The Christensen pump screen site on the North Fork Cowiche Creek has been assessed by Jerry Anhorn of Walla Walla Community College for designs. Jen has begun permitting. The landowner agreement has been signed. Mr. Christensen attended our Cowiche Creek tributary team meeting.

Other pump screen projects including the Naches Wonderland Campers association and others along Cowiche Creek and the South Naches Channel of the Naches River will hopefully be planned for 2007.

**-Other Projects:**

The fish by-pass at the Shaw Knox project has an elevation problem between the entrance (fish screen forebay) and the exit, so water comes up the entrance. Paul Cleary and Mike Hay are working on a fix. They made a site visit on May 15<sup>th</sup>. NYCD recommends that the fish bypass go to the pond.

Operation and maintenance manuals have been prepared for the Ahtanum fish screens operated by the Ahtanum Irrigation District and given to George Marshal.

David said they plan to prepare Salmon Recovery Funding Board grant applications for the North Fork Ahtanum Gauging Station project to insure fish passage and flow monitoring. The project should do well. The Taylor Ditch side channel restoration project can be packaged in a way to help it compete successfully, per recommendations from Alex Conley. Alex has recommended that NYCD approach DOE regarding a block grant for riparian habitat enhancement projects, for riparian fencing, riparian buffers, grazing and pasture management, upland watering, and water gaps.

David explained that Richard Hunt is a landowner on the North Fork of Wenas Creek. He owns 26 acres and wants an opportunity to have it function for fish and wildlife, possibly as a wetland. He lives in Arizona. NYCD introduced him to the NRCS for Wetlands Reserve Program and Wildlife Incentives Program and YTAHP should be able to play a role in riparian enhancements along nearly 800 feet of stream corridor.

David said they are advertising for a water metering and irrigation efficiencies position. Please pass any interested person with natural resource interests along to our website at <http://nycd.scc.wa.gov/>

b) KCCD: Anna reported that KCCD had two valid responses to their request for qualifications for archeologists to perform cultural surveys. Suzanne and Anna interviewed Chris Landreau of Reiss-Landreau and Fennelle Miller of Fennelle DeForest Miller Consultants. The Board of Supervisors decided last week to contract with Reiss-Landreau. Anna said she will be working with Chris in the next few days to negotiate a contract for the next year.

Anna reported that the YTAHP Resource Tech II position at KCCD is currently open. Abbi gave her notice last month and her last day was May 11. They are advertising the position. Applications are due May 31, 2007. In the meantime, they have hired Brent Dixon as a temporary employee to assist with flow monitoring and management of the riparian planting areas.

Anna said she had attended a workshop in Tacoma that was hosted by the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB). At the conference she presented the Taylor project on Dry and Cabin Creek as a successful landowner project.

She also attended a workshop for SRFB applications for this upcoming round. At this time the only applications she is anticipating are for the Jack and Indian Creek culvert replacements.

Anna provided project by project activity details for the month:

- Caribou Creek project- Dan Turner and I attended a meeting at the City of Kittitas last week regarding the project and the bids. The bids, particularly for the fish screen/passage and irrigation work was much higher than expected. In addition to the Mayor, engineers from Gray & Osborne (contracted by the City) were in attendance, along with Brent Renfrow and Pat Schille from WDFW, and Paul Mauer and David Hull from MRM (the apparent low bidder). The discussion centered around how the project could be implemented within budget. The conclusion was that some items could be removed including the new diversion structure. We were asked by the City to determine any technical problems with that concept. At this time, the City's engineers are proposing to leave the irrigation diversions in place and only proceed with the bridge replacement and road realignment.
- Lyle Creek (Ludwick)- I sent Jack Ludwick a letter detailing the Board's decision to reimburse him for an additional \$13,000. Those funds have been vouchered for and we are waiting for them to be disbursed by BPA. Jack has signed the completion certification on the project and we've provided part of the final payment. We are waiting to be reimbursed by Ecology before we can make additional payments.
- Lower Reecer Creek- Mark Crowley is working with Shaun Fagalde and Dale Wilson to get their point of diversion change application to Ecology. Also, we had a technical work group meeting with HDR Fishpro, WDFW and Yakama Nation regarding the design for the fish screen and passage at this project site. Fishpro is working on updated drawings which are expected this week.
- Parke Creek (Eslinger/Sorenson) – This project came very, very close to being right on budget. I received good reviews from both landowners about the level of assistance that Ryan provided. Ryan is continuing to work with the landowners and Brent Renfrow (WDFW) to

tweak the design a bit. There are some issues with debris on the downstream screens.

- Eaton Wilson Creek In-stream Project- This project is complete. Shane Phillips did the final walk through. MRM finished the hydro-seeding. We've made final payment.
- Eaton Lmuma Creek Project- The permit processes for the fish screen and crane at the river are nearly complete. We had Chris Landreau complete a cultural survey of the crane site. While NRCS did the original survey, they did not have time to supplement it and check the crane site. The survey reports were sent to DAHP and the Yakamas yesterday. We could wait up to 30 days for concurrence.
- Currier Creek/EWC Canal- Carol Ready is helping me with this project. She met with Larry Browne and the engineers from R2 last week. A conceptual (permit ready) design should be ready in early June.
- Cherry Creek- Ryan is beginning to review this project and the potential design work.
- Coleman Creek- Mark Crowley is working with Steve Burris to get his cost estimates for the work on Coleman Creek. We need to hurry because the funds must be obligated by June 30, 2007.
- Jack & Indian Creek- I met with Doug D'Hondt (Kittitas County Engineer), Tina Mayo (USFS fish biologist), Shane Phillips (engineer of conceptual designs), Jen Scott, and Carol Ready to talk about Jack and Indian Creek. Doug provided good input to Shane regarding the current design and some changes that could be made. Tina announced the \$100,000 in funds she found through the USFS is available in FY08. She also mentioned \$70,000 in FY07. Carol is working on the SRFB applications for these projects. I also talked with BPA and they may have an additional \$250,000 to go towards the project. The Board of Supervisors approved a task order with Coast & Harbor to update the cost estimate.
- Fogarty Ditch- We continue to wait for Ecology to act on the point of diversion change application for Frank Payne. When it is approved, he can construct his ring well. Ryan is working on the design for the fish passage weirs on the Thayer property downstream of the new USBR fish screen. Sherry has been working with David Bean to get permission to install a pump screen on his pump.
- Teanaway- Gene Monroe is preparing to install the fish screen on his pump diversion in the Teanaway.
- Tillman Creek- Sherry has been contacted by a landowner on Tillman Creek regarding a potential barrier removal and habitat enhancement. She'll be checking it out.

c) KCT: David G. reported that he has a signed landowner agreement to install the temporary fish screens for Deneen on Swauk Creek. The agreement between Deneen, KCT, and the RC&D regarding use of the YTAHP screens has

been executed. When the screens are no longer needed on Swauk Creek they will be removed at Deneen's cost and returned to YTAHP.

Hank reported on the Bruton diversion study on Taneum Creek. He said they have discovered that a fish passage structure will fit between the Bruton dam and the county road bridge. He hopes this project can be done this fall. Hank said that DOE is interested in working with the USBR to fix the head gate at Bruton. Currently the head gate leaks a substantial amount of water.

Carol mentioned that she is working with Gina McCoy (WDFW) on a grant application to BPA Innovative Project solicitation. They want to investigate creating a type of ecology block with a hollow center in which to plant (trees, shrubs) that will crumble and decompose over time. This could be used for riparian work to help shoreline vegetation get established. In addition to the Jack and Indian Creeks SRFB Applications mentioned above, Carol is also working on a SRFB application for the Reecer Creek Floodplain project with the City of Ellensburg.

### **3. PROJECT MONITORING (OVER ALL PROCESS)**

Jen said she is working on a draft report of the data collected last year. She is hoping the monitoring team can get out in the field during July. Richard asked about what kind of monitoring is being done in the Manastash. Pat said he is working on a proposal to the Manastash irrigators to do some monitoring. He said some preliminary work needs to be done.

### **4. ITEMS OF INTEREST**

a) April 26<sup>th</sup>. Salmon Habitat Conference remarks: Dave M. gave a report on the Salmon Habitat Conference in Tacoma last month. He and several others had attended. They said it was very informative and good to see what is being done in other areas.

b) SRFB grant cycle and process: Alex said anyone with questions or needing help with the SRFB application process should contact him. He also talked about an exemption to the 4D rule. Information about this is on the YBFWRB website. If anyone wants to use this exemption process this summer contact Alex (509-453-4104).

c) YTAHP support for revegetation work for the Reecer Creek floodplain restoration project (major) and Currier Creek revegetation (minor): Carol asked about the possibility of YTAHP funding some re-vegetation work on the Reecer Creek Floodplain project. This funding would not be needed until fiscal years 2008 and 2009. Carol thought about \$20,000 per year would be needed from YTAHP. The Core Team supported providing the funding if possible in FY-08-09.

There was a brief discussion about how to handle habitat vegetation projects. BPA does not consider strictly habitat projects as capital projects. We do not have any funding in the Expense budget for this so how is it going to be

funded? Ed said that if the revegetation is associated with a more extensive construction project then it can be funded as an element of the larger project. Alex mentioned that NYCD is working on a funding request to DOE for a riparian revegetation "Block Grant". He suggested maybe this could be expanded to also include Kittitas County projects. Richard said it may be a good idea to have the RC&D apply for the funding because they have jurisdiction throughout the whole area.

On another subject: Ken explained that installation of the Horn Rapids dam meter is about completed. He said this is a very good example of the type of automation that can be installed at water diversions. It enables operators to control the diversion through an internet connection. This saves a lot of travel time and it can also provide for data collection.

5. NEXT MEETING: **June meeting is cancelled. The next meeting will be July 18, 2007, 9:30 a.m. to 12-noon.**

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