



# Grant County **PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT**

## PRCC Habitat Subcommittee Meeting

Thursday, January 15, 2015  
11:00 – 3:00  
Grant PUD Wenatchee Office

### PRCC Habitat Subcommittee Representatives

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Kate Terrell, USFWS	Chris Fisher, CCT
Dave Duvall, GCPUD	Lee Carlson, YN
Carl Merkle, CTUIR	Jeremy Cram, Carmen Andonaegui (alt), WDFW
Justin Yeager, Dale Bambrick, (alt), NMFS	Debbie Williams, GCPUD, Administrative Assistant
Denny Rohr, Facilitator	

### Attendees

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Kate Terrell, USFWS	Chris Fisher, CCT
Dave Duvall, GCPUD	Lee Carlson, YN
Jeremy Cram, WDFW	Justin Yeager, NMFS
Mickey Fleming, CDLT (11:15 - 12:00)	Lisa Pelly, Aaron Penvose, Trout Unlimited (1:00 – 2:00)
Denny Rohr, Facilitator	Debbie Williams, GCPUD, Administrative Assistant

### Decision Summary:

1. HSC members approved \$75,000 from Fund 603, to fund Leavenworth National Fish Hatchery Groundwater Investigations.
2. HSC members approved a 50-50 cost share (\$699,999) between Fund 601 & Fund 603, with the stipulation that funds are only used for construction on the Barkley Irrigation Company Permanent Point of Diversion Change and Pressurization – Construction.
3. HSC members affirmed their vote to fund ORRI – Pentiction Channel Spawning Bed No. 3, for \$367,368.34, from Fund 602.
4. HSC members did not approve donating net proceeds from the Bremer property to the CDLT for stewardship funds.

### Action Items:

1. Duvall will contact the Washington Department of Ecology (WDOE) and USGS to get a cost estimate to install and maintain the White River Staff Gage.
2. Fisher will submit a new spec sheet on the Similkameen Sediment Study proposal.

# Final Meeting Minutes

- I. **Agenda Review**
- II. **Action Items Review - Complete**
- III. **Meeting Minutes Approval** – December 11, 2014 - Approved
- IV. **Habitat Funds Report** – (D. Rohr) – Additional funds will be deposited into Habitat Accounts on February 15, 2015.
- V. **11:15 am, Mickey Fleming, Chelan Douglas Land Trust (CDLT), Bremer Property Acquisition and Request** – Mickey Fleming, CDLT, joined today's meeting to provide an update on the successful completion of the Bremer acquisition. The purchase of 108 acres owned by the Bremer's started in 2011, and closed in July 2014. After a boundary line adjustment, the homestead parcel was sold for \$90,000 on December 31, 2014; with a net proceed of \$68,173.34. The original agreement with CDLT stated that any net proceeds made on the sale of the homestead parcel would be deposited back into Habitat Fund 602, which was used for the initial purchase, unless approval of an alternative use is agreed upon by the PRCC Habitat Subcommittee (HSC). Fleming proposed that the \$68,173.34 be retained by CDLT for stewardship funding on the Bremer property. She explained that early on, CDLT didn't ask landowners to donate money into the stewardship fund, and that they now are experiencing a stewardship deficit. Fleming asked if the HSC would donate net proceeds from the Bremer property or a portion of the proceeds, to the CDLT stewardship endowment fund. Stewardship is now being subsidized out of CDLT operations fund for properties purchased in 2001-2002, that didn't have stewardship funds dedicated for future costs. CDLT has since adopted the policy that they will not accept a property unless dedicated stewardship funding is a part of it. HSC members did not approve donating net proceeds from the Bremer property to the CDLT for stewardship funding.

**Pre-Proposal - Lower Nason Side Channel RM 2.4 (McCarty) HFA 602-26H** – In 2014 the HSC approved spending \$10,000 for project development support in order to determine if property immediately adjoining the thirty acres owned by Grant PUD on Lower Nason Creek, about two miles from the confluence with the Wenatchee River, shows good acquisition/restoration potential. Two property owners are interested in selling property immediately adjoining Grant PUD's thirty acres. The McCarty's, who have a ten acre parcel to the south for sale, are anxious to segregate their rear ten acres in order to sell their bed and breakfast.

Nason Creek is No. 1 priority for both protection and restoration under the Upper Columbia Biological Strategy (2014). Side channel habitat is of primary consideration in this reach. The Bureau of Reclamation's 2011 Lower Nason assessment shows a "hypothetical channel" running through these properties as shown by LIDAR. In fact, there is an extant, perennially inundated channel that is barely separated from the mainstem by a small dike at the downstream end. Both of the properties for sale are excellent candidates for habitat protection and potential restoration work.

The McCarty property would require a boundary line adjustment in order to attach it to Grant PUD's property. Duvall reported that Grant PUD would consider transferring their piece of property to the CDLT, so the piece can be managed as a single unit, if the HSC approves. Fleming explained that the CDLT had Larry Rees conduct a field evaluation and appraisal with the HSC as the intended user of the appraisal. Survey work was conducted for the boundary line adjustment so that the appraiser knew which parcel to appraise. The appraised value is \$105,000. CDLT will submit a specification sheet for the February HSC meeting. The McCarty's agreed to contribute \$8000 for stewardship. Grant PUD will be asked to fund stewardship on their thirty acre parcel.

- VI. **Review/Update of "Upper White Pine Restoration Project** (D. Rohr) – Fisher will continue to update the HSC as this project progresses.
- VII. **Review/Update of "Entiat Restoration Projects"** (D. Rohr) – Ongoing in HCP Tributary Committee. Remove from HSC agenda.
- VIII. **Newby Narrows Property Acquisition** (L. Carlson; D. Duvall) – Carlson explained that the contract is being reviewed by the Yakama Nation attorneys and he expects to see it by Tuesday, January 20, 2015.
- IX. **White River Staff Gage** (D. Duvall) – Duvall tried to contact the Washington Department of Ecology (WDOE) via email and voice mail. He will wait to hear back from them. He will contact USGS to ask them for a cost estimate to install and maintain this gage. This is the only gage in the reach.
- X. **Red Shirt Mill Pre-proposal** (K. Terrell) – Terrell explained that Crystal Elliott, Trout Unlimited, has applied for a grant from the WDOE, and that letters of support were written by WDFW and others. If there is enough support within the environmental community to clean up this site, WDOE could be a potential project sponsor. Fisher said that Bob Barwin, WDOE, warned him of potential liabilities if toxins or hazardous waste are found on site. After a flood took out the town of Silver, WA, a man purchased the property with a red shirt and a bottle of whiskey.
- XI. **Icicle Work Group – Leavenworth National Fish Hatchery Groundwater Investigations** (K. Terrell) – Terrell explained that the purpose of drilling a well is to reduce the need for operating structure 2. If the well produces as planned, at a minimum, the benefit to the historic channel will be 10 cfs. The HSC is being asked to fund \$75,000 for this project. **HSC approved \$75,000 from Fund 603**, Terrell abstained.
- XII. **1:00 p.m. – Lisa Pelly/Aaron Penvose, Trout Unlimited – Review and Update Discussions**
  - A. **Methow Valley Irrigation District (MVID) Review and Update** (K. Terrell, C. Fisher) – Lisa Pelly, Trout Unlimited (TU) joined today's meeting to give an update on this project. She explained that the goal of the project is to remove the point of diversion from the Twisp River, in order to allow MVID to get their water from individual or larger group wells. The spec sheet estimated 85 parcels that would need individual wells, but that number has been reduced to 50 parcels. The other 35 parcels have an exempt or irrigation well, and six people have illegal wells. TU is working with WDOE to permit the illegal wells, which must be permitted under this project. Under court order, MVID will be reducing irrigable acres by 200 acres, which will provide 10 cfs into the Twisp River, from the point of diversion. The diversion will then be removed and restored. All new wells will be approved by WDOE.

Westside Status – Production wells were drilled in December; pump test will be conducted in February, and all pumps will be installed by June 03, 2015. Easements were completed in January 2015. Bids for pipe and construction will go out in March 2015, with construction taking place between May to Dec 2015. Tree removal started in October 2015 and will continue to March 2016.

Eastside – Mainline pipe is complete and backfilled. By May 2015, 10 individual wells will have been installed on the East and West sides. Moving up the ditch, the Westside canal will be turned off as wells are installed. The remainder of the wells will be installed by end of 2015 irrigation season. Current funding - \$10,273,593.13. Spending to date - \$4,750,244.41. Remaining balance - \$5,523,348.72. WDOE funded 6.8 million dollars, of that 2.7 million dollars must be used by June 30, 2015. Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) did original project estimates; Pelly doesn't foresee needing additional monies because construction charges

have been less than the original BOR estimates. This cost doesn't include post construction activities to assure MVID is running correctly. MVID received a 1 million dollar place holder from the Washington State Governor. The BOR was paid 1.7 million dollars of the WDOE funding to complete design/engineering work. WDOE monies will be spent on piping purchases before June 30, 2015. The goal is to have all construction completed by 2015, and the system activated on both sides of the river for irrigation in spring 2016.

- B. Barkley Irrigation Company Permanent Point of Diversion Change and Pressurization - Construction** (J. Yeager) – See Project Specifications Sheet for project details (attached). Aaron Penvose, TU, gave a brief overview of this project. The objective is to eliminate and reduce mortality of listed species in the mainstem Methow River, the Barkley Irrigation Company diversion side-channel and within the first two miles of the Barkley Ditch. This is important because historically mortality was potentially caused by excavation of the river bed, in the side-channel and within the tail out of the Barkley pool in order to create sufficient water for irrigators on the Barkley Ditch. Additionally, each year mortality occurred upstream of the fish screen on the current system, which is over 0.5 mile downstream of the headgate and the open canal attracts juvenile fish. This reach of the ditch has been annually de-fished by WDFW at the end of the season, but it is difficult to capture all fish and there is still direct mortality each fall. Project completion is estimated fall 2015 or 2016, depending on funding.

Construction is estimated at 3.2 million dollars. 1.3 million dollars has already been secured (Tributary Committee \$300,000, PRCC \$299,380 for engineering and design, Salmon Recovery Funding Board \$732,732). The Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) was asked to fund 1.3 million. TU hopes to hear back from BPA in March. TU asked the HSC to fund an additional \$699,620.00 to pay for the new pressurized system. A new spec sheet will be submitted for this project. **The HSC approved a 50-50 cost share (\$699,620) between Fund 601 & Fund 603, with the stipulation that funds are only used for construction.** Because funds are being requested from Fund 601, the PRCC must also approve this project. It will be an agenda item for the Jan. 28<sup>th</sup> PRCC meeting.

**XIII. ORRI – Penticton Channel Spawning Bed No. 3** (D. Rohr, C. Fisher)

- C. Affirmation of Email Vote and Fund Selection** – HSC members affirmed their vote to fund ORRI – Penticton Channel Spawning Bed No. 3, for \$367,368.34, from Fund 602.

**XIV. Similkameen Sediment Study Pre-proposal** (C. Fisher) – Fisher asked if HSC members would be interested in seeing a spec sheet to conduct a sediment study at Enloe Dam, for an estimated \$250,000. The dam was built in 1920, but hasn't been operational since 1959. Okanagan PUD has pursued re-energizing the facility, but after further economic analysis and lack of public support has entertained the idea of dam removal. Considering dam removal, there is concern that sediment behind the dam could contain toxins and heavy metals. If it's found that the sediment isn't as toxic as believed to be, it may persuade an entity to become a lead agency for dam removal and accept liability of the project. Prior to approving the funding. Fisher explained that the PUD has requested a 2 year extension. A response from FERC regarding the extension is expected sometime this summer (2015). If the dam is removed, artificial passage would not be allowed by the tribes. HSC discussed whether to wait or move forward with the study. **Fisher will supply a new spec sheet.**

**XV. Review of Property Acquisition Appraisal Process** (D. Rohr) - Ongoing

## **XVI. Project Updates**

- A. McIntyre Dam – Improving Fish Jumping Efficiency** (C. Fisher) – No update
- B. Wenatchee Nutrient Enhancement Proposal** (J. Cram, D. Duvall) – Remove from agenda
- C. Icicle Creek Boulder Field Assessment Project** (K. Terrell) - Ongoing
- D. Shuttleworth Creek Project** (C. Fisher) - Ongoing
- E. Roaring Creek Flow Restoration and Diversion Removal Project** (K. Terrell) – Penvose, et al, wrote letter to regional director in Portland.
- F. Bremer Property, Phase 3** (D. Duvall, D. Rohr) – See above
- G. Barkley Irrigation Company, 2012 – 2014 Diversion Change** (J. Yeager) – See above
- H. Peshastin and Icicle Irrigation Districts Pump-back System Options Feasibility Study** (K. Terrell) - Ongoing
- I. Icicle Creek Boulder Field PIT Tag Array** – Flows have been too high to install the second PIT tag array but the other two are in.
- J. Penticton Spawning Platforms** (C. Fisher) – Survey contractor (Mould Engineering) isn't sure if the platform can be installed by August 2015. Kari Alex, ONA, said survey work will be conducted soon; they will use modeling for the first and second platform to determine how much material will be needed. Grant PUD sent the contract to ONA yesterday.
- K. Trout Unlimited – Lower Wenatchee Instream Flow Enhancement Project, Phase II** (J. Cram) – The project is moving forward. TU is trying to address reserve flow issues in Mission Creek.
- L. White River Staff Gage** (D. Duvall) – See above.
- M. Lower Nason Side Channel RM 2.4 Development on the McCarty Property** (D. Duvall) – See above.
- N. MVID – Methow Valley Irrigation District** (K. Terrell) – See above.
- O. Silver Side Channel PIT Tag Array** (J. Cram) – 300 fish were tagged, 50 moved in from the Chewuch and Twisp (1/2 coho, the other ½ were steelhead and chinook). Fish have moved in to over winter.

## **XVII. Next Meeting: February 12, 2015, 1:00 pm, Grant PUD Wenatchee Office**