

Meeting Date: December 15, 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, Elizabeth Torrey, WDFW, Josh Rogala, WDFW, Eric Bartrand, WDFW, Zac Zacavish, MCF, Brandon Rossi, YN, John Marvin, YN, Michael Horner, YBFWRB, Katy Pfannenstein, USFWS, Cole Provence, Ecology, Erin Eaton, TU, Megan Whiteside, Cowiche Canyon Conservancy, Brenda Aguirre, BPA

1. **ADMINISTRATIVE-**

- A. The meeting agenda was approved.
- B. The minutes from the November 17 YTAHP Core Team Meeting were approved.
- C. The BPA Anadromous Fish Habitat and Hatchery Review project proposal response to the ISRP Preliminary Report was submitted on November 17.
- D. The FY 2022 Expense Contact SOW CR-351590 is near completion for submission to BPA.
- E. The 3rd Quarter contract Status Report is due to be submitted to BPA by January 15.

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.
 - Had meeting onsite with Anderson Perry, landowners, and several members of the Wenas Irrigation District.
 - Very productive meeting with lots of information sharing.
 - Topo survey completed the week of 6th.
- **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 the over 20 irrigators using individual contracts.

- **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.
 - 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.
 - Awaiting fence alignment approval from landowner and crew availability to implement.
- **Wenas Creek – Chandler Riparian Enhancement-** O & M ongoing this FY.

B. KCCD- Anna Lael & Mark Crowley-

- **Parke Creek-** The instream work has been completed for this project. What's remaining is installation of a pipeline across the creek at the upper diversion site. The associated sprinkler project is underway. Two of the pipelines have been trenched in. Another pipeline has been added to the APE and the cultural survey and report have been completed and now we are waiting for the 30 days to end. So that pipeline and the pump station will be installed after the new year.
- **Coleman-Olmstead-** KCCD continues to wait on the changes that need to be made to the flow meter.
- **EWC at Whiskey Creek-** This design work with Kittitas County continues. There was a TWG yesterday and the design is nearly complete. The County is asking to add more design work for the upstream 400 feet to widen the floodplain. That will extend the agreement into next year.
- **Cascade at Coleman Creek-** Anderson Perry continues to work on the design for this project with the input from the TWG meeting in November.
- **Coleman 2.5-** KCCD is still looking at putting this project out to bid, along with one Caribou diversion.
- **Ranch on Swauk Creek-** The project is nearly complete with the pipeline installation along Burke Road and then on the bridge over Swauk Creek occurring over the last week. There has been a delay though as the culvert under Hwy 97 was found to be half filled with silt. The most cost effective option is to sleeve the pipeline through the culvert as the estimate to clean it with a vac truck was \$18,000. The additional pipe has been ordered but won't be here for at least 2 to 3 more weeks. Anna has contacted WSDOT and has been working with them on the agreement needed to sleeve the culvert. The staff in Union Gap has been helpful and will have an agreement for the landowner to sign for the work to occur.
- **Coleman 4.3 and Naneum 2.9 and 3.36-** Anderson Perry is working on the preliminary design reports for these diversions which are expected by February 2022.
- KCCD has issued RFP's for both engineering and archeology for the next 5 years. Proposal are due in early January.
- KCCD and NYCD continue to work with NRCS on the RCPP funds for the projects in the Wenas watershed, on Coleman Creek at CID, Naneum Creek at EWC and with West Side Irrigating Company for canal lining.

- KCCD has been working with WDFW and the Recovery Board on potential applications for the Fish Barrier Removal Board grants. There are three potential projects on Coleman Creek, Naneum Creek and Cooke Creek.

C. KCT- No report this meeting-

D. MCF- Zac Zacavish-

- **Coleman Acclimation Pond-**
 - The Coleman Acclimation Pond project is ongoing. Week of 12/13/2021, MCF is installing 150 riparian plants along the right bank of Coleman Creek within the Leuck property (prior house removal site). Contact with the Schomer/Beard property residents has become intermittent and so the planting/fencing on this property has had to be placed on indefinite hold.
 - The acclimation pond construction has shifted to 2022. MCF will be ordering/purchasing the pond's concrete inlet/outlet vault structures in January 2022 to have them staged for a fall 2022 installation. At which time, relic concrete structures will be removed/disposed from the stream; spawning gravel and boulder clusters will be installed in-stream; areas of excavation, travel, and staging will be reseeded; and additional riparian plants at the structures will be planted. They hold hope that gravel and boulder clusters can also be installed on the Schomer/Beard property at this same time.
- **Little Naches RM 3.5-** ARBO review is finishing up and expecting approval shortly. JARPA is near completion as well as road use permits. Meeting weekly with USFS and TetraTech to ensure the timeline on the project is kept. Pre-bid virtual site tour will be tentatively occur at the end of February to get the project to bid.
- **Ringer Loop-** MCF is forming a TAG that will meet in November/December to discuss and plan for three primary tasks: channel wood structures (BLM land), buried wood back from river edge (BLM land), and a berm removal on river right (BLM and Acheson private land). In addition, They will be discussing reforestation plans on County/BLM property. Moving the Ringer boat launch may also be discussed. Riparian reforestation occurred on 6 acres along the Yakima River in fall 2020, and 32 floodplain acres adjacent to the Yakima River are in first stage revegetation of native floodplain bunchgrasses; MCF is maintaining these riparian and floodplain habitat projects on behalf of BLM and Kittitas County. Partners are BLM, Kittitas County Public Works, Yakima Basin Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board, and Yakima County Noxious Weed Control Board.
- **Mercer at Helena-** Mercer floodplain and channel are complete. Floodplain planting is complete. Spoils still need to be moves and upland seed to be spread. Otherwise this project is in stewardship phase.

E. Yakama Nation- Brandon Rossi & John Marvin-

- YKFP Habitat wrapped up restoration projects at Taneum (RagHeart), Swauk Phase III Part II, and NF Teanaway.
- YKFP Habitat is in the process of restarting the beaver relocation program.

3. **WDFW-**

- A. It was noted that Cassandra Weeks will on extended leave until approximately March 1. During this time, all emails and questions should be directed to Elizabeth Torrey at 509-607-6711 or elizabeth.torrey@dfw.wa.gov.

4. **ITEMS OF INTEREST-**

- A. Michael Horner discussed the following topics with the group-

• **2022 SRFB grant round-**

- In the Yakima Basin, the SRFB grant round begins March 16th when pre-applications are due.
- They again anticipate a \$20 million grant round statewide. Of this, \$1,876,000 is allocated to the Mid-Columbia Salmon Recovery Region. From this, 70% is typically allocated to the Yakima Basin and 30% is allocated to the Klickitat Basin Lead entity. However;
 - The bi-partisan infrastructure package, [contains](#) an additional \$172 million in PCSRF funding. This could increase the statewide grant round.
 - [The House version of the Build Back Better bill, otherwise known as the reconciliation bill](#), includes an additional \$1 billion for Pacific salmon restoration projects.
 - They need to be prepared to build a ranked project list in the midst of these uncertainties, which will not be resolved until at least June 2022. If additional funding becomes available through SRFB, they need enough projects in the pipeline to be able to disperse them in a way that meaningfully advances salmon restoration in our basin. Please consider submitting additional proposals to the 2022 grant round as well as proposals with large budgets that were not feasible in the past.
- Sponsor presentations are April 28th.
- Site visits occur May 11 through 13th. We don't know if in-person, hybrid or virtual yet.
- Final applications are due in PRISM June 27th.
- The final ranked list of proposals is due to RCO by August 12th.

• **Targeted Investments Program from RCO-**

- The Mid-Columbia Salmon Recovery Region (YBFWRB) will solicit Targeted Investment proposals. They also invited the Klickitat Lead entity to participate.
- This is a new program from the SRFB this biennium (2021-2023)
- Targeted investments are outside of the regular grant round
- However, it follows the same local and state timeline and deadlines as the regular SRFB grant round.
- Proposals must be submitted in PRISM.
- For the 2021-2023 biennium, the SRFB chose projects benefiting Southern Resident orca recovery
- Funded projects will protect and enhance one or more orca prey stocks and both YBFWRB and the SRFB will use criteria tailored to this goal.
- It supports habitat enhancements through restoring and/or acquiring habitat. It also supports design projects.

- Each proposal must have a budget greater than \$1 million that cannot be supported by the lead entity's or the region's allocation unless a letter of justification is provided from the Lead entity.
- Proposals may also request regular SRFB funding and must also leverage outside funding.
- Each region can submit a single proposal and one or more projects will be approved by the SRFB
- The state review process is similar to the normal SRFB grant program
- Proposals are scored according to the Targeted Investments program's own evaluation criteria, which are dependent on the priority chosen for the biennium.
- RCO's Manual 18, Appendix J will lay out all of the criteria and requirements.
- **Brian Abbott Fish Barrier Removal Board grant round (RCO and WDFW)-**
 - The Fish Barrier Removal Board is accepting proposals to plan and implement the removal of culverts, bridges, and other barriers to salmon and steelhead.
 - Local governments, Native American tribes, non-profits, regional fisheries enhancement groups, special purpose district groups, state agencies, small forest landowners, and large forest landowners with barriers not covered by the Road Maintenance and Abandonment Plan are eligible to apply
 - The initial due date is January 13th.
 - Proposals must be submitted in PRISM.
 - A 15% match is required. Some planning projects with budget requests less than \$200,000 and a duration under 24 months do not require a match.
 - RCO and WDFW will review and ask applicants to make revisions if needed. Final revised applications are due May 2nd.
 - RCO and WDFW Will then present a prioritized list to the legislature for funding in 2023-2025 biennium.
 - See RCO's Manual 22 for more information.
 - Let them know if you are thinking about submitting a proposal. They can help develop a high priority project under our recovery plans.
 - They will also coordinate a letter of support from our Lead entity.

B. Cole Provence discussed the following topics with the group-

- Ecology is currently reviewing Centennial Grant applications that they received in October.
- Direct to Implementation Funds are currently being awarded.
- In February, Ecology will have Hussman funds available, so please contact staff with project proposals.

5. The next Core Team Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 19 at 9:30 a.m.

YTAHP Core Team Meeting Appendix