

Meeting Date: May 19, 2021

Location: This meeting was conducted by Zoom conferencing

**Attendees via Zoom conference:** Brian Miller, RC&D, Mike Tobin, NYCD, Anna Lael, KCCD, Cassandra Weekes, WDFW, Josh Rogala, WDFW, Melissa Speeg, KCT, Rebecca Wassell, MCF, Michael Horner, YBFWRB, Katy Pfannenstien, USFWS, Erin Eaton, TU, Cole Provence, Ecology, Joe Connor, BPA

## 1. ADMINISTRATIVE-

- A. The meeting agenda was approved.
- B. The minutes from the April 21 YTAHP Core Team Meeting were approved.
- C. The Work Element Budget for the FY 2020 Contract 84929 was reconciled, and the final invoice was submitted to BPA on May 18.
- D. A request to initiate a Contract Revision for the FY 2021 YTAHP Contract 87467 was submitted on May 18.
- E. The upcoming BPA Anadromous Fish Habitat and Hatchery Review was discussed. The Project Proposal was submitted on May 3. The Project presentation is scheduled for June 24 at 4:15 p.m.
- F. The FY 2020 BPA Annual Report is due to be completed by June 30.

## 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.
  - Begin drafting RFP for engineering services.
- **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.
- **Wenas Creek –Riparian Enhancement-**
  - Met with landowner last week.
    - Extensive damage to the riparian area from wildfire last fall.

- Lots of good native tree and shrub regeneration but some areas could use re-vegetation along creek to help stabilize banks.
- Needs fish screen and water meter.
- **Naches River – Matson Maintenance HPA-** HPA obtained.
- **Wenas Creek – Chandler Riparian Enhancement-** O & M ongoing this FY.

#### B. KCCD- Anna Lael-

- **Coleman-Olmstead-** This project nearly completed. The construction contract was accepted as substantially complete in early April. The final invoice for the cost shared sprinkler system was received this week. Some funds are left in the Fish Barrier Removal Board grant so KCCD is pursuing a security fence with Parks around the pump station. They may also have funds for interpretive signage. The FBRB grant ends June 30.
- **Coleman 2.0-** KCCD is working with Anderson Perry on the final designs and specifications for this project.
- **Caribou Creek Diversions-** KCCD is working with Anderson Perry to get the designs for these diversion removals and the pipeline. They intend to bid the diversions removals with the Coleman 2.0 project to achieve some cost efficiencies.
- **Parke Creek Diversions-** KCCD is also working on designs with Anderson Perry here as well. The two diversions will be removed and a pump station and sprinkler system installed.
- **Coleman at Cascade Irrigation District diversion-** Anderson Perry continues to work on the design for this large project that appears to have secured construction funding through both the Fish Barrier Removal Board and the new RCPP.
- **Naneum at Ellensburg Water Company-** This project also appears to have secured construction funding through both the Fish Barrier Removal Board and the new RCPP. The County is paying us for the design of the Whiskey Creek at EWC intersection which is nearly a replica of this site as both are just the siphon for the canal and restoring stream bed. EWC doesn't divert from either of these creeks.
- **Ranch on Swauk Creek-** KCCD received official notification of the USFWS grant for this project. They are working on the paperwork for it now. They also hope that the cultural resources consultation is nearly complete.

#### C. KCT- Melissa Speeg-

- **Kachess River-**
  - The Forest Service put in a request to the Washington DC office to use a new CE's that were recently developed that still require special permission to use. There is an unknown timeline for when KCT might hear back on whether or not they can use these CE's.
  - Working towards 100% designs for the restoration portion of the project. They will be doing a second round of designs for the road decommissioning, bridge construction and trailhead establishment.
  - Waiting for the snow to melt out so they can access the site and collect the groundwater data from over the winter.
- **Hanson Ponds-** KCT has rounded up most of the remaining loose ends for the full site assessment. They are waiting to hear back from WSDOT on whether there are utilities along I-90 adjacent to the ponds.

- **Gold Creek-** Engineers are beginning designs for the preferred alternative.
- **Upper Yakima River-**
  - Yesterday Melissa Speeg went out into the field with our Department of Ecology Grant Manager Heather Simmons for the final site visit.
  - KCT had approximately \$2,000 leftover so they are working with Mid-Columbia Fisheries to use the rest of it to pay for plant maintenance. They are also using the funding to pay for two warning signs to discourage floaters from going into the side channels.
- **Cottonwood Cove-**
  - KCT received a grant from the Martin Miller Foundation for \$25,000. They are also requesting \$65,000 more from SRFB and if they receive it, then they will have enough to purchase the property!
  - The Yakama Nation Heritage crew went out to survey the site last week.
  - Mitch also met with the consultant KCT hired to do the environmental assessment. They identified some minor hazards (asbestos carpet and a 5 gallon bucket that formerly held motor oil), but otherwise didn't find anything of concern.
- **Habitat Guide-** Michael Horner is working on gathering cost estimates for printing.

**D. MCF- Rebecca Wassell-**

- More than 40 tagged fish have been recorded using the newly constructed alcove at Yakima RM 25 in the first few weeks of PIT tag monitoring.
- The Bull Canal Side Channel bridge project is out to bid.

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

**3. WDFW- Cassandra Weekes-**

- A. This past month has been busy! Cassandra is actively working on the permitting for six YTAHP projects, all of which have been discussed today by the sponsors. The YTAHP active projects spreadsheet will be sent out later today.
- B. Anna Neuzil, archaeologist with BPA, will be completing the cultural resource surveys for four YTAHP projects next week.
- C. Phase I of the Nelson Dam project is slated to go to construction this summer and assistance will likely be needed with fish salvage. They anticipate fish salvage will take at least 8 people and occur over two days in late July or early August. When the call for volunteers comes out, the opportunity will be shared with the YTAHP team.
- D. If there are projects in need of pre/post project biological monitoring, let Cassandra know and we'll get it scheduled for this summer or fall.
- E. As Brian mentioned, YTAHP's proposal for another 5 years of funding was submitted on May 3. Our presentation to the Northwest Power and Conservation Council and Independent Science Review Panel is scheduled on June 24. We will be working on the presentation over the next few weeks.
- F. The monthly check-in call with BPA is tomorrow. If you'd like to join, let Cassandra know.

**4. ITEMS OF INTEREST-**

- A. Michael Horner-
- Michael updated YTAHP on 2021 SRFB grant round activities during the spring. Eleven proposals were submitted, with 9 new projects for 2021 and 2 projects already reviewed in 2020. The total funds requested were \$2.8 million in SRFB funds and \$3.6 million including matching funds. Project types include acquisition, restoration, and planning.
  - YBFWRB is also contracted to BLM to move large pine trees from Big Pines Campground to Ringer Road for habitat restoration. That will be completed the first week of June.
- B. Cole Provence reported that he is currently drafting the Middle-Yakima River Basin Bacteria TMDL Implementation Plan, and he is looking for interested people to serve on the advisory team. The advisory team will help determine priority projects on the three tributaries Cowiche Creek, Wide Hollow Creek and Moxee Drain. These priority projects will help direct Water Quality grant funding for the next 10-year period, or until the TMDL has been completed. Interested folks should contact him directly at [cole.provence@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:cole.provence@ecy.wa.gov)
5. The next Core Team Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 16 at 9:30 a.m.

# **YTAHP Core Team Meeting Appendix**