



Meeting Date: March 16, 2022
Location: This meeting was conducted by Zoom conferencing

Attendees via Zoom conference: Brian Miller, RC&D, Ryan Anderson, RC&D, Justin Bader, NYCD, Anna Lael, KCCD, Mark Crowley, KCCD, Cassandra Weekes, WDFW, Josh Rogala, WDFW, Melissa Speeg, KCT, Zac Zacavish, MCF, Michael Horner, YBFWRB, Katy Pfannen-stein, USFWS, Lloyd Stevens, Jr., Ecology, Marcella Appel, BCD, Michelle O'Malley, BPA

1. **ADMINISTRATIVE-**

- A. The meeting agenda was approved.
- B. The minutes from the February 16 YTAHP Core Team Meeting were approved.
- C. The 4th Quarter Contract Status Report is due to be submitted to BPA by March 31.
- D. The FY 2021 Expense Contract ends on March 31. The final invoice for the Contract will be submitted in May.
- E. The FY 2022 Expense Contact SOW CR-351590 has been approved and issued.
- F. The FY 2022 Inter-Local Agreements have been sent out for signatures.
- G. The 2021 BPA YTAHP Annual Report is being prepared.
- H. Michelle O'Malley discussed the following items with the group:
 - March 22 YTAHP SOW review with BPA.
 - April 25 office opening date for most BPA employees.
 - Upcoming CB Fish training sessions.

2. **CORE TEAM PROJECT UPDATES-**

A. **NYCD- Justin Bader-**

- **Project Implementation/Development-**
 - **Wenas Creek – Priority passage and screening project-**
 - Awarded RCPP funding under the Mid-Columbia Steelhead Partnership application.
 - Will begin setting up agreements to facilitate expenditures.
 - Design Firm is currently working on base map and design alternatives, based on project goals and input from landowner meeting.
 - **Wenas Creek – Purdin Ditch Passage and screening project-**
 - Awarded RCPP funding under the Mid-Columbia Steelhead Partnership application.
 - Working with NRCS staff on figuring out how to make agreements with single entities (NYCD or Ditch Association) instead having to do contracts with multiple irrigators using individual contracts.
 - Project engineer working on designs for fish passage, screening, and piping ditch.
 - **Wenas Creek –Riparian Enhancement-**
 - Majority of fence has been installed.
 - Fish screen will be provided, sized to water right. Water meter will also be provided.

- **Naches River – Riparian Protection and Enhancement-**
 - Adjacent landowner identified during Trout Meadows project with Yakima County Project to develop riparian fence for livestock exclusion from the creek with establishment of riparian trees and shrubs.
 - Met with landowner to discuss resource concerns and to begin project planning.
- **Project Operation and Maintenance-**
 - **Ahtanum Creek- Herke South: fish screening and floodplain reconnection/enhancement-** O & M ongoing this FY for phase 1.
 - **Cowiche Creek – Naches Cowiche Canal Co. Siphon: fish passage-** O & M ongoing this FY.
 - **Cowiche Creek – Lust/Stevenson Water Quality: riparian fencing, planting, spring development-**O & M ongoing this FY.
 - **Wenas Creek – Chandler Riparian Enhancement-** O & M ongoing this FY.

B. KCCD- Anna Lael & Mark Crowley-

- **Parke Creek-** The contractor was back last week and installed the pipe across the creek at the upper diversion which was the last task to be completed. Mark presented project photos of the instream work over the last few months. Installation of the sprinkler system continues with pump and pipeline installation. Anna Neuzil will be back later this month to monitor the last section of pipe to be installed.
- **Coleman Creek (Schomer/Beard)-** The design report for this project should be to KCCD by this week. It was supposed to be done by 2/28, but the engineers were not able to meet that deadline.
- **Naneum Creek (Poulsen)-** The design report should also be completed this week by the engineers as it was on the same schedule as the Coleman project.
- **Coleman – Olmstead-** KCCD is still waiting on flow meter fix installation to be completed. The parts are here, but getting the electrical subcontractor to schedule the work has been a struggle for the contractor.
- **Fish Barrier Removal Board-** The two pre-applications submitted (Naneum at McCullough and Coleman Creek 4.7) have been returned with some questions and clarifications. A meeting with Casey Costello is scheduled on Thursday to review the questions.

C. KCT- Melissa Speeg-

- **Restoration Projects-**
 - **Kachess River-**
 - KCT should have a signed decision this week. They will develop and put out an RFP this summer and starting construction in 2023.
 - Working with the Forest Service and WDFW to see if KCT can use trees from the BOR Kachess maintenance of dams project.
 - KCT will conduct a wetlands delineation this summer to ensure that they meet the Forest Service and Army Corps of Engineers regional general permit.
 - **Gold Creek-** KCT hired a 3rd Party NEPA contractor and will be kicking things back off with the Inter-Disciplinary Team.

- **Hanson Ponds-**
 - KCT is working with the City of Cle Elum and their engineers to identify potential locations to relocate the sewer outfall. They are looking at options like putting it in a side-channel like the City of Yakima did or moving it downriver to a more protected location.
 - KCT is putting in an application to Floodplains by Design and SRFB application to continue the design process.
- **Conservation Projects-**
 - **Cottonwood Cove-** KCT was supposed to close on this project yesterday. They are waiting on some paperwork from RCO and are hoping to close by Thursday at the latest.
 - **Checkerboard Partnership-** The Checkerboard Partnership is working to support DNR so they can own and manage the lands on the Cle Elum Ridge and in the Domerie watershed.
 - **Gold Creek-** KCT is supporting Forterra, who was awarded \$4 million in Section 6 funding, to acquire key properties in Gold Creek Valley.
 - **Thorp-** KCT is working with a family in the Thorp area to protect a large section of floodplain on the Yakima River. This will likely be an acquisition/restoration project. Will be looking to use the Cottonwood Study conducted by MCF to make a meaningful floodplain restoration project.

D. MCF- Zac Zacavish-

- Zac provided an update in current MCF activities.

E. Yakama Nation- No report this meeting-

3. WDFW-Cassandra Weekes-

- A. Cassandra is back and working to get caught up. Please reach out if you need anything!
- B. Habitat Recovery Pilot Program (HRPP): Great to see that Josh Peters was able to provide an overview of the new HRPP to the YTAHP team! It's great to have YTAHP included in that program. We will likely still utilize the FHEP process for most projects. However, for projects that don't qualify under FHEP, it's great to have another option for streamlining state and local permitting.
- C. US Army Corps of Engineers Nationwide Permit Reissuance: In December 2021, the Corps published a final rule in the Federal Register for the formal reissuance of a majority of their existing nationwide permits, including NWP 27 for Aquatic Habitat Restoration and Enhancement Activities. This is the NWP we most frequently use for Clean Water Act permitting of our habitat restoration projects. The new permit replaces the prior versions. The newly re-issued NWPs went into effect on February 25, 2022 and will expire on March 14, 2026. Cassandra reviewed the Corps' summary of the new NWP 27. There were two new project types that were added, 1) releasing sediment from reservoirs to restore or sustain downstream habitat, and 2) coral restoration or relocation. Aside from the new project additions, there are no major changes from 2017, which is the last time the NWPs were authorized. Project activities previously authorized under the prior NWPs had until March 18, 2022 to commence or be under

contract for the work. Otherwise, the project will need to be re-submitted to the Corps for review and a new authorization letter will be issued. If you need assistance with this, please let Cassandra know.

- D. We have a meeting next Tuesday at 10:30AM to review the upcoming YTAHP SOW with BPA.

4. **ITEMS OF INTEREST-None this meeting-**

- 5. The next Core Team Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 20 at 9:30 a.m.

YTAHP Core Team Meeting Appendix