

Meeting Date: May 20, 2020

Location: This meeting was conducted by teleconference

**Attendees via conference phone:** Brian Miller, RC&D, Justin Bader, NYCD, Mike Tobin, NYCD, Anna Lael, KCCD, Mark Crowley, KCCD, Cassandra Weekes, WDFW, Josh Rogala, WDFW, Connor Parrish, MCF, Mitch Long, KCT, Tricia Snider, YBFWRB, Kevin Haydon, WWT, Katy Pfannenstein, USFWS, Erin Eaton, TU, Dale Meck, YC

1. **ADMINISTRATIVE-**

- A. The meeting agenda was approved.
- B. The minutes from the April 15 YTAHP Core Team Meeting were approved.
- C. The FY 2019 YTAHP Expense Contract ended on March 31. A final invoice was submitted to BPA on May 8.
- D. FY 2019 YTAHP Expense Contract WE budget needs to be updated before the contract is closed.
- E. The group determined to move the next YTAHP Core Team meeting back to the normal meeting date of June 17.

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.
    - Dependent of WCC crew coming back to work.
- **Cowiche Creek – Lust/Stevenson Water Quality: riparian fencing, planting, spring development-**
  - O & M will continue in 2020.
    - Dependent of WCC crew coming back to work.
- **Cowiche Creek - Ingham On-Farm Improvement and Cowiche Trust Water Project-**
  - Yakima County interested in purchasing parcel north of the highway.
  - The northern block and block between the highway and canal will be leased for orchard for the next couple of years.
  - Everything south of the canal will be converted to residential and developed this year.
- **Ahtanum Creek- Herke South: fish screening and floodplain reconnection/ enhancement-**
  - Waiting for permit level designs from engineer to apply for permits.
  - Cultural Resources complete.
- **Wenas Creek – Priority passage and screening project-**
  - Working on SRFB application for design of passage and screening at three diversions in spawning reach of Wenas Creek.

- **Wenas Creek – Purdin Ditch Passage and screening project-**
  - Engineer is reviewing completed plans to get back up to speed and figure out any remaining design needs.
  - Looking to implement design using RCPP and/or Integrated Plan funding.
  - Met with Purdin Ditch water users during annual meeting.
    - Broad support to continue the project from all users who attended the meeting.
- **Wenas Creek – Chandler Riparian Enhancement-**
  - Working on planting area polygon to send to BPA so they can create Area of Potential Effect map to initiate Section 106 when consultations continue.
  - Site prep and implementation this fall.
- **Yakima River – Pump screen replacement**
  - Project complete.
  - 4 of the 5 fish screens have been installed.
    - One irrigator backed out of project.
- **Snake Creek – Passage and Screening Project**
  - Working with USFWS on SRFB application for design of a passage and screening project on Snake Creek, which is side channel of Toppenish Creek.
- **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-

- **Cooke Creek-** The project has been accepted by the KCCD Board as substantially complete. There is a small punch list that is being completed and warranty work on a leaky vault that will occur in the fall.
- **Bristol Flats-** The screen is up and operating and seems to be doing well. Flows were high during a site visit as the posts Mark and Landon installed last fall are under water.
- **Coleman at Olmstead-** There was a TWG meeting to review the designs. Mark has been working with Parks and the lessee on the irrigation system. He met with the vendor yesterday to talk about pump vault. The current plan is considering the pump located on the east side of the creek, instead of gravity flowing the water in a pipe 4 feet under the creek to the sprinkler and pump on the west side. That would require at least a pedestrian bridge option so that the lessee could go back and forth between the pump and the pivot. The next iteration of plans is not coming until July 4. Permits have been submitted by Cassandra. The KCCD Board approved the contract with Parks to conduct the cultural survey.
- **Coleman- Beard/Schomer-** The topographic survey is done. Design is waiting for Ryan to have time to work on it. Mark has been participating in meetings on acclimation pond on next door property which may play a part in the project design.
- **Coleman Creek at Fairview Road-** The landowners contacted Anna to let her know that the County was moving ahead on their bridge replacement/creek realignment project. She is working with the engineers to make sure that the pipes in the road

that will serve a future irrigation diversion are located in the right place during the County's construction project.

- **Swauk Creek-** Anna, Cassandra, and Ryan met with the landowners on site this week to talk about the project design, the franchise agreement for the county road and to review the APE map.

#### C. KCT- Mitch Long-

- **Upper Yakima River Restoration @ Hundley Property-** Maintenance of plants and fencing work has begun on the property. Site visit with WDFW scheduled on May 29<sup>th</sup> in the afternoon to check out the project after several high flow events this fall/winter.
- **Gold Creek-** NEPA Public Scoping is complete and the Inter-Disciplinary Team is working through comments and determining needs for additional analysis and other needs as we move forward with hiring a 3<sup>rd</sup> party NEPA contractor to draft documents for the USFS and IDT to review. Will be working with Forterra and NSD to begin development of restoration designs for Heli's Pond. Moving forward with planning field work and data collection for the summer of 2020.
- **Kachess River-** NEPA process and planning is ongoing with the USFS. Yesterday morning there was a TWG meeting to review and discuss the draft 60% designs, basis of design report, and the hydrologic report and model runs. Comments are due to Melissa by May 29<sup>th</sup>. Seeking funding for phase 1 implementation through YBIP – Bull Trout Enhancement, SRFB, and USFWS.
- **Upper Yakima River Protection-** 15-acre acquisition of floodplain property adjacent to the City of Cle Elum's Hanson property. SRFB Application for 2020.

#### D. MCF- Connor Parrish-

- **Yakima Delta-** The USACE continues to work with WDFW and partners to move the project forward in the Sec. 1135 process.
- **Yakima RM 25 at Mast Farm-** MCF has contracted with Wildlands, Inc. for selected replanting and weed control along with the new alcove and groundwater channel. They are working with Zack Mays from YN to install 2 PIT tag antennas to monitor for fish use of the restoration project. MCF was hoping to get these installed by May 1st but COVID related delays have stalled the scope change they requested from ecology so they can pay for some of the antenna materials. Hoping to get the antennas in ASAP.
- **Spoon Full Farm Side Channels-** MCF is working to complete permit applications for groundwater-fed off-channel habitat at Yakima RM 168.
- **North Fork Teanway Large Wood Additions-** MCF and YN are working to complete permit applications for three more large wood trapping structures and additional unanchored wood.
- **Quartz Creek-** LWD replenishment using grip hoist. Quartz Creek has changed a lot since our SRFB app in 2017. LWD treatment area has been reduced from 1.2 miles to 0.4 miles. NEPA, HPA, and cultural complete. ESA will be finished on June 15th and MCF will hopefully start harvesting trees in June before potential fire restrictions.
- **Ahtanum R of R-** Protecting bull trout spawning habitat by addressing some areas of high use by recreation. All permitting and cultural resources are complete. Hoping to get a request for quotes by early June.

- **Little Naches Longmire Levee Reach-** Currently at 30% designs. Planning to move into 60% design and NEPA permitting by the end of the month. Submitted funding request to YTAHP, SRFB, and DOE streamflow restoration.
- **SF Ahtanum Beaver Pond Leveler-** Once MCF receives the HPA they will be installing a pond leveler to reduce flooding on a landowner's property. The landowner didn't want to lethally remove the beaver and currently, no one in the basin can trap and relocate beaver so MCF decided the pond leveler would be the best option. The landowner is paying for this.
- **Seasonal Staff-**
  - Still planning to have their full crews for the summer including restoration techs, cottonwood assessment crew, and BTTF. A few projects may drop off this year so MCF has reduced the number of interns they will bring on this summer to only 5 or 6 part-timers.
  - Connor put together a safety plan for all of MCF's crews to deal with COVID-19 restrictions. If anyone would like to look at it we are happy to share!

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

### 3. WDFW- Cassandra Weekes-

- A. Cassandra provided another update on federal, state, and local permit processing times and known changes in business operations due to COVID. In summary, permit processing and consultations have all resumed, but plan for a couple additional weeks of time while regulatory entities work to get caught up. Aside from permitting, there have been project delays due to the Stay-at-Home order and associated restrictions. There are a couple YTAHP projects that need cultural resource surveys but the survey work is currently on-hold due to travel restrictions. We've also had site visits directly tied to project design development that have been delayed. However, restrictions are loosening up a bit and field work is slowing resuming, so hopefully these projects will stay on track for implementation this fall.
- B. The WOTUS jurisdiction and classification are being revised. An overview will be provided at the next YTAHP meeting.
- C. Cassandra checked in with one of the Yakama Nation's steelhead biologists regarding steelhead detections in Wenas Creek. The PIT array near the mouth was downloaded on May 11, and unfortunately there were no steelhead detections. It's likely that adults staging in the Yakima River and waiting to move into Wenas Creek likely ran out of time waiting for flows to go up. This has been observed in other tributaries of the Yakima Basin. Steelhead depend on higher flows in early April, and when tributary flow stays extremely low, they find somewhere else to spawn. It's also noteworthy that tagging operations at Prosser were shutdown early this year due to COVID, resulting in far less tagged fish in the system. This information doesn't necessarily mean that no adult steelhead went into Wenas Creek, but rather that there were no detections and conditions weren't favorable this year.
- D. KCCD and YTAHP have been working on the Fish Barrier Removal Board grant applications for restoring fish passage at the Coleman Creek at CID crossing and Naneum Creek at Town Ditch crossing. Applications are due next Friday. These are large, complex projects that have been on the YTAHP project list.

- E. Cassandra will be updating the YTAHP Active Projects spreadsheet in the next couple weeks and it will be sent out before our next meeting.
- F. For those entities on the YTAHP Scope of Work – the monthly check-in call with BPA is tomorrow at 11 am. If you're available and want to call-in, let Cassandra know.

4. **ITEMS OF INTEREST-**

- A. Josh Rogala that WDFW has some remaining funds that can be used to purchase compliant pump screens for the protection of fish life in the Middle/Upper Columbia River and its tributaries. Screens must be in hand prior to the end of June 2020 to meet contractual requirements. Please contact Josh Rogala w/ WDFW for more information.
5. The next Core Team Meeting is scheduled to be held in Yakima on Wednesday, June 17 at 9:30 a.m.

# **YTAHP Core Team Meeting Appendix**