

Meeting Date: December 16, 2020

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, Cassandra Weekes, WDFW, Mitch Long, KCT, Melissa Speeg, KCT, Connor Parrish, MCF, Ryan DeKnikker, YN, Erin Eaton, TU, Tricia Snyder, YBFWRB, Joel Hubble, KRD, Kevin Haydon, WWT, Brenda Aguirre, BPA, Laine Young, Ecology

1. **ADMINISTRATIVE-**

- A. The meeting agenda was approved.
- B. The minutes from the November 18 YTAHP Core Team Meeting were approved.
- C. The FY 2021 YTAHP Contract CR-344089 SOW and Line Item Budget were submitted to BPA on December 4.
- D. The 3rd Quarter BPA YTAHP Status Report is due to be submitted by January 15.
- E. The upcoming BPA Anadromous Fish Habitat and Hatchery Review was discussed. A Zoom conference was scheduled for January 6 at 8:30 a.m. for further discussion.

2. **CORE TEAM PROJECT UPDATES-**

A. **NYCD- Mike Tobin-**

- **Cowiche Creek – Naches Cowiche Canal Co. Siphon: fish passage-**
 - O & M will resume in the next FY.
- **Cowiche Creek – Lust/Stevenson Water Quality: riparian fencing, planting, spring development-**
 - O & M will resume in the next FY.
- **Cowiche Creek – Garretson Diversion/Ingham On-Farm Improvement and Cowiche Trust Water Project-**
 - Yakima County interested in purchasing parcel north of the highway.
 - Will continue to use Garretson Diversion WR for next couple of years.
 - Potential to remove Garretson Diversion and provide better passage in the near future.
- **Ahtanum Creek- Herke South: fish screening and floodplain reconnection/enhancement-**
 - Plan to get designs ready for permit applications by the end of January this winter.
- **Wenas Creek – Priority passage and screening project-**
 - Waiting for outcome of RCPP grant request project ranking early next year.
- **Wenas Creek – Purdin Ditch Passage and screening project-**
 - Waiting for outcome of RCPP grant request project ranking early next year.
- **Wenas Creek – Chandler Riparian Enhancement-**
 - Planting complete.
 - Installed approximately 100 trees and shrubs to enhance riparian area.
 - Will follow up with O & M next FY.
- **Wenas Creek – Landowner Outreach-**
 - Sent out letters to the 108 people with property along Wenas Creek.

- Received several responses from landowners.
 - Two potential projects, barrier removal and screening.
- Made another landowner contact for a potential riparian and pump screening project upstream from Chandler.
- **Rattlesnake Creek – Rattlesnake Ditch and fish screen improvements-**
 - Project is on hold.
 - NYCD is standing by to assist with a potential project while ditch users work through issues.

B. KCCD- Anna Lael & Mark Crowley-

- **Coleman at Olmstead-** Construction is moving along well at this site. All concrete has been poured – walls for diversion done last week, bridge abutments done last week. A portion of the lower stream is done and hope to have that done today so they can set the pedestrian bridge and let water back in the creek tomorrow. The contractor’s plan is to be done and out of there by end of the January. The pivot is on site and partially assembled. The Parks staff will start on pipeline installation after the first of the year.
- **Cooke Creek-** The warranty repair items have been done. The vault will continue to be monitored for leakage.
- **Coleman Creek at Cascade-** KCCD is starting to work on the design again. Another task order was just approved with Anderson Perry.
- **Parke Creek Diversions-** KCCD needs to be working on designs at Parke Creek to finish them and work with the landowner on sprinkler conversion that must happen at the same time.
- **Bristol Flats-** Mark showed pictures of bank protection work, including installing posts and adding willows. KCCD does have drone photos of the pre-conditions so they could monitor and share how this project works.
- **Lower Naneum Diversions-** As part of the Yakima Basin Targeted Investments grant, the two lower Naneum diversions design process is starting. HLA was out surveying the sites and the irrigation system in November.
- **Swauk Creek-** Cassandra helped KCCD to submit an application to USFWS for additional funds for this project. There is also a cost increase being considered by SRFB. KCCD’s grant manager will be presenting it to the RCO Director tomorrow. They hope to know if they have all the needed funding in place in time for construction next summer.
- **RCPP-** This proposal includes the Cascade at Coleman and Ellensburg Water Company at Naneum projects which each have Fish Barrier Removal Board applications. The RCPP funds would be the needed match to those applications. Fingers crossed that the RCPP proposal is successful.

C. KCT- Mitch Long & Melissa Speeg-

- **ACQUISITION-**
 - Upper Yakima Property-
 - Contracted for appraisal which is due mid-January.
 - Cultural resources underway with the Yakama Nation.
- **RESTORATION-**
 - **Upper Yakima Restoration-**

- Had a good meeting with the landowner about planting maintenance into the future.
- Have some very nice KEEP OUT signs they are going to be installing in the spring.
- Almost finished with our end of the project. Developing a cool video of the site that they will use for outreach and for a site review with Department of Ecology.
- **Hanson Ponds-**
 - KCT was able to get the preliminary hydraulic data for the Yakima River for their reach.
 - Inter-Fluve will be digging in to start on some modeling.
- **Kachess-**
 - KCT will have the groundwater report at the end of December.
 - They will be meeting in January to go over the results and receive input on the final designs.
- **Gold Creek-**
 - Groundwater modeling complete.
 - Meeting in January to discuss outcomes and NEPA process.

D. MCF- Connor Parrish-

- **End of the Year for Seasonal Staff-** Rest-techs and BTTF are going to finish up their seasons at the end of this month. They have been absolutely fantastic this year working through all the unique challenges of 2020. BTTF finished bull trout work in early November and then switched to working with the Rest-Techs
- **Little Naches Levee Project-** MCF had a meeting with FS staff including the new Naches District Ranger, Aaron Stockton. They reviewed the project, and the ranger supports the project as currently designed. Called it a “no brainer” actually. FS believes with can permit this as a CE. MCF will have Tetra Tech begin working on 60% designs. The plan calls for the removal of over 20,000 cubic yards of levee material which will be repurposed throughout the site. Native material will be used to aggrade the stream bed and rip rap/boulders will be used as ballast on wood structures. ~500 pieces of wood will be added to the 1.25 miles of stream and ~4 acres will be actively seeded or planted to establish vegetation. With \$1.17 million in funding for implementation for DOE MCF is hoping to implement in 2022.
- **Crow/Quartz Creek-** MCF harvested 66 trees from overstocked riparian areas (mostly grand fir). Using a griphoist, they placed those trees and additional deadfall and slash in sections of lower Quartz Creek. All together they created 8 large log jams that should have an immediate impact. Sadly, one of the log jams was cut up for firewood before Connor could get “habitat tree” signs from the forest service. Quartz was completed this year and Crow Creek will be implemented next year. It will receive ~ 100 trees in the lower mile of the stream
- **Ahtanum Restoration of Recreation Activities-**
 - 2/3rds of the project was completed this year. At Treephones campground along the middle fork Ahtanum they installed 600 ft of buck and rail fencing, DNR placed root balls and debris in the floodplain, MCF then planted native trees and shrubs. Along the NF Ahtanum at a dispersed campground DNR cut around 30 trees and placed them in the floodplain to make as much of a mess as possible to keep people out. MCF installed around 80 boulders as barrier rock. 0.3 acres of

- the dispersed campground was decompacted, graded and graveled to improve drainage and provide RV camping. They decommissioned multiple user-built road to reduce the delivery of mud and fine sediment to the campground/stream.
- Another user built road was also supposed to be decommissioned in 2020 but YN's forest program decided they want to use it as a haul road to get timber off the reservation on their side of the SF Ahtanum. That work got delayed due to COVID so MCF is in a holding pattern until they harvest timber so they can go in with DNR and decommission the road. Hoping to finish this up in 2021 and install educational signage at site on the NF and MF.
 - **Waterstargrass Surveys-** MCF was supposed to survey the Yakima from union gap to the mouth and collect data on WSG in 2020. Due to COVID that was delayed... They are hoping that COVID issues improve in 2021 but just in case it doesn't improve they are trying to come up with alternative plans to collect some minimal data that will satisfy the needs of BCD who requires info on WSG to develop emergency plans for harvesting.
 - **Teanaway Brook Trout eDNA-** MCF worked with YBFWRB to reanalyze eDNA samples from 2017 that we collected looking for the presence of bull trout. This time they had 49 samples tested for the presence of invasive brook trout which of course is a big problem for bull trout and other native salmonids. Of the 49 samples tested only 8 came back positive for brook trout. So MCF now has a pretty good map of the distribution of brook trout in the Teanaway. This info will be useful for partners to develop brook trout suppression plans and hopefully plans to reintroduce bull trout to the NF Teanaway in the future.

E. Yakama Nation- Ryan DeKnikker-

- **Reecer Creek Design-** Nearing completion of 60% design to add channel roughness to reconnect adjacent floodplain surfaces more frequently, and gravel augmentation to promote coho spawning.
- **Taneum at Ragland/Heart K-** Nearing completion of 60% design to install engineered log jams and loose wood beginning summer 2021.
- **SF Manastash at Rider's Camp-** Developed preliminary concepts to utilize hazard trees for floodplain restoration on USFS administrative land- hoping to implement project summer 2021.
- **Lower Swauk Creek-** working with engineer to approve YKFP designed log jams- project to be implemented summer 2021.
- **Wood Replenishment Checklist-** Working with a consultant to develop a checklist for assessing site suitability and a checklist to aid in wood replenishment site selection and design- completion expected March 1, 2021.
- **NF Teanaway Floodplain Restoration, Phase 1-season 3-** Currently working on basis of design report and permitting to remove 2100 cy of berm in the floodplain, augment river gravel with portions of berm material, and construct flow deflector wood structures- construction-summer 2021 (MCF partnership).
- **WF MF Teanaway Geomorphic and Wetlands Assessment-** Working with consultant who is rounding up all applicable data- in progress, MCF partnership.
- **SRF Proposals-** Planning to submit for Taneum Section 2 floodplain restoration design which will include a Taneum road elevation component, and Taneum Campground Floodplain Restoration design.

- **Tucker Creek-** USFWS proposal submitted for floodplain restoration lower Tucker Creek, pending (TU, KRD partnership).
- **NF Manastash and Frost Meadow-** Waiting for wood replenishment checklist to finalize designs, implementation 2021 and 2022.

3. WDFW- Cassandra Weekes-

- A. The Coleman Creek at Olmstead fish rescue went well – thanks to all who came out to assist! Species encountered include: two spring chinook juveniles, ~100 brook lamprey, six bridgelip suckers, three brook trout, a northern pikeminnow, and a ton of dace, stickleback, shiners, sculpins.
- B. Fish Passage Rule Making – *follow-up to updated provided in August* - Public meetings are complete, the team is now drafting the language. There will be additional meetings to review the draft language in late January or early February.
- C. WA Fish Barrier Removal Board (FBRB) - The FBRB held a meeting this week and provided an update on their strategy development. In summary, the FBRB is tied to the culvert injunction, which specifically targets culverts under state-owned highways. However, the FBRB has always recognized that there are many types of fish passage barriers, in many geographic regions across the state, and barriers are only one part of the problem. Therefore, in developing their strategy, the board is continuing to look statewide at the removal of all forms of fish passage barriers under all forms of ownership. They are reviewing the ESA criteria defined by NOAA, stocks that are priority for Southern Resident Killer Whale prey, and fish runs that are limiting commercial harvest and recreational fisheries in the North of Falcon process. Some of the questions on prioritization include: Do you spend your money trying to recover the runs that are worst off and on the brink of extirpation? Or do you spend all your money on those closest to recovery? Do you look at individual barriers that are going to make the most difference in terms of habitat availability? Geographic area Chinook continue to be high priority species because they are a large part of the Southern Resident Killer Whale's diet. The Board acknowledged that there are not many mainstem barriers to Chinook (with the exception of the large dams), but that Chinook require off-channel refugia habitat, such as side channels and tributaries. The Wilson/Cherry system in the Yakima Basin is identified as one of eight priority watersheds statewide for Chinook recovery. The FBRB concluded that they want the regions to report where fish passage is a limiting factor and what the priority projects are. In the 2021-2013 biennium, the FBRB is proposing to fund 87 projects statewide with a total ask of \$65M. Two are YTAHP projects, Coleman at CID which ranked #3 and Naneum at EWC which ranked #11. This list will be forwarded to the legislature for review and funding.
- D. WDFW's Fish Passage Database (FPDSI) - For a while now, we've been discussing the need to update numerous Yakima Basin sites in the FPDSI database. Cassandra updated many of the sites where YTAHP has worked, but there's still a lot to do. For example, Manastash Creek & Cowiche Creek are still showing as having several barriers, when they have been addressed. Cassandra, Alex Conley, Danny Didricksen and Josh Rogala are currently consolidating various lists of known update needs and soon will be discussing a strategy for getting the updates in the database. If you know of updates that are needed in FPDSI, please let me know and I can add them to our list.

E. The YTAHP Active Projects Spreadsheet will be sent out soon.

F. Tomorrow is the monthly YTAHP check-in call with BPA. If you'd like to join, please let Cassandra know.

4. **ITEMS OF INTEREST-**

A. Tricia Snyder discussed the following topics with the group-

- The 2021 Eastern WA Riparian Planting Symposium will be held 02/24 - 02/25. The planning committee will send a save the date out soon with more information.
- The Yakima Basin landowner outreach document has undergone its last editing session with the larger group of partners. Tricia Snyder (YBFWRB), Melissa Speeg (KCT), and Ashton Bunce (Yakama Nation) are working with the graphic designer to incorporate the remaining edits and hope to have some printed copies available early in the new year.

B. Laine Young provided the following information to the group-

- Endorsement letters from Ecology take about two weeks to produce. Requesters should always send their latest grant project description and team (need not be perfect), consider potential connections to Ecology programs, and how soon the letter is needed. Ecology staff can link you to other projects and permits in the area and extra TMDL points. Also, consider contacting Ecology about your project even if you are not requesting an endorsement letter. Eventually, staff will review your project under SEPA; may submit comments. Meeting early is a great way to inform and solicit staff support and find out about cross-program involvement before comment periods commence.

5. The next Core Team Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 20 at 9:30 a.m.

YTAHP Core Team Meeting Appendix