



Grant County
PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT
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PRCC Habitat Subcommittee Meeting

FINAL APPROVED MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, June 10, 2021

1:00 pm

Microsoft Teams meeting

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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, DRA, Facilitator (absent)

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, DRA, Facilitator (absent)

Donald Ponder, WDFW

Nelson Mathews, Western Rivers Conservancy

Mickey Fleming, CDLT

David Morgan, CDLT

Justin Yeager, NMFS

Kate Terrell, USFWS

Jeremy Cram, WDFW

Erin Harris, absent

Jeff Dengel, WDFW

Marc Duboiski, WA-RCO

Mik McGee, Western Rivers Conservancy

Mike Kaputa, CCNRD

Curt Soper, CDLT

MEETING MINUTES

Decisions made during June 10, 2021 meeting

1. **Icicle-Peshastin Irrigation District Fish Screen Project** funding request was approved to support a contract Change Order for an increase of up to \$100,000 and continue to use Habitat Fund 602.
 2. **ORRI – Restoration of the channelized VDS section in Okanagan Falls Proposal** was approved for up to \$95,000 CAD to complete restoration work using Habitat Fund 602, and Fisher is to provide language directing funds to be specifically used for riffle structures below VDS.
 3. **Minnow Creek Project** funding request was approved for a change order to the contract from Habitat Fund 602 for up to \$3500 to cover pollution insurance required by Grant PUD's Risk Department.
- II. Agenda Review: The following agenda items were added.**
1. Fisher added Mardini (Jawa) Property.
 2. Duvall added possible Minnow Creek Change Order.
- III. Approval of Meeting Minutes**
- A. May 13, 2021
- A copy of the draft meeting minutes with edits from Fisher will be shared for Habitat SC review and approval via email. Habitat Subcommittee members will provide their consideration for approval by Wednesday, June 16, 2021, via email vote.
- IV. Action Items Review from April 8, 2021, meeting. (D. Rohr)**
1. Rohr will add “**ORRI – Restoration of the channelized VDS section in Okanagan Falls**” proposal to June 10th meeting agenda as a DECISION ITEM. Complete.
 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 MRSF that included possible restoration activities. Complete.
- V. Habitat and NNI Funds Report Q1 (D. Rohr)**
1. Pending.
- VI. (1:00) Icicle-Peshastin Irrigation District Fish Screen Project - Update Presentation, Jeff Dengel, WDFW (K. Terrell, D. Duvall, J. Cram)**
1. The Icicle-Peshastin Irrigation District (IPID) fish screen project is the final component of the larger projects completed in the basin. The project has experienced significant design changes as the project proved to be more complex than anticipated; escalating materials costs, exacerbated by the larger footprint required by the additional design elements, have led to a 34% increase in budget. Alternate revenue streams through WADOE and

possibly IPID may be available to help cover the increased cost. IPID increased funding support to \$120,000-\$130,000 through in-kind provisions of equipment operators (comprises a \$30,000-\$50,000 increase from original cost), and Dengel feels IPID could potentially provide up to \$200,000. The bulk of the project will not be put out to bid; WDFW is completing design work and IPID is securing materials. An electrical and controls contractor will be bid and hired.

2. Additional design elements include walking bridge adjusted to a vehicle bridge, access road construction, space for the screen bay hydraulics increased the floor/footprint size, and high inlet velocities require canal replacement/enlargement to slow them down (constructed of steel). WDFW noted that IPID is not requesting top-of-the-line project elements but that it's the reality of the project design necessary to ensure it's adequate. The foot bridge/limited vehicle bridge may not be necessary and does not add to fish restoration activities. 50% of increase is the result of materials cost increases, the other 50% is the larger footprint and added project elements.
3. One option for the PRCC Habitat Subcommittee is to assess funding levels of other funders before taking any action. The alternative option would be to tell the Project Proponents what the PRCC Habitat Subcommittee is willing to fund and leave the other funders to provide remaining budget. Dengel believes the other funding streams would follow a quick decision timeline.
4. APPROVED: Habitat Subcommittee is willing to fund a portion of the project's remaining costs and support a Change Order for an increase of \$100,000 for the project. Use the same fund number used to fund the project previously (602).

VII. DECISION ITEM -- ORRI – Restoration of the channelized VDS section in Okanagan Falls (C. Fisher)

During the May 2021 meeting Fisher presented an ONA proposal involving Vertical Drop Structure (VDS) 13 within the ORRI section of the Okanagan River. No decision was made at that time as more information was needed. Fisher continued during the June meeting providing additional information related to the VDS, oxbow and side channel re-connection, and spawning areas. After discussion and consideration by the PRCC Habitat Subcommittee, the project was approved. APPROVED: ONA request of \$95,000 CAD to complete restoration work with emphasis on riffle below VDS. Use Fund 602. Fisher to provide language directing funds specifically used for riffle structures below VDS. Use Fund 602.

VIII. (2:30) Nason Ridge Acquisition Presentation, Mike Kaputa, CCNRD (B. Rogers)

Guests: Marc Duboiski, Mickey Fleming, Nelson Mathews, Mike Kaputa, David Morgan, Mik McKee, Curt Soper.

1. FUNDING CURRENTLY ACHIEVED:

- i. \$3 Million from State Legislature; listed as #1 project in WA.
 - ii. \$750,000 from Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB).
 - iii. HCP Tributary Committee \$500K
 - iv. PRCC Habitat Subcommittee Request \$750K
 - v. TOTAL: \$5.1 Million
- 2. Project is a 3,700-acre property for sale by Weyerhaeuser. Western Rivers Conservancy purchased the property to protect it from development but is not interested in maintaining ownership of the property. Under the multi-group management proposal for the project/site and the Nason Ridge Community Forest Plan, Chelan County would be the property owner.
- 3. A MOU amongst the responsible parties/owners has been implemented to direct activities. Chelan County, as the property manager, would work with the MOU group.
- 4. Property restoration and protection plans are very broad currently; ecologically rather than economically driven and include road decommissioning (with input from community) with focus on roads in the riparian zones (salmon grant funding), sediment control activities at a culvert crossing. Chelan County will be required to have an encumbrance (on the riparian area only) that requires riparian areas must meet salmon recovery directives and allow public access. A long-term management plan is under development by Chelan County. Nason Ridge Community Forest would be the first community forest in WA state's new program.
- 5. Kaputa will provide the MOU after our meeting today.
- 6. Timeframe - sale from Western Rivers to Chelan County is planned to occur by the end of September 2021.
- 7. All other funding sources have been secured. Only the HCP Tributary Committee and PRCC Habitat Subcommittee are outstanding.
- 8. 43% under special protections (salmon protections). Community Forest Area (57%) can harvest trees to maintain the property, but not commercially (strong conservation theme in the program). Salmon, Tributary Committee and PRCC Subcommittee funds would focus on the 1600 acres with more restricted uses.
- 9. Decommissioning of roads has begun: Current road densities are 5.5miles/mi² in non-salmon areas and 4.6/mi² in protected areas. Projected road densities for salmon sensitive areas' goal is <2 miles/mi². There is a perimeter road conflict as it is the main road out for the Kahler community in case of fire. The plan is to make the road as stable as possible rather than removing it. Timeline of continued restoration work is funding dependent.
- 10. DISCUSSION: The Property Owners group and MOU is new to the Habitat Subcommittee and they would like to review the MOU prior to calling for a vote. The PRCC HSC still believes their initial concerns have not been fully addressed even after Chelan County's written responses and today's presentation. No clear assurances were provided that the fish and natural resources would be protected.

11. DECISION: Notify Kaputa and Mathews to expect questions from members and that the Habitat Subcommittee's decision was deferred.

IX. Barkley Irrigation Company Permanent Point of Diversion – Wilson Property Options Discussion (J. Yeager)

Chris Johnson with MSRF is interested in restoration work in the reach but will be unable to do so until or without a landowner acknowledgement that provides assurances from TU that restoration work can occur on the property. A standard form should be available. Yeager will communicate the Habitat Subcommittee's decision and recommendations.

- X. (Agenda addition) Mardini (now Jawa) Property** - Fisher was contacted by Fleming regarding the Mardini property that the PRCC Habitat Subcommittee previously elected not to purchase during the Toole Acquisition. The new owner of an approximately 7- acre parcel has requested access through the adjacent property(ies). TU/CDLT do not support cutting an access road through the protected properties to allow access, however, the landowner is litigating the issue. The new landowner paid much more than the appraisal price for the property. CDLT is considering purchasing the property to eliminate potential long-term property battles with the new landowner and is looking for insight into the Habitat Subcommittee's potential interest in funding it. If there appears to be support, a Spec sheet would be forthcoming in July. The purchase would exceed the original appraisal price, which would violate Habitat Subcommittee constraints to not pay in excess of appraisal prices for properties. Tentative request: up to \$100,000. Habitat Subcommittee is requesting additional information and follow-up discussion before potential interest can be assessed.

- XI. (Agenda addition) Minnow Creek Project** - Duvall reported that after the Minnow Creek project was finalized, Cascade Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group (CCFEG) realized they did not have the pollution insurance as outlined in the contract. Duvall asked CCFEG if they could acquire the needed insurance. Several quotes were received, ranging from \$1400 to \$3500 but it would be difficult for CCFEG to cover these costs and therefore, a request to the PRCC Habitat Subcommittee was made to cover these costs through a Change Order to the contract. After committee discussion, this request was approved. APPROVED: Change order to Minnow Creek Project for up to \$3500 to cover pollution insurance required by Grant PUD's Risk Department. Fund: 602.

XII. Potpourri (D. Rohr)

- A. Habitat Policies and Procedures Document Review
a. In progress.

Project Updates

A. McIntyre Dam - Fish Jumping Efficiency (C. Fisher).

No update.

B. Shuttleworth Creek Projects (C. Fisher).

Plans are to remove Clark Meadows Dam in fall of 2021, and Allendale Lake Dam removed in 2023.

C. Lower Wenatchee Instream Flow Enhancement Project, Phase II (J. Cram)

No update.

D. Funding Activities of Barkley Irrigation Company Permanent Point of Diversion – Wilson Property Options Discussion (J. Yeager) – See discussion under agenda item IX above.

E. Skaha Dam Fish Passage Project (C. Fisher)

No update.

F. Weyco (Weyerhaeuser) Mill Creek Land Acquisition – CDLT Developmental Funding / Final Acquisition (J. Cram).

Another offer was submitted to and accepted by the landowners; however, the new owners did not take the mineral rights. The Habitat Subcommittee is not interested in the property without the mineral rights so the project will no longer be pursued and considered for purchase. If it does come back on the market, the Habitat Subcommittee will require a new spec sheet to be submitted.

G. Icicle-Peshastin Irrigation District Fish Screen Proposal (J. Cram)

No update.

H. Final Construction for Floodplain Re-engagement - Penticton Channel Culvert Proposal (C. Fisher).

No update.

I. Assessment of Sediment Chemistry behind Enloe Dam on the Similkameen River, Okanogan County, Washington (C. Fisher).

USGS and DOE are interested in completing additional sampling. At this time, it appears DOE may be able to complete the work in-house so additional funding may not be required. If that does not work, the PRCC Habitat Subcommittee may receive another request to support that assessment work.

J. Determine volume of Sediment Accumulated behind Enloe Dam on the Similkameen River, Okanogan County, Washington (C. Fisher)

Sediment volume is preliminarily estimated at 2.29M cubic yards. The report is expected in July 2021.

K. Ben Canyon Creek Fish Passage Project (K. Terrell).

No update.

L. Cascade Orchards Icicle Creek Flow Restoration Proposal (J. Yeager).

No update. Contract is currently under review.

M. Minnow Creek Fish Passage Restoration Proposal (K. Terrell)

Previously discussed earlier in the meeting.

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

Duvall will complete the contracting process once the May Habitat Subcommittee minutes have been approved.

XIII. Next Meeting – Thursday, July 8, 2021, 1:00 pm, Location – Meeting format to be determined.

Action items from June 10, 2021, meeting

1. Duvall will contact Rohr regarding conducting an email vote for approval of the May 13, 2021, draft meeting minutes.
2. ORRI – Restoration of the channelized VDS section in Okanagan Falls, Fisher to provide language directing funds specifically used for riffle structures below VDS.
3. Nason Ridge Acquisition, Rogers will follow up regarding Kaputa providing a copy of the MOU after today's meeting.
4. Nason Ridge Acquisition, Rogers will notify Kaputa and Mathews to expect questions from members and that the Habitat Subcommittee's decision was deferred.
5. Barkley Irrigation Company Permanent Point of Diversion – Wilson Property Options Discussion, Yeager will communicate the Habitat Subcommittee's decision and recommendations.
6. Mardini (now Jawa) Property - Fisher will notify Fleming the Habitat Subcommittee is requesting additional information and follow-up discussion before potential interest can be assessed.
7. Anderson Acquisition – UBC Batie Habitat Project, Duvall will complete the contracting process once the May Habitat Subcommittee minutes have been approved.

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