



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

### **Core Team Meeting Minutes**

**18 October, 2006**

**(USDA Service Center conference room, 1606 Perry St. Yakima)**

**Attending:** Carol Ready, Pat Monk, Jen Scott, Richard Visser, Ed Harrell, Alex Conley, Henry Fraser, David Gerth, Ken Schuster. [not attending: Dave Myra on jury duty; Mike Tobin, David Child and Anna Lael, at Conservation Districts meeting]

#### **1. ADMINISTRATION**

a) Approve Agenda: Ed asked if there were any changes or additions to the Agenda. There being none the agenda was accepted.

b) Approve September Minutes: Ed asked if there were any changes or additions to the September minutes as e'mailed. There being none the minutes were accepted.

c) Update on BPA funding: Ed explained about the latest talk with Jay Marcotte at BPA regarding the combining of the Manastash project and YTAHP for purposes of assuring that YTAHP can meet the three year one million dollar capital expenditure threshold and so receive funding from BPA's Capital Budget. There was discussion about the comprehensive list of potential capital projects that BPA wants by October 26. Ed explained that in order to receive funding during the next three years a capital project must be on this list. The estimated cost of each project is also needed. However, because it is understood that some projects on the list will not be initiated the combined cost of projects on the list does not have to match approved funding levels. Ed said that Anna and David Child were already working on their lists of potential projects. Hank and David G. could provide their list to Anna or directly to Ed for inclusion on the master list. Alex mentioned that they will be working on recovery plans for some of the priority tributaries.

Alex also said that if we have an opportunity to discuss future funding levels with BPA we should emphasize YTAHP as a program getting work done on the ground to enhance recovery of ESA listed species in a sub-basin critical to their recovery.

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

Nobody from the Conservation Districts was available to give an up-date. Jennifer reported on what she knew: the Shaw/Knox project is wrapping up, they are waiting for a letter from SHPO on the Diversion-31 project, and Upper Lust project is waiting for a signature on the JARPA.

Carol reported that she had received an e'mail from John Ackers, City of Ellensburg Public Works Director. The e'mail said the City is working with WDFW on the possibility that WDFW can do the design work for the Reecer Creek Floodplain project. Richard said they are looking at ways Gina can do the design work and sign the final plans. This would be in-kind provided by WDFW for the project. Carol and Alex talked about possibly making some changes to the SRFB application, shifting more to implementing a design rather than doing the design work.

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

Richard explained that WDFW policy regarding monitoring that may result in a taking of listed species has been tightened up considerably. Some methods like electro shocking now require a lot of documentation to get the permit. This may add a good deal of time and effort to our monitoring, requiring more of a time commitment than we can make now. Richard and Jen will continue to explore what is required.

Pat asked if this means we are going to continue as planned or cancel scheduled monitoring activities.

Richard said that for now we should cancel some of the planned monitoring dates.

Monitoring for the Fines project will go ahead because there is a very small chance that any listed species would be in the area. Other monitoring will be put on hold until more is known about the documentation requirements.

Alex mentioned that there may be a source for funding to do some intensive monitoring such as smolt trapping.

Richard said that may be worth looking into.

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

a) Kittitas County Project Priorities: Richard reported on the meeting the previous day regarding project priorities in Kittitas County. The meeting was attended by: Richard, Jennifer, Hank, David G., Carol, Pat, Brent Renfrow, Scott Nicolai, and Ed. Anna was unable to attend.

As Richard explained the priorities discussed generally fit into three tiers;

1) Specific projects that enhance investments already made or very likely to be made [such as work on lower Reecer/Currier Creeks up to the Currier-Town Ditch siphon and work downstream of previous projects.]

2) Projects below the KRDC Canal.

3) Projects on priority tributaries such as Manastash, Swauk, and Taneum.

Hank mentioned that there was also discussion of the need to “encourage” some landowners to accept help from YTAHP. He felt that WDFW should do this by sending a letter to landowners.

Brent was very concerned that YTAHP maintain its volunteer character and not be perceived as forcing landowners into compliance or sicking the regulators on them.

Everyone agreed that YTAHP needs to work with landowners on a volunteer basis. But a non-threatening nudge from WDFW or NOAA might make it easier to work with some landowners.

Richard said he would work on a draft informational letter that would explain to landowners what the laws are and that help is available through YTAHP.

Hank mentioned that he is available to help KCCD shepherd the Reecer Creek projects through the process.

### **5. Next meeting: November 15, 2006, 9:30 a.m. – noon**

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