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Meeting Notes

September 4, 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 also announced that Workgroup member Clint Kyhl with the USFS took a new position in Jackson Hole, Wyoming. Becki Heath, USFS Okanogan-Wenatchee Forest Supervisor, was attending in his place but only for this meeting, as she is taking a regional position with USFS in Portland, Oregon. Mike Balboni will be taking her place as the USFS representative, Stuart Woolley will remain the alternate for USFS. This is Scott Revell's last meeting as the Kennewick Irrigation District (KID) representative. Seth Defoe will be taking Scott's place on the Workgroup for KID, as Scott has accepted the manager position at Roza Irrigation District.

Implementation Committee and Executive Committee Updates

Derek Sandison, Washington State Department of Ecology, provided a summary of the Washington State policy and budget process in the legislature. The "Yakima Policy Bill" (2SSB 5367) reinforces the objectives of the Integrated Plan (IP) and the Capitol Budget (ESSB 5035) provides approximately \$132 million in funding (for the 2013-to-2015 period) needed to carry out the implementation of the IP's "Balanced Package #1" projects and develop water supply solutions that account for both instream and out-of-stream uses. The budget currently provides for \$99.3 million for the Teanaway property acquisition, and \$32.1 million for the remaining Balanced Package #1 projects.

The "Yakima Policy Bill" includes a key milestone goal that permitting and funding must be in place to provide at least 214,000 acre-feet of water supply by January 30, 2025. In the event that this milestone is not met, the Teanaway Community Forest (TCF) could be transferred from the Community Forest Trust to the Common School Trust for timber management and revenue instead of watershed protection. Progress reports must be submitted to the Governor and the legislature every 2 years. The budget commits the State to a 50-percent funding match for the entire IP.

Legislative funding does not preauthorize any project. The public process and necessary environmental review would still need to be conducted prior to project development. In 2021, an evaluation will be



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation



conducted to assess the status of the State’s funding match and progress made towards reaching the 2025 water supply milestone. Stream habitat funding was not specifically identified in the budget; however, funding is being sought through other sources and there is opportunity to allocate some of the current budget to stream habitat projects. For more detail, please see the full presentation which is available on the project website (<http://www.usbr.gov/pn/programs/yrbwep/index.html>).

The Workgroup viewed the video of Governor Inslee signing the “Yakima Policy Bill.” Derek applauded the Workgroup’s efforts on collaborating on the IP and recognized the hard work of the Implementation Committee to reach this milestone. The Workgroup took a brief moment to celebrate and toast the success of the State legislation.

Wendy Christensen, Reclamation, provided a description of the path moving forward through June 2015. “Balanced Package #1” includes a combination of geologic/seismic investigations, feasibility studies, environmental studies, and final design for projects with allocated budget through June 2015. Geologic/seismic testing at the Wymer dam and reservoir site and Bumping Reservoir is also included in Balanced Package #1. Results from the testing, as well as other considerations, will help determine which project would move forward first into feasibility. Please see the full presentation which is available on the project website for a more detailed summary of efforts included in Balanced Package #1.

The preliminary schedule from the Framework for Implementation Report will also need to be revisited and revised as necessary. The IP will likely require a 30-year timeline to secure funds and implement projects that will total \$4 billion in implementation costs.

Comments

- Bob Hall – Asked why the Keechelus-to-Kachess Conveyance (KKC) and Kachess Reservoir Inactive Storage (KRIS) projects were moving forward as priority projects over the Wymer project. *The KKC and KRIS projects are prioritized because these projects can deliver new water supply more quickly than other options in future low-water years.*

Dan Silver facilitated discussion with Implementation Committee members who summarized their recent trip to Washington, D.C., as part of their continued efforts to secure funding and support for the IP. Now that the State has acted on securing a policy direction and funding for the IP, Federal funding is needed to keep the plan moving forward. While the IP and recent State legislative achievements were received positively by Federal legislators, it is a difficult time to move legislation and funding through the U.S. Congress. The Implementation Committee also met with the D.C. Leadership Group which is comprised of representatives from the following Federal agencies: USFS, USFWS, BIA, BLM, NRCS, NMFS, and Reclamation. .

Urban Eberhart, Kittitas Reclamation District, summarized several presentations given recently by members of the Workgroup to city councils and community groups, and highlighted the media coverage on the IP.

Technical Work Update

Andrew Graham, HDR Engineering; Bob Montgomery, Anchor QEA; and Walt Larrick, Reclamation, presented updates on the IP's Balanced Package #1 items and technical work in progress. Highlights from the presentation and Workgroup comments are summarized below. For more detail, please see the full presentation which is available on the project website.

Wymer Reservoir Temperature Modeling

A temperature model has been developed to help predict temperature effects on the Yakima River from potential future Wymer Reservoir releases. Five (5) operational scenarios were developed in collaboration with Reclamation and Ecology. These scenarios were simulated using a single low-level outlet. A multilevel outlet was also simulated under a dry-year operational scenario. The results for a single low-level outlet for average to wet years and 80,000 to 110,000 acre-feet (AF) discharges show decreases in Yakima River temperature from onset of reservoir releases until late September or early October. At that time river temperatures meet criteria for salmon spawning/rearing. For dry years and 150,000-AF discharges, results show decreases in Yakima River temperature from onset of reservoir releases until late August or early September. The multilevel outlet modeling results for a dry year and a 150,000-AF discharge indicates a decrease in Yakima River temperature from onset of reservoir releases until October. In summary, the multilevel outlet system helps to keep temperature changes to less than 0.5°C in dry years, while the single low-level outlet shows decreases in river temperatures until late August/early September, when results show a slight increase in temperature.

Workgroup Comments

- Michael Garrity – Was a direct feed into the Roza Canal modeled? *Direct feed into Roza Canal was not included in the operational scenarios, but this is an option that is still under consideration.*
- John Easterbrooks – Could the multilevel outlet system be optimized by blending temperatures from different profiles in the reservoir? *We plan to discuss this opportunity further with Ecology.*

Field Explorations

Field explorations are in progress for the Wymer, KRIS, and KKC projects. Field explorations at the Wymer site are expected to be complete by December 2013.

Cle Elum Reservoir Fish Passage Facilities Modeling and Field Explorations

Computer and physical modeling is being conducted by Reclamation's hydraulics lab in Denver, Colorado. Geotechnical drilling is also underway to help determine the alignment for the juvenile

bypass conduit. A meeting will be held in mid-October with Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), Yakama Nation, and Reclamation to further evaluate the fish passage design and modeling results, and to further discuss the project's objectives and anticipated effects. Final design would likely be complete in 2 years.

The Manastash Creek Conservation and Tributary Enhancements

Construction of the Manastash Creek habitat restoration project is underway and on schedule to be complete by the end of this year. Creek crossing will be constructed following the irrigation season. Fish passage obstacles will be removed in 2014.

Habitat Restoration and Agricultural Conservation Projects Update

Derek referred to the Habitat and Conservation Projects Summary handout (available on the project website) for a prioritized list of projects that benefit fish and water supply and improve water quality. Establishing grant agreements for these projects are in progress. As additional funding becomes available, the subcommittees will be re-engaged to identify additional future project funding recommendations.

Teanaway Acquisition Update

Matthew Randazzo, Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR), and Mike Livingston, WDFW, summarized the collaborative management approach of the Teanaway property. The Teanaway Community Forest (TCF) will open on October 1, 2013, following the completion of the land acquisition. DNR and WDFW will manage the TCF as equal partners for natural and cultural resource protection, and working forest management. Activities such as habitat management, forest management, and recreation and livestock will be allowed within the TCF. The TCF is expected to be a model of management driven by community and stakeholder input. Additionally, a DNR representative will be added as a new Workgroup member.

As outlined in the "Yakima Policy Bill," the TCF can be transferred to the Common School Trust or sold if the 214,000 acre-feet of additional available water is not developed by year 2025. DNR and WDFW will begin the process for forming an advisory board and developing a management plan by June 2015. The collaboration between the two agencies on the development of the management plan helps reinforce the concept of full partnership on the TCF. Projects that complement and support the objectives of the IP will be incorporated into the management plan. Support from the Workgroup members will be sought in the community engagement aspects of the TCF.

Workgroup Comments

- Paul Jewell – How will decisions be made if DNR and WDFW are unable to agree on a management aspect of the TCF? *DNR and WDFW both agreed that a partnership between the two agencies would be the most successful approach to management of the TCF. DNR and*

WDFW have different, yet complementary, skills applicable to the management of the lands for the intended purposes. DNR views the TCF as a major investment in a resource for the State and they are committed to working towards a successful partnership.

Watershed Land Conservation Subcommittee Update

Paul Jewell, Kittitas County, summarized the recent meetings of the Watershed Land Conservation Subcommittee. Since the last Workgroup meeting, the Committee has met to discuss the Teanaway land acquisition and the upcoming TCF management plan. The Committee also had an opportunity to tour a portion of the Teanaway property that will become a part of the TCF. Friends of the Teanaway (FOTT) held an event on the acquisition, which was attended by several elected officials and Workgroup members. The Committee also discussed plans for acquisition of the Plum Creek property.

Workgroup – Roundtable Discussion

Ben opened up the floor to Workgroup members. The general themes expressed by Workgroup members included appreciation for the progress made on the Integrated Plan and the achievements made on the Teanaway land acquisition. Additional Workgroup comments included:

- Scott Revell – When will more detailed information be available on the IP costs water users/irrigators will be asked to pay for? *A preliminary cost allocation was prepared in 2012 for the IP. A presentation was given to the Kennewick Irrigation District Board on the IP preliminary cost allocation. A similar effort will be conducted and presented for each project..*
- Sean Gross – It is nice to see progress, especially on the Manastash Creek project. There was a bit of a scramble to develop the habitat projects list. A better and more organized process will be needed to identify the next tier of projects.
- David Fast – It has been good seeing the progress on the projects and hearing about all the work the Implementation Committee has been doing in Washington, D.C.
- Michael Garrity – Thanks to Matthew Randazzo and Mike Livingston for their work on the Teanaway property acquisition and TCF. We will need to work on developing the local and stakeholder cost share for infrastructure projects. More detail will be needed to maintain continued support. 214,000 acre-feet of new water is a very significant accomplishment, especially with support or neutrality from a significant swathe of the environmental community. There is a clear path forward on the other storage projects as well.
- Dave Brown – More outreach is needed to municipalities in the Yakima River basin. We need to engage the smaller communities in the basin. The Yakima Valley Conference of Governments (YVCOG) could be a good forum to start the conversation.
- Mike Leita – There has been ongoing outreach efforts with communities in Yakima County and Kittitas County. These counties are engaged with the YVCOG and the cities within Yakima County have expressed support for the IP. All of the municipalities will need to participate.

The Teanaway land acquisition was a great opportunity. But the project has created pressure on making water supply the next funding priority, which will require a large budget. Efforts will be required to maintain balance in funding projects addressing all the IP elements. The three counties will need to push for real storage and the need to meet the goal of 70-percent water supply from the IP as a whole and not on a project-by-project basis.

- Becki Heath – The USFS has a broad and committed interest in the IP. Working with Reclamation and Ecology has been helpful in assessing how the USFS can support the IP in specific focus areas.
- Mike Livingston – Thanks to the Workgroup members for support in achieving the Teanaway land acquisition. WDFW recognizes the importance of balancing project to address all the elements of the IP and provide staff support as needed.
- Dawn Wiedmeier – Progress is going well. Keep up the good work.
- Matthew Randazzo – Rick Roeder will be DNR’s Workgroup representative. DNR will continue working on the community engagement aspects of the IP and looks forward to working with the Workgroup members.
- Alex Conley – Impressed with the progress made in the last 6 months and excited about the funding available for habitat projects. Agree with Sean Gross’s comment on defining a process for choosing additional projects in the future. Need a clear vision for Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act consultation for the upper watershed infrastructure projects.
- Urban Eberhart – There will be celebrations held on October 1 for the Teanaway land acquisition and October 29 with the Governor for the entire IP at Manastash.
- Ron Van Gundy – Nice to see how many different pieces are moving forward as shown in the presentations today, especially in this current economy where funding is difficult to come by.
- Sid Morrison – The key to continued success will be long-term balance. It will be a concern if the 2025 milestone is met by “borrowing” water without adding any new real storage capacity. Construction of real storage capacity will be essential to deal with future droughts and climate change.
- Rick Dieker – Water is important to everyone. While there have been changes in individual faces at the table, there is an ongoing commitment from the agencies and organizations of the Workgroup to keep moving forward.
- Paul Jewell – Kittitas County is grateful for the support from the Workgroup during the legislative session. The County had concerns regarding the Teanaway property acquisition. It was refreshing to have support from the broad spectrum of stakeholders. The acquisition process was very unusual and will be very beneficial to a lot of interest groups in Kittitas County. Agree with the need for balance.
- Jeff Thomas – Impressed with the progress and management of the early action activities. As an update item, the Clear Creek Dam fish passage project was not funded but they are in the second year of the fish study and collecting tag data on bull trout.

- Kirk Cook – Tremendous progress has been made since the last Workgroup meeting he attended (two meetings ago). Maintaining the level of effort on public outreach and education is critical to ensure that projects are not misinterpreted.

Public Comment

- Naydene Maykut, Friends of Bumping Lake, expressed opposition to the Bumping Lake expansion project. Friends of Bumping Lake has 500 members and support from other environmental groups. The group will keep fighting until Bumping Lake is removed from the IP.
- Bob Hall, Yakima Basin Storage Alliance, described the IP as a marathon, not a sprint. The 100-year vision needs to be maintained, not ending in 2025. There is a lot of private capital in the basin that is starting to loosen up as those in the basin produce premium agricultural products to the world. Do not forget to include the private sector in the process. Since the IP is a long-term plan, we should also recruit younger generations into the process now.

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
- Rick Dieker, Yakima-Tieton Irrigation District
- Urban Eberhart, Kittitas Reclamation District
- David Fast, Yakama Nation
- Michael Garrity, American Rivers
- Sean Gross, National Marine Fisheries Services
- Becki Heath, U.S. Forest Service
- Paul Jewell, Kittitas County
- Mike Leita, Yakima County
- Mike Livingston, Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife
- 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
- Ron VanGundy, Roza Irrigation District
- Dawn Wiedmeier, Reclamation

Other Attendees

- David Bowen, American Forest Land Co.
- Corey Carmack, Reclamation

David Child, Yakima Basin Joint Board
Wendy Christensen, Reclamation
James Davenport, JH Davenport, LLC
John Easterbrooks, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Beneitta Eaton, Rancher
Jack Eaton, Rancher
Bill Eller, Washington State Conservation Commission
Ben Floyd, Anchor QEA
Joel Freudenthal, Yakima County
Raelene Gold, Seattle Audubon Society
Andrew Graham, HDR Engineering
Bob Hall, Yakima Basin Storage Alliance
Justin Harter, Naches-Selah Irrigation District
Ken Hasbrouck, Kittitas Reclamation District
Tim Hill, Washington State Department of Ecology
Lynn Holt, Reclamation
Joel Hubble, Reclamation
Eleanor Hungate
Jerry Kelso, Reclamation
Walt Larrick, Reclamation
Barb Lisk, Office of Representative Doc Hastings
Chris Lynch, Reclamation
Larry Martin, Velikanje Halvorson
Naydene Maykut, Friends of Bumping Lake
Tim McCoy, Reclamation
Keith McGowan, Reclamation
Candy McKinley, Reclamation
Jim Milton, Yakima-Tieton Irrigation District
Pat Monk, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Tom Monroe, Roza Irrigation District
Bob Montgomery, Anchor QEA
Bryan Myre, Wapato Irrigation District
Scott Nikolai, Yakima-Klickitat Fisheries Project
Elaine Packard, Sierra Club
Traute Parrie, Okonagan-Wenatchee National Forest
Onni Perala
Kate Prengaman, Yakima Herald-Republic
Matthew Randazzo, Washington State Department of Natural Resources
Carol Ready, Yakima Tributary Access and Habitat Program
David Reeplog, Office of Senator Maria Cantwell

Rick Roeder, Washington State Department of Natural Resources
Ann Root, ESA
Brian Schmidt, North Yakima Conservation District
Teresa Scott, Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife
Dan Silver, Facilitator
Tom Tebb, Department of Ecology
Michael Tobin, North Yakima Conservation District

Next Workgroup Meeting

The next meeting will be held December 18, 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.