

Meeting Date: January 15, 2020

Location: Washington Cattlemen's Association Conference Room, Ellensburg, WA

**Attendees:** Brian Miller, RC&D, Justin Bader, NYCD, Mike Tobin, NYCD, Anna Lael, KCCD, Mark Crowley, KCCD, Cassandra Weekes, WDFW, Rebecca Wassell, MCF, Marissa Louie, MCF, Mitch Long, KCT, Melissa Speeg, KCT, Scott Nicolai, YN, Tricia Snider, YBFWRB, Argus Brookes, YBFWRB, Erin Eaton, TU, Kevin Haydon, WWT, Joel Hubble, KR D

**Attendees via conference phone:** Katy Pfannenstein, USFWS

1. **ADMINISTRATIVE-**

- A. The meeting agenda was approved.
- B. The minutes from the December 18 YTAHP Core Team Meeting were approved.
- C. FY 2020 YTAHP Expense Contract renewal submitted on December 12 is pending BPA review.
- D. The BPA 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Status Report for the FY 2019 Expense Contract was submitted on January 14
- E. The BPA non-recurring maintenance needs for screens in FY 2021 was discussed
- F. It was noted the Washington RC&D Annual Meeting is scheduled to be held on February 12. The Core Team members were invited to attend the meeting.

2. **CORE TEAM PROJECT UPDATES-**

A. **NYCD- Justin Bader-**

- **Cowiche Creek – Naches Cowiche Canal Co. Siphon: fish passage-**
  - O & M complete for 2019.
- **Cowiche Creek – Lust/Stevenson Water Quality: riparian fencing, planting, spring development-**
  - O & M complete for 2019.
    - Approximately 0.4 acres rototilled and planted with seed mix.
- **Cowiche Creek - Ingham On-Farm Improvement and Cowiche Trust Water Project-**
  - Working with landowners to trust Cowiche Creek water on west side of the canal and get Ingham water off of the Naches Cowiche Canal.
  - Working with multiple new landowners, will push back implementation until land sales are complete and water rights have been figured out.
    - Separate party now going to keep a portion of orchard on south side of canal in production through next year.
- **Ahtanum Creek- Herke South: fish screening and floodplain reconnection/ enhancement-**
  - Should have all information to complete permit applications beginning in February.
    - Working with YN Fisheries on design.

- Working with Yakama Nation Archaeologists to complete survey and report for new access roads, on both the reservation and non-reservation.
  - BPA has reports and has initiated final consultation.
- **Wenas Creek Assessment: Assessment of fish passage, screening needs, and habitat condition within Wenas Creek-**
  - Report complete, data entered into FPDS website.
  - Working on drafting a follow up letter to landowners giving brief summary of the results as well as describing and offering services of the District.
    - Will also follow up with individual landowners.
  - Had encouraging landowner meeting discussing initial involvement in early action recovery projects.
- **Yakima River – Pump screen replacement-**
  - Drafting LOA with 4 separate landowners for five screens.
  - Will coordinate with WDFW for powder coating baffle tubes before install.
- **Rattlesnake Creek – Rattlesnake Ditch and fish screen improvements-**
  - Ongoing preliminary project development related to improving the open irrigation ditch and correcting issues with current fish screen.
  - Landowners/Irrigators working on easement issues.
  - Flow measurements taken August 14<sup>th</sup>.
- **Wenas Creek – Chandler Riparian Enhancement-**
  - New landowner contact interested in improving the riparian area along his property.
- **Ahtanum Creek – Trust water-**
  - Landowner interested in trusting Wiley Springs and Ahtanum Creek water right.

## B. KCCD- Anna Lael-

- **Cooke Creek Project-** Construction continues at the project site and is going well. Contractor feels like they are ahead of schedule. Lower diversion is removed and water is back in the creek channel. Pipeline installation is underway to connect the upper diversion to the pipelines that were served by the lower diversion. The diversion facility concrete work is mostly done, with just a small pad for the electrical panels left to do. Contractor is hoping to put the water back instream at the upper site next week.
- **Parke Creek-** TWG scheduled for tomorrow at the fairgrounds. Construction is still out a bit as the on-farm system still needs to be figured out.
- **Bristol Flats-** Work continues on the pump station and fish screen and the pump station will be done by March 31. KCCD just received the HPA for the bank protection work. Mark will be meeting with Landon this afternoon to discuss implementation.
- **Coleman at Olmstead-** Work is slow on this project. Cultural resources information has been turned in to BPA. Parks will do the survey themselves. The screen for this project is on the list for the Screen Shop to build. An outstanding issue still to be addressed is crossing Coleman creek as they don't currently have vehicular access to the west side of the creek.
- **Coleman Creek at Raap-** This project is now tied to the Cascade Irrigation District diversion structure, so construction will be delayed until that occurs. KCCD does need to work through agreements between CID and Raap family to ensure everyone's concerns are met.

- **Coleman Creek - Fairview Road-** The first meeting with the landowners and engineers will occur tomorrow. This project is ultimately dependent on the County's project to replace the road bridges, but the development of the fish screen and passage component with the landowners can move forward now.
- **Ranch on Swauk Creek-** The topographic survey is complete and the survey crew reported that there was evidence of a bear using the culvert.
- **FBRB applications-** KCCD (mostly Cassandra) is working on two pre-applications, one for Cascade at Coleman Creek and the other for Ellensburg Water Company at Naneum Creek. They will need the matching funds as these are big projects. RCPP is a potential option for that work.
- **RCPP-** KCCD is working toward an application in the next cycle. John Marvin is coordinating a meeting next week for all partners to begin developing an application. They do need an equal contribution of funds and that can include federal funds that have no USDA tie.

### C. KCT- Mitch Long & Melissa Speeg-

- **Kachess River Restoration-**
  - Still moving along on permitting. Having a TWG meeting on Monday, February 3rd for the 30% designs. The Forest Service will be consulting in April for AR-BO2. Looking to complete permitting in 2020 and then construct in 2021.
  - Working with the Forest Service to see if we can get trees from the forest for the project. Lots of pros and cons for this.
  - Will be trying to get a cultural survey done as soon as possible in the spring.
  - Thinking about grow out time for planting since per the Forest Service Plan, all plants need to be from seeds sourced locally.
- **Hanson Ponds-**
  - Assessment and design. The design level will be determined by the findings of the assessment.
  - KCT will be organizing a TAG meeting to gain input on how the assessment should be conducted. Looking to go out for an RFP in late February or March.
  - Met with the City of Cle Elum to discuss the project. The city is on board with looking at a levee setback and implementing it if the assessment determines that is the best outcome for the site.
- **Upper Yakima River Restoration Project-**
  - Submitted their reporting to the Corp and DNR with no negative feedback so far. Yeah!
  - Looking at the possibility of a SRFB application for planting the side channel portion of the project with MCF.
- **Gold Creek-**
  - NEPA Process will be beginning soon. Please provide comments of support if inclined during the comment period.
  - Working to finalize communications strategy and develop a movie to inform about the need for restoration and project goals.
- **Boone Acquisition-**
  - KCT has closed on the property and now the fee title owners of just over 40 acres on the Yakima River mainstem just east of Cle Elum.
  - Will be developing a management plan next.

- **Upcoming Projects-**
  - Kachess Lodge- Working with WSDOT and others to purchase land on Swamp Creek and support of wildlife crossings in the Amabilis Mountain area.
  - Yakima Mainstem- Working on SRFB application for 2020 to acquire approximately 15 acres of floodplain property on the right bank adjacent to Hanson Ponds.
  - The Nature Conservancy lands adjacent to our easements in Suncadia- looking at acquiring these lands.

**D. Mid-Columbia Fisheries- Rebecca Wassell & Marissa Louie-**

- **Education-** April 22 – 23 Salmon Ed Days. Volunteer help is needed!
- **Stewardship-** MCF is submitting a stewardship proposal to SRFB, and welcomes inclusions from our partners.
- **Coleman-** WSDOT funding for a coho acclimation pond, planning underway – setting up survey.
- **Mercer Creek-** Crack willow removal, inset floodplain creation and riparian planting project is underway; WDFW engineer has conceptual designs drafted.
- **Reecer Creek Floodplain Restoration-** Meeting with City and WSDOT to discuss the beaver dam at the downstream end of the project, and plans for future beaver activity.
- **Spoon Full Farm Side Channels-** Working on permit applications, reveg planning.
- **Teanaway RM 8-** The contracted engineers presented the technical committee with conceptual alternatives in December; the committee members will review these in relation to the project objectives.
- **NF Teanaway Floodplain Reconnection-** Planning for 2020 work: dam alteration, wood trapping structures.
- **KCT's Upper Yakima Restoration project-** Completed planting of 4800 plants and elk fencing to protect them. Irrigation will be installed in spring.
- **Ahtanum recreation impacts project-** All permits are in order. Working on an RFP to put out a bid document in June, implementation next July/August.
- **Little Naches-** Results of groundwater study available for tomorrow's meeting. Finishing some contracting with our consultant Tetra Tech to start NEPA and new designs this month.
- **Crow Quartz-** Hoping to implement phase 1 on the project placing ~130 trees in 0.9 miles of quartz this summer. Naches Ranger District expects to have the NEPA complete in April.
- **Bull Canal-** Meeting with WDFW next week to get their engineer's assistance with next steps.
- **Murphy-** Waiting to hear from DOE, receiving partial funding through USFWS.
- **Adopt a Stream-** Updating website, pamphlet. Planning spring plantings and clean-up events.

**E. Yakama Nation- Scott Nicolai-**

- Scott Nicolai gave a presentation for a proposed Coho Habitat Advisory Team. A meeting will be held on January 23 to discuss this plan.

3. **WDFW- Cassandra Weekes-**

- A. Cassandra provided an update on several of the YTAHP projects she’s working on – it has been a busy month. Cassandra is wrapping up the compliance permitting from projects implemented in fall 2019 and working through the permitting for projects to be implemented in 2020.
- B. Coho spawning surveys are complete for the season. We are excited about the expanded survey effort this year, partner participation and landowner engagement. The preliminary coho redd counts in the tributaries are below. A discussion regarding coho spawning surveys and redd distribution was held.

<b><u>Creek</u></b>	<b><u>Redds</u></b>
Cowiche.....	7
Teaway.....	1
Taneum.....	10 (adult outplants)
Wilson.....	2
Naneum.....	3
Cooke.....	1
Cherry.....	6
Badger.....	25
Reecer.....	1
	56 total

- C. Fish Barrier Removal Board pre-applications are being submitted for Coleman Creek at Cascade Irrigation District fish screening and passage and Naneum Creek at Ellensburg Water Company fish passage. Kittitas County Conservation District is the project sponsor. We anticipate hearing from the FBRB in late March whether the projects are selected to move forward to the full application phase.
- D. The updated YTAHP projects spreadsheet was sent out in late December. Cassandra received several updates from folks after it went out. If time permits, Cassandra will send an update out again in mid-February (a month earlier than usual).
- E. Our monthly check-in call with BPA is January 23 at 11am. Let Cassandra know if you’d like to join.

4. **ITEMS OF INTEREST-**

- A. Tricia Snyder provided the following YBFWRB updates:
  - The development of a booklet for outreach use by partners throughout the Yakima Basin has been delayed slightly. Tricia and Melissa asked folks to give feedback and will continue to work on a revision.
  - The 2020 Eastern WA Riparian Planting Symposium is scheduled for March 19, 2020 in Yakima. Tricia hopes to open registration in early February. The planning committee is still looking for a few short (~15 minutes) presentations for the Lessons Learned session, which focuses on projects that were challenging in some way or unsuccessful and the lessons that can be applied to future projects.
  - Folks should expect to see the RFP for the 2020 SRFB grant round in early February. Tricia reminded the group that the 2020 schedule is condensing and to feel free to get

in touch early if any potential SRFB sponsors would like to talk about changes to the process or their projects.

B. Kevin Haydon gave an update on current WWT activities.

5. The next Core Team Meeting is scheduled to be held in Yakima on Wednesday, February 19 at 9:30 a.m.

# **YTAHP Core Team Meeting Appendix**