



Grant County
PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT
Excellence in Service and Leadership

PRCC Habitat Subcommittee Meeting

FINAL APPROVED MEETING MINUTES

Thursday November 12, 2020

1:00 pm

Microsoft TEAMS

PRCC Habitat Subcommittee Members

Kate Terrell, USFWS

Dave Duvall, Deanne Pavlik-Kunkel (alt), GCPUD

Justin Yeager, Dale Bambrick (alt), NMFS

Jeremy Cram, Ben Truscott (alt), WDFW

Denny Rohr, D. Rohr & Assoc, Facilitator

Chris Fisher, CCT

Brandon Rogers, Hans Smith (alt), YN

Carl Merkle, CTUIR

Erin Harris, GCPUD, Admin Assistant

Meeting Attendees

Kate Terrell, USFWS

Dave Duvall, GCPUD

Brandon Rogers, YN

Jeremy Cram, WDFW

Chris Fisher, CCT

Deanne Pavlik-Kunkel, GCPUD

Justin Yeager, NMFS

Denny Rohr, D. Rohr & Assoc

Decisions made during November 12, 2020 meeting

1. **“Ben Canyon Creek Fish Passage Project Proposal”** funding request of \$66,000 was approved from Habitat Fund 602.

MEETING AGENDA

- I. Agenda Review** – No additions to the agenda
- II. Approval of Meeting Minutes**
 - A. October 8, 2020 - Approved.
- III. Action Items Review from October 8, 2020 Meeting (D. Rohr)**
 1. Yeager will have additional discussion with Aaron Penvose, TU, and Chris Johnson, MSRF, regarding committee discussion of disposition of Wilson Property - **Completed**

2. Committee members to do their own your research over the next few weeks and be prepared to discuss Cascade's Orchard project further at the November meeting - **Completed**

IV. Habitat and NNI Funds Report Q3 (D. Rohr) – No report for Q3

V. Review and Update – Funding Activities of Barkley Irrigation Company Permanent Point of Diversion (J. Yeager)

- A. Continued Review of Wilson Property Options Discussion - No new information. Item to remain as a project update, but with a notice that discussion will resume in the spring of 2021 (list as placeholder in UPDATES below). New interest in implementing a restoration project at the site may trigger an earlier review of the property options.

VI. Update - Weyco (Weyerhaeuser) Mill Creek Land Acquisition (J. Cram) – No new information.

VII. Review and Update -- Cascade Orchards Icicle Creek Flow Restoration Project (J. Yeager).

Concerns include

1. Currently project sponsor wants to build for an 8cfs project, however, the need appears to be around 4-6cfs.
2. Cost of project has doubled (total project cost \$4.6M). PRCC Habitat Subcommittee funding was \$142,000, of which almost all has been used. Additional funding requests have been submitted to other resources, but no information on status or success of requests.
3. The current point of diversion is located in Icicle Creek rather than the Wenatchee River. One advantage of that may be that the diversion is located below the sensitive reach in the Icicle Creek.

ACTION: Justin will follow up with Washington Water Trust regarding the outstanding questions, including how much of the additional cost is a result of the request for 8cfs rather than the 4-6cfs anticipated.

VIII. Ben Canyon Creek Fish Passage Project Proposal (K. Terrell) – This is a Trout Unlimited project in the Methow; Libby Creek and is a collaborative project between USFWS and CCT. TU has experienced some funding issues due to COVID-19 impacts. They are requesting \$66,000 culvert for removal of an under-sided and perched culvert to be replaced with a larger-sized. Benefits are that the project would provide access to 1 mile of stream for steelhead. The project has already received funding for the rest of the project from other resources. Cram and Rogers noted that this is a tiny creek and not sure there will be a tangible benefit. Fisher raised concern about the current culvert potentially getting plugged, becoming overtopped blocked and failing which would impair spawning and rearing habitat downstream. Unknown at-this-time if there is

historical evidence of anadromous fish in the reach. **ACTION:** Committee voted to approve the funding request of \$66,000, from Habitat Fund 602, with Kate and Chris recusing themselves from the vote.

IX. Potpourri (D. Rohr) – No updates

Project Updates

- A. **McIntyre Dam - Fish Jumping Efficiency (C. Fisher)** – This is year 4 of 5 for the project so expect a final report next year.
- B. **Shuttleworth Creek Projects (C. Fisher).**

It appears that Blue Mountain Winery is going to switch to the well water source, so completion of the project is moving forward. No additional updates since last meeting.
- C. **Lower Wenatchee Instream Flow Enhancement Project, Phase II (J. Cram)** – (Notes from TU monthly report) TU had a long conversation with one of the Jones Shotwell Ditch Company (JSDC) Directors in the month of October regarding the Washington Conservation Commission Irrigation Efficiencies Grant Program (IEGP) application. It appears that the Directors have reviewed the application and will be meeting with their attorney to go over it, but plan to move forward in the process. So, after a long pause with no movement, through the summer, it seems the ball is rolling again. TU is hopeful that we will hear back from the JSDC folks in November with good news that they are ready to move ahead and start the final water right change processing.
- D. **Barkley Irrigation Company Permanent Point of Diversion (J. Yeager)** – (Notes from TU monthly report) Construction and the tree removal for the Barkley/MVID project started full force on October 1st. The contractors began by mobilizing the equipment and clearing out the staging areas that the contractors will be using to weld pipe and to stage and grind brush and trees that will be removed from the BIC/MVID easement. By the third week in October, Swedberg Contracting had all the trees and brush down and was in the process of grinding them into chips. Selland Construction spent October with their crew working on welding both the 32 & 24-inch HDPE pipe into 350' lengths. Once the pipe lengths are welded, they plan to pull those lengths into place within prepared pipe with an excavator. They have currently pulled several lengths into the ditch and are welding the lengths together as they move down ditch. We anticipate they will start the backfill process, by the end of the October/ early November, working at the upstream end and working down ditch. Selland had 3000 feet of pipe welded up at the end of October. TU held weekly construction meetings that keeps everything coordinated and everyone up to speed on what is needed from one week to another. In addition, TU continues the ongoing property owner outreach along the project footprint to coordinate turnouts and finalize the remaining easement updates.

The team is hopeful for a nice mild winter, which would allow the construction crews to get a lot done before the weather shuts them down. Time will tell.

- E. **Skaha Dam Fish Passage Project (C. Fisher)** - 4 VDS (Vertical Drop Structures) used to dissipate flow energy are located between Skaha and Vaseau Lakes. These structures have extended beyond the 50-year life expectancy and authorities are concerned they may collapse or fall in. The Ministry of Water Land and Air Protection is interested in potentially putting in something more fish friendly such as installing riffles that would function to backwater in the area of the VDS and provide in-channel spawning habitat. Expectation is that the four VDS's will be evaluated and a priority for removal or riffle construction will be conducted within the next year. A workgroup to evaluate the situation is being convened. Chris and Dave have been invited to participate in this workgroup. ONA is anticipating development of a funding proposal to the PRCC HSC unless the committee indicates they are not interested.
- F. **Okanagan Lake Dam (Chris Fisher)** – The dam bypass was activated this year. Sockeye that passed through were tagged (n=41); surveys to determine where fish went, where fish spawned, etc. were conducted in the lake and tributaries. Data expected to be available for the December meeting.
- G. **(Boulder Field) Icicle Creek Fish Passage – Wild Fish to Wilderness Proposal (K. Terrell)** – (TU monthly report) After finishing the step pool channel in September, the contractor turned focus to stabilizing the slope between the fishway and access road. Once Strider had finished the rockery and slope stabilization, they turned to finishing the pipe installation along the access road. By the end of the month Strider had gotten the pipe from the screenhouse to the Alpine Lakes parking lot in place and connected to the downstream piping which was completed in May. We anticipate pressure testing of the pipe will occur the first week of November. Once testing is complete the contractor will finish the grading from the parking lot up to the fish screen structure. Focus moving into November should be almost completely on schedule C, the fish screen structure. As of the end of October the screen vault has been placed and the contractor was prepping to pour the concrete floor in preparation for framing and closing the structure in. Once the fish screen is enclosed the project should be in a good place for work that will continue into November. All and all the progress has been steady, though there has been some delays, we remain hopeful the contractor will finish the work before the snow flies in November.

The PIT tag array at the upper end was removed but will be replaced when the equipment is gone, however, there are limited days to get it back in place by the spring.

- H. **Entiat Stormy Project Area “A” Stream & Floodplain Enhancement, Yakama Nation (B. Rogers)**. Submitted the final report and invoiced for it. The project is now complete and will be removed from the agenda.

I. **Weyco (Weyerhaeuser) Mill Creek Land Acquisition (CDLT developmental funding) (J. Cram)** – See agenda item VI above.

J. **Icicle-Peshastin Irrigation District Fish Screen Proposal (J. Cram)**. No updates.

K. **Final Construction for Floodplain Re-engagement - Penticton Channel Culvert Proposal (C. Fisher)**

Penticton Channel: there has been difficulty excavating the alcove behind the dike due to the area being inundated and the existing soil extremely soft, reducing the effectiveness of heavy machinery. The decision was made to delay further excavation until the water receded and the ground froze to reduce the risk of the equipment becoming stuck.

L. **Assessment of Sediment Chemistry behind Enloe Dam on the Similkameen River, Okanogan County, Washington (C. Fisher)**.

No official updates. USGS is waiting on results from the lab in Canada. There were 72 samples analyzed; preliminary results for the surface samples are completed. Core sample analysis is still pending: 12 core samples were taken at transects 6, 7, and 8 (the transects closest to dam). Each core was subsampled at least every 5 feet.

M. **Determine volume of Sediment Accumulated behind Enloe Dam on the Similkameen River, Okanogan County, Washington (C. Fisher)**

Sediment volume was assessed in late October 2020 using equipment that functions to delineate between surface layers of sediment (to separate coarse sand upper layers from lower silt layers) and ground penetrating radar used to determine the historical channel. The team is struggling to define the individual layers and are working with additional experts from their lab located in Connecticut. They plan to return to conduct a resistive test in December 2020 (2 days of work), but the study may not be able to provide a clear assessment of sediment volume as originally hoped. No additional funding required. More to come when data has been fully analyzed and reports are provided.

XI. **Next Meeting** – Thursday, December 10, 2020, 1:00 pm, Location – MS TEAMS webinar

Action items from November 12, 2020 Meeting

1. Justin will follow up with Washington Water Trust regarding the outstanding questions, including how much of the additional cost is a result of the request for 8cfs rather than the 4-6cfs anticipated.

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