



YAKIMA TRIBUTARY ACCESS & HABITAT PROGRAM

Core Team Meeting Minutes

15 November, 2006

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

Attending: Carol Ready, Dave Myra, Margaret Neuman, Henry Fraser, Ken Schuster, Anna Lael, David Gerth, Pat Monk, Jen Scott, Richard Visser, Joel Freudenthal, Ed Harrell, Mike Tobin.

1. ADMINISTRATION

- a)** Approve Agenda: Dave asked if there were any additions to the agenda. There were none.
- b)** Approve October meeting Minutes: Dave asked if there were any corrections to the October meeting minutes as they were emailed. There were none.
- c)** BPA Funding update: Ed reported on the status of the FY-07-09 funding proposal review process.

First of all a problem has come up with the YTAHP October-07 invoice to BPA. Jay Marcotte (BPA) found out that invoices can not be paid based on a pre-award letter such as the one YTAHP had received for interim funding until the 07-09 funding decision is made. Jay said an actual contract needs to be put in place. Ed is working on getting BPA the Scope of Work and Budget information needed to approve a four month interim contract. That information will be emailed to BPA by November 16th. Until the contract is approved and signed BPA can not pay on the October invoice.

Ed also reported that the NWPPC had submitted their recommendations to BPA on FY-07-09 funding. NWPPC has recommended funding YTAHP at the full amount requested in the YTAHP proposal. Part of the funding is to come from BPA's Fish Program Expense Budget and part from the Capital Budget. Ed said the letters of support from YTAHP subcontractors and other Yakima Basin organizations was very helpful in convincing NWPPC to recommend the full level of funding. The final decision on funding will be made by BPA and is not expected until near the end of December.

- d)** Annual Report: Ed reported that he is working on the 2006 Annual report. It will be much the same as past reports except for the discussion of 2006 projects. Ed said he did not need any more information but wanted to let the Core Team know the report is being prepared.

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

a) NYCD: Mike reported that the Shaw/Knox project is essentially complete. They will have one more day of revegetation work planting cuttings and grass plugs. Diversion-31 is under construction and is expected to be completed by November 17th. The WDFW Screen shop is setting the screen in place today (November 15th). The Upper Lust project has gone out to bid. A contractor will be selected and will be on standby. Once the permits are finalized he will begin work. This is expected about the first week of December.

Joel said that Yakima County has received funding to replace two bridges in the Rattlesnake Creek area. They are looking at doing some habitat enhancement work near the confluence of Rattlesnake Creek and the Naches River which is near the Boyd Brown diversion. Since they will have equipment in the area they want to coordinate with any YTAHP work on the Boyd Brown diversion. Joel said they would also like to use the YTAHP process to communicate with interested agencies and possibly in obtaining some assistance with permits. Mike said he and David will meet with Joel to talk about coordination.

Mike said there is still some legal work to be done on the Lower Lust project. The agreement between the Cowiche Water Users Group and the Yakima-Tieton Irrigation District still needs to be completed.

b) KCCD: Anna reported that the Eslinger/Sorenson pipeline is in the ground, the contractor will be doing the instream work next. Just as work was to resume on the Eaton - Wilson Creek instream habitat enhancement there was a high flow episode due to heavy rains. The work will start as soon as the water level goes down. The bids to install the Ludwick and Sorenson pump screen cranes was too high so that work will go out to bid again. A big part of the expense is the large concrete pads needed to anchor the cranes. HDR Fish pro has been on site to do the design work on the Lower Reecer Creek diversion (Durand). Pipeline easements are needed for Fagalde and Wilson. The Caribou Creek (Gibbs) project will not be done until next fall because the City of Kittitas did not get the necessary permits in time. The Lmuma Creek land owner agreement is nearly completed. There are several funding sources for this riparian habitat enhancement project. Anna said they may need YTAHP help on permits. NRCS assistance will be involved in the pipeline work to substitute Yakima River water for the current diversion from Lmuma Creek. NRCS may do the permitting work for this. If they do not then YTAHP can assist with obtaining permits. The Payne ring well (Fogarty Ditch) still needs a decision from DOE. Anna said she had received an email from Tina at the US Forest Service, they have a \$100,000 grant to work on the Indian Creek and Jack Creek culverts. The work is scheduled for 2008 so there will be time for KCCD to reapply for SRFB funding to cover the remaining costs of the two culvert projects. The estimated cost is \$260,000 for Jack Creek culvert and \$270,000 for the Indian Creek culvert. Anna said they have a grant to work with Buris on Coleman Creek and may be working on pump screens on the Thorp Mill ditch.

David Gerth said that the Kittitas Conservation Trust may be able to help with funding for the Jack Creek and Indian Creek culverts. David gave a briefing on projects he and Hank are working on. The Taneum study is moving along with the development of alternatives that can be presented to the water users. A land owner agreement seems close with the new land owner of the Pott property. Work on permitting to remove the Pott diversion probably should get started soon. Hank is talking to Brent (WDFW) about this.

Hank said they have talked with Pat Deneen about consolidating diversions and putting in some screens on Swauk Creek. Hank has talked with Pat Schille at the WDFW Screen Shop about available screens. He said there may be a couple of pre-constructed YTAHP screens at the shop that can be used on Swauk Creek. Hank said they would only be needed temporarily (a couple of years) until other corrections are made. Dave Myra said we should get some use out of the screens. After a couple of years maybe they can be used somewhere else.

3. PROJECT MONITORING (OVER ALL PROCESS):

Jennifer reported that the Monitoring Team is trying to get the scheduled monitoring done. There have been delays because of high water and the electro fisher broke. Jen is working on improving the YTAHP Monitoring Plan to include a more extensive process.

Richard explained that some changes in the plan were needed because of the permitting requirements for procedures that may be harmful to fish. He suggested that small groups get together to review the plan. We also need to consider the cost of monitoring. At this time much of the work is being done on a volunteer basis.

Hank mentioned that staffing with volunteers can make scheduling difficult at times. Mike said that the volunteer staff time can be used as match to project funding.

Richard said they have already gathered some good data in support of projects. Pat said they had seined Bull Canal and gotten good data on the effectiveness of the screens and siphons in greatly reducing numbers of fish in the canal.

4. ITEMS OF INTEREST

a) Kittitas County Project Priorities: Jennifer gave a briefing on her draft of the Kittitas County project prioritization paper, explaining the three tiers of prioritization. The first tier focuses on consolidating our gains from previously implemented projects. The second tier projects focus on providing accessible rearing habitat below the Town Ditch. The third tier takes a watershed approach to habitat restoration. The focus of this tier is to concentrate on systems where the potential upstream habitat gain for salmonids is high in relation to the number of barriers and screens that need to be addressed downstream. Jennifer also

said that the project PI (priority index) and SPI (screen priority index) numbers should be recalculated because as downstream barriers and/or screens are corrected the PI/SPI numbers will change.

Hank asked, who will need to re-evaluate the PI/SPI numbers as projects get done? Richard said it would have to be done by the Conservation Districts since they have the data base and did the original evaluations.

Other Items of Interest:

Hank said the Mid-Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group (MCFEG) has some funding for repairs at the Fogarty Ditch headgate on the Yakima River. He said the MCFEG is easy to work with.

Mid-Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group: Margaret Neuman explained a little about the Mid-Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group. They are a non-profit organization dedicated to restoring self-sustaining salmon and steelhead populations through habitat preservation, restoration and education projects. Mid-Columbia Fisheries is one of fourteen Regional Fisheries Enhancement Groups in Washington State. Funding for their work comes from a portion of sport and commercial fishing license fees, grants, and private donations. The MCFEG covers five counties; Kittitas, Yakima, Benton, Klickitat, and Skamania. Margaret said she hopes to someday have a staff person to work in the Yakima Basin. They have assisted several projects in the Yakima Basin, including; Lmuma creek riparian restoration, a project on the Cle Elum River to help prevent damage by keeping vehicles from getting too close to the river, and they are working with Brent at WDFW and a landowner along Little Creek to enhance rearing habitat.

Richard said that MCFEG is a good source if a small amount of gap funding is needed for a project. They have an easy process for applying for funding. Also, Margaret has a lot of information about other funding sources.

Pat Monk said he had a meeting with US Bureau of Reclamation and Army Corp of Engineers. He learned that ACOE is changing their permit review process. It will probably increase the time required to obtain permits.

Ken Schuster said he may be able to assist in getting flow data collection stations set up on some diversions we would like to have data on. Hank expressed interest in this for a couple of Taneum diversions.

- 5. NEXT MEETING: December 20, 2006, 9:30 a.m. – noon**
Location: USDA Service Center conference room,
1606 Perry St. Yakima, WA