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Meeting Notes

Yakima River Basin Water Enhancement Project Workgroup

December 13, 2017

Yakima Arboretum, Yakima, Washington

Welcome, Introductions, and Agenda Overview

Ben Floyd, White Bluffs Consulting, welcomed the Yakima River Basin Water Enhancement Project (YRBWEP) Workgroup members and other attendees. Meeting attendees were introduced by name and affiliation.

The following notes summarize the YRBWEP Workgroup presentations and public comments. For details, please see the full presentations available on the project website:

<http://www.usbr.gov/pn/programs/yrbwep/2011integratedplan/index.html>.

Implementation Committee Update

Tom Tebb, Washington State Department of Ecology, Office of Columbia River, described the Implementation Committee (IC) meetings held in Washington DC in late October and early November. The IC met with multiple U.S. House committees, Speaker of the House staff, as well as staff for Senators Maria Cantwell and Patty Murray and Representatives Dan Newhouse and Dave Reichert. Representatives Newhouse and Reichert introduced HR 4419 (*Bureau of Reclamation and Bureau of Indian Affairs Water Project Streamlining Act*) to the House on November 16, 2017. There is now a Yakima Basin Integrated Plan bill in both the House and Senate. The IC members will work with Representatives Newhouse and Reichert to refine further the Integrated Plan elements of House Bill 4419. Urban Eberhart, Kittitas Reclamation District (KRD), testified for the bill. The IC also met with the DC Leadership Group, as discussed below. YRBWEP has been receiving Federal discretionary funds each year for the past several years, which Tom attributes to the energy from the YRBWEP Workgroup.

Public input on this agenda item:

Bill Campbell, Lake Kachess Homeowners Association: Bill requested a complete list of individuals and groups the IC met with as well as handouts.

- Tom Tebb: This is public information and will be available.

DC Leadership Group Meeting

Tom Tebb: The primary meeting purpose was to establish strong connections with new agency leaders under the Trump administration. Andrea Travnicek, Acting Assistant Secretary for Water and Science, Department of the Interior, hosted the meeting. Approximately 50 people attended (some by phone).

The group discussed project progress and the work of the DC Leadership Group agencies that correlates with activities in the Yakima River basin. Wendy Christensen, Bureau of Reclamation, Columbia-Cascades Area Office, mentioned there is continuity in the continued support of the DC Leadership Group from the past administration. It will be important to be in contact with the new Assistant Secretary for Water and Science, once chosen. She also noted that Brenda Burman has been confirmed as the Commissioner for Reclamation.

Workgroup Discussion:

Rick Dieker, Yakima-Tieton Irrigation District: Is there any indication that environmental reviews will become more user-friendly or faster because of Executive Orders?

- Wendy Christensen: So far, it is too early to tell. Environmental review remains important, and Reclamation will continue to follow the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Endangered Species Act (ESA) requirements for all Reclamation projects.

Public input on this agenda item:

None.

Technical Work Updates

1 – Cle Elum Pool Raise

Wendy Christensen: The modified radial gates at Cle Elum Dam will add 14,600 acre-feet of storage capacity to Cle Elum Reservoir. Cle Elum River Campground improvements are complete, and dikes have been raised. The next project will be construction of a boat ramp and a pedestrian ramp at the Speelyi Beach Day Use Area. This contract will be awarded in FY 2018. There is significant work ahead for shoreline protection projects planned over the next few years.

Public input on this agenda item:

None.

2 – Kachess Drought Relief Pumping Plant and Keechelus Reservoir-to-Kachess Reservoir Conveyance Supplemental Draft EIS (SDEIS)

Wendy Christensen: The floating pumping plant alternative is under evaluation. Wendy showed slides with 3D schematics of the floating pumping plant at high pool, current minimum pool and proposed minimum pool elevations. Wendy also described plans for volitional fish passage at the Narrows (the area between upper and lower Kachess reservoirs). The SDEIS is expected to be issued on December 29, 2017, if all the internal Reclamation and U.S. Department of the Interior approvals happen. Wendy encouraged comments from the Workgroup and audience regarding the SDEIS; public meetings will be held, and the 60-day comment period will be open from the release date of the through the end of February, if the SDEIS is released on December 29, 2017. The final EIS (FEIS) will be issued in 2018 and will contain responses to previous comments received on the 2015 Draft EIS (DEIS) as well as new comments on the SDEIS. See Karen Dera, Bureau of Reclamation, to be included on the mailing list.

Public input on this agenda item:

Ann Lewis, Yakima Basin Coalition: Could there be public meetings in the Seattle area for westside users of the Kachess Campground?

- Wendy Christensen: The meetings are typically held in the area of impact. Meetings are currently scheduled in Cle Elum and Ellensburg. Reclamation and Ecology welcome comments from all on the SDEIS. Please be sure to provide your name and mailing address to Karen Dera if you would like a copy of the SDEIS.
- **Chuck Klarich, Yakima Basin Storage Alliance:** The *Northern Kittitas County Tribune* has an excellent article on fish passage at Cle Elum Reservoir.

3 – Cle Elum Fish Passage

Richard Visser, Bureau of Reclamation: The project is broken into multiple construction contracts. The access road and bridge construction contract is complete, and the secant pile construction contract is ongoing. Secant piles have been installed to form the wall of the elliptical shaft that will house the gate and helix. Excavation of the shaft is in progress. Other projects will follow (bypass tunnel to the river below the spillway, helix/gate and intake and adult upstream passage facilities) as shown the PowerPoint presentation table. The presentation included slides and a time lapse video of secant pile construction to date; work will continue until winter weather prevents it. The Whooshh™ system demonstrated that adult fish can be moved over the 150-foot vertical lift at Cle Elum Dam, which may be added later if deemed desirable. Overall, the project is making good progress.

Workgroup Discussion:

Jaclyn Hancock, Washington State Department of Agriculture: Is there data available on fish survival rates during Whooshh™ testing?

- Richard Visser: Findings are preliminary. Slightly reduced survival was observed compared to truck transport, and smaller fish tended to have higher mortality due to handling of fish to move them into the Whooshh tube. A final report will be issued in March.

Public input on this agenda item:

Jane Creech, Washington State Department of Ecology: Was temperature monitored during the Whooshh™ test?

- Richard Visser: Yes, both in the reservoir and the river, as well as air temperature.

Water Supply and Storage Sites Evaluation History and Overview

Scott Revell, Roza Irrigation District (Roza): Following the Reclamation Act of 1902 and establishment of the Bureau of Reclamation, nearly all available sites in the Yakima River basin were surveyed for water storage potential. In 1984, the same sites got an updated review, many of which were found to have limitations. Another storage study was conducted between 2003 and 2008 that further evaluated potential surface storage locations. The Yakama Nation and Roza submitted a joint letter at the end of the study recommending an integrated planning process be followed to address Yakima River basin water supply and fisheries needs, rather than a project-by-project focus, which led to the development of the Integrated Plan.

Scott described the Selah Creek canyon site as an example of a storage site that has been evaluated multiple times; it has significant costs and technical issues. People often ask about storage potential at the site because it is so visible, but prior studies have determined the site has significant limitations for

construction and operation as a storage reservoir. Wendy Christensen stated that the focus is on in-basin storage first, though there is consideration of Columbia River water in the future.

Urban Eberhart described planning efforts to use existing infrastructure to capture and manage water in gravity-fed off channel storage locations, potentially making the best use of flows, particularly during “flashy” runoff events. One possible use for this captured water is aquifer recharge using existing infrastructure, such as small local ponds that do not require pumping. This provides a more systematic view of storage, rather than project-by-project. Mike Leita, Yakima County, encouraged these ideas, but reminded the Workgroup to stick to the plan of full storage as identified in the Integrated Plan. The county expects “not one drop less” from new storage projects.

Public input on this agenda item:

Chris Maykut, Friends of Bumping Lake: Bumping Reservoir has been studied numerous times but never pencils out. Why has it come back into consideration after taken off the table in 2008?

- Wendy Christensen: The Workgroup considered Bumping Reservoir at a reduced volume than had been studied previously, which avoids much of the impacts to bull trout at Deep Creek. Also, it is not treated as a standalone project, but as part of a holistic comprehensive strategy under the Integrated Plan
- Tom Ring, Yakama Nation: The Tribe suggested using Bumping Reservoir for multiple uses including fish flow enhancement. So, the purpose of Bumping as part of the Integrated Plan is quite different than the purpose intended in the 2008 storage study.

Steve Malloch, Consultant to American Rivers: What was the previous minimum size for a reservoir to be considered?

- Scott Revell: Several reservoir sizes were considered; there was not a single size criterion.

Clear Creek Bull Trout Passage

Jeff Thomas, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS), Mid-Columbia River Fishery Office, described the fish passage projects at Clear Creek Dam. Distinct groups of Bull Trout (determined through tagging) have been found both above and below the dam, concluding that adult Bull Trout cannot migrate up the current spillway channel under any conditions. Fish are able to get from the creek to the reservoir, but not back. Jeff described the efforts to transport fish by hand from below the dam and up into the reservoir. Reclamation has provided \$59,000 for designing a passage project at the dam (not at the spillway). They expect a 30 percent design document by the end of 2018 and a final design document by the end of 2019. The USFWS team will continue to transport Bull Trout by hand each year until a permanent passage facility is developed.

Public input on this agenda item:

Sean Gross, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Fisheries: Is downstream passage safe for fish?

- Jeff Thomas: Fish can pass in numerous situations, but it may or may not be safe.

Judy Neibauer, USFWS: Having the North Fork Tieton, South Fork Tieton, and Indian Creek Bull Trout commingle is a good thing; mixed gene pools may lead to greater species resiliency.

General Public Comments:

None.

Executive Committee, Subcommittees, and Subgroups Updates

Lower River Action Plan

Jason McShane, Kennewick Irrigation District, described the Lower River Subgroup and its purpose and goals. The subgroup considers all seven elements of the Integrated Plan, and the action plan is developed in sections based on those elements. The subgroup is supporting numerous projects including the Yakima Delta enhancement, Wapato Reach projects, the smolt out-migration study, and the cold water refugia project. They are also looking to fix Kennewick Irrigation District water supply conditions. The lower river region is an important focus, because it is important to all migrating fish entering the Yakima River no matter where they are headed. Toby Koch, U.S. Geological Survey, gave a presentation on the lower river smolt outmigration study objectives and elements. The study will be conducted in 2018 through 2020; it will evaluate juvenile salmon and lamprey survival rates from Wapato Dam through the mouth of the river. Sean Gross emphasized that the sites selected for the survival study were designed to inform decisions on possible future actions in the lower river.

Ground Water Subcommittee (Tom Ring): The Oregon State University study is currently on hold because the lead researcher is on leave. Dave Brown, City of Yakima Water and Irrigation Manager, addressed the City's aquifer storage and recovery program: they are submitting compliance data and are working on an operation and maintenance (O&M) plan. Urban Eberhart also mentioned that monitoring devices have been installed regarding KRD's program to capture "flashy" flows for groundwater infiltration. Urban expects similar actions in the future on the Naches arm (Yakima-Tieton Irrigation District) and at the Wapato Irrigation Project. Tom Ring mentioned that the Yakama Nation is recharging approximately 8 cubic feet per second of water into the Toppenish Creek alluvial fan.

Workgroup Roundtable

Scott Revell, Roza Irrigation District: Scott acknowledged David Child's work as a fisheries biologist for the Roza-Sunnyside Board of Joint Control for the past ten years and thanked him for his service to the YRBWEP Workgroup. David is retiring the end of December. Scott will be continuing his dialogue with the Kachess Homeowners about KDRPP.

Seth Defoe (KID): Would like to thank David Child for his service to the YRBWEP Workgroup.

Mike Livingston, Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW): Teanaway Community Forest recreation planning is in progress. WDFW and the Washington State Department of Natural Resources have concept maps available and will hold a public meeting on December 14, 2018.

Paul Jewell, Kittitas County: Pleased with progress on storage in 2017, and hopes to see similar progress in 2018. Overall, Paul is glad to see the momentum and longevity of the Integrated Planning process.

David Fast (YN): is pleased with the progress on the Cle Elum Fish Passage. Happy Holidays.

Lisa Pelly, Trout Unlimited (TU): The WaterSMART project is funded by Reclamation for a water marketing study. TU and KRD are partners in the study.

Rick Dieker, Yakima-Tieton Irrigation District: The District is making good progress in reviewing options for replacing its main canal.

Jaclyn Hancock, State Department of Agriculture: Reflecting on 2015 drought impacts report. Highlights the importance of Roza Re-regulation reservoir having been completed.

Jeff Thomas, USFWS: Has been participating in this process for 8 ½ years. I am pleased with the progress. Happy Holidays.

Charlie de la Chapelle, YBSA: Happy to see projects in the lower basin. We need to fix the thermal barrier at the Yakima River mouth, because it could reduce the value of other Integrated Plan efforts for fish restoration.

Wendy McDermott, American Rivers: Wendy has been a participant for 1 year, and over that time has come to appreciate the value of the comprehensive vision and cooperative nature of the Integrated Plan.

Wendy Christensen, Reclamation: On behalf of Dawn Wiedmeier who sends her regrets for not being here, we would like to thank David Child for his service to the YRBWEP Workgroup and SOAC among other groups that he has served on. It has been a pleasure working with him.

Upcoming Meetings

The next YRBWEP Workgroup meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 14, 2018, in Ellensburg (9:30 a.m.).

Attendance

Workgroup Members/Alternates:

Dale Bambrick, National Marine Fisheries Service

Dave Brown, City of Yakima

Wendy Christensen, Bureau of Reclamation – Columbia-Cascades Area Office

Ron Cowin, P.E., Sunnyside Valley Irrigation District

Seth Defoe, Kennewick Irrigation District

Charlie de la Chapelle, Yakima Basin Storage Alliance (YBSA)

Jerome Delvin, Benton County

Rick Dieker, Yakima-Tieton Irrigation District

Peter Dykstra, Plauche & Carr, LLP

Urban Eberhart, Kittitas Reclamation District

David Fast, Yakama Nation – Yakima/Klickitat Fisheries Project

Jaclyn Hancock, Washington State Department of Agriculture

Paul Jewell, Kittitas County

Mike Leita, Yakima County

Mike Livingston, Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife

Wendy McDermott, American Rivers

Lisa Pelly, Washington Water Project, Trout Unlimited

Scott Revell, Roza Irrigation District and Chair, YRBWEP Water Use Subcommittee
Jeff Tayer, Chair, YRBWEP Habitat Subcommittee (Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife)
Tom Tebb, Washington State Department of Ecology - Office of Columbia River
Jeff Thomas, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Mid-Columbia River Fishery Office
Karen Zelch, US Army Corps of Engineers

Other Attendees:

Douglas Bennett, Bureau of Reclamation
Tina Blewett, Ducks Unlimited
Lori Brady, Sunnyside Valley Irrigation District
Michael Callahan, Washington State Department of Ecology
Bill Campbell, Lake Kachess Homeowners Association
Debbie Carlson, Bonneville Power Administration
David Child, Yakima Basin Joint Board
Stuart Crane, Yakama Nation
Jane Creech, Washington State Department of Ecology
Jeanne Demorest, Bureau of Reclamation - Columbia-Cascades Area Office
Jeff Dengel, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Karen Dera, Bureau of Reclamation - Columbia-Cascades Area Office
Melissa Downes, Washington State Department of Ecology
John Easterbrooks, Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife
Jack and Beneitta Eaton, Landowners
Kevin Eslinger, Kittitas Reclamation District
Rick Evans, Senator Maria Cantwell's Office
Ben Floyd, White Bluffs Consulting
Joel Freudenthal, Yakima County
Patty Garvey-Darda, US Forest Service – Cle Elum Ranger District
Don Gatchalian, Yakima County
Andrew Graham, HDR Engineering, Inc.
Dan Graves, HDR Engineering, Inc.
Sean Gross, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Fisheries
Bob Hall, YBSA/Yakima Auto Dealers

Justin Harter, Naches-Selah Irrigation District
Mike Hiler, Citizen
Tim Hill, Washington State Department of Ecology
Elayne Hovde, Natural Resource Conservation Service at Reclamation Offices
Joel Hubble, Citizen
Chuck Klarich, Yakima Basin Storage Alliance
Toby Koch, USGS
Walter Larrick, Citizen
Ann Lewis, Yakima Basin Coalition
Edward Lisowski
Chris Lynch, Bureau of Reclamation
Jerrod MacPherson, Benton County
Tom Matthews, US Forest Service
Steve Malloch, Western Water Futures LLC (alternate for American Rivers)
Chris and Samantha Maykut, Friends of Bumping Lake
Doug Mayo, Citizen
Miles McPhee, Yakima County Resident
Saundra McPhee, Yakima County Resident
Jason McShane, Kennewick Irrigation District
Carmen Mendez, City of Yakima
Jean Mendoza, Friends of Toppenish Creek
Jim Milton, Yakima-Tieton Irrigation District
Merritt Mitchell-Wajeih, Mid-Columbia Fisheries
Judy Neibauer, US Fish and Wildlife Service
Courtney O'Neill, AECOM
David Ortman, Sierra Club
Kirk Rathbun, Kennewick Irrigation District
Colleen Rauert, Washington State Department of Ecology
Joye Redfield-Wilder, Washington State Department of Ecology
Tom Ring, Yakama Nation
Jason Rouvine, US Fish and Wildlife Service
Chad Stuart, Bureau of Reclamation – Yakima Field Office
Duane Unland, Nakaty Enterprises

Richard Visser, Bureau of Reclamation - Columbia-Cascades Area Office

Jason Wagner, Bureau of Reclamation

Rocky Wallace, City of Toppenish

Ben Watts, US Forest Service

Where to Find Workgroup Information

Meeting materials, notes, presentations, and materials submitted during public comment for each Workgroup meeting will be posted on Reclamation's project website:

(<http://www.usbr.gov/pn/programs/yrbwep/2011integratedplan/index.html>). A list of information sources, many available online, is also posted on the website.

If you need help finding an information source, contact those listed at the top of page 1 of these notes or Ben Floyd at White Bluffs Consulting, (509) 539-3366 or ben@whitebluffsconsulting.com.