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## **Meeting Notes**

**December 18, 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 other attendees, led introductions, and provided an overview of the agenda.

### **Introduce New Workgroup Members and Environmental Review Updates**

Wendy Christensen, Bureau of Reclamation, introduced three new Workgroup members, Lisa Pelly with Trout Unlimited; Rick Roeder with Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and Mike Balboni with U.S. Forest Service (USFS). Each new Workgroup member gave a brief bio-sketch.

Wendy also shared a summary of the November 21-22 scoping meetings that were held for the Cle Elum Pool Raise and Keechelus-to-Kachess Conveyance/Kachess Drought Relief Pumping Plant (KKC/KDRPP) environmental impact statements (EIS). Daytime and evening meetings were held in both Yakima and Cle Elum, WA. Attendance at each meeting ranged from 5 to 20 people. Reclamation received 17 comment letters on the Cle Elum Pool Raise EIS and 38 comment letters on the KKC/KDRPP EIS. Scoping summary reports for both EISs are expected to be available late January or early February 2014.

### **Technical Work Update**

Andrew Graham, HDR, and Walt Larrick, Reclamation, presented updates on 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.

#### *Keechelus-to-Kachess Conveyance*

Geotechnical drilling investigations have been conducted along the alternative Tunnel 1 (T1) alignment, and at two optional inlet locations at/near Keechelus dam. Utilizing the existing outlet works (5A) would not impact the dam structure.

#### Workgroup Discussion



- Alex Conley – Will the flow from Keechelus into the tunnel still be fed by gravity? *Yes, both outlet options would feed the tunnel by gravity, and the tunnel would flow by gravity.*

#### *Kachess Drought Relief Pumping Plant*

The project name was recently changed from Kachess Inactive Storage to Kachess Drought Relief Pumping Plant, or KDRPP, to better reflect the project. Soft sediments in the middle of the reservoir made it infeasible for a lake tap. The latest design concept includes a pumping plant with an intake and a tunnel on the northeastern side of the reservoir connecting to a pipe that would transport water to the Kachess River below the dam. Two pipeline alignments are being evaluated, including one along the shoreline. The pipeline will be approximately 9 feet in diameter.

Value planning workshops are scheduled in January 2014 to further refine design concepts for the KKC/KDRPP project elements. Feasibility design and environmental review will occur after these workshops.

#### *Box Canyon Creek and Bull Trout Passage Concerns*

Under current operations, Kachess reservoir drawdown in some years (e.g., 2 years out of 10) may create passage issues into Box Canyon Creek, an important tributary for bull trout. With the proposed KDRPP project, the Kachess reservoir could be drawn down as much as 80 feet, which would result in an impassible barrier between the upper and lower reservoir. This temporary barrier could prevent adult bull trout from accessing their spawning beds in Box Canyon Creek and the Kachess River. Bull trout kelts could be exposed to additional predation as they navigate the shallow stream reach between the upper and lower Kachess after spawning.

#### Workgroup Discussion

- Dale Bambrick – It will be important to seasonally characterize when bull trout are in the upper and lower Kachess reservoir, when they leave the reservoir and migrate into Box Canyon Creek for spawning, when they return to the reservoir, and the relationship of these life histories with the timing of a drought drawdown. *Jeff Thomas noted that bull trout mostly move in September after a fall rain event waters up the Box Canyon Creek channel, improving passage into it.*
- Jeff Thomas – I wonder if a drawdown will even affect the upper Kachess reservoir? *This question will be evaluated in the draft EIS.*
- John Easterbrooks – Would bull trout typically move from lower to upper Kachess before the drawdown would occur? *This question will be evaluated in the draft EIS.*

#### *Wymer Dam and Reservoir*

Several holes and test pits have been completed as part of geotechnical investigation at the dam site and pump station locations. Reclamation appreciates the cooperation from Jack and Beneitta Eaton; they have been very gracious in providing access to their properties for this work.

### *Bumping Dam and Reservoir Enlargement*

One hole has been completed and another hold has been partially drilled as part of geotechnical investigation at the two different dam site locations.

### *Cle Elum Pool Raise*

Cultural surveys have been completed. Final design for the facility is expected to be complete by June 2014.

### *Cle Elum Dam Fish Passage Facilities*

Reclamation is conducting additional physical modeling of the helix intake structure at Denver's hydraulic laboratory. A modified inlet structure to improve channeling fish into the structure is also being evaluated.

### Workgroup Discussion

- Dale Bambrick – It will be important to have flexibility in the water elevation for the inlet so that fish are not stranded in the lake.

### *Groundwater Storage – City of Yakima Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR)*

The groundwater storage feasibility analysis includes evaluating infiltration opportunity areas using the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Yakima Basin groundwater model, and matching these areas with available infrastructure such as irrigation canals for conveying water. Field reconnaissance and supplemental modeling will be conducted before pilot testing at potential locations is conducted.

The City of Yakima's ASR project permits are in the application process. The purpose of the City's ASR project is to use existing wells to recharge and withdraw water as needed. Two additional wells are planned for the future. ASR can provide passive flow benefits as groundwater returns to the river near Union Gap in wetter years, and reduces Naches River diversions by providing groundwater supply for withdrawal in drier years. In 2014, the City will be reactivating its permitting application to Ecology, and hopes to be testing water storage by the end of the year.

### Workgroup Discussion

- Mike Leita – The local cost contribution to the Integrated Plan will need to be defined, accounting for existing local facilities and infrastructure such as the City's ASR facilities that contribute to plan goals.
- Rick Dieker – Regarding aquifer recharge, will irrigation districts be asked to wheel water to potential recharge sites? Yakima-Tieton Irrigation District has some available capacity to deliver to the Cowiche and Ahtanum Creek areas before the irrigation season begins. *Reclamation will provide more information during the regional groundwater infiltration assessment.*

### *Habitat Restoration and Agricultural Conservation Projects*

Several projects were funded in 2013. The issues on the Manastash system are close to being resolved. Some of the more critical passage and flow improvements are being addressed before the 2014 irrigation season. Water savings from additional projects will be coming in the next 1-2 years.

### Workgroup Discussion

- Alex Conley – This has been an especially good year for funding habitat projects, including the funding contributions through the Integrated Plan.
- Dale Bambrick – It is important to demonstrate and verify that the projected water savings are realized – that the water is in Manastash and providing the desired benefits.

### **Disaggregated Benefit/Cost Analysis**

Jon Yoder with Washington State University (WSU) School of Economic Sciences presented an overview of a study he is leading to provide a benefit/cost analysis for each of the projects in the Integrated Plan. The study was commissioned by the 2013 Washington State Legislature, as a part of the capital budget. 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.

One important challenge of disaggregating benefits is to still capture the “integration concept.” In many cases the outcomes are not really separable, as the benefits and costs of one project may depend upon other actions. For example, fish population benefits above dams are dependent upon fish passage at the dams. In these cases, WSU will use a “conditioned” cost/benefit analysis that will yield a set of outcomes for a given project.

WSU will be conducting some additional hydrologic and fisheries modeling as part of the study. They will also be examining some of the same categories of benefits as identified in prior Integrated Plan studies conducted by Reclamation, including revisiting non-market valuation of fish. The prior economic evaluations appear to have been conducted with reasonable approaches. Other approaches may also be useful, such as differentiating real estate market values with and without available water supply. A first draft of the study should be completed and available for public comment by early November 2014, with the study completed by December 15, 2014.

### Workgroup Discussion

- Michael Garrity – Will the study also look at ecosystem services and benefits, such as benefits from reconnecting floodplain? This wasn’t considered in the Reclamation “Four Accounts” analysis but should be. *Jon encouraged Michael to follow up with him with input on this topic.*
- Urban Eberhart – The review period seems pretty short for the amount of information to review. *Please provide targeted review comments if you are unable to review the entire document.*

- Sid Morrison – Has Jon talked with specific legislators about the intent of the study? It is important to avoid projects being “cherry-picked” from the set of actions in the Integrated Plan, which is counter to the intent of the plan and could “blow up” the process. *Jon is aware of this concern but he also has to follow the legislative direction.*

### **Implementation and Executive Committee Updates**

Derek Sandison presented an approach for how to group the actions of the Integrated Plan into more manageable implementation pieces. The first set of actions would be Balanced Package 1, comprised of water supply, habitat, fish passage and other projects that total approximately \$900 million (approximately one-third of the Integrated Plan cost), for a 10-year period (through 2023). Budget needs by year are still being shaped. Balanced Package 1 was prepared in response to a request from senior Federal officials, to show how much money was needed in the initial phase, and where those funds would be spent. It would also be used to help track the various sources of funds and cost share, insofar as the Legislature has required a 50 percent match for all state funds spent on the Plan.

### Workgroup Discussion

- Scott Revell –Does the balanced package proposal include conservation funding? *Yes.*
- Sid Morrison – How is the funding proposal accounting for funding challenges at the federal level? Will Reclamation’s budget be specific to Integrated Plan funding or will their budget just be increased overall? *This will be dependent on Congress.*

Dan Silver provided updates on committee activities. As the Integrated Plan is implemented, the complexity of the effort is increased, and some organizational adjustments are being made to account for this by reconstituting subcommittees and developing specific charters for them. Subcommittees are being organized to advance the plan with more structure and alignment consistent with representation on the Workgroup.

The Implementation Committee and the congressional delegation will be working together in 2014 on authorizing language for the Integrated Plan.

The Executive Committee participated in a successful fall meeting and field trip in the basin led by members of the regional and Washington DC Federal agencies leadership team. This leadership team includes an assemblage of senior staff from the various federal agencies that will be responsible for plan implementation. One outcome of this meeting was an identified need for more coordination on the fisheries and habitat actions. Another outcome was the identified need for a more detailed breakdown of funding needs, leading to the 10-year package of projects and actions Derek Sandison presented earlier.

Subcommittee chairs were identified: 1) Jeff Tayer will lead the Habitat Subcommittee; 2) Peter Dykstra will lead the Lands Subcommittee and 3) Scott Revell will lead the Out of Stream Needs Subcommittee, with Dave Brown leading a Municipal subgroup of this subcommittee. The Outreach/Education Subcommittee is still being re-organized.

Ben Floyd provided an update on work being done on operating guidelines for the plan. These guidelines provide additional guidance on how water resulting from Integrated Plan actions would be managed to meet in-stream and out-of-stream objectives. The latest guidelines are included in the Workgroup meeting packet. A key outcome is a recommendation to establish an adaptive management group separate from the existing System Operations Advisory Committee (SOAC). The adaptive management group would advise Reclamation as Integrated Plan projects come on-line regarding how this additional water should be managed over time to meet plan goals each year, within legal constraints. An additional future legal constraint to consider will be the issuance of a biological opinion from NMFS and USFWS on the Operation and Maintenance of the Yakima Project for compliance with the Endangered Species Act (ESA).

Initial modeling results for KKC/KDRPP indicate that these projects contribute substantially towards meeting the 70-percent supply goal for prorated water right holders during low water years. Additional results will be presented to the Workgroup at the March 2014 meeting.

### **Workgroup – Roundtable Discussion**

Ben opened up the floor to Workgroup members. Specific Workgroup comments included:

- Wendy Christensen – Wendy thanked the agencies, irrigation districts, Yakama Nation and other organizations for their participation and support. She acknowledged it is a challenge to maintain communications with all those interested in staying updated on the various ongoing activities. Reclamation will continue to meet with NMFS and USFWS on ESA consultation for the Yakima Project operations and Yakima IP projects. Workgroup members should let Reclamation know if there are communications or meetings that they or their respective organizations would like to be involved in. Meetings will be held with participating federal agencies at the regional level in February and March, and another Washington DC Leadership team meeting will be held in the spring.
- Derek Sandison – Ecology has to provide a report to the state legislature on December 15, 2014 on funding needs and financing plan for the Integrated Plan.
- Alex Conley – Expressed excitement about the habitat projects being funded in the basin. He is looking forward to getting the next set of projects ready for implementation, as funding becomes available. He is also interested in the ESA consultation process underway with NMFS, USFWS and Reclamation on the Yakima project operations.

- Sid Morrison – The Yakima Basin Storage Alliance (YBSA) has asked a lot of questions; they do not always get answers back to these questions. He appreciates efforts the management team has taken to modify the evaluation processes in an effort to provide some of these answers. One question they have is who will have access to the inactive storage supply in Kachess (KDRPP)? What will happen in multiple drought years? He encouraged responses to these and other legal questions to avoid legal battles in the future. *Legal discussions started in 2012 and have been ongoing since then; additional discussions will happen in 2014.*
- Rick Dieker – Complimented everyone for their hard work and acknowledged the good momentum in implementing the plan. Having the Federal leadership on the recent trip in the basin was very positive.
- Mike Livingston – Mike directed the group to a Teanaway Community Forest (TCF) handout that was in the meeting packet. WDFW and DNR understand that the TCF planning and implementation effort is part of the Integrated Plan. He is impressed with the progress being made.
- Rick Roeder – DNR and WDFW will be forming a TCF advisory committee in January 2014, with a main committee being organized with subcommittees. WDFW and DNR will select the committee members. The TCF process is providing an opportunity for establishing a new working relationship for WDFW and DNR. They will be hiring staff for the TCF to address property management, law enforcement and other responsibilities. Also, some culverts have been identified for replacement. It will be important to establish a clear baseline for current conditions and also make sure that the property improvements made are credited to the Integrated Plan.
- Mike Leita – Yakima County continues to hear concerns and questions about the Integrated Plan. It is important to address these concerns but also to take caution against premature responses. He sees support for the Integrated Plan's full and integrated implementation.
- Phil Rigdon – He expressed excitement with all the work moving forward. There is much left to do; it is important to maintain focus on getting it done.
- Urban Eberhart – He has been out talking to a wide variety of community members. He is hearing a lot of positive comments. The community is becoming more aware and appreciative of the goals of the plan.
- Michael Garrity – It has been great to celebrate the Teanaway property acquisition and ground-breaking on Manastash Creek projects. Derek's presentation of Balanced Package 1 is important to communicate; it provides a picture of what the first 10 years of implementation will look like. He anticipates the 2016 Federal budget request to be a big step forward but is not as certain about how the 2015 federal request will turn out.
- Jeff Thomas – He is proud to be a part of this group. Much good work has been done but there is a lot more left to do.
- Dave Brown – He appreciates the Workgroup's support on the City's ASR project.

- Dale Bambrick – He acknowledged the work Derek Sandison has done on behalf of the Workgroup. Dale would like a budget estimate for the Roza Subordination action, and is glad the action is included in the first 10 years of implementation.
- Seth Defoe – He appreciates the support he has received in coming up to speed on the Integrated Plan. He noted that Kennewick Irrigation District relies on return flows and also has proratable water rights. He would like to better understand how actions in the plan will affect return flows and the District’s water supply in the lower river.
- Mike Balboni – He is impressed with the Workgroup. He participated in the Federal agencies field trip and that helped him recognize the importance of the Integrated Plan. USFS will be engaged and is ready to help.
- Paul Jewell – Much of the Kittitas County focus is now on the TCF. The handout from WDFW and DNR is helpful. He is starting to hear concerns from Kachess lake landowners. He and Urban Eberhart will be making a presentation to them in January. The Manastash project kickoff was positive. Impacts on the USFS campground at Cle Elum from the proposed pool raise are of interest. Kittitas County has information on economic benefits from the Integrated Plan that will be provided to WSU for their study.
- Lisa Pelly – Thanks for the nice welcome. She is very impressed with what has been done and appreciates Derek’s presentation on the first 10 years of implementation and the list of balanced package projects. This information will be helpful in communications with others.
- John Easterbrooks – WDFW has some comments on the benefit descriptions in the habitat and agriculture conservation projects included in the handout in the meeting packet. He will provide some suggested edits. He also asked why the Manastash project is listed on both tables. *The request to include the Manastash project was made by Kittitas County Conservation District to both subcommittees, and included on both lists for contingency funding purposes.*

### **Public Comment**

- Ben Floyd started this part of the meeting off by noting he had received for inclusion in the meeting record an article from Wild Cascades and NEPA scoping comments from a coalition of organizations including Sierra Club. YBSA also provided a letter that was included in the meeting packet.
- Naydene Maykut, Friends of Bumping Lake, observed that WSU should finish their study before funding is requested. *Reclamation has provided economic analysis in their “four-accounts” report, consistent with the Federal principles and guidelines. Feasibility studies for specific projects will also include economic analysis. The WSU report will also go to the state legislature before construction on projects is funded.*

### **Workgroup Members in Attendance**

Mike Balboni, U.S. Forest Service

Dale Bambrick, National Marine Fisheries Service

Dave Brown, City of Yakima  
Wendy Christensen, Reclamation  
Alex Conley, Yakima Basin Fish & Wildlife Recovery Board  
Seth Defoe, Kennewick Irrigation District  
Mike Shuttleworth, Benton County  
Rick Dieker, Yakima-Tieton Irrigation District  
Urban Eberhart, Kittitas Reclamation District  
David Fast, Yakama Nation  
Michael Garrity, American Rivers  
Paul Jewell, Kittitas County  
Mike Leita, Yakima County  
Mike Shuttleworth, Benton County  
Mike Livingston, Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife  
Sid Morrison, Yakima Basin Storage Alliance  
Lisa Pelly, Trout Unlimited  
Scott Revell, Roza Irrigation District  
Phil Rigdon, Yakama Nation  
Rick Roeder, Washington Department of Natural Resources  
Derek Sandison, Washington State Department of Ecology  
Jeff Thomas, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

**Other Attendees**

David Bowen, American Forest Land Co.  
Corey Carmack, Reclamation  
David Child, Yakima Basin Joint Board  
Kelly Clayton, Yakama Nation  
Marie Cobb, Student  
Stuart Crane, Yakama Nation  
John Easterbrooks, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife  
Beneitta Eaton, Rancher  
Jack Eaton, Rancher  
Bill Ferry, Reclamation  
Ben Floyd, Anchor QEA  
Chuck Freeman, Kennewick Irrigation District  
Joel Freudenthal, Yakima County  
Adam Fyall, Benton County  
Don Gatchalian, Yakima County  
Raelene Gold, Seattle Audubon  
Andrew Graham, HDR Engineering

Sean Gross, National Marine Fisheries Services  
Bob Hall, Yakima Basin Storage Alliance  
Tim Hill, Washington State Department of Ecology  
Lynn Holt, Reclamation  
Joel Hubble, Reclamation  
Chuck Klarich, Yakima Basin Storage Alliance  
Paul La Riviere, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife  
Walt Larrick, Reclamation  
Matthew Larson, Kiewit  
Barb Lisk, Office of Representative Doc Hastings  
Chris Lynch, Reclamation  
Steven Malloch, Western Water Futures LLC  
Larry Martin, Velikanje Halvorson  
Naydene Maykut, Friends of Bumping Lake  
Keith McGowan, Reclamation  
Candy McKinley, Reclamation  
Jim Milton, Yakima-Tieton Irrigation District  
Bryan Myre, Wapato Irrigation District  
Scott Nikolai, Yakima-Klickitat Fisheries Project  
David Ortman, Sierra Club  
Geoff Owen, Kiewit  
Kate Prengaman, Yakima Herald-Republic  
Kirk Rathbun, Kennewick Irrigation District  
Tom Ring, Yakama Nation  
Joe Rocconova, WSU Student  
Mike Schwiow, Schwisow & Associated  
Dan Silver, Facilitator  
Jeff Tayer, WDFW  
Tom Tebb, Department of Ecology  
Michael Tobin, North Yakima Conservation District  
Stuart Woolley, U.S. Forest Service  
Jonathan Yoder, Washington State University

### **Next Workgroup Meeting**

The next meeting will be held March 12, 2014 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, Kennewick office, (509) 491-3151, or [bfloyd@anchorqea.com](mailto:bfloyd@anchorqea.com).