

Meeting Date: June 17, 2020

Location: This meeting was conducted by teleconference

**Attendees via conference phone:** Brian Miller, RC&D, Mike Tobin, NYCD, Anna Lael, KCCD, Cassandra Weekes, WDFW, Josh Rogala, WDFW, Connor Parrish, MCF, Landon Schaffer, MCF, Melissa Speeg, KCT, Ryan DeKnikker, YN, Tricia Snider, YBFWRB, Kevin Haydon, WWT, Katy Pfannenstein, USFWS, Erin Eaton, TU, Joel Hubble, KRD

1. ADMINISTRATIVE-

- A. The meeting agenda was approved.
- B. The minutes from the May 20 YTAHP Core Team Meeting were approved.
- C. FY 2019 YTAHP Expense Contract WE budget needs to be updated before the contract is closed.
- D. The FY 2019 YTAHP Annual Report is due to be submitted to BPA by July 15.
- E. The FY 2020 YTAHP Contract 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Status Report is due to be submitted to BPA by July 15.

2. CORE TEAM PROJECT UPDATES-

A. NYCD- Mike Tobin-

- Mike provided an update on current NYCD projects.

B. KCCD- Anna Lael-

- **Ranch on Swauk Creek-** The cultural resources consultation has been initiated by BPA. Anna has talked with Chris Landreau about completing the survey in July. Chris did the survey and report for KCT on the instream and riparian planting project that overlaps with this project. There was a meeting early this week with Anchor QEA to review the 15% designs. Cassandra has shared those designs with BPA to start their review process. KCCD continues to work with the landowner who is working with the County. The pipeline from the diversion to place of use will be in the County Right of Way and will need to cross over Swauk Creek. That would happen at the Burke Road bridge and the landowner is attempting to get the as-builts for the bridge as well as working on the needed franchise agreement. KCCD will be setting up a TWG for this project soon.
- **Cooke Creek-** The Cooke Creek project has been accepted as substantially complete by the KCCD Board. There is a small punch list being completed. There is also a warranty issue with a leaky vault that can't be fixed until fall (end of irrigation season).
- **Coleman Creek – Valley Land Company-** This is the lowest barrier on Coleman Creek. KCCD is still waiting for confirmation on the construction of the solar facility. Once they know that for certain, they can schedule removal of this diversion structure and installation of the small pump station.
- **Coleman – Olmstead-** KCCD continues to work on design of this project. Although FBRB staff already declined their request to include a bridge for vehicular access,

KCCD is going back to them again to talk about a pedestrian bridge. The current design has the diversion/fishscreen and pump station on the east side of the creek and the sprinkler system on the west side. It's just not feasible to leave the lessee with no access across the creek for operation of the system, especially when they currently have access to walk across the existing diversion structure. State Parks indicated that the bridge does not need to be handicap accessible, but it does need to meet basic safety standards. KCCD sent the request to FBRB staff and received no response to date.

- **Coleman – Beard-** Mark continues to work with Mid-Columbia as they develop a project on the land immediately downstream of this property to establish an acclimation pond. KCCD is waiting to see how we can coordinate our project with that one.
- **Coleman at Vantage Highway-** This is a Kittitas County FBRB project. The County awarded the contract to Belsaas & Smith and construction will happen this year.
- **Coleman at Cascade Canal-** KCCD submitted this project in the most recent FBRB grant cycle. This is just upstream of the Vantage Highway crossing.
- **Coleman at Fairview-** The County put this project out to bid as well. They have not yet awarded the contract, but the low bidder is Advantage Dirt. KCCD's involvement in this project is working with the landowners to set up infrastructure for future screening and passage project.
- **Naneum Creek at Ellensburg Water Company-** KCCD submitted this project in the most recent FBRB grant cycle as well.

### C. KCT- Melissa Speeg-

- **Gold Creek-** Working through the initial NEPA process currently. Examining the comments and identifying what information gaps exist and what analysis needs to be done in order for the Forest Service to determine what alternative is best for the area. Mitch has been working with NSD to install stream gauges and groundwater wells so KCT can better refine what they know about the pond and stormwater system's impact on the hydrology. Mitch also has been working with Forterra and NSD to collect data on Heli's Pond.
- **Kachess-** KCT had their 60% design review for Kachess in May and they have been collecting comments. Inter-Fluve is busy using the feedback to refine and develop 100% designs. Haven't been able to get archeology on site yet to do surveys, which is a little concerning. Eric Merten, the project leader for the Forest Service, is going on a detail until the end of September in California so the Forest Service is trying to determine who will lead in the interim. KCT met with the services in June and it was determined that a bridge will have to be placed across Kachess. Silviculture went on site and started putting in plots to develop a prescription. KCT will be meeting with Forest Service engineering out in the field in July to look at the site.
- **Hanson Ponds-** KCT had their kickoff meeting yesterday for Hanson Ponds! Great discussion and had participation from DNR, Dept. of Ecology, Army Corps, City of Cle Elum, WDFW, Kittitas County, WSDOT, etc. Melissa put out some feelers and has been receiving a lot of data from all the past work that has been done in this reach. Inter-Fluve will begin onsite work in July. Melissa will be reaching out to partners to help with assessment in certain areas to cut down on our engineering costs.

- **Upper Yakima River-** Things are moving right along. Went out with Cassandra and Scott Downes at the end of May to look at the side channels and everything looked great. On the planting side, the irrigation is being installed. Was able to work out an access issue with the landowner, which required moving 30 plants.
- **Upper Yakima Acquisition-** SRFB application went really well and waiting to hear on whether KCT will be awarded funding for the project.

#### D. MCF- Connor Parrish& Landon Schaffer-

- **Yakima Delta Restoration-** The Corps of Engineers is continuing to move the project through the Section 1135 analysis process.
- **Yakima RM 2.5 and 4.9-** Benton CD has advertised a Request for Proposals for Conceptual Design of thermal refuge at these two locations.
- **Yakima RM 25-** MCF has contracted with Wildlands, Inc. for plant replacement and weed management this year and next. Approval of fish monitoring has been delayed due to an absence at DOE, so MCF may not be able to monitor smolts until next year.
- **Yakima River Side Channel at Bull Canal diversion-** Working with WDFW and DNR to explore options.
- **Coleman Creek acclimation pond-** WDFW will complete design by the end of June. Implementation planned for 2021.
- **Mercer Creek Floodplain Restoration-** Working toward 2020 implementation.
- **Spoon Full Farm Side Channels-** Finishing up permit applications, aiming for implementation in early fall, 2020.
- **North Fork Teanaway Instream Wood and Floodplain Restoration-** Construction bids are due June 29. Aiming for construction in August.
- **Teanaway Community Forest Wetlands and Geomorphology-** MCF will advertise a Request for Proposals for wetlands inventory and geomorphological assessment in the Middle and West Fork Teanaway River in July.
- **Little Naches Levee Reach-** At 30% design and working with partners to make final large scale decisions. MCF had applied for SRFB money to implement the project but they have pulled that application. MCF didn't feel that the designs were going to get to 60% design by the time they needed to submit the final app to SRFB this season.
- **Crow Quartz-** A harvest prescription for Quartz has been completed and all of the permitting. MCF will be marking trees for harvest later this month and hoping to harvest trees at the end of the month. Their rest tech crew will start placing those trees using a grip hoist in mid-July.
- **Ahtanum-** Final plans will be complete soon and Connor will be meeting with Jeff Jones next week to finalize them before he puts a contract out to bid for the work to be finished this season.
- **Bull Trout Task Force-** Kicking off next week.
- **Cottonwood Assessment-** The crew is beginning training next week.
- **Grant applications-** Connor submitted NFWF pre-applications for additional eDNA collection and electrofishing to identify the distribution of brook trout in the Teanaway River and for a joint project with Yakama Nation "Rock the Canyon" to put habitat boulders in the Yakima River Canyon. Connor also submitted a grant application to NFF to help supplement the budgets of several projects on USFS managed lands including habitat boulders, grip hoist wood placement, buck and rail fencing, and weed treatment of 5 miles of decommissioned road.

- Landon discussed a proposed YTAHP project for FY 2021 in conjunction with MCF. Landon will work with KCCD as they develop the 2021 SOW regarding the proposed project.

#### E. Yakama Nation- Ryan DeKnikker-

- Ryan provided an update on current YN projects.

### 3. WDFW- Cassandra Weekes-

- A. The updated YTAHP active projects spreadsheet was distributed on Monday of this week. If you have additional changes to be incorporated, please let Cassandra know.
- B. During the previous two YTAHP meetings, Cassandra provided an update on known permit/authorization/consultation delays and temporary changes in procedures due to COVID. At this time, procedures and processing has, for the most part, returned to normal.
- C. The Clean Water Act, which is the primary federal law governing water pollution, has been modified and the new rule comes into effect next week on June 22. Cassandra has been reading the final rule in the Federal Register and is participating in a 5-part webinar series that discusses the changes in detail. The new ruling narrows the scope in which wetlands and waterways are protected under the CWA. The rule eliminates federal protection for certain classes of streams and wetlands, including:
  - Streams in upland ditches as well as water in most ditches.
  - **Wetlands** behind dikes with no surface connection to a river, and wetlands along irrigation canals.
  - Ephemeral streams, which are streams that only flow in response to rainfall
  - Wetlands in a floodplain that receive floodwaters on a less than annual basis and lack a surface connection to a stream
  - Prior converted croplands, or wetlands under agricultural production when they are proposed to be changed to non-agricultural uses.

We likely won't see significant changes in CWA permitting for our YTAHP projects. We will still need to obtain CWA 404 and 401 WQC permitting for our hydraulic projects.
- D. BPA's HIP 4 is finalized. Updates were made to the general conservation measures, the staged rewatering plan and turbidity monitoring protocol. A few new categories were also added. Two new categories that may have applicability to some YTAHP projects are: Installing habitat-forming natural materials, such as sediment and gravel & managing vegetation using herbicides.
- E. The monthly check-in call with BPA is tomorrow. If you want to call-in, let Cassandra know and she'll send you the call-in info.

### 4. ITEMS OF INTEREST-

- A. Tricia Snyder gave an update on current YBFWRB activities.

5. The next Core Team Meeting is scheduled to be held in Ellensburg on Wednesday, July 15 at 9:30 a.m.

## **YTAHP Core Team Meeting Appendix**