



**PRCC Habitat Subcommittee
 Meeting/Conference Call**

**Thursday, 14 March 2024
 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.**

Meeting Minutes

PRCC Habitat Subcommittee Members

Kate Terrell, Shelby Fowler (alt), USFWS	Chris Fisher, CTCR
Dave Duvall, Deanne Pavlik-Kunkel (alt), GPUD	Brandon Rogers, Hans Smith (alt), YN
Justin Yeager, NMFS	Carl Merkle, CTUIR
Jeremy Cram, Amanda Barg (alt), WDFW	Erin Harris, GPUD
Nathan and Clayton Buck, Wanapum	Tracy Hillman, BioAnalysts, Chair

Meeting Attendees

Kate Terrell, USFWS	Dave Duvall, GPUD
Jeremy Cram, WDFW	Shelby Fowler, USFWS
Tracy Hillman, BioAnalysts	

Action Items:

- Kate Terrell will ask Chelan-Douglas Land Trust (CDLT) to submit two separate specification sheets: one for the acquisition of the Entiat River property and another for the acquisition of the Stormy property.
- Tracy Hillman will contact Chris Fisher to see whether Chris approves of the Sage Sugar Acquisition time extension.
- Dave Duvall will contact the Okanagan Nation Alliance to see whether they intend to submit a specification sheet to help fund the construction of the Okanagan Dam fishway.
- Dave Duvall will share the amounts deposited into each of the habitat accounts and final 2023 financial statements with the PRCC HabSC as soon as the information is available.

Decision Items¹:

- PRCC Habitat Subcommittee members approved extending the contract on the Sage Sugar Acquisition Project from 31 March 2024 to 31 October 2024. There is no change in the budget for this project.

I. Welcome and Introductions

Tracy Hillman welcomed everyone to the meeting and participants introduced themselves.

II. Agenda Review

The PRCC HabSC reviewed and approved the March agenda.

III. February Meeting Notes

PRCC HabSC members reviewed and approved the 8 February 2024 meeting notes on 23 February 2024.

IV. Review Action Items

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

- Tracy Hillman will send a letter to Chelan County Natural Resources Department indicating that the PRCC Habitat Subcommittee will contribute an additional \$250,000 to the Cascade Orchards Icicle Creek Flow Restoration Project. **Complete. The additional amount contributed to the project was \$234,000, not \$250,000. The total contribution from the PRCC HabSC was \$999,000.**
- Kate Terrell will discuss with Mickey Fleming ideas regarding the use of remaining funds in the Entiat Stormy Phase III Acquisition Project. **Complete (see Section V).**

V. Project Updates

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

- **Entiat Stormy Phase III Acquisition Project** – Kate Terrell reported that she spoke with Mickey Fleming (CDLT) about the remaining funds associated with this project. Recall that last month Mickey recommended using the remaining funds in the project to acquire the 5.58-acre parcel immediately adjacent to Bremer to the south on river right. She believes they can purchase the property for less than \$30,000. Mickey also noted that the Bremer property has real potential as an asset to the community for a trail through the meadow. The parking area and trail need improvements. Kate indicated to Mickey that because the suggested proposed actions are beyond the scope of the original project, Mickey would need to submit a new specification sheet for the acquisition of the adjacent property. Kate also told Mickey that funding for the trail system and parking lot on the Bremer property does not benefit Covered Species and therefore the PRCC HabSC does not support that work. Both Kate and Jeremy Cram recommended CDLT submit specification sheets for the Entiat River property and the Stormy property (both are owned by Bockoven and are currently for sale). Members present agreed that there should be a separate specification sheet for each proposed acquisition. Kate said she will relay this information to Mickey.

¹ All decision items listed here were approved by PRCC HabSC members.

- **Alternate Primary Appraiser** – Dave Duvall noted that of the \$25,000 in the budget, \$14,453 is currently available for future appraisal work.
- **ORRI VDS Backwatering Project** – There was no update on this project. Tracy Hillman reminded the PRCC HabSC that ONA completed two back-watering riffles last year. The sponsor will construct the remaining three riffles during summer 2024. These constructed riffles are associated with vertical drop structures 14-17.
- **Sage Sugar Acquisition** – Dave Duvall indicated that the sponsor (MSRF) requested a time extension on this project (see Section VI).
- **Lower Trout Creek Re-naturalization: Stage 1 Construction** – There was no update on this project. During discussions last month, Chris Fisher indicated that the project can be closed soon.
- **Big Meadow Creek Fish Passage Restoration Project** – Kate Terrell reported that this project is complete. Grant PUD is waiting for the final invoice. After the final invoice is received, the project can be closed. Following the meeting, Kate reported that the final invoice has been submitted.
- **Barkley Construction 50% Project** – Kate Terrell indicated that the project is complete. Once the final invoice is received, the project can be closed.
- **Lower Wenatchee Instream Flow Enhancement Project, Phase II Project** – Kate Terrell reported that the sponsor (TU) organized an investigation dig to expose both ends of the Jones Shotwell Ditch Company pipeline that crosses the railroad to confirm the casing pipe was structurally sound. They found the pipe to be in good condition. In addition, the project team finished their review of the plan set and sent it to Pacific Engineering for the final update. During the review, the team made a small change to the pipeline alignment. Additionally, the sponsor and Pacific Engineering are working on the bid documents and are on track to solicit bids in mid- to late-March. The sponsor continues to work on the water right change application and intends to submit it to Ecology by early March. Finally, the sponsor received \$750K from the USFWS for this project.
- **Cascade Orchards Icicle Creek (COIC) Flow Restoration Project** – Kate Terrell noted that the sponsor (Chelan County Natural Resources Department) was able to secure necessary funding for this project. The Icicle Workgroup will fund the remaining gap, which is about \$1.5M. These funds will come from the Office of Columbia River – Washington State Department of Ecology.
- **Okanagan Lake Dam East Salmon Passage Project** – Dave Duvall said this item will be discussed under Section VI.
- **Peshastin Creek RM 2.5 Project** – Kate Terrell reported that the sponsor (Cascade Fisheries) has been communicating with the landowners on the project schedule. The landowners are planning to build 1-3 cabins and wanted to know the restoration schedule to avoid conflicts. The sponsor is also working on a RFQ for the cultural resource survey.

VI. Restoration/Protection Projects

Sage Enterprises Acquisition – Sugar Reach Project Time Extension – Dave Duvall indicated that he received a time extension request from Chris Johnson (MSRF) on the Sage Enterprises Acquisition – Sugar Reach Project. Dave said that Chris Johnson successfully convinced the landowner to commit to the sale, which has taken longer than expected. Much of the delay resulted from the landowner’s

perception that the purchase could increase threats to the remainder of the property. Fortunately, the landowner's perception has changed with the progression of the restoration design. Indeed, the landowner has entered into a purchase agreement with MSRF; however, extra time is needed to complete a public purposes segregation, which will accomplish a division of the land that the landowner was unable to complete. Because this will require additional time, MSRF asked to extend the contract from 31 March 2024 to 31 October 2024. Members present approved the time extension; Justin Yeager approved the extension before the meeting. Tracy Hillman will reach out to Chris Fisher for his approval. Chris approved the time extension on 18 March.

Decision: *PRCC Habitat Subcommittee members approved extending the contract on the Sage Sugar Acquisition Project from 31 March 2024 to 31 October 2024. There is no change in the budget for this project.*

Okanagan Dam Fish Passage Project – Dave Duvall reported that he was expecting a specification sheet from the Okanagan Nation Alliance (ONA) on the construction of a fishway at Okanagan Dam. He said that during a recent BOBTWG (Bilateral Okanagan Basin Technical Working Group) meeting in Canada, ONA indicated that they would like to construct the fishway during the 2024-2025 work window (i.e., November 2024 through March 2025). Dave indicated that the estimated cost of the fishway is about \$1M. Unfortunately, we did not receive a specification sheet. Dave asked members present whether they still supported the project. All members present support the project. Dave will reach out to ONA and see whether they intend to submit a specification sheet soon.

VII. Administration and Information Updates

Habitat Account Deposits – Dave Duvall said he has not yet received the financial information from their accounting department. He knows that Grant PUD made deposits into the habitat accounts in February. He will share the amounts deposited and the financial sheets through the fourth quarter of 2023 as soon as they are available.

Salmon Recovery Funding Board 2024 Schedule – Tracy Hillman reviewed the Salmon Recovery Funding Board proposed schedule for 2024. Important dates are noted below:

- Pre-Applications Due: 11 March 2024
- Presentations by Project Sponsors: 27-28 March 2024
- Completed Draft Applications Due: 19 April 2024
- Site Visits: 6-9 May 2024
- Committees Review Draft Applications: 9 May 2024
- Final Application Due: 24 May 2024
- Committees Review Final Applications: 13 June 2024

VIII. Adjourn

Tracy Hillman adjourned the meeting at 2:00 pm.

IX. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the PRCC HabSC will be on 11 April 2024. Meetings will be held virtually through May. The first in-person meeting will be on 13 June 2024.