

Meeting Date: January 16, 2019

Location: Washington Cattlemen's Association Conference Room, Ellensburg, WA

**Attendees:** Brian Miller, RC&D, Justin Bader, NYCD, Anna Lael, KCCD, Mark Crowley, KCCD, Cassandra Weekes, WDFW, Josh Rogala, WDFW, Elisabeth Torrey, WDFW, Melissa Speeg, KCT, Connor Parrish, MCFEG, Rebecca Wassell, MCFEG, Tricia Snyder, YBFWRB

## 1. ADMINISTRATIVE-

- A. The meeting agenda was approved.
- B. The minutes from the December 19 YTAHP Core Team Meeting were approved.
- C. The Statement of Work and Line Item Budget for the FY 2019 YTAHP Expense Contract are pending BPA approval.
- D. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Expense Contract Status Report that was submitted on January 10 has been accepted by BPA.

## 2. CORE TEAM PROJECT UPDATES-

### A. NYCD- Justin Bader-

- **Cowiche Creek – Naches Cowiche Canal Co. Siphon: fish passage-**
  - O & M ongoing in 2019.
- **Cowiche Creek – Lust/Stevenson Water Quality: riparian fencing, planting, spring development-**
  - Installation of watering system ongoing.
    - Wrapping up project, installation of panels for livestock control at stock tanks
  - O & M ongoing in 2019.
- **Cowiche Creek - Ingham On-Farm Improvement and Cowiche Trust Water Project-**
  - Landowner will be selling orchard block between Powerhouse Rd. and NCC.
  - Working with TU on outright purchase of Cowiche WR off of the Garretson Diversion for the cost of setting up the landowner to water out of the Canal using existing shares.
  - Will push back implementation to fall of 2019.
- **Ahtanum Creek- Herke South: fish screening and floodplain reconnection/enhancement-**
  - Justin provided a presentation on the status of this project.
  - Phase 1 fish screen installation and ditch work began on November 26<sup>th</sup>.
    - Installation of fish screen, two rock weirs, hardened crossing and log vane complete.
      - 1. Still need to install trash rack and grate/covering on the fish screen.
    - Completed all in ditch work on the 18<sup>th</sup> and rewatered side channel/delivery ditch.
  - Issues with southern access-
    - Existing bridge questionable for traffic associated with project.
    - Working on potential option for installation of new bridge.

1. Applying for additional funding from the WSCC.
- **Ahtanum Creek Assessment: Assessment to update fish passage and screening features within Ahtanum Creek-**
    - Survey complete.
    - Summary report being finalized.
    - Several previously unidentified features found and documented.
      - Will be able to follow up with potential projects next fiscal year.
  - **Rattlesnake Creek – Rattlesnake Ditch and fish screen improvements-**
    - Working with irrigators on formation of a water users association.
    - Project development related to improving the open irrigation ditch and correcting issues with current fish screen.
  - **Wenas Creek – Wes Nedrow Riparian Enhancement and Farm Plan-**
    - Working with landowner on comprehensive farm plan that includes riparian habitat protection and enhancement. As well as potential removal of derelict/abandoned instream control structure.

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

- **Caribou 1.17 Diversion Removal-** This project is out to bid right now, with bids due on January 22. KCCD had seven contractors at the pre-bid meeting last week. They continue to work on permits. They are waiting for SEPA to be completed. SEPA notice came out from the County yesterday (per Cassandra). HPA and Floodplain Development permit can't be issued until SEPA is done.
- **Bristol Flats-** KCCD is still working on the permits for this project. They are waiting to see if WDFW will be the SEPA lead.
- **Naneum- Reixinger-** KCCD continues to work on permits for this project as well. The shorelines and floodplain development and SEPA checklist were submitted to the County last week.
- KCCD held a Technical Work Group meeting last Friday for the Parke Creek Diversions, Coleman - Raap, and Coleman - Olmstead Park (FBRB) project designs. The priority is on the Olmstead Park project design.
- **Valley Land Company - Coleman Creek-** This project is delayed and the unspent SRFB funds will be returned. The solar facility is delayed and the field will be farmed again this year so the diversion is needed. This diversion remains the lowest fish passage barrier on Coleman Creek and so it is a priority. Further action needs to wait until the solar facility is in and the future irrigation needs are better known.

**C. KCT- Melissa Speeg-**

- **Tillman Creek Flow Augmentation-** KCT met with the landowner who was agreeable to a conservation easement on their property. Their main concern was having no one to go back to if trouble arose. He also wanted a more permanent and reliable access across the wetland area so his family can access the Iron Horse Trail. KCT wanted to know from Cassandra whether incorporating this project into the permitting process made more sense now, or if it should be its own separate process. Cassandra said because the cultural had been completed it would be better to do the permitting separately.
- **Box Canyon Wood Replenishment Project-** KCT brushed the road in December. They are still waiting to put in the gate – it snowed before the contractor could install

it. They are on hold on this project until the government shutdown ends and the Forest Service reopens.

- **Upper Kachess River Restoration-** The engineers are working on developing the technical report and conceptual designs. KCT is on hold on this project until the government shutdown ends and the Forest Service reopens.
- **Gold Creek Restoration-** In December KCT held a design charrette for Gold Creek Pond. They are currently working on completing the final report. The charrette was very successful, but they did not end up with two clear alternatives at the end to develop into conceptual designs. They had a call with their engineers recently to work on developing the two conceptual designs coming out of the charrette. Through this conversation they realized that we need clarification on what the alternatives are realistic to move forward with. The Forest Service stated at the meeting that their Forest Plan will not allow for them to implement unnatural restoration alternatives. Both the grout curtain and raising the pond with a dam would be considered unnatural. KCT is on hold on this project until the government shutdown ends and the Forest Service reopens.
- **Upper Yakima River Restoration Project-** KCT is close to completing the contact with Department of Ecology. Cassandra is near sending in permitting for ACE and DAHP. They will be working on developing a bid packet that will go out in February or early March. They are continuing to work with Kat Strathmann with Mid-Columbia Fisheries on developing a planting plan.

**D. Mid-Columbia Fisheries- Connor Parrish & Rebecca Wassell-**

- Connor and Rebecca gave an update on current MCF activities.

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

**3. PROJECT PERMITTING & MONITORING-WDFW- Cassandra Weekes-**

- A. Cassandra provided an overview of the permit status of Caribou, Packwood and Bristol Flats.
- B. Cassandra had a second site visit to the Floyd property in Union Gap, this time with the Yakama Nation YKFP in attendance. Spring Creek and Wide Hollow Creek converge on this property and there is great restoration potential. The landowner does not live on the property and the home and acreage is currently being leased. The landowner is open to restoration ideas, such as removing the fish passage barrier, irrigation alternatives, livestock exclusion fencing and riparian planting. However, it's uncertain whether those elements would be maintained under the current lease. The landowner mentioned an interest in selling and Cassandra thinks it would be a valuable property to acquire. Cassandra, John Marvin and Scott Nicolai (YN YKFP) are reaching out to partners to determine if there's interest in acquisition and restoration.
- C. Alex Conley invited Cassandra to co-present at the Fish Barrier Removal Board's January 13<sup>th</sup> meeting in Olympia. Alex and Cassandra presented an overview of the Yakima Basin, all the progress we've made to restore passage and screen diversions, current challenges, and how FBRB can continue to support our work. Cassandra discussed YTAHP with the FBRB and how the two projects complement each other and should continue to work collaboratively. This was a great opportunity to tell our story and thank FBRB for their support.

- D. Partners are discussing Wenas Creek work in 2019 (surveys, data collection, PIT tagging fish, PIT tag array installation, etc.) and YTAHP is excited to continue to partner on existing efforts. NYCD is sponsoring the Wenas assessment, which will identify all fish passage and screening needs, as well as potential habitat restoration opportunities. Cassandra conveyed this information to Jeff Tayer to relay to the IP Habitat Subcommittee.
- E. There was a discussion on how the YTAHP budget looks and remaining projects to be billed. The YTAHP Electrofisher that is used for our fish monitoring activities was discussed. The current Electrofisher was purchased in 2004 and is not always reliable. It would probably still work okay for a backup but not our primary Electrofisher. It was determined that if there is enough money in the current Expense Contract budget that we should make a request to BPA to purchase a new Electrofisher and an extra battery. WDFW stated that they could provide information on the equipment that they recommend that we purchase.

#### 4. ITEMS OF INTEREST-

- A. It was noted that Bonneville Power Administration staff are attending our February 20<sup>th</sup> YTAHP Core Team meeting and will be providing an Endangered Species Act (ESA) and National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) consultation workshop. YTAHP is excited to open this training opportunity to our partners as well! We will be holding the February YTAHP meeting at the Yakima Basin Fish & Wildlife Recovery Board (YBFWRB) from 9am – 10:30am. The BPA permit workshop covering ESA and NHPA consultations will be from 10:30am – 12pm. Following the YTAHP meeting and permit workshop, the YBFWRB is hosting the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) grant kick-off meeting from 1pm – 4:30pm.
5. The next Core Team Meeting is scheduled to be held in Yakima on Wednesday, February 20 at 9:00 a.m.

## **YTAHP Core Team Meeting Appendix**