



PRCC Habitat Subcommittee Meeting

FINAL APPROVED MEETING MINUTES

Thursday December 10, 2020

1:00 pm

Microsoft Teams

PRCC Habitat Subcommittee Members

Kate Terrell, USFWS	Chris Fisher, CCT
Dave Duvall, Deanne Pavlik-Kunkel (alt), GCPUD	Brandon Rogers, Hans Smith (alt), YN
Justin Yeager, Dale Bambrick (alt), NMFS	Carl Merkle, CTUIR
Jeremy Cram, Carmen Andonaegui (alt), WDFW	Erin Harris, GCPUD, Admin Assistant
Denny Rohr, D. Rohr & Assoc, Facilitator	

Meeting Attendees

Chris Fisher, CCT	Brandon Rogers, YN
Dave Duvall, GCPUD	Erin Harris, GCPUD
Justin Yeager, NMFS	Denny Rohr, D. Rohr & Assoc
Jeremy Cram, WDFW	Kate Terrell, USFWS
Deanne Pavlik-Kunkel, GCPUD	

MEETING MINUTES

11:30 am – Joint meeting with HCP Tributary Committee

- A. **Nason Creek Fish Passage Barrier Assessment** – Hans Smith, YN, provided introductory comments stating he and Bill Norris, YN consultant with Parr Excellence, are providing introductory information regarding their recently completed assessment of fish passage barriers on Nason Creek in the RM 17-20 area. Hans stated they are providing information to supplement the existing information determined from previous assessment studies. This assessment covered the Gaynor Falls and Bygone Byways sites which Hans stated they undertook to help determine the upstream extent of anadromy in this important stream system. Bill provided a power-point presentation of the assessment,

explaining they used a combination of remote sensing, field investigation, and hydraulic modeling to analyze and determine characteristics of these two potential fish passage barriers. Identified were 5 barrier sites at Gaynor Falls and 1 at Bygone Byways. The species included in the study were steelhead, Chinook, bull trout, and Coho. Low, average, and high flow levels were included in the study assessment with differing passage success suggested for different species at varying flow levels. Study evidence suggests Chinook and Coho cannot pass either of the 2 sites, and evidence suggests steelhead are able to pass both sites at higher flow levels. Bull trout study evidence suggests passage at both sites, plus bull trout have also been observed above both Gaynor Falls and Bygone Byways. Committee members asked what the YN planned as next steps regarding this study, and Hans reiterated they are providing information to supplement existing assessments, and they currently have no proposed plans for a possible path forward.

1:00 pm – Regular PRCC Habitat Subcommittee Meeting

Decisions made during the December 10, 2020 meeting

1. Committee affirmed approval of \$66,000 using Habitat Fund 602 for the Ben Canyon Creek Fish Passage Project.
 - I. **Agenda Review** – The agenda was reviewed with no additional agenda items added.
 - II. **Approval of Meeting Minutes**
 - A. November 12, 2020 meeting minutes were approved.
 - B. Rohr affirmed for the record that committee members approved using Habitat Fund 602 for the \$66,000 funding of the Ben Canyon Creek Fish Passage Project.
 - III. **Action Items Review from October 8, 2020 Meeting**
 - A. Yeager 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 system. **Completed**
 - IV. **Habitat and NNI Funds Report Q3**– Rohr sent the Q3 Habitat and NNI Fund Reports to all committee members via email; listing of unencumbered funds are the following:
 - A. No Net Impact Fund 601: \$4,467,163
 - B. Habitat Supplemental Fund 602: \$6,029,253
 - C. Habitat Fund 603: \$1,882,659
 - D. Grand Total: \$12,379,075

V. Review and Update -- Cascade Orchards Icicle Creek Flow Restoration Project

A. Follow up discussion of committee concerns:

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 to date has been provided on status or success of requests.
3. The current point of diversion is 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.
4. How much of the additional cost is a result of the request for 8cfs rather than the 4-6cfs anticipated.

Yeager and committee members reviewed questions of concern identified in the November meeting. Yeager further commented that David Rice, Anchor QEA, designed a 4-6 cfs system that can go up to 8 cfs on demand and causes more demand on the system. The cost would be around \$200,000 for an 8 cfs system. Greg McLaughlin, Washington Water Trust, shared he will be requesting half a million in additional funds. Justin asked for comments on pipe sizing and he asked how committee members feel towards providing additional funds that McLaughlin will be requesting. Terrell voiced the need for a specification sheet that will provide an accurate funding request. Terrell also shared that McLaughlin has called other committee members of HCPCC and PRCC asking for support of PRCC-HabSC approval of his funding request. Fisher asked if pushing the 4-6 cfs system to 8 cfs adds higher demand on the system. Justin Yeager shared, yes, it does. Rohr shared we are still in a holding pattern regarding next steps and path forward regarding this project.

- ### **VI. Deed of Right for Martinson Property – CDLT – Duvall, shared Mickey Fleming has reached out for an update on progress made by the PRCC-HabSC members. Duvall asked committee members for the committee’s objectives with a deed of right that Fleming has requested. Duvall shared he and Rohr have worked on background information and have looked at the Sugar Dike project, with Chris Johnson and PRCC-HabSC as the grantee and grantor. Duvall shared a time where Grant PUD also signed as Grantee with CDLT being the Grantor. Duvall asked the group for how they want to proceed with deed of rights. Terrell asked if the grantor is the enforcer or is it handled through the county? Duvall shared he doesn’t know the answer. Rogers shared looking online it looks like a deed of right is transferring the rights of the deed. Duvall suggested that the committee needs more information as to the purpose of the Deed of Right and Rohr suggested that the Lands Department of Grant PUD might be able to provide accurate information on this. Duvall shared that he feels they would be**

willing and could probably provide that information to the committee. Action: Duvall to inquire with Grant PUD Lands Department to have either Sheryl Dotson or Blair Fuglie attend a meeting to share the law(s) pertaining to deed of rights. Action: Rohr will email Fleming's request regarding deed of rights to committee members.

VII. **Potpourri** – no update information

Project Updates

- A. **McIntyre Dam - Fish Jumping Efficiency** Nothing new to report.
- B. **Shuttleworth Creek Projects** Nothing new to report.
- C. **Lower Wenatchee Instream Flow Enhancement Project, Phase II** – From Aaron Penvose, Trout Unlimited, November Updates: TU reached out to the Jones-Shotwell (JSDC) people in November to see where they were with the review process on the Conservation Commission IEGP [Irrigation Efficiencies Grant Program] Application. TU has not heard back from the Jones-Shotwell Directors and expects the IEGP Application is still in the review process with their attorney. TU will continue to reach out to the JSDC Directors to answer any question and to help them through the review process.
- D. **(Placeholder for April 2021 Review) – Funding Activities of Barkley Irrigation Company Permanent Point of Diversion – Wilson Property Options Discussion** (*From Aaron Penvose monthly report*) November was a very productive month on the Barkley/MVID Gravity pipeline construction project. Swedberg Contracting finished up the tree removal including chipping/grading the trees for the Schedule 1 and North-of-Evans Rd tree removal the first week in November. All that remains is to spread out the wood chips along the Barkley/MVID easement, and this is scheduled to happen in the spring of 2021. Selland Construction has been welding HDPE pipe and preparing the ditch for the new pipe along the Barkley/MVID easement. By the second week in November, Selland had several thousand feet of pipe welded and in position to be bedded and backfilled. Selland brought in two backfill crews the third week in November and they have been making good progress. In addition, Selland has finished the Bally Hill Road crossing at station 118+41 and has backfilled on both sides of the crossing to make it safe for traffic. Selland is anticipating making it to the end of Schedule 1 by December 23rd if the weather holds out. Selland's crew has been good to work with and have been doing an outstanding job keeping things picked up plus keeping adjacent property owners happy during construction. The project team continues to work on the easements for the Barkley/MVID and continues to keep all interested parties up to speed on the project. TU also continue to coordinate turnout locations. Everyone is hopeful for a nice mild winter, which would allow the construction crews to get a lot done before the weather shuts them down.

- E. **Skaha Dam Fish Passage Project** - ONA is looking at the vertical drop structures and has scheduled a meeting on December 17th to share modeling results and the flow conditions based on order of structure removal. Fisher will participate in this meeting and keep committee members advised.
- F. **(Boulder Field) Icicle Creek Fish Passage – Wild Fish to Wilderness Proposal** – Terrell reported the work is completed. (*From Aaron Penrose monthly report*) With schedules A (waterline) and B (step-pool channel) complete, all work on the project is focused on the completion of the City of Leavenworth fish screen. In November, Strider focused on the screen house, which included grading, fish screen placement and drying in the building in preparation for starting up water in late November. Start up and charging of the water line from the screenhouse to the City of Leavenworth treatment plant was completed on November 27. In the past period the roofers installed and covered the trusses and placed ice shield in preparation for final roofing. Siding was also completed. The screen was set in place in mid-November and the screen manufacturer is coming to the site in early December to assist with startup. In the upcoming month the contractor will be focused on electrical work and getting the inside of the building functional in preparation for full operation. The contractor also plans to install the entry gate in early December. TU is anticipating that the weather will limit Strider from completing the final punch list items and will need to come back in the spring before substantial completion approval is issued
- G. **Weyco (Weyerhaeuser) Mill Creek Land Acquisition – CDLT Developmental Funding / Final Acquisition** – Nothing additional to report.
- H. **Icicle-Peshastin Irrigation District Fish Screen Proposal** - Nothing new to report.
- I. **Final Construction for Floodplain Re-engagement - Penticton Channel Culvert Proposal** - Nothing new to report.
- J. **Assessment of Sediment Chemistry behind Enloe Dam on the Similkameen River, Okanogan County, Washington** – Fisher shared that the lab tests are done and USGS is expecting to receive them this week. United States Geological Service are waiting on core samples analysis, and within the 12 cores, 48 samples were analyzed. The results are currently in the USGS QA office as they are checking to assure all the data is correct.
- K. **Determine volume of Sediment Accumulated behind Enloe Dam on the Similkameen River, Okanogan County, Washington** - Fisher shared that the two techniques employed by USGS to determine the volume of sediment measurements were inconclusive. The deposited material has been compacted such that delineation between the deposited material and original riverbed was indistinguishable. A third technique, electrical resistivity, was deployed and review of initial data appears that results are useful. Fisher also shared the conceptual dam removal plan is expected to be completed in April 2021.

L. **Ben Canyon Creek Fish Passage Project** - Nothing new to report.

XI. **Next Meeting** – Thursday, January 14, 2021, 1:00 pm, Location – MS TEAMS webinar

XII. **Additional Items:**

- Duvall emailed two examples of past Deed of Rights to committee members.
- Duvall confirmed with Rohr the final November meeting minutes will be sent out after this meeting to document affirmation of committee approval of using Habitat Fund 602 for the Ben Canyon Creek Fish Passage Project.
- Duvall shared that Mickey Fleming reached out again to better understand the new PRCC-HabSC appraisal process. Duvall said he sees three options as to how to address Fleming's question - 1) push the issue further out into the future, 2) do nothing and provide no response to CDLT, 3) have the committee formulate a new approach or re-visit past minutes and implement the decision already established. Rohr will look back at older meeting minutes to review the discussion and resulting decisions made. There will be further communication either before the January meeting or at the January meeting on next steps to finalize how to proceed.

Action Items from December 10, 2020 Meeting

1. Duvall to inquire with Grant PUD Lands Department to have Sheryl Dotson or Blair Fuglie share the law(s) pertaining to deed of rights.
2. Rohr will email Fleming's request regarding deed of rights to committee members.