

Meeting Date: November 18, 2020

Location: This meeting was conducted by Zoom conferencing

**Attendees via Zoom conference:** Brian Miller, RC&D, Justin Bader, NYCD, Anna Lael, KCCD, Mark Crowley, KCCD, Cassandra Weekes, WDFW, Josh Rogala, WDFW, Elizabeth Torrey, WDFW, Melissa Speeg, KCT, Rebecca Wassell, MCF, Kelly Cayton, YN, Katy Pfannenstein, USFWS, Erin Eaton, TU, Tricia Snyder, YBFWRB, Joel Hubble, KR D, Marcella Appel, BCD, Brenda Aguirre, BPA

## 1. ADMINISTRATIVE-

- A. The meeting agenda was approved.
- B. The minutes from the October 21 YTAHP Core Team Meeting were approved.
- C. The FY 2020 YTAHP Cost Share report was submitted to BPA on October 30.
- D. 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- Justin Bader-

- **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.
    - Passage and Screening at three diversions.
- **Wenas Creek – Purdin Ditch Passage and screening project-**
  - Putting together grant application through RCPP.
    - Screening and passage at the diversion.
- **Wenas Creek – Chandler Riparian Enhancement-**
  - Cultural Resources consultation complete.
  - Will schedule planting within two weeks.
    - Based on WCC availability, who are currently on spike.

- **Wenas Creek – Landowner Outreach-**
  - Sent out letters to the 108 people with property along Wenas Creek.
  - Received several responses from landowners.
    - Two potential projects, barrier removal and screening.
- **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- Anna Lael & Mark Crowley-

- **Coleman – Olmstead-** The contractor began working at the site on Monday. They are working on the clearing and grubbing now and will be getting the bypass channels done this week with the fish rescue anticipated for Tuesday of next week.
- **Bristol Flats-** The post and willows have been placed.
- **Cooke Creek-** The contractor has started working on some warranty items. There is still some planting to be done at the site next year.
- **Yakima Targeted Investments-** Survey work was done this week for diversions and ditches in the Naneum and Little Naneum areas for the landowner south of I90.
- KCCD is continuing to take applications for the RCPP. The deadline for this year's applications is Friday.

#### C. KCT- Melissa Speeg-

- **ACQUISITION - UPPER YAKIMA PROPERTY-**
  - KCT is moving forward with cultural resource analysis and the appraisal process.
- **RESTORATION - UPPER YAKIMA RESTORATION-**
  - Working through some final aspects to close out the grant - mainly outreach.
  - Planting has been really successful so far. Mid-Columbia Fisheries has done an excellent job.
- **HANSON PONDS-**
  - Completed collecting field data in October.
  - Working with the engineers and City of Clem to round up some loose ends.
  - Worked with Geoff Gray again and completed a wetlands delineation and rankings report of the area. He did an excellent job. There are some Class I and II wetlands in places that may make the project innovative and interesting.
  - Currently looking at a wide range of options - full levee set back to improving habitat in the ponds if we can't set back the levees.
- **KACHESS-**
  - Put in groundwater wells in September, which is leading to some revisions of the designs.
  - Surveyed in the high flow channel and a portion of the floodplain where they might be able to connect a tributary that they didn't previously know remains watered year round.
  - Cultural survey is completed and provided to the Forest Service for review. Will need to make some small revisions and should be good to go.

- Will be holding a TWG meeting in January, which many of the group are invited to. Please respond to the Doodle if you haven't and let Melissa know if you didn't receive it and want to!
- **GOLD CREEK-**
  - Did the analysis on the pond and working with Forest Service on the NEPA process.
  - Put up some new signage on the kiosk at the parking lot. This was a collaboration between Conservation Northwest, the Forest Service and Kittitas Conservation Trust. They are continuing to work to develop signs around the pond that tell the story of the gravel extraction, wetlands and how restoration can improve the outcomes for the ecosystem and people.

#### D. MCF- Rebecca Wassell-

- **Yakima RM 2.5 and 4.9-** Working with Benton CD and Northwest Hydraulic Consultants on conceptual design of thermal refuge enhancement. Technical Advisory Group meeting tomorrow to select alternatives to move forward.
- **Little Naches River-** October 28 field meeting went well. Forest Service met yesterday to kick off NEPA process.
- **Yakima River Cottonwood Assessment-** The Upper Yakima River Cottonwood Forest Assessment completed data collection at 44 sites along 30 miles of the Yakima River in June-Aug 2020 to understand the characteristics and health status of existing riparian forest. Data collected includes tree density, age and dbh; topographic elevations of the floodplain for the cottonwood forest; dominant understory shrub and tree species; soil type; overstory canopy cover; and pebble size counts. Data has been summarized and is currently being analyzed by a Natural Systems Design, a consultant engaged by Mid-Columbia Fisheries for the project. A report summarizing the analysis is expected in winter 2020-2021.
- **Bull Canal Side Channel-** Received report from BOR that looked at flow modeling, confirmed minimal changes to river elevation from weir removal. Meeting with DNR and WDFW this afternoon to discuss next steps.
- **Mercer Creek-** Project is postponed until 2021, dependent upon securing additional funding.
- **Spoon Full Side Channels-** Permitting has been going well; waiting on landowner discussions.
- **Teanaway Floodplain Restoration-** Planning to amend contract with Thayer to complete wood placement and berm breaching on the NF in 2021. Selected Natural Systems Design for geomorphic and wetland assessment, set to begin in January.
- **Sorenson Creek-** Submitted proposal to USFWS for riparian enhancement along creek and side channel.

#### E. Yakama Nation- Kelly Clayton-

- Kelly gave an update on current Yakima Nation project activities.

### 3. WDFW- Cassandra Weekes-

A. Cassandra provided an update on projects and permitting she is working on.

- B. Cassandra discussed the Coleman Creek coho acclimation and habitat enhancement project. A couple months ago, Landon Shaffer with MCF presented an overview of the project to YTAHP, and asked for YTAHP's support for the instream enhancements, fish screens and riparian planting components. The Core Team was supportive of contributing YTAHP funds to those elements, as they align with YTAHP priorities and complement YTAHP's work both upstream and downstream in Coleman Creek. The project will be included on the YTAHP FY 2021 scope of work. It is a collaborative partnership between MCF, WDFW, Yakama Nation, YTAHP, and private landowners.
- C. The YTAHP Active Projects Spreadsheet will be updated before the next meeting and distributed to the YTAHP Core Team.
- D. Cassandra has been working on the YTAHP WDFW 2021 budget and 2020 cost share, and assisting with the FY21 SOW. She is working with Brian Miller and Michelle O'Malley to select and add a new work element that will accurately capture YTAHP's collaboration and support of YTAHP Core Team partners.

4. **ITEMS OF INTEREST-**

- A. Tricia Snyder and Katy Pfannenstein-
  - Katy Pfannenstein announced she has joined the 2021 Eastern WA Riparian Planting Symposium. The symposium will be held virtually in 2021 and the planning committee is attempting to finalize dates. They have tentatively landed on 02/24 and 02/25. Please let Katy ([katy\\_pfannenstein@fws.gov](mailto:katy_pfannenstein@fws.gov)) or Tricia Snyder ([tsnyder@ybfwrp.org](mailto:tsnyder@ybfwrp.org)) know if you are aware of events that may conflict with those dates.

- 5. The next Core Team Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, December 16 at 9:30 a.m.

# **YTAHP Core Team Meeting Appendix**