

Meeting Date: October 20, 2021

Location: This meeting was conducted by Zoom conferencing

**Attendees via Zoom conference:** Brian Miller, RC&D, Ryan Anderson, RC&D, Justin Bader, NYCD, Anna Lael, KCCD, Mark Crowley, KCCD, Cassandra Weekes, WDFW, Josh Rogala, WDFW, Melissa Speeg, KCT, Rebecca Wassell, MCF, Malena Niece, MCF, Brandon Rossi, YN, John Marvin, YN, Joel Hubble, KR D, Alex Conley, YBFWRB, Michael Horner, YBFWRB, Joe Connor, BPA, Laine young, Ecology

1. **ADMINISTRATIVE-**

- A. The meeting agenda was approved.
- B. The minutes from the September 15 YTAHP Core Team Meeting were approved.
- C. The BPA 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Contract Status Report was submitted on October 14.
- D. The BPA FY 2021 Cost-Share Report. is due to be submitted by October 31.
- E. The BPA Anadromous Fish Habitat and Hatchery Review project proposal response to the ISRP Preliminary Report is due to be submitted by November 22.
- F. The FY 2022 Expense Contact SOW CR-351590 has been initiated in Pisces and is due to be submitted to BPA by November 30.
- G. Joe Connor discussed the sponsor response process for the ISRP Preliminary Report with the group.

2. **CORE TEAM PROJECT UPDATES-**

A. **NYCD- Justin Bader-**

- **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.
  - Received 7 responses from consulting firms.
    - Currently reviewing, will make selection on Thursday.
- **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.
  - Will be scheduling site visit with project engineer within the next few weeks.

- **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.
  - Waiting for determination letter on CR from BPA and 30 day comment period once its sent out.
- **Wenas Creek – Chandler Riparian Enhancement-** O & M ongoing this FY.

#### B. KCCD- Anna Lael & Mark Crowley-

- **Ranch on Swauk-** Construction is underway. The in-stream components (rebuilding the roughened channel) should be done this week. The pipeline component will start on Monday. The contractor is Advantage Dirt Contractors and this is the first time KCCD has worked with them. There was a hiccup the first weekend when their equipment was vandalized. They've been moving it back across Lauderdale Junction every night. There was also had an issue with the pipe alignment and they are working now on a change order to address it.
- **Coleman 2.0-** Anna has met with landowner at this site and they are hopeful to do this project and the lower Caribou diversion this fall/winter.
- **Coleman – Olmstead-** The flow meter saga continues. The contractor has been waiting on parts that were supposed to be here now, but the vendor is saying it will be another 100+ days. KCCD requested another time extension through FBRB.
- **Parke Creek-** Bids were accepted last week. Bids ranged from \$267,084 to \$381,996. Hurst is low bidder, who also did Coleman-Olmstead project. The low bid was a little under the engineer's estimate. The pre-construction meeting is October 26. KCCD is hopeful they can start on November 1, if stream flows are down enough. The access is a dirt field road so they want to get in soon. The sprinkler portion of the project is also moving forward. The landowner is currently waiting on the pipe delivery.
- **Cascade Coleman-** A TWG meeting is scheduled on October 26 at 10 a.m. at Cattlemen's office for the current designs for this project.
- **KCCD staff update-** Ryan Roberts is leaving KCCD for a job with the USBR. The position has been advertised, but no applications have been received. KCCD will need to lean on our consultants more until they can fill the position.
- **Engineer/Design and Archeology-** KCCD will be soliciting through an RFQ for engineering/design and archeological services as the current 5-year agreements expire this year.

### C. KCT- Melissa Speeg-

- **Restoration Projects-**
  - **Kachess River-** KCT is applying to another round of USFWS funding so that they can complete all of our work in Reach 2. They also will be applying for ECY streamflow restoration grant to see if they can get funding to complete the remaining restoration work at Kachess River.
  - **Gold Creek-**
    - A small group from the Inter-Disciplinary Team identified the proposed actions they think should be analyzed in NEPA. Going to bring that back to the Hydro-Habitat Team for review and then it will move on to the full ID Team for approval. Hoping to go out to bid for contract NEPA in the next couple of months and begin the analysis.
    - Continuing to move forward with developing surface and groundwater models for the pond. The modeling has indicated which of the conceptual alternatives is most beneficial and NSD is moving forward with 30% designs on that alternative.
  - **Hanson Ponds-** Inter-Fluve developed the draft alternatives and KCT is are looking for final feedback soon on them. KCT is working to meet with the City of Cle Elum to determine how to proceed with the selection process.
- **Conservation Projects-**
  - **Cottonwood Cove-** The landowner is going to do their own appraisal because they want to claim as much tax credit as possible. Because of the demand right now for appraisals, they are requesting to push back the purchase date to March. This will mean KCT's appraisal is over a year old so they are working with RCO to see if this will work.
  - **Cle Elum Ridge Community Forest-** The Checkerboard Partnership, the group working to conserve the 27,000 acres currently managed by The Nature Conservancy, decided to add the Domerie watershed parcels to the Community Forest. KCT continues to work to find a permanent solution to these lands.
  - **Other Conservation Projects-** KCT is also working on a couple of other conservation projects located on the Yakima River and near Naneum Creek in sagebrush/dry forest country.

### D. MCF- Rebecca Wassell-

- Rebecca gave an update on current MCF activities.

### E. Yakama Nation- John Marvin & Brandon Rossi-

- Brandon reported that the YN received PCSRF funding for beaver work-
  - YN will concentrate on beaver surveys in the Naches River basin.
    - They will work with MCFEG to hire interns to perform the work.
  - Moving forward they will work on establishing a beaver relocation program.
    - They are seeking grant funding to get the program started.
- John reported that the Anadromous Fish Habitat and Hatchery Review by the ISRP preliminary report included a request for a monitoring matrix. The Northwest Power

and Conservation Council will not require this, however, partners in the Yakima Basin should work on it.

### 3. WDFW- Cassandra Weekes-

- A. The ISRP's Anadromous Fish Habitat and Hatchery Review preliminary report was released a couple weeks ago. YTAHP was determined to "meet scientific review criteria – with conditions" and asked to elaborate 4 components, which included:
- Provide further detail on our SMART objectives so they can be more readily tracked.
  - Expand on the summary of monitoring findings and how those data are used to inform project activities.
  - Provide a fuller description of our project selection process.
  - Work with John Marvin's team and the other Yakima Basin projects to develop an M&E matrix.

We are preparing responses to the questions/comments and will be including our response as an appendix to our proposal.

- B. Permitting is still underway for a couple of the YTAHP projects slated for construction this fall. Those projects were discussed today by the project sponsors. The past month was busy with submitting federal permit packages and HPA applications, and coordinating with partners on implementation.
- C. Tomorrow is the monthly project & permitting call with BPA. It's at 11 a.m. If you're available and want to join, let Cassandra know!
- D. A fun, exciting tidbit to share – Ralph Lampman's team documented larval pacific lamprey in lower Swauk Creek this fall! Also, Ralph's crew is coordinating freshwater mussel and lamprey salvage at Sunnyside Canal and a few other diversions. The tentative dates for Sunnyside Canal are October 26-28. They could use extra help. If anyone has availability to assist, reach out to Ralph or let Cassandra know and she can send you the info.

### 4. ITEMS OF INTEREST-

- A. Alex Conley gave an update on current YBFWRB activities.
- B. Laine Young discussed the following items with the group-
- Laine gave a brief description of the BAER (Burned Area Emergency Response) being launched for Upper Naches Watershed restoration after this summer's Schnieder Springs wildfire. Information about the process will be rolling out as planning progresses. She will send out a map of the burned area, creeks affected, description for responses being lead by USFS, and contact information for Jess Clark, USFS, who is the lead for BAER this time. She is not sure if there could be additional project funding available for Schnieder Springs, but the BAER process can likely use the groups expertise and staff time on the ground.
  - Approximately 96% of the fire took place on USFS lands, and 100% within the Upper Naches River and Cowiche Creek Temperature TMDL boundary (map to be provided; Upper Naches Watershed Boundary is consistent with the TMDL). Ecology has an MOA with the USFS for implementation (ie, temperature reduction projects). The USFS has done a fabulous job of their landscape approach to restoring

tributaries, most recently Dry and Oak Creeks. Dry Creek is now gone until it re-  
vives. A very small part of Oak Creek restoration also burned.

- Laine will provide the Wenatchee National Forest USFS Temperature TMDL Study that was completed in 2004, FYI. The temperature criterion for Naches USFS is 16°C. That temperature was established because forested mountain streams should be able to deliver 16°C. Schnieder Springs burn is going to set this program way back for a lot of years. In addition, she will also provide Vol 2 of the Upper Naches River and Cowiche Creek Temp TMDL because it assessed riparian vegetation coverage zones and presents descriptions for dominant ecosystem composition. Both could be useful for setting goals for restoration.
- In the meantime, Laine will be exploring restoration potential for YTAHP funding and projects, and she will let us know of she lands anything workable.

5. The next Core Team Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 17 at 9:30 a.m.

# **YTAHP Core Team Meeting Appendix**