

Meeting Date: August 18, 2021

Location: This meeting was conducted by Zoom conferencing

Attendees via Zoom conference: Brian Miller, RC&D, Mike Tobin, NYCD, Anna Lael, KCCD, Mark Crowley, KCCD, Cassandra Weekes, WDFW, Rebecca Wassell, MCF, Mike Bosko, MCF, Melissa Speeg, KCT, Erin Eaton, TU, Ethan Lockwood, WWT, Katy Pfannenstien, USFWS, Joel Hubble, KR, Walt Larrick, Irrigation Districts

1. **ADMINISTRATIVE-**

- A. The meeting agenda was approved.
- B. The minutes from the July 21 YTAHP Core Team Meeting were approved.
- C. The Contract Revision for the FY 2021 YTAHP Contract 87467 is pending BPA approval.
- D. The FY 2020 YTAHP Annual Report is pending BPA review.
- E. The YTAHP Strategic Plan is being updated for 2021.
- F. The BPA Anadromous Fish Habitat and Hatchery Review ISRP preliminary report is due to be released on September 23.
- G. A request to initiate the FY 2022 Expense Contact will be submitted to BPA in September.

2. **CORE TEAM PROJECT UPDATES-**

A. **NYCD- Mike Tobin-**

- **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.
- **Ahtanum Creek- Herke South: fish screening and floodplain reconnection/enhancement-**
 - Project has been shelved.
 - O & M ongoing this FY for phase 1.
- **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.
 - Currently drafting RFP/Q for engineering services.
- **Wenas Creek – Purdin Ditch Passage and screening project-**
 - Awarded RCPP funding under the Mid-Columbia Steelhead Partnership application.
 - Will begin setting up agreements to facilitate expenditures.
 - Looking into working with Walla Walla CD engineer to design fish screen and update pipeline designs.
- **Wenas Creek –Riparian Enhancement-**
 - Developing project to install riparian fencing, planting, and provide compliant fish screen.

- Planting will focus on supplementing heavily burned areas with larger tree species such as cottonwood and ponderosa pine.
 - May include some willow stakes on cut banks to help stabilize until more vegetation re-establishes.
- Fencing will be done in field to exclude livestock and protect riparian area still intact after fire, water gap will be included.
- Fish screen will be provided, sized to water right. Water meter will also be provided.
- Currently working with archaeologist to conduct survey and write report.
 - Survey scheduled for Thursday.
- **Wenas Creek – Chandler Riparian Enhancement-** O & M ongoing this FY.

B. KCCD- Anna Lael & Mark Crowley-

- **Caribou Creek-** The first set of design comments from BPA review have been received. They were minimal and will be addressed.
- **Parke Creek-** KCCD hopes this project will be advertised for bid by September 20.
- **Caribou Creek-** KCCD intends to ask for an extension on the Fish Barrier Removal Board grant for this project because of the current price of pipe.
- **Cascade at Coleman-** Anderson Perry continues to work on the design for this project.
- **Whiskey Creek-** There was a recent meeting with the county, landowners, and Ellensburg Water Company. The result is that this project design maybe expanded all the way up to Bowers Road.
- **Coleman/Olmstead-** KCCD continues working with the contractor to get the flow-meter fixed. The vendor delivery has been delayed because they are moving warehouses.
- **The Ranch on Swauk Creek-** Final designs were received yesterday. The project is now advertised for bid with bids due September 8. KCCD is hopeful that they have enough funding to cover the costs. The pipe is HDPE and they are told that it is more available and hasn't increased in price as much as PVC.

C. KCT- Melissa Speeg-

- KCT currently has a lot going on. They have been receiving a lot of requests for conservation. To handle the increased workload, Mitch will be the lead on the conservation projects and Melissa will be the lead for the restoration projects.
- **Restoration Projects-**
 - **Kachess River-**
 - KCT was funded by SRFB! They received a little under \$500K and when matched with other funds they have currently that puts them at about \$800K for the project, which means they should be able to complete a lot of the work in Reach 2. They will also be applying for other grants and working with agencies to see if they can secure more funding for implementation.
 - The Forest Service specialists are writing their reports right now. KCT is using some new CEs and so the project will be reviewed by the Regional and Washington Offices.

- Once NEPA is completed the only other permit they have to apply for is an HPA. They will apply for that a month or two before implementation so that it lasts as long as possible.
- **Gold Creek-**
 - KCT continues to work with Conservation Northwest and the Forest Service to develop interpretive signs that replace what is around Gold Creek Pond currently. Hopefully, they will have those up sometime late this summer or in the fall.
 - Continuing to move forward with developing designs for the pond.
 - They are trying to determine how to proceed with NEPA. They received limited funding from YBIP this year, and are trying to keep Gold Creek moving ahead while also starting implementation on Kachess.
- **Box Canyon-**
 - Melissa has been out with WDFW engineers and William Meyer to look at what is feasible at Peek-A-Boo Falls. Also went out with Pollyanna, project lead with Inter-Fluve, to get a comprehensive assessment of what they might be able to do to get bull trout above the falls.
- **Hanson Ponds-** Inter-Fluve will have the draft alternatives complete by the end of August. KCT will send them out to partners for feedback and are holding a TWG meeting towards the end of September. Please let Melissa know if you are interested in participating and she will send you an invite.
- **Conservation Projects-**
 - **Cottonwood Cove-** Also received SFRB funding for Cottonwood Cove! KCT now has all the funding they need to purchase this property. They have spoken with the landowner, who is going to do another appraisal because they want to claim as much tax credit as possible. They hope to have this property purchased in the winter of 2021/2022.
 - **Cle Elum Ridge Community Forest-** A lot of our time is being spent trying to establish a community forest on the Cle Elum Ridge. Currently, it looks like KCT will play a significant role in either owning and/or managing these lands. They have been working with the YBIP Lands Subcommittee to determine whether these lands fit within their goals and objectives. KCT is now looking to do fundraising to demonstrate community support and raising funding for acquisition and an endowment.

D. MCF- Rebecca Wassell-

- **Yakima Delta-** MCF continues to coordinate with WDFW and the US Army Corps of Engineers as the Corps works to prepare their range of alternatives.
- **Amon Creek-** Benton CD has selected a channel realignment alternative to move forward. This would allow the stream to enter the river in a location with a deep pool.
- **Yakima RM 25 at Mast Farm-** PIT tag array continues to pick up tagged fish, but most of the tags are not registered. Hoping those tags will be registered in PTAGIS soon. Beavers chewed through the antenna for the most downstream reader, so they are currently only picking up fish that move all the way in to the alcove.
- **SF Cowiche survey-** Replied to Emma Charlet at WDFW about the option of surveying SF Cowiche and Reynolds Creek.

- **Lower Cowiche Creek-** Expecting partial funding from SRFB. Will be seeking funding from DOE and other sources. Also looking to make the proposed work directly targeted to temperature.
- **Little Naches-** 60% designs and low flow modeling; moving to NEPA and ESA next.
- **Bridge on Bull Canal Side Channel-** Planning for construction in early September.
- **Mercer Creek Floodplain-** Contract awarded to Thayer Excavating. Planning for construction in mid-October.
- **Coleman Creek acclimation pond-** Planning for construction in fall.
- **Murphy planting-** Will start in September.
- **North Fork Teanaway Floodplain-** North Fork floodplain reconnection work is complete for now -- YN and MCF added wood and breached a berm this year. Moving to work in the Middle and West Fork.

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

3. **WDFW- Cassandra Weekes-**

- A. It has been a busy time for project development and permitting as we get closer to implementation. A considerable amount of time this month was spent drafting the NEPA CXs, being responsive to cultural resource correspondence, and preparing permit packages for the Corps.
- B. As a reminder, WDFW is collecting observations of drought impacts through their online reporting tool. You can report potential fish or shellfish die-offs related to low water levels, high temperatures, or other environmental conditions. The following is the link: <https://publicinput.com/X7060>.
- C. The YTAHP active projects spreadsheet will be updated and sent out soon.
- D. Tomorrow is the monthly YTAHP check-in call with BPA. If you're available and want to join, let Cassandra know.

4. **ITEMS OF INTEREST-**

- A. Katy Pfannenstein reminded the group that USFWS has funding available annually. In November she will send out the RFP, but in the mean time, if folks have projects that they need funding for (especially due to the increase in construction costs), they should connect with her. She would love to know about potential projects to fund before the RFPs come in. Funding will be available next July.
- B. Ethan Lockwood gave an update on WWT activities.

5. The next Core Team Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 15 at 9:30 a.m.

YTAHP Core Team Meeting Appendix