

Meeting Date: August 21, 2019

Location: USDA Service Center Conference Room, Yakima, WA

**Attendees:** Brian Miller, RC&D, Ryan Anderson, RC&D, Michael Tobin, NYCD, Anna Lael, KCCD, Cassandra Weekes, WDFW, Erin Eaton, TU, Dale Meck, Yakima County

**Attendees via conference phone:** Brenda Aguirre, BPA

1. **ADMINISTRATIVE-**

- A. The meeting agenda was approved.
- B. The minutes from the July 17 YTAHP Core Team Meeting were approved.
- C. The draft YTAHP Strategic Plan has been update for FY 2019.
- D. The FY 2020 YTAHP Expense Contract CR336884 has been initiated in Pisces.
- E. The proposed FY 2019 Expense Contract revision was discussed.
- F. The BPA Action Effectiveness Monitoring (AEM) program was discussed.
- G. The Going Against the Current article that was published in the Yakima Herald Republic on August 15 was discussed.

2. **CORE TEAM PROJECT UPDATES-**

A. **NYCD- Michael Tobin-**

- **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-**
  - Completed installation of watering system.
    - Planting for shade and riparian enhancement planned for fall.
  - O & M ongoing in 2019.
- **Cowiche Creek - Ingham On-Farm Improvement and Cowiche Trust Water Project-**
  - Second developer purchased orchard block between Powerhouse Rd. and NCC.
    - Working with both parties on an agreement to keep water right instream.
  - Will push back implementation to fall of 2019.
- **Ahtanum Creek- Herke South: fish screening and floodplain reconnection/enhancement-**
  - Phase 1 fish screen installation complete.
    - Working screen submergence and flow measurement.
  - Initiating permitting on Phase 2 and refining design.
    - Working with YN Fisheries on design.
  - Initiated another Section 106 Consultation for increased APE to account for material staging.
    - Yakama Nation Archaeologists completed survey and report, waiting for correspondence/concurrence between YN and BPA.

- **Wenas Creek Assessment: Assessment of fish passage, screening needs, and habitat condition within Wenas Creek-**
  - Survey is complete.
  - Will begin office work of compiling information and summarizing in report.
  - Made several good landowner contacts for potential habitat work.
- **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.
  - Association still working out operation and short-term improvements to keep ditch operating as efficiently as possible.
  - Flow measurements taken August 14<sup>th</sup>.
- **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.
- **Wenas Creek – Chandler Riparian Enhancement-**
  - New landowner contact interested in improving the riparian area along his property.

#### B. KCCD- Anna Lael-

- **Olmstead-** Cassandra is helping us to schedule another TWG meeting for this project to discuss the issues related to the EWC shares for the portion of the project for the sprinkler.
- **Cooke Creek-** KCCD is hoping to advertise the project for bid in September. They are waiting for the final round of design updates from Anderson Perry and for the RCO to amend the Fish Barrier Removal Board grant funds into the existing SFRB grant for this project.
- **Naneum Creek (Riexinger)-** Measurements per the HPA continue at this project site although the pump screen has been used minimally this summer.
- **Bristol Flats-** It sounds like the landowner and their vendor finally worked out their issues with setting up an account. The project should go to construction this fall.
- **Parke Creek-** Design work continues on these two projects. They were funded through the Fish Barrier Removal Board so construction is now imminent so that prioritizes this design work.
- **Caribou Creek-** The Fish Barrier Removal Board has funded the removal of these diversions so KCCD needs to get moving on the designs. These projects are near the City of Kittitas and were included in YTAHP in the past when a joint project with the City constructed a new diversion with a fish screen and ladder in 2008. That diversion was intended to be a consolidation point for two more lower diversions, but a pipeline to delivery water was needed. The new grant from the Fish Barrier Removal Board funds that pipeline and the removal of the lower diversions.
- **Swauk Creek-** This project developed this spring and summer and is highly likely to be funded through the Salmon Recovery Funding Board this winter. Adding this project to the YTAHP SOW would be helpful in jump starting the work so that construction can happen next year.
- **Coleman Creek at Fairview Road-** A project at this site was designed by Kittitas County and was planned for construction this fall, but has been pulled. The County's

project was to replace three bridges with one and relocate reaches of the creek, as it currently crosses the road three times in a very short distance. There are two un-screened irrigation diversions associated with this part of the creek that could be consolidated. A conceptual idea has been discussed with the irrigators and landowners and the project could be coordinated with the County project if it is constructed.

- **Coleman Creek (Raap)-** This project will not be constructed this year as it is related to another Fish Barrier Removal Board grant to Kittitas County Public Works. That project will impact KCCD's project and so they want to wait for them before doing this project.
- **Healthy Forest Reserve Program-** KCCD just issued a press release to announce the sign-up deadline for the Healthy Forest Reserve Program through their RCPP project. The program is focused on the Teanaway and Swauk watersheds and on private forest land that includes or is adjacent to those waterways or their tributaries.

C. KCT- No report this meeting-

D. Mid-Columbia Fisheries- No report this meeting-

E. Yakama Nation- No report this meeting-

3. WDFW- Cassandra Weekes-

- A. Over the past month Cassandra has worked with North Yakima Conservation District, Kittitas County Conservation District, Kittitas Conservation Trust, Mid-Columbia Fisheries and the Yakama Nation to complete several permit applications for upcoming projects.
- B. The Wenas Creek Assessment is complete. The survey was a success – the survey technicians did a great job remaining organized and attentive to details, communicating with private landowners, and respecting property boundaries. We received a valuable inventory of surface water diversions and fish passage barriers, and a baseline of habitat conditions. The technicians are drafting a report of the findings and we expect to receive a copy in mid-September.
- C. The Yakama Nation and Mid-Columbia Fisheries are beginning implementing of the North Fork Teanaway project this week. YTAHP supported the permitting of this project. The helicopter wood placement will take place on August 20-21. The large wood trapping structures and flow splitter and deflector structures will be constructed Aug. 21 through mid-September. The Yakama Nation will be organizing a field tour in early September for partners to walk the project site.
- D. KCT's Upper Yakima River Restoration Project at the Hundley property will go to construction in early September. YTAHP supported the permitting of this project. The project will excavate two relic side channels to increase foraging and rearing habitat for juvenile salmonids.
- E. The Yakama Nation lamprey biologists may need assistance salvaging lamprey out of the Sunnyside and Wapato Diversions after irrigation shutdown. When dates are known, the information will be shared with the YTAHP email distribution list.

- F. Cassandra sent out the YTAHP active projects spreadsheet on July 11<sup>th</sup>. If you have additional updates to be incorporated, please let her know.
- G. Cassandra will be absent from the September YTAHP meeting due to attending the 2019 Pacific Northwest Fish Screening and Passage Workshop in Walla Walla in September. Elizabeth Torrey is planning to attend.

4. **ITEMS OF INTEREST-**

- A. Ryan Anderson talked to the group about WRC&D strategic planning, and requested some input from them regarding the future priorities of WRC&D.
5. The next Core Team Meeting is scheduled to be held in Ellensburg on Wednesday, September 18 at 9:30 a.m.

## **YTAHP Core Team Meeting Appendix**