



Grant County
PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT
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PRCC Habitat Subcommittee Meeting

FINAL APPROVED MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, May 13, 2021

1:00 pm

Zoom Webinar Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6687023820?pwd=T25vbjdGVG9mVHVUQ3I1akQ3dENIUT09>

PRCC Habitat Subcommittee Members

Kate Terrell, USFWS
Dave Duvall, Deanne Pavlik-Kunkel (alt), GCPUD
Justin Yeager, Dale Bambrick (alt), NMFS
Jeremy Cram, Ben Truscott (alt), WDFW
Denny Rohr, D. Rohr & Assoc, Facilitator

Chris Fisher, CCT
Brandon Rogers, Hans Smith (alt), YN
Carl Merkle, CTUIR
Erin Harris, GCPUD, Admin Assistant

Meeting Attendees

Chris Fisher, CCT
Brandon Rogers, YN
Dave Duvall, GCPUD
Deanne Pavlik-Kunkel, GCPUD
Denny Rohr, D.Rohr & Assoc, Facilitator

Justin Yeager, NMFS
Kate Terrell, USFWS
Jeremy Cram, WDFW
Erin Harris, absent

Decisions for May 13, 2021 Meeting

1. **Anderson Acquisition – UBC Batie Habitat Project was approved for up to \$35,000 from Habitat Fund 602.** to the Committee desire to skip the appraisal, 2) restoration, 3) resale language – resale is unlikely, but language will be included, and 4) will have a public access clause.

MEETING MINUTES

I. Agenda Review and Additions

- A. Agenda item VII (a) – Spec sheet for ORRI – Restoration of the channelized VDS section in Okanagan Falls (by C. Fisher)

- B. Review of email distributed ONA Reports (by C. Fisher)
- C. John Dengel, WDFW, had planned to attend today's meeting to discuss the near completed IPID project but is being postponed to June 10th Meeting. IPID project funding anticipated to be short approximately \$250,000. Dengel will discuss funding request at next meeting, and a revised project spec sheet will be forthcoming for review prior to next meeting.

II. Approval of Meeting Minutes

- A. April 8, 2021 – Approved.

III. Action Items Review from April 8, 2021 Meetings (D. Rohr)

1. Rohr will contact Cram regarding concurrence with committee members approval of Cascade Orchards and Minnow Creek proposals. **Completed**
2. Yeager will check-in with Aaron Penvose, TU, regarding follow up of Barkley Project plus Wilson Property options. **Completed**
3. Terrell will follow up with Jeff Dengel, WDFW, on spec sheet for the Icicle-Peshastin Irrigation District Fish Screen Proposal cost increases. **Completed**
4. Fisher will keep committee advised of meeting of USGS and Ecology around May 1st regarding Enloe Dam. **Completed**

IV. Habitat and NNI Funds Report (D. Rohr) - Q1 Report pending.

V. (Placeholder) Nason Ridge Acquisition Proposal (B. Rogers)

This project has been under review during previous meetings and was postponed to a future meeting for continued discussion to give parties time to work out details. Rogers today informed committee members that CCNRD staff will attend the June meeting to continue the discussion plus address committee funding requirements and CCNRD's activities to try and achieve them.

VI. Affirmation of Approval by J. Cram, WDFW (D. Rohr)

- A. **Cascade Orchards Icicle Creek Flow Restoration Proposal (J. Yeager) - completed**
- B. **Minnow Creek Fish Passage Restoration Proposal (K. Terrell) - completed**

VII. Anderson Acquisition – UBC Batie Habitat Project (K. Terrell)

Spec sheet was reviewed by committee members regarding a 1-acre parcel currently in private ownership. Terrell explained that the property is necessary and advantageous for restoration work planned in the area. The property is located river left, and the funding request is \$35,000. Activities on this parcel would include removal of road fill in the flood plain and in the associated wetland. The current landowner would allow the restoration work. Project proponents of adjacent restoration work would like to include the 1-acre parcel with their project. It is currently unknown if the property has associated water rights, and fish benefits are habitat protection from actions by future property owners. After

additional discussion, committee members approved the project acquisition up to \$35,000 from Fund 602. Rohr reminded committee members that a land acquisition requires a property appraisal. Accordingly, after additional discussion, committee members voted to forego the appraisal for this one time only. Duvall informed the committee that the contract components that will be included for consistency are, 1) appraisal – this section would be eliminated due to the Committee desire to skip the appraisal, 2) restoration, 3) resale language – resale is unlikely, but language will be included, and 4) will have a public access clause.

VII(a): ORRI – Restoration of the channelized VDS section in Okanogan Falls (C. Fisher)

Fisher stated that ONA and the Ministry are pursuing installation of riffles to reduce energy and prevent/delay by anadromous salmonids, most notably sockeye salmon, through the vertical drop structures (VDS). Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) is cost-matching the project. ONA needs a decision by mid-July to secure matching funds from DFO. ONA anticipates that the drop structures will be removed by the Ministry, but no timeline has been set. Also, it is unclear what the biological benefit would be from removing the VDS and it will be expensive. VDS's could be modified by removing the chevrons within the bay, however, the structure is relatively old (50+ years) and is deteriorating. There is limited benefit for summer Chinook that far up the system and presumably low survival through the chain-lake system in the upper Okanogan River. It is unclear that the spawning gravels will provide any benefit if fish do not migrate that far. Committee agreed to add this subject to the June agenda as a Decision Item. Additional information about next steps in moving into Phase 2 is desired for additional discussion at the next meeting.

VIII. Potpourri (D. Rohr)

A. Habitat Policies and Procedures Document Review – nothing additional

Project Updates

A. **McIntyre Dam - Fish Jumping Efficiency (C. Fisher)** None.

B. **Shuttleworth Creek Projects (C. Fisher)**

PRCC HabSC approved \$600,000 or more to this project. The lone entity reluctant to move to the groundwater resource has shifted to the new irrigation system so surface water withdrawals will cease in 2022. The Clark Meadows dam is scheduled to be removed during the fall of 2021.

The Allendale Lake dam is expected to be removed during 2023. An email update was distributed by Chris to provide additional detail.

C. **Lower Wenatchee Instream Flow Enhancement Project, Phase II (J. Cram)** No update this month.

D. **(Placeholder for April 2021) – Funding Activities of Barkley Irrigation Company Permanent Point of Diversion – Wilson Property Options Discussion (J. Yeager).**

This project has been on hold for the past few months pending consideration of disposition of the Wilson Property. Yeager informed the committee that someone is renting the house on the property so National TU has said the Regional TU branch could continue owning the property into 2023. TU had proposed selling the property which the PRCC Habitat Subcommittee does not support, plus TU cannot sell the property without Subcommittee approval. There are limited options to the subcommittee, including recommending TU pass it over to MSRF to allow restoration or consider approving a sale that includes a conservation easement. Committee members will continue the discussion at the June meeting. In the interim, Yeager will contact Chris Johnson to determine MRSF's possible interest in the property, and he will also contact Aaron Penvose/TU for further discussion of their intent. Yeager will also resend the conceptual design information previously received from MSRF that included possible restoration activities.

- E. **Skaha Dam Fish Passage Project (C. Fisher).** None.
- F. **Weyco (Weyerhaeuser) Mill Creek Land Acquisition – CDLT Developmental Funding / Final Acquisition (J. Cram)** None.
- G. **Icicle-Peshastin Irrigation District Fish Screen Proposal (J. Cram)** – Jeff Dengel, WDFW, will attend June meeting to discuss increased costs and design changes. See discussion above under Agenda Review.
- H. **Final Construction for Floodplain Re-engagement - Penticton Channel Culvert Proposal (C. Fisher)** Reactivated. Two redds counted up from the entrance, and while the backwater area has not been sampled yet, it is hoped subyearlings will be present.
- I. **Assessment of Sediment Chemistry behind Enloe Dam on the Similkameen River, Okanogan County, Washington (C. Fisher)** WADOE and USGS held a meeting to review results of previous sediment sampling conducted by USGS. Consideration was given to future sediment sampling to include sampling above/below impoundment to evaluate background levels and to assess organic compounds (PCB, DDT, etc.). Fisher anticipates there will be a proposal for additional sediment sampling. Another meeting is planned to focus on development of a sampling plan for 2021.
- J. **Determine volume of Sediment Accumulated behind Enloe Dam on the Similkameen River, Okanogan County, Washington (C. Fisher)** USGS interpretive report is expected to be released in early July.
- K. **Ben Canyon Creek Fish Passage Project (K. Terrell)** Bid package estimates submitted are very high so the plan is to pull the bid request and rebid later this year. Currently assessing whether the biological benefits is worth the current cost estimates. Assessing USFS plans (potential for a timber sale).

L. **Cascade Orchards Icicle Creek Flow Restoration Proposal (J. Yeager)**
Duvall is working with Washington Water Trust on the draft contract.

M. **Minnow Creek Fish Passage Restoration Proposal (K. Terrell)**. Scheduled to go to construction this summer. Duvall has been working through the contracting process with Jason Lundgren.

IX. **Next Meeting** – Thursday, June 10, 2021, 1:00 pm, Location – ZOOM webinar

Action Items for May 13, 2021 Meeting:

1. Rohr will add “**ORRI – Restoration of the channelized VDS section in Okanagan Falls**” proposal to June 10th meeting agenda as a DECISION ITEM.
2. Regarding **Wilson Property Options (Barkley Project)**, Yeager will contact Chris Johnson to determine MRSF’s possible interest in the property, and he will also contact Aaron Penvose/TU for further discussion of their intent moving forward. Yeager will also resend the conceptual design information previously received from MSRF that included possible restoration activities.

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