

Meeting Date: July 15, 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, Cassandra Weekes, WDFW, Elisabeth Tory, WDFW, Rebecca Was-sell, MCF, Ryan DeKnikker, YN, Tricia Snider, YBFWRB, Kevin Haydon, WWT, Katy Pfannen-stein, USFWS, Justin Bezold, TU, Cole Provence, Ecology

1. **ADMINISTRATIVE-**

- A. The meeting agenda was approved.
- B. The minutes from the June 17 YTAHP Core Team Meeting were approved.
- C. FY 2019 YTAHP Expense Contract WE budget was updated on June 24 and the contract is now closed.
- D. The FY 2019 YTAHP Annual Report was submitted to BPA on July 7.
- E. The FY 2020 YTAHP Contract 1st Quarter Status Report was submitted to BPA on July 13.

2. **CORE TEAM PROJECT UPDATES-**

A. **NYCD- Justin Bader-**

- **Cowiche Creek – Naches Cowiche Canal Co. Siphon: fish passage-**
 - WCC Crew back up and running, O & M will continue in 2020.
- **Cowiche Creek – Lust/Stevenson Water Quality: riparian fencing, planting, spring development-**
 - WCC Crew back up and running, O & M will continue in 2020.
- **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-**
 - Issues related to COVID-19 have caused staff to be furloughed resulting in de-layed permit level designs.
 - Will not be able to obtain permits in time to construct this year.
 - Working with RCO on a time extension to finish the project summer of 2021.
 - Working with Herke to get operator agreement for management of the fish screen.
 - Conducting O &M activities on Phase 1 this year.
 - Cultural Resources complete.
- **Wenas Creek – Priority passage and screening project-**
 - Putting together grant application through RCPP and NRCS cost list for project components.

- **Wenas Creek – Purdin Ditch Passage and screening project-**
 - Putting together grant application through RCPP and NRCS cost list for project components.
- **Wenas Creek – Chandler Riparian Enhancement-**
 - Cultural resource consultation started.
 - Will go out for quotes from professional archaeologists the end of this month.
 - Working on Landowner Agreement.
 - Site prep and implementation this fall.
- **Snake Creek – Passage and Screening Project-**
 - 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-

- **Ranch on Swauk Creek-** The 30% designs are in hand from Anchor QEA. The cultural resources survey can start anytime. Ryan has been working with the landowner on the franchise agreement.
- **Coleman Creek – Olmstead-** KCCD is waiting on the next iteration of the designs from Anderson Perry. There is still no an answer as to whether FBRB will fund the pedestrian bridge that is needed for the project.
- **Cooke Creek-** This project is wrapping up. KCCD is waiting on the responses from the Department of Labor & Industries, Department of Revenue and Employment Security in order to release the retainage for the project.

C. KCT- No report this meeting.

D. MCF- Rebecca Wassell-

- **Yakima Delta Restoration-** The Corps of Engineers is continuing to move the project through the Section 1135 analysis process.
- **Yakima RM 2.5 and 4.9-** Benton CD has advertised a Request for Proposals for Conceptual Design of thermal refuge at these two locations.
- **Yakima RM 25-** MCF has contracted with Wildlands, Inc. for plant replacement and weed management this year and next. Approval of fish monitoring has been delayed due to an absence at DOE, so we may not be able to monitor smolts until next year.
- **Ahtanum-** Project implementation is delayed due to quarantine.
- **Quartz-** Looking for a feller. Planning to move trees into the creek in August.
- **Yakima River Side Channel at Bull Canal diversion-** Working with WDFW and DNR to explore options.
- **Coleman Creek acclimation pond-** WDFW completed design. Implementation planned for 2021.

- **Mercer Creek Floodplain Restoration-** Working toward 2020 implementation. Corps permit in hand, working on city permitting.
- **Spoon Full Farm Side Channels-** Finishing up permit applications, aiming for implementation in early fall, 2020.
- **North Fork Teanaway Instream Wood and Floodplain Restoration-** Selected Thayer Excavating. Permits in hand. Aiming for construction in August.
- **Teanaway Community Forest Wetlands and Geomorphology-** MCF will advertise a Request for Proposals for wetlands inventory and geomorphological assessment in the Middle and West Fork Teanaway River in July.

E. Yakama Nation- Ryan DeKnikker-

- **SF Cowiche Floodplain-** Out for bid.
- **Taneum at Cedar Meadows-** Almost out for bid.
- **NF Teanaway-** Tentative construction start date: 07/27/2020.
- **Big Creek at Ensign Ranch-**
 - Working with WWT to garner cost share support for RCPP.
 - Submitted proposal requesting engineer design funds to the LDS church for habitat enhancement and infrastructure protection. Stay tuned.
- Will be requesting proposals for Yakima River Edge Habitat structures near Tillman Creek.
- RFP out and due tomorrow for “Wood Replenishment Checklist”.
- **Taneum at Brain Ranch-**
 - WDFW acquiring land
 - Floodplain restoration project
 - Seeking project partner (Becca?)
- Working towards getting an engineer for Taneum at Ragheart

3. WDFW- Cassandra Weekes-

- A. Cassandra has been busy with technical review, coordination and permitting of upcoming projects.
- B. Updates on the Coleman at Olmstead and Swauk Creek 7.7 & 7.9 projects were provided. Both projects are slated for implementation this fall.
- C. The Clean Water Act has been modified with the intention of loosening the regulations and the new rule went into effect on June 22. Cassandra attended a 5-part webinar series that discussed the changes in detail. The new rule eliminates federal protection for certain classes of streams and wetlands, which were discussed in more detail at last month’s meeting. We likely won’t see any significant changes in CWA permitting for our YTAHP projects.
- D. BPA’s HIP 4 is finalized. If you’d like an electronic copy of the HIP, let Cassandra know.
- E. For those entities on the YTAHP SOW, the monthly check-in call with BPA is tomorrow. If you want to join in, let Cassandra know and she’ll send you the contact information.

F. As you've probably seen in the news, Governor Inslee directed WA state agencies to implement furloughs due to the state budget deficit. The directive requires employees take one furlough day per week in July and then one furlough day per month August-November. Therefore, WDFW staff, along with thousands of other WA state employees, are currently working reduced hours in July. For WDFW staff, the furlough days are every Friday in July.

4. **ITEMS OF INTEREST-**

A. Cole Provence reported that he is currently working on the Mid-Yakima Bacteria TMDL that Ecology is trying to finalize by the end of 2020. This TMDL will focus on Cowiche, Moxee and Wide Hollow Creeks and Ecology will be starting their public outreach campaign.

B. Tricia Snyder provided the following YBFWRB updates-

- The SRFB grant round is wrapping up. The TAG meets the last week of July, the Citizen Committee meets the first week of August and the ranked list will be approved by Yakima Basin Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board at their annual meeting August 13th.
- Tricia needs to submit the Planned Project Forecast List now required by Lead Entities by RCO no later than August 14th. She is trying to get in by August 11th, by request of RCO, so it is in hand for the SRFB meeting. Please touch base with her and make sure she has the accurate information on projects for which you are likely to request SRFB funding.

5. The next Core Team Meeting is scheduled to be held in Yakima on Wednesday, August 19 at 9:30 a.m.

YTAHP Core Team Meeting Appendix