

Meeting Date: April 15, 2020

Location: This meeting was conducted by teleconference

Attendees via conference phone: Brian Miller, RC&D, Justin Bader, NYCD, Mike Tobin, NYCD, Anna Lael, KCCD, Mark Crowley, KCCD, Cassandra Weekes, WDFW, Josh Rogala, WDFW, Connor Parrish, MCF, Melissa Speeg, KCT, Tricia Snider, YBFWRB, Kevin Haydon, WWT, Katy Pfannenstein, USFWS, Joel Hubble, KRD, Michelle O'Malley, BPA

1. **ADMINISTRATIVE-**

- A. The meeting agenda was approved.
- B. The minutes from the March 18 YTAHP Core Team Meeting were approved.
- C. FY 2020 YTAHP Expense Contract Inter-Local Agreements were issued on April 9.
- D. The 4th Quarter Status Report for the FY 2019 Expense Contract submitted on March 31 was accepted by BPA.
- E. The FY 2019 YTAHP Expense Contract ended on March 31. There will be a final invoice submitted to BPA in May.
- F. Michele O'Malley gave an update on current BPA operations. She indicated that most BPA operations continue to be performed mainly through remote work stations.

2. **CORE TEAM PROJECT UPDATES-**

A. **NYCD- Justin Bader-**

- **Cowiche Creek – Naches Cowiche Canal Co. Siphon: fish passage-**
 - O & M will continue in 2020.
 - Dependent of WCC crew coming back to work.
- **Cowiche Creek – Lust/Stevenson Water Quality: riparian fencing, planting, spring development-**
 - O & M will continue in 2020.
 - Dependent of WCC crew coming back to work.
- **Cowiche Creek - Ingham On-Farm Improvement and Cowiche Trust Water Project-**
 - Sale of northern orchard block fell through.
 - Interest in Yakima County purchasing for the Cowiche water right.
 - Need to coordinate with County on their plans for water right.
 - The northern block and block between the highway and canal will be leased for orchard for the next couple of years.
 - It's not clear how they will irrigate these two blocks considering the development happening to the south. Need to meet with lessee and new landowner.
 - Everything south of the canal will be converted to residential and developed this year.
- **Ahtanum Creek- Herke South: fish screening and floodplain reconnection/enhancement-**
 - Anticipate designs on May 22, depending on change of current situation.
 - Cluster engineer has lost all support staff.

- Receiving help from outside design firm.
 - Current situation is creating issues with communication and timing.
 - Cultural Resources complete.
 - Anticipating going out for bid late April/May.
- **Wenas Creek – Priority passage and screening project-**
 - Working on SRFB application for design of passage and screening at three diversions in spawning reach of Wenas Creek.
- **Wenas Creek – Chandler Riparian Enhancement-**
 - Working on planting plan for small riparian enhancement project.
 - Site prep this summer and implementation this fall.
- **Yakima River – Pump screen replacement-**
 - Project complete.
 - 4 of the 5 fish screens have been installed.
 - One irrigator backed out of project.
- **Snake Creek – Passage and Screening Project-**
 - Working with USFWS on SRFB application for design of a passage and screening project on Snake Creek, which is side channel of Toppenish Creek.
- **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.
- **Ahtanum Creek – Trust water-**
 - Landowner interested in trusting Wiley Springs and Ahtanum Creek water right.

B. KCCD- Anna Lael & Mark Crowley-

- **Cooke Creek-** Construction is wrapping up. KCCD did have to confirm that the project could move forward after the Governor's Stay Home, Stay Healthy proclamation. A letter was written for the contractor and subcontractors to continue this project as it is agricultural infrastructure. KCCD is waiting on the contractor for the last billings and to know what the credits will be from the returned parts and pieces after the change in the meter sizes. The Mid-Columbia crew is working on planting in the areas disturbed by construction. More planting will occur with SRFB funds in fall. KCCD does have a request in to the Fish Barrier Removal Board for additional funding to cover the changes and to ensure they have enough funding left to complete the planting work.
- **Bristol Flats-** The pump station and crane are installed. KCCD received the final billing through the landowner. They will be working with lessee if he needs them as he begins diverting water.
- **Coleman – Olmstead-** The next iterations of the designs for this project are expected this Friday.
- **Coleman – Beard/Schomer-** Survey of this site was completed by HLA. Ryan will be designing this project in house.
- **Coleman – Fairview-** The County finally agreed to requests of the landowner at this site and it sounds like the County project to replace the bridges with a single bridge and re-locate the creek will happen this year. KCCD's engineers did a preliminary design report.

- **Parke Creek-** KCCD continues to wait on the landowner to decide on his new irrigation system. We think he's going with a sprinkler system and pump station but he's continuing to work with the vendor to design the system.
- **Ranch on Swauk Creek-** KCCD approved a task order with Anchor QEA last week. KCCD is hoping to set up a site visit next week so they can get moving on the design.
- **Cascade intersections-** Ryan and Mark had a call with the engineers to go over the designs for the Cascade at Currier creek site. Most of the comments for that apply to Caribou Creek as well, so they didn't review those designs. At this time, there is no funding to continue with the Currier Creek designs.

C. KCT- Melissa Speeg-

- **Gold Creek-** The scoping period closed last Sunday. Received 78 comments overall. Kathryn Furr with the Forest Service is going to go through and code the comments. KCT is going to start developing an RFP for 3rd Party Contract NEPA.
- **Kachess-**
 - Working with the Forest Service on NEPA. Forest Service is going to be providing engineering support, which is really exciting. KCT was going to use hazard trees from standing dead and the Jolly Mountain Fire, but cultural survey costs came back too high, so they are trying to figure out the best path forward. They will be able to take trees in the floodplain from the areas where they clear cut/thinned in the past.
 - Developing funding requests for YBIP and SRFB.
 - Also working on developing a QAPP for the pump pit test sites that they are going to install this summer.
- **Hanson Ponds-** The City of Cle Elum unanimously approved to move forward with a Request for Qualifications. Have already heard back from some engineering firms. The proposals are due by April 30th and they should have a contract in place by May 15th.
- **Upper Yakima River Restoration-**
 - Went out to the site in early March. The side channels look really good. The big flow event from this winter overtopped the flow deflectors. The flow deflector to the second side channel saw some erosion behind the structure. At this point, it would require a large amount of resources to fix something that isn't causing an issue.
 - Mid-Columbia Fisheries is going to be installing irrigation on the planting side starting at the end of April. They have developed really good policies to keep social distancing
- **Upper Yakima Floodplain Project-** Working on SRFB proposal for acquiring 15 acres of high quality riparian habitat on the Yakima River across from Hanson Ponds.

D. Connor Parrish-

- Completing permitting for projects in hopes that we can implement this year. However, they have been cautioned that things will likely be delayed.

- Crow Quartz Large Wood Replenishment- NEPA is completed but hasn't been signed yet, ESA has been started but can't be finished until NEPA is signed, JARPA has been submitted.
 - Had planned to begin harvesting trees in June but it is likely this will be delayed...
 - Project is flexible and can be implemented into November.
- Ahtanum Restoration of Recreation-
 - They wanted to implementing June/July but this is likely to be delayed.
 - Project is flexible with no in-water work window so we can likely do this later in the year.
- **Seasonal staff-**
 - Rest tech crew has been hired and has started working for Kittitas Conservation District and will be moving to the KCT Hundley project next.
 - BTTF has been hired for the 2020 season with an eye on a June start date.
 - Cottonwood and stargrass assessment crew has been hired, should start in June.
- **Little Naches Longmire Levee Reach-**
 - Completed 15% design
 - Working to select the desired alternative, should be selected any day now...
 - Final design and permitting expected by January 2021.
- **YBIP Applications-**
 - Little Naches Longmire Levee Reach
 - Headwaters Restoration
 - WF MF Teanaway
 - Yakima River Delta
 - Teanaway floodplain
 - BCD Lower Yakima Thermal Refuge- MCF partnering
 - Bull Trout Task Force
 - Teanaway Brook Trout eDNA assessment
- **SRFB Applications-**
 - Little Naches Longmire Levee Reach (due April 17th)
 - Stewardship- 6 project locations
 - Rock the Canyon- (YN project with MCF sponsorship)
 - WF and MF Teanaway
 - BCD Lower Yakima Thermal Refuge- MCF partnering
- **DOE Streamflow Restoration Grant (due April 31st)-**
 - Little Naches Longmire Levee Reach
 - Beaver Program
- **National Forest Foundation-**
 - Crow Quartz Large Wood Replenishment

E. Yakama Nation- No report this meeting

3. WDFW- Cassandra Weekes-

- A. Cassandra provided an update on permit processing times due to COVID-19. An overview of known federal, state and local impacts was discussed. In summary, submit permit applications early if you can and plan for a few additional weeks of processing time.

- B. YTAHP is experiencing a few project development delays due to cultural resource surveys and site visits being proposed until travel restrictions are lifted.
- C. According to the Fish Barrier Removal Board grant manual, applicants who ranked within the funding threshold should be receiving an invitation to submit full proposals any day now. Cassandra asked if applicants had heard anything, which they had not. Alex Conley offered to follow up with the Fish Barrier Removal Board if applicants didn't hear anything by April 17.
- D. Cassandra sent out the YTAHP Active Projects Spreadsheet a couple weeks ago. If Core Team members have further updates that were not discussed at the April YTAHP meeting, please let her know.
- E. For the entities on the YTAHP scope of work, the monthly check-in call with BPA is tomorrow at 11:30am. If you want to call-in, let Cassandra know and she'll send the call-in info.

4. **ITEMS OF INTEREST-**

- A. An email from Marcella Appel with the Benton Conservation District regarding Benton County fish screening needs was reviewed. This topic will be visited again when the core team can meet again in person as a group.
5. The next Core Team Meeting is scheduled to be held in Ellensburg on Wednesday, May 20 at 9:30 a.m.

YTAHP Core Team Meeting Appendix