



YAKIMA TRIBUTARY ACCESS & HABITAT PROGRAM

Core Team Meeting Minutes

17 November, 2004 9am-Noon

Location: Best Inn, 901 Berry Road, Ellensburg
(Off of Canyon Road, South of I-90 Interchange)

Attending: Henry Fraser, Carol Ready, Dave Myra, Eric Egbers, Ed Harrell, William Meyer, Anna Lael, Michael Tobin, Dave Nunn, Pat Monk.

1. ADMINISTRATION

Dave asked if everyone received the minutes of the October 20th Core Team Meeting. They had and no one had any changes or corrections to the minutes.

Dave asked if there were any additions to the agenda.

A report by Anna of the latest discussions with Dept. of Ecology was added under Other Items.

Hank and Pat said they would convey their discussion with Mary Burke regarding projects on her land.

a) Annual report

Ed reported that the Annual Report is completed, although he would like to get a couple of pictures of the Ludwick, Sorenson, and Snowden projects. Hank said he thought he had sent those pictures to Ed, if not he will send them again. Ed said the Report still needs to be converted to a PDF file and some additional formatting is necessary. Carol said she had done this for Bill last year and will help Ed with it. Ed said the Report should be sent by the end of the month.

b) SOW questionnaire

Ed said he had e'mailed, as an attachment along with this meetings agenda, the responses received to the SOW questions. He explained that the original reason for asking the questions was to gather information for the Annual Report. Also, it was believed that this would be a way to assess how well we are achieving our Scope of Work. Ed said that judging from the input provided by the Core Team we are completing the Scope of Work as intended and staying focused on SOW tasks. He reiterated Steve Kropp's comments about how well the planning/permitting process went with the Pellicer project and the benefits of early communications between project proponent, land owner, and permitting agency

staff. Ed asked that everyone take a look at the “responses” as they get a chance and if they think of anything that needs to be discussed or have any ideas for improvements, they let him know.

c) Materials Inventory Tracking update

Ed said he had received copies of materials inventories from NYCD and KCCD. He had not had a chance to combine these into a master inventory yet. Hank asked if this was unused stuff that would be available for projects. Ed said that most of the stuff was allocated to a particular project and probably not available to other projects. However, this could change if a particular project was cancelled for some reason. Anna said that some of the material purchased by MWH was available for other uses, especially a lot of the rock that was purchased. Ed said he will prepare a master inventory list and try to keep it up to date. Those planning projects can check the list to see if anything they need is on the list and if it might be available.

In regard to other administrative matters Dave Myra mentioned that we had not heard anything back from BPA on our FY-05 Work Elements or anything about ongoing changes resulting from the new BPA process improvement initiative. After some general discussion it was decided that we should ask Jay Marcotte if he could come to a YTAHP meeting and fill us in on BPA activities especially as they may relate to YTAHP. It was also decided that the Core Team should visit some of the recently completed projects and it would be good if Jay could also come along. Dave M. said that Ed would contact Jay and find out if and when Jay could meet with the Core Team.

2. INVENTORY TEAMS

a) KCCD

Anna reported that Abbie has completed the Swauk Creek survey for those sections where willing land owners have permitted access. She is working on the Wipple Wasteway. The Stream Survey reports are nearly done and will be provided to the Core Team and landowners for review.

b) NYCD

Dave N. reported that he is working on finishing the reports for streams surveyed last summer. He hopes to get the Tributary Team for Ahtanum Creek set up this winter. Once the stream survey reports are caught up he will start on the Lmuma Creek survey.

Dave M. asked about the Wenas Creek survey. Dave N. said that for now this is still on hold. There does not appear to be any local property owner willing to volunteer to help work with the other property owners. William said there is a WDFW employee who lives in the Wenas area and has a water right on the creek. He thinks she may be willing to help or at least let her portion of the creek

be surveyed. Dave N. said only one group of landowners is being a problem. He could work on the stream above and below this group. At this time Wenas Creek is a low priority so he is not pushing it until other work has been completed.

A question was asked regarding the supposed agreement the land owners have with WDFW regarding no screening required. A copy of this agreement has not yet been tracked down.

Eric said that Gina and Tom McCoy live in the area. Gina has said that Tom could help educate the landowners if a Tributary Team is ever set up.

Dave N. said that WDFW may begin addressing cooperative compliance issues out there and this may induce the landowners to permit NYCD to come in and help correct the problems.

c) WDFW

Eric said WDFW has no local inventory teams working, this can be removed as a standing agenda item.

Hank used this opportunity to convey his and Pat's discussion with Mary Burke regarding inventory work on Swauk Creek. Generally Mary has no problem with installing proper screening on her diversion. She is worried about the whole process (inventory, permits for screens, etc.) opening her operation up to scrutiny and questions. She is concerned about DOE and their issues about changing points of diversion.

Pat said it may be easier to work with landowners above and below Mary's place. If she sees that it goes well she may be more willing to cooperate,

3. TRIBUTARY TEAMS

a) Cowiche Creek

Dave N. reported that there has been no reason to have a Cowiche Trib Team meeting. There may be one in the spring for the purpose of presenting pump screening information and passing on information about other activities along Cowiche Creek such as what the DOT, Yakima County and the City are doing along HWY 12.

b) Kittitas

Anna said Trib Teams will be set up once the stream survey reports have been approved.

4. ITEMS OF INTEREST

a) Yakima Subbasin Project Inventory

Carol explained that she had received a request from Keelan McPhee, with the Yakima Sub-basin Planning effort, for information locating all of the fish recovery projects YTAHP has been involved with. Keelan had sent maps to Carol and others on which to indicate the location of the projects. Mike and William had also gotten the same request. Information was provided to the extent that it could be, given the time and ability to locate the projects on the maps provided.

5. Manastash Project-Update

Carol reported that conceptual designs have been prepared for most of the landowners diverting water out of Manastash Creek. Land owners will meet with the surveyors to learn details about what is being proposed. The projects are moving ahead with no major arguments from landowners. Concerns among landowners about availability of winter stock water have been alleviated by the engineers. The Barnes Road issues can be resolved. Part of the work is being covered under the EQIP program. Lee Nelson with NRCS is doing the piping design work. He has been busy and not able to respond quickly. Dave M. mentioned that other engineering sources can be used and EQIP can still cover the costs. All in all, things are moving ahead.

6. Other-

Anna reported on the latest regarding DOE and the change in diversion issue. Manastash project planners had decided to go back to the individual diversion option because of this issue. Anna's Board had hoped for an exemption from the point of diversion questions for the Manastash projects and were not to happy with DOE's follow through after their earlier meeting. Anna said she would see if someone from DOE can come to the December meeting to discuss this.

Mike suggested that it might be beneficial to determine the total amount of matching funds that have assisted YTAHP projects and let BPA know what their funds were leveraging from other funding sources. This seemed like a good idea. Eric did have some concern that BPA might look at all the matching funds and decide that YTAHP did not need as much BPA funding as we have to get projects completed. Mike said it is important to explain that most of these projects could not have been undertaken if the BPA funds were not available. YTAHP had performed the stream assessments, and other preliminary work, setting the stage for the projects that then attracted other funding.

Hank mentioned a problem that had come up with the pump screens on the Ludwick, and Sorenson projects at the end of last season. The screens were getting plugged up with algae because the cleaning sprayers were not powerful enough and the pumps are not run often enough to keep gunk from building up. The CTC screens being used were specified by MWH. There may be a fix for

the CTC screens but too much messing around and inconvenience will hurt the property owner. Hank asked if YTAHP could help with the purchase of new screens if it looked like the problem was going to reoccur. Everyone believed that if necessary, new pump screens could be purchased with YTAHP funds.

Anna gave a Power Point presentation on new projects under construction. She showed pictures of the bridge placements for the Eaton project and the Coleman Creek project. She said the Little Nanum / Bull Ditch project is scheduled to start soon after Thanksgiving.

Carol and Anna suggested that Current Project Update become a standing agenda bullet point.

7. Next meeting: December 15, 2004, 9am –noon

Location: USDA Ag Service Center, 1606 Perry St., Yakima

After the meeting everyone went to look at work underway on the Coleman Creek project. The culvert had been removed and new bridge had been set, some stream bank reshaping was being done. The WCC crew was planting vegetation. Anna thought the work should be done by Thanksgiving.