

Wells, Rocky Reach, and Rock Island HCP Tributary Committees Notes 14 March 2013

Members Present: Dale Bambrick (NOAA Fisheries), Lee Carlson (Yakama Nation), Jeremy Cram (WDFW), Chris Fisher (Colville Tribes), Steve Hays (Chelan PUD), Tom Kahler (Douglas PUD), Kate Terrell (USFWS), and Tracy Hillman (Committees Chair).

Others Present: Becky Gallaher (Tributary Project Coordinator).

The Wells, Rocky Reach, and Rock Island Hydroelectric Projects Habitat Conservation Plans Tributary Committees met in the Chelan PUD Auditorium in Wenatchee, Washington, on Thursday, 14 March 2013 from 10:00 am to 12:15 pm.

I. Review and Adopt Agenda

Tracy Hillman welcomed everyone to the meeting and the Committees adopted the proposed agenda with the following additions:

- Review a Small Projects Application from Cascade Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group.
- Peshastin Creek Riparian Restoration Project.
- Shingle Creek Update.

II. Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes

The Committees reviewed and approved the 14 February 2013 meeting notes with edits.

III. Monthly Update on Ongoing Projects

Becky Gallaher gave an update on funded projects. Most are progressing well or had no salient activity in the past month.

- Twisp River Riparian Protection Project (Zinn) – The conservation easement has been negotiated and is near final draft. All due diligence is complete, pending a final site inspection. The stewardship plan is in development and closing should occur in early May.
- Nason Creek Upper White Pine Reconnection – Chelan PUD Powerline Reconnection Alternatives Analysis – The sponsor (Chelan County Natural Resources Department) will meet with Chelan PUD and US Forest Service upper management to determine how to address the PUD corridor in the project area. The sponsor hopes to receive direction from both parties on how to proceed with the powerline relocation and restoration activities.
- Nutrient Enhancement Assessment – Data from the first year of sampling have been compiled and presented to stakeholders. The contractor (Water Quality Engineers) collected water samples at the monitoring sites during late February 2013. Researchers are still analyzing the macroinvertebrates collected last fall. The sponsor (Cascade

Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group) will hold a meeting with Washington Department of Ecology (WDOE) on 14 March to begin the process of developing an interim agreement for implementing nutrient enhancement based on initial findings.

- Large Wood Atonement Project – The sponsor (Cascade Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group) has convened four small-scale public meetings (included a subset of Lake Wenatchee and White River residents). The purpose of the meetings was to help identify and work through issues. Although the project has been progressing well, recently, one resident has voiced skepticism. However, the sponsor believes they are making progress on both social and technical issues. A public meeting will be held on 30 March. The sponsor prepared a “Recreational Considerations” paper to address potential concerns from recreationalists. The sponsor also floated the project reach on 26 February to determine how much new wood was recruited to the channel from the recent winter storms. The sponsor counted about 25 new pieces of wood within a four-mile reach. Implementation is scheduled to occur in 2013; however, it may need to be pushed into 2014 pending community support.

The Rock Island Committee voiced concern over the possible delay in the implementation of the project. If the contract ends in 2013, the Committee directed Tracy Hillman to send an e-mail to the project sponsor indicating that the Rock Island Committee encourages the sponsor to implement the project in 2013. *Following the meeting, Becky reviewed the contract and noted that the contract terminates at the end of 2014. Therefore, there is no need for Tracy to send an e-mail to the sponsor.*

- Nason Creek Lower White Pine Alcove Acquisition Project – The sponsor (Chelan-Douglas Land Trust) has secured options on all three parcels. Larry Rees (Committees’ approved appraiser) will begin the appraisals mid to late March, with appraisals completed in late May. The Yakama Nation is planning to implement a restoration project on the property.
- Coulter Creek Barrier Replacement Project – Funding for this project is contingent upon the successful implementation of the railroad reconnection project, which has not yet happened.
- Lower Foster Creek Steelhead Habitat Enhancement Project – Becky sent the Tributary Committee/Sponsor Agreement to the sponsor (Foster Creek Conservation District) for their review.
- Twisp River-Poorman Creek Wetland Habitat Acquisition – The sponsor (Methow Salmon Recovery Foundation) has requested the initiation of an appraisal. Becky has requested necessary information from the sponsor for engaging the appraiser, but has not yet received the information from the sponsor.
- Shingle Creek Fish Passage Project – The Tributary Committee/Sponsor Agreement is ready for signature.

IV. Review of Policies and Procedures Documents

The Committees reviewed and approved the edits made by Tracy Hillman and Tom Kahler to the Policies and Procedures for Funding Projects document. The Committees reviewed Section 4.4 (Administrative and Support Costs) of the Policies and Procedures document. They also reviewed the elements associated with Architectural and Engineering Services (A&E) and Administrative costs for restoration projects identified in the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) Manual 5 Restoration Projects document. After discussion, the Committees agreed that the items described in the SRFB document were appropriate and should be included in the Policies and Procedures

document. Rather than listing all the items in the Policies and Procedures document, the Committees agreed to reference the SRFB document. Thus, the language in the Policies and Procedures document reads:

Acceptable Architectural and Engineering Services and Administrative costs are provided on pages 11-15 in Section 2 of the SRFB Manual 5 Restoration Projects document (see: http://www.rco.wa.gov/documents/manuals&forms/Manual_5.pdf). A&E costs cannot exceed 15% of the total restoration cost and Administrative costs cannot exceed 15% of the total restoration cost.

The Committees will share the revised Policies and Procedures document with project sponsors during the SRFB/TC/BPA kick-off meeting on 27 March in Chelan, WA.

V. Small Projects Program Applications

In February, the Committees reviewed a Small Projects Program application from the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation titled *Okanogan Basin Stream Discharge Monitoring Project*. The purpose of this project was to fund the monitoring of stream flows for two years within two tributaries to the Okanogan River. The two-year period will allow the Colville Tribes enough time to find a long-term funding source. The total cost of the project was \$94,924. The sponsor requested \$62,984 from HCP Tributary Funds. The Committees were unable to make a funding decision in February and asked the sponsor for additional information.

On 20 February, the Colville Tribes submitted a revised proposal, which the Committees reviewed prior to the March meeting. The Colville Tribes indicated that the gauges would be placed in Loup Loup and Nine-Mile creeks. In addition, the Tribes revised the budget. The total cost of the project is \$90,954. The Tribes requested \$74,984 from the HCP Tributary Funds. ***The Rocky Reach Tributary Committee approved funding for this project.***

In March, the Committees received a Small Projects Program application from Cascade Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group titled *Methow/Chewuch Shallow Groundwater Monitoring Project*.

Methow/Chewuch Shallow Groundwater Monitoring Project

The purpose of this project is to establish groundwater monitoring sites on three floodplain parcels owned by WDFW to determine if it is feasible to pursue habitat restoration projects in these areas. The three parcels are the Silver Side Channel Complex (Methow River downstream from Twisp), Lewisia Floodplain (middle Methow River), and the Burns-Garrity Floodplain (lower Chewuch River). These sites were selected because they contain remnant channel features and there is evidence of shallow groundwater. The total cost of the project is \$39,390. The sponsor requested \$35,790 from HCP Tributary Funds. ***The Wells Tributary Committee approved funding for this project.*** However, the Committee identified the following conditions and concerns:

- The cost of the monitoring project appeared excessive and the sponsor provided little detail in the budget. The Committee requested that the sponsor provide a more detailed budget. [Following the meeting, the sponsor provided the Committee with a revised budget: total cost = \$34,180; request from the Wells Committee = \$30,580]
- The project requires the purchase of 12 piezometers equipped with continuously recording water surface elevation and temperature data loggers. The Committee will provide the sponsor with the funding needed to purchase the monitoring equipment. Once the monitoring work is completed, the sponsor will need to return the equipment to the Wells Committee.

VI. SRFB/TC Debrief Meeting

Tracy Hillman, Becky Gallaher, and Steve Hays attended the SRFB/TC Debrief Meeting in Chelan, WA, on 21 February 2013. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss potential changes to the funding process, identify potential concerns and solutions, and outline the funding schedule. Most of the issues discussed during the meeting dealt with the SRFB process. However, a few project sponsors had concerns or questions for the Tributary Committees. For example, Julie Grialou, Methow Conservancy, voiced her concern about the Committees' policy that requires public access on conservation easements and lands acquired with Plan Species Account funds. She understood that access was for bird watching and river access, but wondered who would police activities such as camping, picnics, parties, keggers, etc. She was concerned that public access would also result in bank and vegetation disturbances and littering. She asked if the Committees would provide additional funds to police, clean up, and restore the property. She also asked if the policy applied to all past protection projects funded by the Committees. Jessica Goldberg, Methow Salmon Recovery Foundation, voiced concerns about using the Committees' appraisers, who lack knowledge about the local markets.

With regard to the public access concerns, the Committees laid out specific guidelines for public access in the Policies and Procedures document. Although public access shall be provided on all conservation easements and lands acquired with Plan Species Account funds, there is no requirement to post public access signs, establish trails, or provide parking. The requirement is that public access is restricted to foot access and will be provided at all times. There shall be no impediments to foot access (e.g., fences) and the access cannot devalue the habitat being protected. The Committees do not require the easement or property-title holder to provide any improvements to facilitate access or to accommodate ADA standards. The public access policy applies to all protection projects funded by the Committees beginning in 2012.

An outcome of the debrief meeting was a final funding schedule for 2013 (see Attachment 1). The following dates are relevant to the Tributary Committees. Pre-proposals will be delivered to the Tributary Committees on 7 May and the Committees will review the pre-proposals during their May and June meetings (9 May and 13 June). Project tours are scheduled for 29-30 May (Methow and Okanogan) and 5-6 June (Wenatchee and Entiat). Pre-proposal presentations will occur on 12 June. Final proposals will be delivered to the Tributary Committees on 12 July. The Committees will make funding decisions on 8 August. This gives the Committees about 3.5 weeks to review the final proposals.

VII. Information Updates

The following information updates were provided during the meeting.

1. Approved Payment Requests in February and March:

Rock Island Plan Species Account:

- \$16,920.32 to Trout Unlimited – Washington Water Project for contract labor on the Lower Wenatchee Instream Flow Enhancement Project.
- \$8,770.08 to Chelan County Natural Resources Department for the Wenatchee Levee Removal and Riparian Restoration Project.

Rocky Reach Plan Species Account:

- \$8,247.50 to Trout Unlimited – Washington Water Project for permitting on the Chewuch River Instream Flow Project.

2. Dale Bambrick indicated that WDOE's Office of the Columbia River is interested in helping fund pump stations for the Peshastin Irrigation District canal and the Icicle Irrigation District canal. Dale said that his idea of developing one pump station, located on the Wenatchee River upstream from the Peshastin Creek confluence, would not work for both canal systems. Operation of a single pump station would be too expensive. Therefore, parties would like to conduct a feasibility study to evaluate the development of two pump stations. The feasibility study would cost about \$325,000. The Priest Rapids Coordinating Committee (PRCC) Habitat Subcommittee is reviewing the project and may contribute up to \$200,000 toward the feasibility study.
3. Chris Fisher reported that the Cascadia Conservation District met with him to discuss riparian restoration work on lower Peshastin Creek. Recall that in October and again in November 2012, Cascadia Conservation District submitted a Small Projects Application seeking funds to improve and restore riparian areas along a contiguous section of Peshastin Creek from RM 0.6 to 1.4. The Committees elected not to fund the project because it appeared the proposed project fit better with Farm Bill Programs such as the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) and the proposed approach would have questionable success. The Committees said that the sponsor should use smaller plants (plugs) and plant them deep so the roots could tap into groundwater. This would minimize the need for irrigation. Chris indicated that the sponsor is willing to use plugs and plant them late in the season. This should address some of the concerns the Committees raised with the original proposal. Chris asked the Committees if they would like to see a new proposal from the sponsor. The Committees indicated that they would be more interested in the project if the reestablishment of riparian vegetation was part of a bank protection/stabilization project. The Committees believe that planting without bank stabilization would be unsuccessful because of the high energy, unstable nature of the channel in the proposed reach. Chris will share this information with Cascadia Conservation District.
4. Chris Fisher reported that the managers, engineers, and bios met in February to discuss the three options for fish passage at Shingle Creek Dam. The three options were (1) backwater the dam with a series of riffles, (2) notch the dam and backwater with a series of riffles, and (3) remove the dam. Chris said that because of deterioration of the dam, the engineers and managers recommended that the dam be removed. Dam removal was selected as the preferred alternative. This is consistent with the recommendation from the Tributary Committees in November 2012. The Okanagan Nation Alliance will develop a cost estimate by May 2013. The project should be completed by September 2013.

VIII. Next Steps

If necessary, the next meeting of the Tributary Committees will be on Thursday, 11 April 2013 at Chelan PUD in Wenatchee.

Meeting notes submitted by Tracy Hillman (tracy.hillman@bioanalysts.net).

Attachment 1

Final 2013 SRFB/GSHP/BPA Process Schedule

Final Upper Columbia SRFB Lead Entity & TRIB Funding Process Schedule				
DATE	ACTIVITY/MILESTONE	PARTICIPANTS	LOCATION	FACILITATOR/COORDINATOR
MARCH				
March 25	Meeting/Webinar: SRFB Application Workshop	Sponsors, RCO	Online Webinar	RCO
March 27	Meeting: SRFB/TRIB/BPA Kick-Off Meeting	LE, RTT, TRIB, BPA, Sponsors, RCO	Chelan, WA. Fire District	LE
March 31	Deadline: All active and completed projects updated in HWS	Sponsors, LE	HWS	LE
APRIL				
Beginning in April	Meeting: Sponsor Meetings Begin	LE, Sponsors	Region wide	LE
April 30	Deadline: Projects are submitted to HWS to initiate a new project in Prism	Sponsors, LE	HWS	LE
MAY				
May 7	DEADLINE: DRAFT PROPOSALS DUE	Sponsors, LE, RCO, SRP, RTT, CAC, TRIB, BPA	Prism	LE
May 12	Meeting/Call: Discuss project tour logistics	LE, RTT, TRIB, SRP, Sponsors	Call	LE
May 14 & 15	Salmon Recovery Conference	All	Vancouver, WA	RCO

<p align="center">Final Upper Columbia SRFB Lead Entity & TRIB Funding Process Schedule</p>				
DATE	ACTIVITY/MILESTONE	PARTICIPANTS	LOCATION	FACILITATOR/ COORDINATOR
May 29 & 30	Meeting/Tours: SRFB/TRIB/BPA Project Tours	Sponsors, LE, RTT, TRIB, BPA, SRFB SRP	TBD	LE
	~29th Methow (Wed)			
	~30th Okanogan (Thur)			
JUNE				
June 5 & 6	Meeting/Tours: SRFB/TRIB/BPA Project Tours	Sponsors, LE, RTT, TRIB, BPA, SRFB SRP	TBD	LE
	~5th Wenatchee (Wed)			
	~6th Entiat (Thur)			
June 12	Meeting/Presentations: Draft Proposal Presentations to RTT and other Reviewers	Sponsors, RTT, CAC, LE	TBD	RTT Chair
June 13	Action: TRIB reviews draft proposals	TRIB	Tributary Committee Meeting	TRIB
June 20	Action: TRIB provides comments	TRIB	Email	TRIB
June 20	Action: RTT provides comments	RTT	Email via LE	RTT Chair
June 21	Action: SRP provides comments	SRP	Email via LE	RCO
June 24 or 25	Meeting/Workshop: Sponsor Science Workshop	LE, Sponsors, BOR, RTT, Agencies	TBD	LE/Science and Reporting Program
JULY				

Final Upper Columbia SRFB Lead Entity & TRIB Funding Process Schedule				
DATE	ACTIVITY/MILESTONE	PARTICIPANTS	LOCATION	FACILITATOR/ COORDINATOR
July 12	DEADLINE: FINAL PROPOSALS DUE for <u>Regional Review</u>	Sponsors, LE, RTT, CAC, TRIB, BPA	Prism	LE
AUGUST				
August 8	Action: TRIB reviews final proposals	TRIB	Tributary Committee Meeting	TRIB
August 14	Action: RTT technical ranking	RTT, CAC, LE, BPA, BOR	RTT Meeting (TBD)	RTT
August 14	DEADLINE: FINAL PROPOSALS & PRISM UPLOAD DUE to <u>RCO</u>	Sponsors, LE, RCO, SRP	Prism	LE
August 20	Action: TRIB Decisions	TRIB	Email/Letter	TRIB
August 20-22 (TBD)	Meeting/Presentations: Presentations to Chelan and Okanogan CACs	Sponsors, CAC, RTT, LE	Wenatchee Irrigation Dist. & River Bank, Twisp	LE
August 27 -29 (TBD)	Meeting: Chelan/Okanogan CAC project rankings	CAC, LE	Wenatchee Irrigation Dist. & River Bank, Twisp	LE
SEPTEMBER				
Sept 3 or 4 (TBD)	Meeting: Regional joint CAC approves Final Ranked Project List	Joint CAC, LE	Chelan PUD, Chelan WA	LE
Sept 6	Deadline: LE submits Final Ranked Project List to SRFB	LE	Email	LE
OCTOBER				

Final Upper Columbia SRFB Lead Entity & TRIB Funding Process Schedule				
DATE	ACTIVITY/MILESTONE	PARTICIPANTS	LOCATION	FACILITATOR/COORDINATOR
Oct 4	Action: SRP panel provides comments	SRP	Email via LE	SRP
Oct 17	Deadline: Response from Project Sponsors to SRP comments	Sponsors, LE	Email via LE	LE
Oct 21-24	Meeting/Presentations: LE and project sponsors present projects (<i>only projects identified by SRP</i>)	Select Sponsors, LE, Region	Olympia, Washington	LE
Oct 30	Action: SRP panel finalizes comments	SRP	Email via LE	SRP
NOVEMBER				
November	Upper Columbia Science Conference	All	Wenatchee, WA	UCSRB
November	Final report by SRP to SRFB	RCO		RCO
DECEMBER				
December	Action: SRFB Decisions	SRFB	Olympia, WA	RCO

Acronyms

- CAC- Citizen’s Advisory Committee
- BPA- Bonneville Power Administration
- LE- Lead Entity Program
- RCO- Recreation and Conservation Office
- SRP- State Review Panel
- SRFB- Salmon Recovery Funding Board
- TRIB- Tributary Committee
- UC- Upper Columbia Region
- UCRTT- Upper Columbia Regional Technical Team
- UCSRB- Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board

Timeline Legend	
Meetings	Blue
Deadlines	Red
Conferences	Purple
Actions	Black