

Meeting Date: October 21, 2020

Location: This meeting was conducted by Zoom conferencing

Attendees via Zoom conference: Brian Miller, RC&D, Ryan Anderson, RC&D, Mike Tobin, NYCD, Mark Crowley, KCCD, Cassandra Weekes, WDFW, Mitch Long, KCT, Rebecca Wassell, MCF, Katy Pfannenstien, USFWS, Erin Eaton, TU, Cole Provence, Ecology, Tricia Snyder, YBFWRB

1. ADMINISTRATIVE-

- A. The meeting agenda was approved.
- B. The minutes from the September 16 YTAHP Core Team Meeting were approved.
- C. The FY 2020 YTAHP Contract 2nd Quarter Status report was submitted to BPA on October 14.
- D. The FY 2020 YTAHP Cost Share report is due to be submitted to BPA by October 30.
- E. The FY 2021 YTAHP Contract CR-344089 SOW and Line Item Budget are due to be submitted to BPA by November 30.

2. CORE TEAM PROJECT UPDATES-

A. NYCD- MikeTobin-

- **Cowiche Creek – Naches Cowiche Canal Co. Siphon: fish passage-**
 - O & M ongoing.
- **Cowiche Creek – Lust/Stevenson Water Quality: riparian fencing, planting, spring development-**
 - O & M ongoing.
- **Cowiche Creek - Ingham On-Farm Improvement and Cowiche Trust Water Project-**
 - Yakima County interested in purchasing parcel north of the highway.
 - Trout Unlimited working on potential partnership with Yakima County.
 - Everything south of the canal will be converted to residential and developed this year.
- **Ahtanum Creek- Herke South: fish screening and floodplain reconnection/enhancement-**
 - Received Time extension from RCO for work through next November.
 - Plan to get designs ready for permit applications by January this winter.
- **Wenas Creek – Priority passage and screening project-**
 - Putting together grant application through RCPP.
- **Wenas Creek – Purdin Ditch Passage and screening project-**
 - Putting together grant application through RCPP.
- **Wenas Creek – Chandler Riparian Enhancement-**
 - Waiting for final comments on cultural report.
 - Comment period ends within the next couple of weeks.
 - Will plant this November.

- **Snake Creek – Passage and Screening Project-**
 - Project has been deferred by SRFB.
 - Will work with USFWS on follow up questions and potentially resubmit next year.
- **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- Mark Crowley-

- **Coleman Creek – Olmstead-** KCCD received eight bids for this project on Friday October 16. The apparent low bidder is Hurst Construction. Anna is on a call with the Fish Barrier Removal Board asking for additional funds to cover the cost of the project above the what has already been acquired. If the additional funds are approved the work will hopefully start around November 9.
- **Bristol Flats-** Landon and the Mid-Columbia crew are scheduled for Monday and Tuesday to pound in the post for the bank protection work near the pump station. This will wrap up the work for this site except for some minor plantings later.
- **Cooke Creek-** Now that the irrigation season is over the contractor will be performing some warranty work at the site.
- Now that Coleman Olmstead is out for construction KCCD will start focusing on continued design and construction for next year. The project we will be focusing on are: Cascade ID at Coleman, Coleman – Valley Land, and Parke Creek.
- Kittitas County project on Coleman Creek at Vantage Hwy is nearly completed. The project on Coleman Creek at Fairview has the new bridge installed and part of the new channel is in place.

C. KCT- Mitch Long-

- **Gold Creek-** Groundwater modeling has been completed and under review for restoration options in Gold Creek Valley and under review by the Interdisciplinary Team. NEPA is moving forward.
- **Kachess River-** Groundwater wells installed and revisions to design plans underway with new information found at the time of well installation. NEPA is moving forward.
- **Hanson Ponds-** Surveys, bathymetry, data loggers installation, and other information has been gathered (or still is) and work to develop conceptual designs and feasibility study is underway.
- **Upper Yakima River Acquisition-** KCT is beginning to work on acquisition of 15 acres of the Yakima River Floodplain adjacent to the Hanson Ponds site.
- **Upper Yakima River Restoration (Hundley Property)-** KCT is working to close out the Ecology grant and monitoring of the project that was completed in the fall of 2020. Side channels are functioning as intended and have fish use documented. Riparian planting is in the maintenance phase and currently has approximately 85% survival.

- **Box Canyon Large Wood Replenishment-** KCT, USFWS and USFS staff walked the creek and documented wood movement. Approximately 7% of the wood pieces (30 total) have migrated into the delta area of Box Canyon Creek and Kachess Reservoir. Most of the wood did move as expected due to high flows in the fall/winter/spring. Instead of 22 smaller structures, there are 13 larger structures that are engaged with the river and providing the benefits to instream habitat and natural functions to benefit bull trout.
- **Cle Elum Ridge Community Forest-** KCT has been working with the Checkerboard Partnership Planning Committee to assist with the creation of a community forest model and disposition of approximately 27,000 acres of former Plum Creek Timber lands purchased by the Central Cascades Forest, LLC and currently managed by The Nature Conservancy. Although this is not a YTAHP project, there are tributaries to the Yakima River that are in or adjacent to the conservation areas including Cabin Creek, Taneum, and Crystal Creek.

D. MCF- Rebecca Wassell-

- **Yakima RM 25 – Mast Farm-** Wildlands Inc. continued maintenance on the new plantings this year. MCF and YN will install a PIT tag array later this fall. Initial temperature data from the alcove is very promising.
- **NF Ahtanum Creek Recreation Impacts-** Connor, the Rest Tech Crew and volunteers followed up the contractor's work with seeding, mulching, and planting of bareroot and potted plants.
- **SF Cowiche-** YN placed large wood in the floodplain, and is planning extensive planting.
- **Cowiche Creek on former Ketchen property-** MCF planted upland species to replace riparian plantings that failed.
- **Quartz Creek-** MCF completed wood placement in Quartz Creek; looking to work in Crow Creek next year.
- **Little Naches River-** MCF was awarded a streamflow restoration grant for implementation. Field meeting scheduled for October 28 to work through technical committee concerns about preliminary design. Also need to confirm NEPA approach.
- **Mercer Creek-** Project is postponed until 2021, dependent upon securing additional funding.
- **Other Ellensburg urban streams-** Landon is working with CWU to install small buffers on Wilson Creek through campus, and working with Ilene Goudy to increase plantings on the Pott Road property. He also met with Parkland Condo Association Monday to check in on their riparian planting.
- **Taneum Creek at Cedar Meadows-** YN installed large wood structures in-stream and placed additional wood on the floodplain. Small-scale planting planned for next week.
- **NF Teanaway-** MCF worked with the Yakima-Klickitat Fisheries Project of the Yakama Nation to install 3 large wood trapping structures, 18 splitter/deflector structures and extensive large wood replenishment to improve floodplain connection and instream habitat for steelhead and salmon in more than 1 mile of the North Fork Teanaway River. They also restored floodplain hydrology along more than 1 mile of Indian Creek by decompacting an old road and filling old ditches.

- MCF just received letters of interest from consultants for the wetland and geomorphic assessments for MF and WF.
- **Sorenson Creek**- Kat Strathmann and Katy Pfannenstein are working with land-owners along Sorenson Creek to look at riparian habitat improvement options.
- **Bull Trout Task Force (BTTF)**- Trying to get redd surveys in among high flows.

E. Yakama Nation- No report this meeting

3. WDFW- Cassandra Weekes-

- A. Cassandra has been working with NYCD and KCCD on permitting and environmental compliance of upcoming projects, discussed by Mike Tobin and Mark Crowley during this meeting.
- B. The Ranch on Swauk Creek project is postponed until summer/fall 2021 due to timelines, permitting and funding. Permitting will continue with the goal of being completed in late fall or early winter. KCCD is working with RCO on a potential increase to the SRFB funding for the project. In addition, a grant proposal to the USFWS National Fish Passage Program is in the works.
- C. The FEMA Policy on Fish Enhancement Structures in the Floodway was rescinded because it was in conflict with the floodplain management criteria in the Federal Register, which requires all projects in the regulatory floodway go through hydrologic and hydraulic analyses and demonstrate there will not be a rise in BFE. Projects within the floodway that will result in an increase in the BFE may be permitted, but the local jurisdiction must first apply for a CLOMR prior to permitting the project and a LOMR once the project is complete and all conditions of the permit have been met. This may make it more challenging to permit and implement habitat restoration projects – especially large woody debris projects. This information is still hot-off-the-press and entities are working to learn more about how this will change current permitting processes. We will likely be hearing much more about this in the near future.
- D. Cassandra is working with Brian on the FY 2021 YTAHP SOW and FY 2020 cost share reporting.

4. ITEMS OF INTEREST-

- A. Katy Pfannenstein reminded the group that the due date for USFWS' RFP is November 15.
- B. Tricia Snyder provided the following YBFWRB updates-
- The habitat booklet being worked on by Tricia Snyder, Ashton Bunce, and Melissa Speeg is ongoing and they will be scheduling a final review soon.
 - Tricia noted to touch base with her if there are any questions related to the 2020 SRFB list.
- C. Cole Provence informed the group that the Mid-Yakima River Basin Bacteria TMDL is now available for public comment. This affects restoration dollars for Cowiche, Wide Hollow and Moxee.
5. The next Core Team Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 18 at 9:30 a.m.

YTAHP Core Team Meeting Appendix