

Meeting Date: February 19, 2020

Location: USDA Service Center Conference Room, Yakima, WA

Attendees: Brian Miller, RC&D, Justin Bader, NYCD, Mike Tobin, NYCD, Anna Lael, KCCD, Cassandra Weekes, WDFW, Connor Parrish, MCF, Mitch Long, KCT, Melissa Speeg, KCT, Ashton Bunce, YN, Argus Brookes, YBFWRB, Erin Eaton, TU, Kevin Haydon, WWT

1. **ADMINISTRATIVE-**

- A. The meeting agenda was approved.
- B. The minutes from the January 15 YTAHP Core Team Meeting were approved.
- C. FY 2020 YTAHP Expense Contract SOW was approved by BPA on February 14. The Inter-Local Agreements will be sent out as soon as the contract is issued.
- D. The 3rd Quarter Status Report for the FY 2019 Expense Contract submitted on January 14 has been accepted by BPA.
- E. The FY 2019 YTAHP Expense Contract ends on March 31. There will be a final invoice submitted to BPA following the March invoice.

2. **CORE TEAM PROJECT UPDATES-**

A. **NYCD- Justin Bader & Mike Tobin-**

- **Cowiche Creek – Naches Cowiche Canal Co. Siphon: fish passage-**
 - O & M will continue in 2020.
- **Cowiche Creek – Lust/Stevenson Water Quality: riparian fencing, planting, spring development-**
 - O & M will continue in 2020.
 - Approximately 0.4 acres tilled and planted with seed mix. Installed 200 willow cuttings.
- **Cowiche Creek - Ingham On-Farm Improvement and Cowiche Trust Water Project-**
 - Met with landowner who confirmed the orchard block north of Highway 12 is being sold for development of an RV park.
 - Need to talk with new owner to determine what their intent of the Cowiche water right will be for future plans.
 - The northern block and block between the highway and canal will be leased for orchard for the next couple of years.
 - It's not clear how they will irrigate these two blocks considering the development happening to the south. Need to meet with lessee and new landowner.
 - Everything south of the canal will be converted to residential and developed this year.
- **Ahtanum Creek- Herke South: fish screening and floodplain reconnection/enhancement-**
 - Anticipate receiving 90% designs at the end of next week. Should then have all information to complete and submit permit applications.

- BPA sent out their determination letters for final consultation. Review period will be complete March 11.
 - Received concurrence from DAHP.
 - Not expecting any issues with the Yakama Nation as their Archaeologists did the work.
- Anticipating going out for bid late April/May.
- **Wenas Creek Assessment: Assessment of fish passage, screening needs, and habitat condition within Wenas Creek-**
 - Report complete, data entered into FPDS website.
 - Working on drafting a follow up letter to landowners giving brief summary of the results as well as describing and offering services of the District.
 - Will also follow up with individual landowners.
 - Had encouraging landowner meeting discussing initial involvement in early action recovery projects.
- **Yakima River – Pump screen replacement-**
 - Drafting LOA with 4 separate landowners for five screens.
 - Will coordinate with WDFW for powder coating baffle tubes before install.
- **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.
 - Flow measurements taken August 14th.
- **Wenas Creek – Chandler Riparian Enhancement**
 - New landowner contact interested in improving the riparian area along his property.
- **Ahtanum Creek – Trust water**
 - Landowner interested in trusting Wiley Springs and Ahtanum Creek water right.

B. KCCD- Anna Lael-

- **Cooke Creek-** Construction continues for this project. KCCD hit a problem with the flow meters. The next to last plan set indicated that meter sizes would match pipe sizes. That's the plan set reviewed by the landowners when they signed their landowner agreements. The final plan set that was received 9/30/19 changed the meter sizes for three of the four meters and they do not match the pipe sizes. So they have a change order underway to provide the landowners with what they expected. The materials alone are nearly \$50,000 before taxes.
- **Parke Creek-** The next iteration of the project designs are underway.
- **Coleman Creek - Olmstead-** KCCD is working on an inter-local agreement with WDFW for the screen for this project. They continue to try to find a way around the access issue to the west side of the creek.
- **Coleman Creek – Fairview Rd-** The engineers are working on the assessment of this project site. Anna spoke to the Kittitas County Public Works Director who indicated that negotiations will re-open with the landowner for the County's bridge replacement project. Project construction is planned for this summer/fall. If negotiations fail, the County intends to break the road. This may impact the diversion structure possibilities that we would have designed.

- **Coleman - Vantage Hwy-** Anna was updated by Kittitas County PW on this culvert replacement project that is funded by FBRB. Design is continuing and construction is expected this summer.
- **Coleman - Schomer-** KCCD is working to get this site surveyed by the end of March. Mark met the landowner and Landon (MC Fisheries) to talk about the project and the proposed coho acclimation site on part of the property. There is some opportunity to coordinate our screening and passage project with the acclimation pond project.
- **Currier Creek - Cascade Irrigation District-** The next iteration of the design has been received and is currently being reviewed.
- **Swauk Creek-** The Ranch on Swauk Creek Project agreement was signed with SRFB. Anna received a call from landowners asking for assistance with additional stream restoration, specifically continuing the work by the Yakama Nation and KCT completed years ago. They indicated that the Ecology Stream Restoration funding would be an option and applications are due by 3/30. Anna will need help developing this project if it moves forward.

C. KCT- Mitch Long & Melissa Speeg-

- **Hanson Ponds-** KCT held a meeting with TAG members and other partners to determine the goals of the project and what data needs to be collected during the assessment phase. Will be working with Tricia and Elizabeth Butler to develop a scope of work and then will go out with a RFP. The goal will be to begin the assessment this summer.
- **Kachess-** KCT also had a meeting with partners to review the 30% preliminary designs. Had some really good discussion and feedback. Working with some partners now to gather additional data and identify questions that they need to answer going forward. One of the things that came to light in the meeting is the conflict between the level of permitting and road decommissioning. The road they wanted to re-establish to create a new trailhead is not a system road and so they would be “adding” road through the project if they didn’t decommission, which pushes the project out of ARBO II. After further discussion, the Forest Service is going to pursue a focused EA rather than the CE’s currently being considered. KCT is also applying for SRFB funding for implementation for Reach 2 of Kachess.
- **Gold Creek-** Lower Gold Creek Assessment report has been drafted and will be sent out to the larger group in a week or so. Wetland reconnaissance report has been drafted and out to USFS for review. G to G for NEPA kick off has been submitted, next will be out to the public in the next couple of weeks. Website is being created by partners. Short video is progressing. Still dealing with resistance.
- **Upper Yakima Acquisition-** KCT is working with a private landowner to purchase 15 acres of Yakima River floodplain adjacent to Hanson Ponds on river right. Largely undeveloped and good condition for habitat protection. Seeking SRFB funding for the project.

D. Mid-Columbia Fisheries- Connor Parish-

- **MCF is hiring!!** 2-BTTF, 4 Rest Tech, and 2 Cottonwood/stargrass assessment techs.
- **NF Teanaway-** Shared photos/video of NF Teanaway under high flow conditions.

- 2020 Implementation-
 - Ahtanum R of R
 - Little Naches
 - 780 hole
 - Quartz Creek 150 trees
 - Spoonful
 - NF Teanaway
 - Mercer Creek
- **2020 Monitoring/project development-**
 - Little Naches Levee- groundwater/habitat
 - Bull Trout Task Force
 - Cottonwood assessment
 - Water stargrass assessment
 - Coleman Creek
 - Murphy
- **2020 Stewardship-**
 - Hundley
 - Others
- **SRFB Applications-**
 - Cost increase for Crow Quartz
 - Little Naches Levee implementation
 - Stewardship
 - MCF/BCD- Bubble up proposal

E. Yakama Nation- Ashton Bunce-

- Ryan DeKnikker and Scott Nicolai implemented a large wood project on USFS land in Taneum Creek in early February with WCC using grip-hoists/tractor skid winch.
- This summer/fall, Ryan will continue large wood placement/floodplain restoration in NF Teanaway and Indian Creek along with some earth re-contouring.
- Ryan will be working on floodplain restoration in MF and WF Teanaway in out-years.
- John Marvin & Kelly Clayton are co-managing a project in SF Cowiche that will place over 600 floodplain logs and 3 additional instream structures on the top end of Kelly's previous work.
- Ashton is working ~7-mi up on West Taneum RD on a floodplain enhancement project to reactivate historic secondary channels and add instream complexity to Taneum Creek. The project will include ~50CY of floodplain excavation and 6 large wood structures to activate right bank floodplain, plus some additional floodplain wood to add roughness.
- Ashton is working on another phase of large wood restoration on the Swauk Valley Ranch. This project will place roughly 300 habitat logs and 80 cubic yards of slash in 0.8 miles of Swauk to add instream complexity and increase floodplain connectivity.
- John Marvin will be putting out RFP's in 2020 (once he has the funding in hand) for Tieton and Ahtanum Village Side Channel Designs, which were funded for design in the 2019 SRFB grant round.

- Kelly is working on developing a SF Manastash Meadow Restoration Project on WDFW ownership that will entail using hand crews and tractor skid winches to drag in wood harvested adjacent to the creek.
- Ashton and John are working with the USFS to plan and permit a large wood project in Nile Creek that will be implemented in the fall of 2021.

3. **WDFW- Cassandra Weekes-**

- A. Cassandra checked-in on several of the YTAHP projects she's working on. Cassandra is in the process of wrapping up the compliance permitting from projects implemented in fall-winter 2019 and working through the permitting for projects to be implemented in 2020.
- B. Jeff Tayer (WDFW) is planning to convene a Wenas Creek working group to discuss limiting factors to ESA-listed steelhead and prioritize next steps. Cassandra is assisting Jeff with compiling all the data that's out there. She'll be contacting NYCD, USFWS, WDFW, Yakama Nation, NMFS and other partners to gather existing data, summaries and reports. If anyone has information they'd like to include, please pass it along.
- C. The WDFW Yakima Construction Shop is super busy this year and their calendar is filling up quickly. Cassandra has worked with Danny to ensure the Coleman Creek at Olmstead and Swauk Creek at Deneen fish screens are on their schedule. If there are other fish screen fabrication and/or refurbishment needs that you know of this year, please coordinate with Danny.
- D. Our monthly YTAHP conference call with BPA is tomorrow at 11am – let Cassandra know if you want to participate and she'll send the phone bridge information.

4. **ITEMS OF INTEREST-**

- A. Argus Brookes provided YBFWRB updates.
 - B. Kevin Haydon gave an update on current WWT activities.
5. The next Core Team Meeting is scheduled to be held in Ellensburg on Wednesday, March 18 at 9:30 a.m.

YTAHP Core Team Meeting Appendix