



**PRCC Habitat Subcommittee
 Meeting/Conference Call**

**Thursday, 14 December 2023
 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 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

Brandon Rogers, YN	Dave Duvall, GPUD
Jeremy Cram, WDFW	Chris Fisher, CTCR
Kate Terrell, USFWS	Amanda Barg, WDFW
Justin Yeager, NMFS ¹	Shelby Fowler, USFWS
Deanne Pavlik-Kunkel (GPUD)	Tracy Hillman, BioAnalysts

Action Items:

- Tracy Hillman will send a letter to the Okanagan Nation Alliance and inform them that the three spawning platform projects are closed.
- Tracy Hillman will share the Okanagan Tour Booklet and the notes prepared by Elli Rosenthal (WDFW) with the PRCC Habitat Subcommittee.

¹ Justin Yeager was unable to attend the meeting but provided his votes on decision items following the meeting.

Decision Items²:

- PRCC Habitat Subcommittee members elected to contribute \$1,582.74 to the UCSRB 2024 Science Conference. Funding will come from Fund 603.

I. Welcome and Introductions

Tracy Hillman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

II. Agenda Review

The PRCC HabSC reviewed and approved the December agenda.

III. September Meeting Notes

Tracy Hillman reminded members that they approved the 14 September 2023 meeting notes in October.

IV. Review Action Items

The PRCC HabSC reviewed the following action item from the September meeting:

- Amanda Barg and Jeremy Cram will check to see if there will be additional invoices for maintenance work on the Libby Acquisition Project. **Complete. The final invoice was submitted. Amanda and Jeremy indicated that the project can be closed.**

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 there was no update on this project. She said the sponsor (Chelan Douglas Land Trust; CDLT) would like to keep the project open for one more year. The project can be closed on 31 December 2024.
- **ORRI Spawning Platforms (1&2) Penticton Channel Project, ORRI Spawning Platform #3, and ORRI Penticton Channel Bed #4 Project** – Chris Fisher indicated that these projects are complete and can be closed. Dave Duvall noted that he contacted the sponsor (Okanagan Nation Alliance; ONA) and the sponsor indicated that they would review 2024 monitoring results and determine whether any adaptive management work on the spawning platforms would be needed in 2025. The PRCC HabSC noted that the last invoice was submitted in 2020. The PRCC HabSC concluded that the projects have been constructed, they are functioning properly (based on monitoring results and observations during site visits), and therefore agreed these three projects should be closed. They directed Tracy Hillman to send a letter to the sponsor indicating that the projects are completed and will be closed on 31 December 2023. If additional work is needed on the spawning platforms, the sponsor can submit a specification sheet requesting additional funding.
- **Alternate Primary Appraiser** – Dave Duvall stated that Pacific Appraisal Associates is the same appraiser used by the HCP Tributary Committees. Dave noted that of the \$25,000 in the budget, \$14,453 is currently available for future appraisal work.

² All decision items listed here were approved by PRCC HabSC members.

- **Icicle-Peshastin Irrigation District Fish Screen Project** – Jeremy Cram indicated that this project is complete and can be closed after all the invoices have been submitted and paid.
- **ORRI VDS Backwatering Project** – Chris Fisher said that ONA completed two back-watering riffles. 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** – Kate Terrell indicated that there is no update on this project.
- **Lower Trout Creek Re-naturalization: Stage 1 Construction** – Chris Fisher reported that Phase I is complete and Phase II should be complete. This project can be closed in March 2024.
- **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.
- **Libby Acquisition Project** – Jeremy Cram and Amanda Barg indicated that this project can be closed. Grant PUD received the final invoice from WDFW for maintenance work on the parcel.
- **Barkley Construction 50% Project** – Kate Terrell indicated that the sponsor (Trout Unlimited; TU) has a few punch-list items to complete. Once those are completed and the final invoice is received, the project can be closed.
- **Lower Wenatchee Instream Flow Enhancement Project, Phase II Project** – Kate Terrell stated that Pacific Engineering has been updating the plans to accommodate the changes recommended by the Jones Shotwell Ditch Company (JSDC) Directors and the sponsor (TU). An updated plan set should be available for review mid-December. The project team had a site visit at the JSDC pump station with Chelan PUD and Ztex Electrical to discuss the process of installing electrical and fiber connections at the new pump station. The sponsor has also been reaching out to the JSDC shareholders that are adjacent to the JSDC canal easement. The purpose of the outreach is to discuss construction activities and what the shareholders should expect, along with answering any questions shareholders may have. Additionally, the sponsor is working on a couple of new grant proposals for the project. The sponsor and the JSDC Directors continued bi-weekly project team meetings throughout the month.
- **Cascade Orchards Icicle Creek (COIC) Flow Restoration Project** – Dave Duvall indicated that Grant PUD and the sponsor (Chelan County Natural Resources Department; CCNRD) are working through contracting issues related to risk. The sponsor would like these issues resolved as soon as possible so they can call for bids.
- **Okanagan Lake Dam East Salmon Passage Project** – Chris Fish reported that this was a stop during the Okanagan tour. Chris indicated that there are some constraints (e.g., landowner constraints, minimize exotic species passage, lake-level fluctuations, etc.) that resulted in the conceptual design that we reviewed previously.
- **Peshastin Creek RM 2.5 Project** – Kate Terrell reported that the sponsor (Cascade Fisheries; CF) is reconvening the design team to review 30% designs. The sponsor is also looking for additional funding for the project.
- **2024 Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board Science Conference** – See discussion under Section VI.

VI. Information Updates

PRCC Habitat Subcommittee Third Quarter 2023 Expenditures and Unencumbered Balances – Tracy Hillman shared the following financial information with the PRCC HabSC:

Habitat Fund	Expenditures through 30 September 2023	Unencumbered Balance
601	\$188,055	\$4,969,017
602	\$247,538	\$8,087,393
603	\$110,586	\$1,278,101
Total	\$546,179	\$14,334,511

Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board Science Conference – Tracy Hillman reported that the Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board (UCSRB) will be hosting its fifth regional salmon recovery science conference on 24-25 January 2024 in Wenatchee, WA. The conference will be based on the theme: “The Questions of Scale.” The theme is intended to encourage dialogue about the scales at which we conceive, design, and implement recovery actions and the scales at which we monitor and detect change. Similar to previous conferences, the Board will bring in experts from across the Northwest and from within the Upper Columbia region to present the latest and most compelling science on watersheds and salmon. Tracy indicated that in the past, the PRCC HabSC has contributed financially to UCSRB conferences. This year, the PRCC HabSC agreed to contribute \$1,000 to the conference.

Decision: *PRCC Habitat Subcommittee members elected to contribute \$1,000 to the UCSRB Science Conference. Funding will come from Fund 603.*

Okanagan Tour – Tracy Hillman reported that he, Chris Fisher, Tom Kahler (Douglas PUD), Elianna Rosenthal (WDFW), John Box (CTCR), and Andrew Gingerich (Douglas PUD) attended the tour in Canada that was hosted by the Okanagan Nation Alliance (ONA). Tracy stated that ONA provided them with a tour booklet, which described all the streams and sites in which restoration work has been implemented or is planned to be implemented. Tracy will share the booklet and the notes prepared by Elli with the PRCC HabSC. Tracy and Chris described all the sites visited during the tour. They noted that the focus of restoration work is on creating or improving spawning habitat for Sockeye Salmon. They visited Okanagan Dam and discussed the fishway proposed by ONA that will be located along the east side of the dam. The fishway will be designed to allow salmonid passage but minimize non-native species passage. In addition to visiting sites in Canada, the group toured the culvert replacement project on Johnson Creek. The new structure on Johnson Creek has a concrete bottom in which natural stream bed elements were placed. The concrete culvert bottom will prevent downcutting and ensure the wetland immediately upstream will remain. The group also visited the Salmon Creek realignment project, which moved the active channel away from the eroding bank on river left. At the time of the visit, both the Johnson Creek and Salmon Creek projects were close to completion.

VII. Adjourn

Tracy Hillman adjourned the meeting at 3:00 pm.

VIII. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the PRCC HabSC will be on 11 January 2024. Meeting will be held virtually until March 2024.