

Meeting Date: August 19, 2020

Location: This meeting was conducted by teleconference

**Attendees via Zoom conference:** Brian Miller, RC&D, Anna Lael, KCCD, Mark Crowley, KCCD, Cassandra Weekes, WDFW, Josh Rogala, WDFW, Connor Parrish, MCF, Kevin Haydon, WWT, Katy Pfannenstein, USFWS, Erin Eaton, TU, Joel Hubble, KRDC, Dale Meck, Yakima County

1. ADMINISTRATIVE-

- A. The meeting agenda was approved.
- B. The minutes from the July 15 YTAHP Core Team Meeting were approved.
- C. FY 2019 YTAHP Expense Contract WE budget was updated on June 24 and the contract is now closed.
- D. The draft FY 2020 YTAHP Strategic Plan has been completed and is pending review.
- E. The FY 2020 YTAHP Contract 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Status Report was accepted by BPA on July 16.

2. CORE TEAM PROJECT UPDATES-

A. NYCD- No report this meeting-

B. KCCD- Anna Lael & Mark Crowley-

- **Coleman- Olmstead-** Anderson Perry working on finalizing the designs. The JARPA has been submitted and permits are in the works. There have been issues crop up including high cost estimates and State Parks reaction to the point of diversion change process. Parks has indicated that they will not sign off on the access permit until point of diversion change is complete. The earliest that can happen is November 17 (next Conservancy Board meeting) and then Ecology has 45 day review period. State Parks has had this information since first of June, but just began working on it and understanding it. KCCD like to have this project out to bid in late September with construction starting in early November if all issues are resolved in time.
- **Ranch on Swauk Creek-** Permitting is underway for this project but it will be tight to receive them in time to construct this fall. Funding is short on this project as well. The cost estimates came in way over the project budget. The engineers are working on options to reduce costs.
- **Wilson/Naneum Fan-** KCCD has been talking with several different landowners on the Wilson/Naneum fan over the last few months and so have others (e.g. Flood Control Zone District, WDFW). Some are interested in irrigation efficiencies projects and others are interested in fish habitat projects. There is also quite a bit of interest in conservation easements. It seems like momentum is gathering and maybe a meeting of all interested folks in the next few months would be a good idea.

C. KCT- No report this meeting.

**D. MCF- Connor Parrish-**

- Connor provided an update on current MCF projects.

**E. Yakama Nation- No report this meeting**

**3. WDFW- Cassandra Weekes-**

- A. The past month has super busy with the Coleman at Olmstead and Swauk Creek fish passage and screening projects. Both projects are slated for construction this fall.
- B. Yesterday the Fish Barrier Removal Board held a meeting to review and discuss the 2021-2023 ranked project. There are 88 projects on the list proposed for funding. The projects proposed in the Yakima Basin all fared well, 2 of which are KCCD projects that have been in the YTAHP pipeline.
- Nelson Dam fish passage improvements – design & construction \$\$ – ranked #1
  - Coleman Creek at CID fish passage & screening – design & construction \$\$ – ranked #3
  - Naneum Creek at EWC fish passage – design & construction \$\$ – ranked #11
  - Tucker Creek fish passage – design only - ranked #18
- C. The US Army Corps of Engineers recently announced a proposal to renew and revise their Nationwide permits for work in wetlands and other waters that are regulated by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and/or Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act. The NWP we use most frequently for our YTAHP projects is NWP 27 for aquatic habitat restoration and enhancement activities. Updates to the NWP 27 include:
- To change the second sentence of the second paragraph to state that an ecological reference may be based on the characteristics of one or more intact aquatic habitats or riparian areas. The design and evaluation of ecosystem restoration, enhancement, or establishment projects may involve the use of more than one reference site.
  - New authorized activities:
    - Add reservoir sediment management to provide continuity in sediment transport through reservoirs.
    - Add coral restoration and relocation.
- As these updates progress, Cassandra will continue to provide updates. The proposal is expected to be published in the Federal Register within a few weeks and will open for public comment at that time. Additional information can be found here: <https://www.usace.army.mil/Media/News-Releases/News-Release-Article-View/Article/2298456/army-corps-of-engineers-announces-proposal-to-renew-and-revise-nationwide-permi/>
- D. WDFW began the process to create new rules to implement elements of HB 1009. This bill became effective July 28, 2019 and amended the law governing Construction Projects in State Waters - [Chapter 77.57 Revised Code of Washington \(RCW\)](#), better known as the Fishways, Flow, and Screening Statutes. The main goals are to develop a new rule section under title 220 Washington Administrative Code (WAC) as necessary to implement chapter 77.57 RCW. These rules will:
- Codify standards used by WDFW for-
    - Instream structures;

- Screening and diversions; and
- Climate adaptive water crossing structures.
- Address compliance issues for instream structures and screening, providing-
  - Steps to bring owners into compliance; and
  - The effects of non-compliance.

Comments are being accepted now. You can reach out to Danny Didricksen with any questions. Additional information can be found here: <https://wdfw.wa.gov/species-habitats/habitat-recovery/fish-passage/rule-making>

- E. The monthly check-in call with BPA is tomorrow. If you'd like to join, please let Cassandra know and she'll share the call-in information.

#### 4. **ITEMS OF INTEREST-**

- A. Dale Meck with Yakima County participated to stay informed of all the good work YTAHP is getting done across the Yakima Basin. Dale also provided a brief update on land acquisition progress towards restoring floodplain on Cowiche Creek between US 12 and Powerhouse Road as part of the broader Naches-Cowiche Flood Risk Reduction and Floodplain Restoration Project. Objective is to have the land work completed before the end of the year.

- 5. The next Core Team Meeting is scheduled to be held in Ellensburg on Wednesday, September 16 at 9:30 a.m.

## **YTAHP Core Team Meeting Appendix**