



PRCC Habitat Subcommittee
Conference Call

Thursday, 12 May 2022
 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Meeting Minutes

PRCC Habitat Subcommittee Members

Kate Terrell, USFWS	Chris Fisher, CCT
Dave Duvall, Deanne Pavlik-Kunkel (alt), GPUD	Brandon Rogers, Hans Smith (alt), YN
Justin Yeager, NMFS	Carl Merkle, CTUIR
Jeremy Cram, WDFW	Erin Harris, GPUD
Tracy Hillman, BioAnalysts, Facilitator	

Meeting Attendees

Chris Fisher, CCT	Justin Yeager, NMFS
Brandon Rogers, YN	Kate Terrell, USFWS
Dave Duvall, GPUD	Tim Taylor, GPUD
Deanne Pavlik-Kunkel, GPUD	Tracy Hillman, BioAnalysts

Action Items:

- Jeremy Cram will ask WDFW staff for a list and cost of actions and equipment needed for maintenance on the Libby property.
- Jeremy Cram will determine WDFW's alternate on the PRCC Habitat Subcommittee.
- Tracy Hillman will share the VDS Phase I Construction Report with the PRCC Habitat Subcommittee.
- Chris Fisher will contact ONA to see if the Okanagan Basin - K'emcniitkw Floodplain Project is complete and can be closed. He will also see if juvenile Chinook salmon are using the backwater area.
- Tracy Hillman will ask Bryan Nordlund, PRCC facilitator, to share the approved PRCC Habitat Subcommittee Operating Procedures with the PRCC.
- Dave Duvall will look into the Settlement Agreements and determine if there is a minimum number of times the PRCC Habitat Subcommittee must meet per year.

Decision Items:

- PRCC Habitat Subcommittee members present approved the use of \$18,561 from the remaining budget to modify the inlet to the ORRI Phase II side channel.
- PRCC Habitat Subcommittee members present agreed that conversion of Canadian currency to US currency would occur at the time the PRCC Habitat Subcommittee approves funding for a project.
- PRCC Habitat Subcommittee members present elected to contribute \$2,840.00 to the Halterman Hole Alcove Enhancement Project. In addition, the PRCC Habitat Subcommittee will hire the appraiser and pay the appraiser directly. Funding for this project will come from Habitat Fund 602.
- PRCC Habitat Subcommittee members present elected to contribute \$57,969.70 to the Sage Enterprises Acquisition – Sugar Reach Project. In addition, the PRCC Habitat Subcommittee will hire the appraiser and pay the appraiser directly. Funding for this project will come from Habitat Fund 602.
- PRCC Habitat Subcommittee members present approved the PRCC Habitat Subcommittee Operating Procedures.
- PRCC Habitat Subcommittee members present approved the Deed of Rights template.

I. Welcome and Introductions

Tracy Hillman welcomed everyone to the meeting and participants introduced themselves. Jeremy Cram was not available; however, he provided his votes on decision items following the meeting.

II. May Agenda Review

The PRCC Habitat Subcommittee (HabSC) reviewed and approved the agenda with the following additions:

- Review of two Specification Sheets (applications) from the Methow Salmon Recovery Foundation (MSRF).
- Frequency of PRCC HabSC meetings.

III. Approve April Meeting Notes

PRCC HabSC members approved the 14 April 2022 meeting notes.

IV. Review Action Items

The PRCC HabSC reviewed the following action items from the April meeting:

- Chris Fisher will ask ONA to provide detailed plan drawings and a description of how they intend to fix the entrance to the ORRI Phase II side channel. ONA will also need to provide a cost estimate for this work. **Complete.**
- Deanne Pavlik-Kunkel and Dave Duvall will check whether Grant PUD has changed the minimum dollar amount (\$300) for equipment purchased that would need to be returned to Grant PUD at the end of the contract. **Complete. The PRCC Habitat Subcommittee will retain the minimum dollar value of \$300. This will change if the PRCC makes a change.**
- Tracy Hillman will update the PRCC Habitat Subcommittee Operating Procedures based on member input. Tracy will send the document to the Habitat Subcommittee for final review. **Complete.**
- Tracy Hillman will update the Deed of Rights document based on member input. Tracy will send the document to the Habitat Subcommittee for final review. **Complete.**

- Jeremy Cram will ask WDFW staff for a list and cost of actions and equipment needed for maintenance on the Libby property. **Ongoing.**
- Jeremy Cram will determine WDFW's alternate on the PRCC Habitat Subcommittee. **Ongoing.**
- Tracy Hillman will add Carmen Andonaegui to the PRCC Habitat Subcommittee distribution list. **Complete.**
- Chris Fisher will contact Mickey Fleming to determine if Chelan-Douglas Land Trust can close the Toole/Mardini/Jawa Acquisition Project and return any unspent funds back to the Habitat Fund Account. **Complete.** CDLT indicated they still have a few items to complete on the project. They will need about \$8,000 of the remaining budget to vacate the road right-of-way. This project should be completed within 4-5 months.

V. Project Updates

Members of the PRCC HabSC provided the following updates on funded projects:

- **Wenatchee River Juvenile PIT-tag Detection Barge** – Dave Duvall reported that the contract with WDFW is still in review. Grant PUD is waiting on WDFW to sign the contract.
- **Toole/Mardini/Jawa Acquisition Project** – See update provided under Action Items.
- **McIntyre Dam - Fish Jumping Efficiency Project** – Chris Fisher reported that the next update on this project will be autumn 2022. He did state, however, that the plan this year is to lower the center bay gate and have all flow pass through this gate. This will reduce bank erosion. Although velocities will be high, the jump height for fish will be relatively low at the center bay gate. ONA will examine sockeye passage under this scenario.
- **Lower Wenatchee Instream Flow Enhancement Project, Phase II Project** – Kate Terrell reported that the sponsor (Trout Unlimited; TU) has been in communication with the Jones Shotwell Ditch Company (JSDC) director regarding the Conservation Commission Irrigation Efficiency Grant Program (IEGP) Application review process. JSDC is positive about moving this project forward with a target completion date of 15 July 2024.
- **Weyco (Weyerhaeuser) Mill Creek Land Acquisition – CDLT Developmental Funding/Final Acquisition Project** – No new activity on this project.
- **Icicle-Peshastin Irrigation District Fish Screen Project** – No new activity on this project. The sponsor (WDFW) hopes to complete remaining items this fall.
- **Assessment of Sediment Chemistry Behind Enloe Dam on the Similkameen River Project** – Chris Fisher reported that the final Interpretive Report from USGS should be available soon. He added that Washington Department of Ecology hired a firm to do additional core sampling that will provide a large-scale evaluation (downstream and within the reservoir). This work was completed a few weeks ago. Results from this additional work should be available in September or October.
- **Ben Canyon Creek Fish Passage Project** – Kate Terrell said there was no new activity on this project.
- **Cascade Orchards Icicle Creek Flow Restoration Project** – Justin Yeager reported the sponsor (Washington Water Trust; WWT) is still working with Ecology on permitting.
- **ORRI VDS Backwatering Project** – Chris Fisher reported that the sponsor (Okanagan Nation Alliance; ONA) has completed three of the five riffles. They have about \$45,000 remaining in their budget, which they will use to construct the last two riffles. Tracy Hillman will share the VDS (vertical drop structure) Phase I Construction Report with the PRCC HabSC.

- **Nason Ridge Acquisition Project** – Brandon Rogers reported this project is complete and can be closed. He added that the sponsor (Chelan County Natural Resources Department; CCNRD) is planning a meeting with Resource Committee members this summer. They are also planning a ribbon-cutting ceremony.
- **Okanagan Basin - K'emcniṭkw Floodplain Project** – Chris Fisher was not sure which project this is but believes the culvert connecting the river to the floodplain/wetland was installed and the project is complete. Dave Duvall indicated the amount remaining in the project is \$28,957, which means \$111,139 has been spent. Chris will contact ONA to see if the project is complete and can be closed. He will also see if juvenile Chinook salmon are using the backwater area.

VI. Restoration/Protection Projects

ORRI Phase II Side Channel Project – Last month, Chris Fisher reported that the entrance to the ORRI Phase II side channel has filled with sediment and ONA would like to use the \$35,121 remaining in the budget to fix the side channel entrance. The PRCC HabSC indicated they would need to see plan drawings of the proposed fix for the entrance before they approve the use of remaining funds to fix the entrance. Chris said he would ask ONA for plan drawings and a description of how they intend to fix the entrance to the side channel. He would also ask for a cost estimate for the proposed work.

Following last month's meeting, ONA provided the ORRI Adaptive Management Works for the Side Channel Engagement Draft Design Brief. Chris walked the group through the document and described the proposed modification to the side channel inlet. After discussion and review of the design brief, the PRCC HabSC approved the use of \$18,561 from the remaining budget to modify the inlet to the side channel. The PRCC HabSC also agreed that conversion of Canadian currency to US currency would occur at the time the PRCC HabSC approves the project.

Decision: *PRCC Habitat Subcommittee members present approved the use of \$18,561 from the remaining budget to modify the inlet to the ORRI Phase II side channel.*

Decision: *PRCC Habitat Subcommittee members present agreed that conversion of Canadian currency to US currency would occur at the time the PRCC Habitat Subcommittee approves funding for a project.*

Halterman Hole Alcove Enhancement Project – The PRCC HabSC received a specification sheet from MSRF titled, *Halterman Hole Alcove Enhancement Project*. The purpose of the project is to determine the value of an 8.28-acre parcel of floodplain located at RM 39.3 on the Methow River. The owners of the property have offered to donate the land to MSRF. This parcel is targeted for restoration, which would increase floodplain connectivity and enhance off-channel habitat. Reconnection would require installation of a bottomless culvert. However, before restoration can occur, the soils would need to be tested for contaminants because of its proximity to the Red Shirt Mill Site. Chris Fisher asked whether Mr. Campbell would allow restoration work on his property. Following the meeting, Chris Johnson (MSRF) indicated that Mr. Campbell no longer has authority to make decisions regarding restoration at this site. The cost of the evaluation is \$2,840.00, plus the cost of the appraisal. After careful review, the PRCC Habitat Subcommittee elected to contribute \$2,840.00 to the project. In addition, the PRCC Habitat Subcommittee will hire the appraiser and pay the appraiser directly.

Decision: *PRCC Habitat Subcommittee members present elected to contribute \$2,840.00 to the Halterman Hole Alcove Enhancement Project. In addition, the PRCC Habitat Subcommittee will hire the appraiser and pay the appraiser directly. Funding for this project will come from Habitat Fund 602.*

Sage Enterprises Acquisition – Sugar Reach Project – The PRCC HabSC received a specification sheet from MSRF titled, *Sage Enterprises Acquisition – Sugar Reach Project*. The purpose of the project is to acquire 2.03 acres of floodplain habitat located at RM 42 on the Methow River. The property recently changed ownership and the new owners would like to locate seasonal ADU (additional dwelling units) on the property. By acquiring the property, MSRF will remove the potential for development on this site. This will allow MSRF to restore floodplain capacity and connectivity in this important reach of the Methow River. The cost of the acquisition is \$57,969.70, plus the cost of the appraisal. After careful review, the PRCC Habitat Subcommittee elected to contribute \$57,969.70 to the project. In addition, the PRCC Habitat Subcommittee will hire the appraiser and pay the appraiser directly.

Decision: PRCC Habitat Subcommittee members present elected to contribute \$57,969.70 to the Sage Enterprises Acquisition – Sugar Reach Project. In addition, the PRCC Habitat Subcommittee will hire the appraiser and pay the appraiser directly. Funding for this project will come from Habitat Fund 602.

VII. Administration

PRCC Habitat Subcommittee Operating Procedures – During the last meeting, members reviewed the draft PRCC Habitat Subcommittee Operating Procedures. Comments and edits made during the meeting were addressed by Tracy Hillman. The edited document was sent to the PRCC HabSC for final review.

Members reviewed the changes made to the draft document. Following discussion, the PRCC HabSC approved the PRCC Habitat Subcommittee Operating Procedures. Tracy Hillman will ask Bryan Nordlund, PRCC facilitator, to share the approved operating procedures with the PRCC.

Decision: PRCC Habitat Subcommittee members present approved the PRCC Habitat Subcommittee Operating Procedures.

Review Standardized Deed of Right Template – During the last meeting, members reviewed the draft Deed of Rights template. Comments and edits made during the meeting were addressed by Tracy Hillman. The edited document was sent to the PRCC HabSC for final review.

Members reviewed the changes made to the Deed of Rights template. Following discussion, the PRCC HabSC approved the Deed of Rights template. This will be the standard template used for protection projects. Any proposed changes to the template by a project sponsor must be reviewed and approved by the PRCC HabSC.

Decision: PRCC Habitat Subcommittee members present approved the Deed of Rights template.

Libby Property Maintenance – During the last meeting, Jeremy Cram agreed to ask WDFW staff for a list and cost of actions and equipment needed for maintenance on the Libby property. Once this information is available, the PRCC HabSC will be able to determine if remaining maintenance funds can be used to manage the Libby property. Because Jeremy was not in attendance, the PRCC HabSC could not address this agenda item. This item will be discussed during the June meeting.

PRCC Habitat Subcommittee Expenditures and Unencumbered Balances – Tracy Hillman shared the following first-quarter 2022 financial information with the Habitat Subcommittee:

Habitat Fund	Expenditures through 31 March 2022	Unencumbered Balance
601	\$9,487.35	\$4,667,663
602	\$18,005.38	\$6,936,019
603	\$0.00	\$1,791,059
Total	\$27,492.73	\$13,394,741

Site Tours in Canada – Chris Fisher reported that ONA will need a head count for those planning to attend site tours in Canada this fall. Tracy Hillman will secure a count from both the PRCC HabSC and HCP TCs in June.

Meetings – Justin Yeager asked about the need to have meetings when the agenda is light and there are no decision items. Dave Duvall noted that their agreements indicate they need to offer meetings monthly; however, it is likely they can meet less frequently if necessary and if all parties agree. He said he will look into the agreements and determine if there is a minimum number of times the PRCC HabSC must meet per year.

VIII. Adjourn

Tracy Hillman adjourned the meeting at 3:00 pm.

IX. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the PRCC Habitat Subcommittee will be on 9 June 2022.