

\*Contact: Wendy Christensen, Columbia-Cascades Area Office, (509) 575-5848, ext. 203  
Derek Sandison, Washington State Department of Ecology, (509) 457-7120

## Meeting Notes

March 13, 2013

Yakima Arboretum, Yakima WA

## Yakima River Basin Water Enhancement Project (YRBWEP) Workgroup

### Welcome/Introductions and Agenda Overview

Ben Floyd, Anchor QEA meeting facilitator, welcomed the Yakima River Basin Water Enhancement Project (YRBWEP) Workgroup members and public, led introductions, and provided an overview of the agenda. Ben introduced Sean Gross, with the National Marine and Fisheries Services (NMFS), who was attending in place of Dale Bambrick. Ben also welcomed County Commissioner Jerome Delvin, joining the Workgroup as a new representative for Benton County.

Ben announced agenda revisions, moving the *Implementation Committee* and *Education and Outreach Updates* to after the break.

### Targeted Watershed Protections and Enhancements – Watershed Lands Subcommittee Update

Jeff Tayer, WDFW, provided Watershed Lands Subcommittee updates. The Subcommittee recently reconvened to review the input provided by public lands advocacy groups and consider findings from Kittitas County economic analysis on the targeted watershed protections and enhancement (TWPE) actions.

At recent meetings, the Subcommittee members developed a draft charter. The draft charter identifies the Subcommittee's proposed mission and outlines specific activities that would help the Subcommittee perform this mission. Andrew Graham, HDR, described the draft charter to the Workgroup. He indicated that the mission statement included advising the Workgroup on other land acquisitions for other actions in the Integrated Plan, beyond the TWPE. Andrew also emphasized that the Subcommittee is not meant to be a decision-making body; its role is to make recommendations to the Workgroup. Jeff requested that the Workgroup review and provide feedback on the draft charter that was included in the meeting handouts. Please e-mail comments on the draft charter to Ben by March 22, 2013 (*Note: no comments were received*).

Paul Jewell, Kittitas County, said that there is concern regarding the perceived omissions in the County's Impact Analysis, including fees that may be required for Teanaway forest land that would



eventually be owned by the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW). The County is continuing to work on resolving this issue and others raised related to the analysis.

Cynthia Wilkerson, The Wilderness Society, stated that through her outreach efforts with the Implementation Committee, she has heard interest expressed in wild and scenic rivers and wilderness designations.

Mike Leita noted the importance of continuing to effectively demonstrate how components of the Implementation Plan are being met in order to justify and secure future funding.

### **Early Actions/Technical Work Update**

Andrew Graham, HDR; Jeff Thomas, US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS); and Wendy Christensen and Walt Larrick, Bureau of Reclamation presented updates on several early action projects.

#### *The Keechelus-to-Kachess (K-to-K) Conveyance Project*

There are currently three alternatives under consideration for the K-to-K Conveyance project, which include two tunnel options and one pipeline option. Since the last meeting, a more complete technical memo has been prepared which considered six alternatives and concluded that the two tunnel and one pipeline alternatives were the most viable. The tunnel routes appear to have less environmental impact by going underneath recreation and forest lands. The pipeline option would need to follow existing contours above ground, and would impact these recreation and forested areas.

#### *Kachess Inactive Storage*

A drilling program is currently under development for the lake tap and pump station alternatives. Site borings will be conducted from a barge this summer to help assess pump station alignment options.

#### *Wymer Reservoir Geotechnical Fieldwork*

The Wymer reservoir geotechnical fieldwork includes borings and test pits associated with the main dam and saddle dam locations and within the interior of the reservoir area to determine if construction materials are available within the project area. While the original design included a pump station on the river on the Eaton property, the landowner has asked that a different location upstream be investigated. Additional upstream borings will be conducted. Boring activities will be ongoing this summer.

#### *Clear Creek Dam*

Jeff Thomas, USFWS, provided some historical background on Clear Creek Dam and discussed updates on the fish passage study. In 1992, fish ladders were constructed at the upper and lower end of the very steep spillway channels, but the effectiveness of these ladders is not entirely known. The flows in the spillways are highly variable. In 2004, Reclamation along with fish experts determined that the fish ladders were not functioning well, and questioned whether the denil (Alaskan Steep Pass) ladder installed in the lower spillway was ever passable by fish. The denil is currently filled with gravel.

The Clear Creek Dam Passage Study was developed as a cooperative effort with USFWS, Reclamation, and WDFW to provide effective fish passage at Clear Creek Dam. Real-time automated spillway flow has been requested to help maintain manageable flow in the spillway for passage. The study will continue for 4 years (2012 – 2015) and the first annual progress report will be available by the end of March 2013. Goals for the 2013 study include investigating solar or commercial power options for power supply, additional Passive Integrated Transponder (PIT) tagging, and expanding detection windows. Costs for the 2012 study approached \$64,000 and it is anticipated that the cost to run the study through 2015 will be approximately \$300,000.

#### Workgroup Comments

- Ron VanGundy – Would an automated system at Clear Creek Dam provide flow control most of the time? *Yes, according to Reclamation surface water managers, 900 cfs or perhaps a little bit more could be released to control the lake surface elevation and flows in the spillway.*
- Ron VanGundy – What kind of fish passage would likely work at Clear Creek Dam? *The upper ladder may only require maintenance-level activities. The denil ladder at the lower spillway would likely need to be removed. Fish passage may be attainable by flow control alone.*
- Alex Conley – The bull trout population is strongest in Rim Rock Lake. Clear Lake has a weaker population and improving fish passage at Clear Creek Dam could strengthen the bull trout population. It seems like a great opportunity for restoring bull trout fish populations.

#### *Fish Passage at Cle Elum Lake Dam*

Wendy Christensen, Reclamation, presented updates on the Fish Passage at Cle Elum Lake Dam project. The multiple intake ramp concept has been developed for the Technical Workgroup's (irrigation districts, WDFW, USFWS, NMFS, Yakama Nation, and Reclamation) review. The concept of the intake includes a conduit that would be fed by multiple intakes at different elevations. The drilling program to collect data for the conduit and intake design is expected to begin in August 2013 when the lake level will be lower. Approximately \$400,000 is available in 2013 for advanced modeling and final facilities design. The old intake model has been modified and model runs demonstrated results for upwelling design were favorable at various flows. This information will be useful for future modeling of new intake structure. Modeling continues on upstream passage; results will be reviewed by the Technical Workgroup.

#### *Roza Reach Smolt Survival Study*

Wendy also provided updates on the Roza Reach Smolt Survival Study. 2013 is the second year of this 3-year study. An in-river PIT-tag detection array system prototype was installed on March 16, 2013, and will be tested throughout the smolt outmigration period. Testing and data collection will begin this month.

### *Manastash Creek Enhancement Project*

Walt Larrick provided updates on the Manastash Creek Enhancement Project. Water from a Kittitas Reclamation District (KRD) ditch will be diverted to Manastash Creek to extend the period of flow and conserve water. Walt Larrick commented that the Manastash Creek Enhancement project was a great example of how two goals of the Integration Plan (fish enhancement and water conservation) were being met by a single project.

### *Other Early Action Items Updates*

Andrew provided brief updates on other early action projects. The Wymer reservoir project is moving into value engineering and temperature modeling. Findings from geotechnical borings will be available in fall 2013. More optimal reservoir configurations are also being considered through an HDR value engineering study. Anchor QEA will be conducting limited water temperature modeling to help identify potential Wymer water quality impacts to the river immediate downstream of the reservoir outlet, including effects from various configurations of reservoir releases. This modeling will build on previous analyses completed for the Programmatic EIS.

The Bumping Reservoir Enlargement Project is in the midst of developing a geotechnical exploration program. The Teanaway property land acquisitions and funding request are also in discussion. Additional sites for groundwater infiltration will need to be considered. The surface soils and hydrology in the east Kittitas Valley may not accommodate infiltration. Alternate groundwater infiltration sites, including the Wapato Irrigation Project and the City of Yakima's injection well, are under consideration. Infiltrated water entering the City of Yakima's injection well would take approximately 10 years to travel to Union Gap. However, if water is injected every year, the river would eventually be fed every year by groundwater from injection wells.

### Workgroup Comments

- Jeff Thomas – How far will the Wymer temperature modeling extend downstream? *Modeling would be through the downstream mixing zone of the river. This study is intended to be concept level and findings from the modeling would help identify the need for more detailed evaluations.*
- Michael Garrity – American Rivers continues to be interested in keeping the direct release from Wymer to the Roza canal via tunnel option on the table.

### **Implementation Committee Update**

Dan Silver and the Implementation Committee (IC) members/alternates (Mike Leita, Ron VanGundy, Derek Sandison, Michael Garrity, and Phil Rigdon) provided updates on the implementation process. Cynthia Wilkerson provided updates on public outreach, with which she is assisting the IC.

Dan stated that the IC has been hard at work traveling, attending meetings, and conducting outreach, and is making great progress. Cynthia is now supporting the IC to help coordinate outreach efforts. In January 2013, Governor Jay Inslee supported the Integrated Plan with his first Governor's special

request legislative action in House and Senate bills (HB 1414, SB 5367). State funding between \$21 and \$45 million is anticipated for financial support of the Integrated Plan with 2 years to use the funds. We should know how much funding will be available by the time of the next Workgroup meeting in June. There is a strong possibility that additional funding will be made available over the next 2 years from Federal agencies. The IC will be in Washington, D.C., in May 2013 to meet with the DC Leadership Group.

The bill does not fund construction. The state House and Senate bills outline reporting requirements including descriptions of accomplishments over the past biennium and how well projects are balanced among the seven elements of the Integrated Plan.

### **Education and Outreach Update**

Cynthia provided an update on outreach activities and communication coordination efforts. A series of handouts have been developed to provide an overview of the Integration Plan for legislative hearings. Tim Hill, Ecology, and Emily Washine, Yakama Nation, have been assisting with media coverage and communications product development. The IC has also been involved in a series of meetings with US Forest Service, USFWS, NOAA, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and the Bureau of Indian Affairs. Cynthia reviewed the status of support letters received on the Integrated Plan and noted that the Sierra Club, Friends of Bumping Lake, and members of the Yakima Basin Storage Alliance (YBSA) continue to express opposition for components of the Integrated Plan.

### Workgroup Comments:

- Sid Morrison – How do we gain support and funding for the water supply components of the Integrated Plan? Some members of the community and Workgroup are concerned about the equity of funding distribution and support across the components of the Integrated Plan. While showing signs of progress are important to securing funding, Sid feels that rallying support for fisheries may be easier than rallying support for water supply and storage. *The state request for \$45 million, in addition to increased funding for watershed land acquisition, also includes a significant increase in funding for the Kachess Inactive Storage and Cle Elum Pool Raise projects. The K-to-K project also addresses the additional storage component of the Integrated Plan. Work will continue on balancing funding distribution across plan components and identifying storage concerns across the counties.*

### **Operational Guidelines for Integrated Plan–Status**

Bob Montgomery provided an update on the Operational Guidelines Group's efforts. This group is developing recommendations to the Workgroup for the use of new storage in the Integrated Plan to meet drought water supply needs and instream flows. As part of this work, the group has been investigating operational issues related to the Kachess Inactive Storage and K-to-K Conveyance projects.

Kachess Inactive Storage includes both a tunnel and pump station option for water releases. The biggest difference between the two options are operations and maintenance (O&M) cost. The tunnel option has a higher capital cost but lower O&M cost compared to the pump station option. However, the tunnel option would discharge 4.5 miles downstream from the KRD intake whereas the pump station option would discharge to the Kachess River, upstream of the KRD intake. There are some operational approaches adjust the schedule of releases from Keechelus and Kachess Reservoirs that could help to overcome that limitation but that may cause problems for meeting desired streamflows above Lake Easton. The consultant team presented hydrologic modeling to the Operational Guidelines Group on how the KRD water supply and the Keechelus and Easton Reach flows would be affected under the tunnel option. Results indicated that no overall change would occur in the total water supply available (TWSA). However, the KRD water supply would be reduced in drought years (starting in September), while the Keechelus Reach in the Yakima River would see more summer flow in drought years.

The consultant team is also working with the Operational Guidelines Group to further evaluate a pump station at Swauk Creek to discharge into the KRD North Branch Canal to provide flows to creeks that cross the KRD canals.

Also discussed at the Operational Guidelines Group meetings has been the evaluation of an alternate inlet location for the K-to-K Conveyance Project. Due to cost and dam safety concerns, the Crystal Springs abandoned campground location is being evaluated as a potential alternate to the Keechelus Dam inlet location, recognizing that locating the inlet at Crystal Springs would reduce the lower flow in the Yakima River by approximately 1.5 miles. Further discussion and evaluation of both inlet locations will occur at future meetings.

The Operational Guidelines Group has also been preparing recommendations on how to use storage in the future, including operational guidance for the Wymer reservoir and creating a new group separate from the existing System Operations Advisory Committee (SOAC) to address fish and flow management for the additional stored water that would result from implementing the Integrated Plan. The group will continue to refine the guidelines and bring recommendations to the Workgroup for consideration.

#### Workgroup Comments

- Michael Garrity – American Rivers supports the Keechelus Dam inlet alternative.

#### **Workgroup – Roundtable Discussion** *by Ben Floyd, Anchor QEA*

Ben opened the floor up to the Workgroup for a roundtable discussion. At the last meeting, the Workgroup expressed a desire for more timely communications in between meetings on early action activities. This resulted in monthly newsletters for January and February 2013. Ben proposed we change this to one newsletter between Workgroup quarterly meetings, or approximately every 6 weeks. The Workgroup concurred that four newsletters per year would be acceptable. The general feedback is

that the newsletters have about the appropriate amount of information. Also, the Habitat Subcommittee will reconvene in the next 4-6 weeks.

### ***Workgroup comments***

- Sid Morrison – The Yakima Basin Storage Alliance (YBSA) supports the Integrated Plan and has endorsed the water supply goals included in the plan but also has concerns about how water supply will be impacted by climate change. Sid also distributed a handout that the YBSA had provided to the State legislature.
- Sean Gross – It is good to hear that the Habitat Subcommittee will be reconvening. Projects will start moving quickly as funding is received and there are a lot of options for habitat projects. It seems like the Implementation Committee was originally formed as a non-Federal entity to lead outreach and to secure funding. As we move into project implementation, we may wish to assess the need for a separate committee that includes, potentially, Federal partners.
- Mike Leita –The IC is meant to address the implementation facets of the plan; however, we are currently moving at a relatively slow pace compared to what is coming. We will need to have the capacity to respond quickly as implementation projects ramp up.
- Mike Garrity – As we move into implementation, it seems like we will need to add capacity to the IC so they are equipped to handle the additional demands of communicating progress, responding to requests, and identifying projects.

### **Public Comment**

- Chris Maykut (Friends of Bumping Lake) provided the Workgroup with a packet of testimonies submitted at recent legislative hearings on HB 1414 and SB 5367. Chris encouraged the Watershed Lands Subcommittee to communicate with Friends of Bumping Lake.
- Naydine Maykut (Friends of Bumping Lake) announced support of the goals in the Integrated Plan but does not believe Bumping Lake should be included due to cost, community, and environmental impacts. Naydine provided a handout showing resources that would be impacted by the project.
- Ray Foisy agreed with Naydine Maykut’s comment and added that there would also be impacts to historical resources in the Bumping Lake area. Additionally, Ray pointed out a mud flow path on Naydine’s map (shown on the lower left of the map) and noted that a half-mile of old growth forest currently provides a barrier between the lake and mud flat. Ray expressed concerns for water quality impacts if this barrier were eliminated.
- Miles McPhee asserted that the four-accounts analysis [prepared by Reclamation for the Integrated Plan] did not address his comment letter submitted in the fall of 2012. He expressed concern on whether the cost for fish passage enhancements would be worth the benefits (in dollars spent per fish), and the basis for the estimated benefits per fish.

**Workgroup Members in Attendance**

Dave Brown, City of Yakima  
Alex Conley, Yakima Basin Fish & Wildlife Recovery Board  
Kirk Cook, Washington State Department of Agriculture  
Jerome Delvin, Benton County  
Jeff Tayer, WDFW  
Urban Eberhart, Kittitas Reclamation District  
Michael Garrity, American Rivers  
Sean Gross, National Marine Fisheries Service  
Paul Jewell, Kittitas County  
Mike Leita, Yakima County  
Sid Morrison, Yakima Basin Storage Alliance  
Scott Revell, Kennewick Irrigation District  
Phil Rigdon, Yakama Nation  
Derek Sandison, Washington State Department of Ecology  
Jeff Thomas, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Jim Trull, Sunnyside Valley Irrigation District  
Ron VanGundy, Roza Irrigation District  
Dawn Wiedmeier, Bureau of Reclamation

**Other Attendees**

David Child, Yakima Basin Joint Board  
Wendy Christensen, Bureau of Reclamation  
Marie Cobb, Intern  
Stuart Crane, Yakama Nation  
James Davenport, JH Davenport, LLC  
Seth Defoe, Kennewick Irrigation District  
Warren Dickman, Yakima Basin Storage Alliance  
Beneitta Eaton, Rancher  
Jack Eaton, Rancher  
Bill Eller, Washington State Conservation Commission  
Ben Floyd, Anchor QEA  
Joel Freudenthal, Yakima County  
Ray Foisy, Bumping Lake cabin owner  
Don Gatchalian, Yakima County  
Andrew Graham, HDR Engineering, Inc.  
Ken Hasbrouck, Kittitas Reclamation District  
Lafe Hermansen, Kittitas Reclamation District  
Lynn Holt, Bureau of Reclamation  
Eleanor Hungate

Jerry Kelso, Bureau of Reclamation  
Chuck Klarich, Yakima Basin Storage Alliance  
Paul La Riviere, Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife  
Walt Larrick, Bureau of Reclamation  
David Lester, Yakima Herald  
Barb Lisk, Office of Representative Doc Hastings  
Mike Livingston, Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife  
Chris Lynch, Bureau of Reclamation  
Steven Malloch, National Wildlife Federation  
Chris Maykut, Friends of Bumping Lake  
Naydine Maykut, Friends of Bumping Lake  
Samantha Maykut, Friends of Bumping Lake  
Tim McCoy, Bureau of Reclamation  
Patrick McGuire, Kennewick Irrigation District  
Keith McGowan, Bureau of Reclamation  
Miles McPhee  
Saundra McPhee  
Jim Milton, Yakima-Tieton Irrigation District  
Tom Monroe, Roza Irrigation District  
Bob Montgomery, Anchor QEA  
Bryan Myre, Yakama Reservation Irrigation District  
Scott Nicolai, Yakima-Klickitat Fisheries Project  
David Ortman, Sierra Club  
Tom Ring, Yakama Nation  
Mary Ellen Robinson  
Vivian Shin Erickson, Anchor QEA  
Dan Silver, Facilitator  
Mike Shuttleworth, Benton County  
Elaine Smith, League of Women Voters  
Bob Swedo, BPA  
Cynthia Wilkerson, The Wilderness Society

### **Next Workgroup Meeting**

The next meeting will be held June 5, 2013, at 9:30 a.m. at the Yakima Arboretum. A meeting notice and agenda will be distributed in advance of the meeting.

### **Where to Find Workgroup Information**

Meeting materials, notes, presentations, and materials submitted during public comment for the Workgroup meetings will be posted on the project website

<http://www.usbr.gov/pn/programs/yrbwep/index.html>). A bibliography of information sources, many of which are available online, is also posted on the website.

If anyone needs help finding an information source, contact those listed at the top of page 1 of these notes or Ben Floyd at Anchor QEA, Richland office, (509) 392-4548, or [bfloyd@anchorqea.com](mailto:bfloyd@anchorqea.com).