

**Contact: Wendy Christensen, Columbia-Cascades Area Office, (509) 573-8044
Tom Tebb, Washington State Department of Ecology, (509) 574-3989**

Meeting Notes

Yakima River Basin Water Enhancement Project Workgroup

March 13, 2019

Kittitas County Armory, Ellensburg, WA

Welcome, Introductions and Agenda Overview

Ben Floyd, White Bluffs Consulting, welcomed the Yakima River Basin Water Enhancement Project (YRBWEP) Workgroup members and other attendees. Wendy Christensen, Bureau of Reclamation, Columbia-Cascades Area Office, introduced Bruce Sully as the new YRBWEP Coordinator replacing Susan Crawford, who recently retired. Teresa Hauser, Cle Elum Pool Raise Project Manager has accepted a new position with Reclamation's Yakima Field Office. Reclamation plans to hire a new Project Manager for Cle Elum Pool Raise. All other attendees introduced themselves 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 Department of Ecology: March 12, 2019, President Trump signed the John Dingell Jr. Conservation, Management and Recreation Act, which authorizes YRBWEP Phase III. He noted the bipartisan partnership of Washington's congressional delegation on this legislation, and the leadership from Senator Cantwell, Representative Newhouse, and Representative Schrier. The authorization provides a basis for additional water conservation and fish recovery work. Tom also noted a letter from Washington Governor Jay Inslee to the Workgroup regarding passage of the Act and commending them for the collaborative effort.

Workgroup Discussion:

Commissioner Cory Wright, Kittitas County, reflected on prior legislative efforts in the Yakima River basin stretching back to early in the 20th century, and recognized Representative Schrier for working on the process in a bipartisan manner. Other members of the Workgroup commented on the significance of this milestone and celebrated the bipartisan, collaborative vision that made passage of the Federal legislation possible.

Technical Work Update

Groundwater Storage Projects

Danielle Squeochs, Washington Department of Ecology: The Oregon State University study that identified suitable groundwater recharge sites in the basin is complete and available on Ecology's website <https://ecology.wa.gov/Water-Shorelines/Water-supply/Water-supply-projects-EW/Yakima-River-Basin-projects/Yakima-integrated-plan>. The Groundwater Subcommittee has used this information to identify areas of highest interest. Danielle described two of them:

1. Kittitas Reclamation District (KRD) Groundwater Study – KRD will be performing site-specific reconnaissance at the most suitable sites identified for recharge in the OSU study. Dave Nazy, EA Engineering, will support the project.
2. Indian Creek Groundwater Dynamics – Scientific literature contains inconsistent conclusions regarding how habitat projects can affect groundwater storage. The Subcommittee has recommended a project to conduct a groundwater study in the Indian Creek drainage within the Teanaway River basin to evaluate the opportunities there.

Danielle also mentioned monitoring wells will be installed soon at the Toppenish Fan within the Yakama Nation Reservation.

Kachess Drought Relief Pumping Plant (KDRPP) and Keechelus Reservoir-to-Kachess Reservoir Conveyance (KKC) Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) and Record of Decision (ROD)

Wendy Christensen: The KDRPP/KKC FEIS was posted to Reclamation's website on March 6 and will be published in the *Federal Register* on March 15. Reclamation will issue a ROD no sooner than 30 days after the FEIS is published.

Upper Yakima System Storage Sites

KRD's study of small storage sites within the KRD system boundary has shifted toward adding to the study of whether their canal can feed water to the proposed Wymer Reservoir using gravity flow. Urban Eberhart, KRD, mentioned that the storage potential for this option is greater than for small storage sites and provides efficiencies not considered in the original Wymer Reservoir proposal (which includes pumping from the Yakima River). KRD continues to evaluate the potential small storage sites.

Cle Elum Pool Raise

The Speelyi Beach Day Use Area shoreline protection project is underway, and the contractor will place the boatramp and pedestrian path by the end of May. Subsequent shoreline protection projects are planned at the Wishpoosh Campground. Reclamation is also looking at Timber Cove, which will require discussions with area homeowners prior to awarding a construction contract. All projects are pending available funding.

Cle Elum Fish Passage

Richard Visser, Bureau of Reclamation, Cle Elum Fish Passage Project Manager: Reclamation intends to complete the Cle Elum Fish Passage project through six contracts, with a goal of completion in 2023. The secant vault is nearly complete, the tunnel construction is underway, and the contract to construct the gate, intake, and helix is awarded; the contractor intends to mobilize in April 2019. Reclamation's goal is to install the lowest intake levels within the reservoir this summer, which will require the reservoir to be at or below 2,170 feet for the necessary period. Richard continues to work with U.S. Geological Survey, Yakama Nation, and others to test adult passage in the lower Yakima River this summer.

Bull Trout Population Restoration and Monitoring Project

Todd Newsome and Russ Byington, Yakama Nation, Yakama/Klickitat Fisheries Project: The project focus is to establish a captive rearing program through a partnership with the Washington Department of

Fish and Wildlife (WDFW). The program focuses on rescuing Bull Trout from dewatered streams and taking them to a rearing facility to improve survival. Fish can be reared for up to one year, then re-released when habitat conditions become favorable. The project goal is to increase spawning Bull Trout populations over time through these rescue and captive rearing efforts. This project must work in conjunction with habitat restoration projects to result in long-term sustainability.

Workgroup Discussion:

Jeff Tayer, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife: It is important the Bull Trout work brings populations to a place where they do not just survive year-to-year but can independently persist. This project and associated projects are significant components of Bull Trout habitat restoration.

Public input on this agenda item:

How is removing fish from Lake Kachess and placing them elsewhere an environmentally beneficial action? Also, the Workgroup should not implement the KDRPP project, which will drain Kachess Reservoir. Comments from local property owners have been ignored.

- *Richard Visser: We are not removing fish from Lake Kachess. The project does not remove fish from quality habitat, only fish stranded in pools and dewatered streams that would die if not rescued. A hatchery environment would enable a large percentage of these stranded fish to survive and be reintroduced to the wild when they are larger and have a much higher rate of survival in the wild.*
- *Dawn Wiedmeier, Bureau of Reclamation, Columbia-Cascades Area Office: Reclamation intends to conduct a “tier 2” NEPA process following release of the ROD from the KDRPP FEIS. Tier 2 will include an additional detailed analysis of alternatives. This process will last approximately 1 year.*

Conservation Advisory Group Meeting Summary

Wendy Christensen: Conservation actions in the Yakima River basin were authorized through the 1994 Yakima River Basin Water Enhancement Project (YRBWEP) Phase 2 legislation, known as Title XII. The law established a Conservation Advisory Group (CAG), which “shall provide recommendation to the Secretary and to the State of Washington regarding the structure and implementation of the Basin Conservation Program.” The CAG reviewed recent conservation actions during its February 25, 2019, meeting. Tom Tebb and Wendy invited representatives from the Yakama Nation and irrigation districts to describe the various conservation projects they have been working on.

Ron Cowin, Sunnyside Valley Irrigation District (SVID): SVID’s total cumulative entitlement reduction through water conservation is 36,104 acre-feet. SVID is involved in a long-term water conservation project, which began in 2003. Phase II is currently in process to turn open ditches into enclosed piped laterals with flow meters. He showed slides and video of a complicated crossing constructed recently beneath Interstate 82 (I-82) using “slip-lining” of an older pipe to install a new pipeline under I-82.

Richard Dills, Yakama Nation Engineering: The Wapato Irrigation Project (WIP) is focusing on two regions for water conservation projects: Unit 2 and the Satus Unit. Water for Unit 2 is diverted from Toppenish Creek, which contains endangered steelhead runs. The Satus Unit is the lower end of the

system and can be unreliable regarding water quality and delivery due to relying mostly on return flows. WIP is modernizing piping in these regions to leave more water instream and improve conveyance through the system. WIP improvements include metering all turnouts from the main canal. They are getting good responses from farmers regarding metering practices.

Urban Eberhart: KRD is piping and lining canals and laterals. Water conservation from these actions provides additional capacity for the stream supplementation program KRD established under the Integrated Plan. Stream supplementation helps re-water dry streams, which improves fish and wildlife habitat in the upper basin. One good sign: a Spring Chinook was observed in Little Creek in 2019 because of these activities.

Jason McShane, Kennewick Irrigation District: KID is performing canal lining using Reclamation WaterSMART funds. Jason showed videos of the canal lining process. He noted that water conservation and risk mitigation projects can go hand-in-hand. From 2011 through 2018, KID has spent nearly \$14.5 million on these projects, resulting in approximately 5,300 acre-feet of water saved.

Melissa Downes, Washington Department of Ecology: Melissa described the Water Conservation Element of the Integrated Plan. This element's goal is 85,000 acre-feet of water conservation in 10 years. The Water Use Subcommittee works with the irrigation and conservation communities to identify potential conservation projects suitable for State funding. Numerous irrigation districts have used the funds for canal lining/sealing and improved flow measurement. The City of Yakima used water conservation funding for low-water use landscaping demonstrations at two locations. In total, the element has conserved 11,522 acre-feet at an average price of \$1,025 per acre foot.

Wendy Christensen displayed a pie chart showing the relative funding contributions to water conservation from the sources discussed (e.g., YRBWEP, Integrated Plan, WaterSMART, Districts, Water Conservation Field Service) and thanked Elayne Hovde, Bureau of Reclamation, Columbia-Cascades Area Office, for her management work on the YRBWEP water conservation element and CAG meeting presentation.

Workgroup Discussion:

None.

Public input on this agenda item:

None.

General Public Comments:

Christine Johnson, Lake Kachess HOA: Property owners' prime concern at Kachess Reservoir is that the reservoir will not return to its current levels after a significant additional drawdown. The Keechelus-Kachess Conveyance pipeline was supposed to be a refill mechanism, but is no longer being considered. The project needs to consider another refill mechanism. Christine provided a written comment to include in the meeting notes.

Chuck Klarich, Yakima Basin Storage Alliance: Chuck described a project in Oregon that pumps water out of the Columbia River to the Umatilla River basin for farmland purposes. This project is

expected to move water by 2020. The Integrated Plan identified Columbia River water as a supply possibility, but it has not recently been discussed. It's time to discuss this option. Chuck provided additional materials to include in the meeting notes.

Ann Lewis, Yakima Basin Coalition: Ann emphasized to irrigators that pumping Kachess Reservoir below the outlet level will ultimately reduce water availability to farms. She also suggested farmers in the Roza Irrigation District be aware that they will pay for the project, which is likely to cost greater than \$200 million.

Rob Aigner, Citizen: KDRPP does not make sense, and the Workgroup needs to consider other supply options. Rob doesn't oppose the plan as a whole; just this piece. He urged the Workgroup to reconsider moving forward with this project.

Shelly Ginger, Lake Kachess HOA: Draining Kachess Reservoir does not make sense. The original lake predated construction of the dam and was an alpine treasure. How will they fight fires? It will reduce visitors that support the economy of small towns along I-90. Shelly wonders if the Workgroup has studied all supply options there are to study and urges the Workgroup to reconsider.

John Reeves, Lake Kachess HOA: John requested more involvement from his organization, and emphasized there must be other water supply options beyond KDRPP.

Bill Campbell, Lake Kachess HOA: Bill mentioned multiple potential issues with KDRPP including well failures that need mitigation plans, issues with firefighting that have gone unaddressed, and that a study regarding private property values has been effectively ignored. Bill considers the Integrated Plan to be a closed process and would like better representation in the group and in decision making.

Brian Murphy, Save Lake Kachess: Brian mentioned that in 1993, Reclamation told him the lowest water level in Kachess Reservoir would not drop below the gravity gate. The EIS's have made little effort to address property owners' concerns. He considers litigation as a potential solution route, though it is wasteful. He wants to hear some definite answers about when and how mitigation will be provided to address landowner issues.

Cindy Conigson, Save Lake Kachess: Cindy has studied watersheds in the Snoqualmie Pass area, and stated that the natural watershed will not be able to recharge Kachess Reservoir after a drawdown. It will increase the potential for wildfires. She has significant disagreements with the process of choosing this project.

Grace Hamilton, Save Lake Kachess: KDRPP is not a good plan. She would like Representative Schrier to read the EIS and look the residents around Kachess Reservoir directly in the eye and tell them that it is good for her district.

Sam Baker, Lake Kachess HOA: Sam noted the various problems with reservoir drawdown such as impaired beach uses and inaccessibility of Little Kachess. Sam wants other supply options considered.

Dawn Wiedmeier reiterated that Reclamation intends to develop a tier 2 EIS that will contain a more in-depth analysis and enable additional public comment, followed by a final decision.

2019 Water Supply Forecast

Chris Lynch, Bureau of Reclamation, Columbia-Cascades Area Office: Reclamation forecasts water supply each month from March through July. Metrics that Chris presented include the following (as of March 1):

- Total precipitation at Yakima Airport: 117 percent of average
- Total precipitation at the Reservoirs: 95.5 percent of average
- Snow-water equivalent is slightly below average
- Total storage in the reservoir system is 86 percent of average.
- Total water supply available (TWSA) above the Parker gage currently is estimated at 2.75 million acre feet, which would result in 90 percent prorationing.

As in other years, the forecast will be updated from month to month throughout the irrigation season.

Workgroup Discussion:

None.

Public input on this agenda item:

None.

Teanaway Community Forest (TCF) Update

Mike Livingston, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), introduced this topic. WDFW and the Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR) jointly own and manage the TCF for multiple-use purposes. WDFW and DNR purchased the property with Integrated Plan funds in 2013, and numerous agencies have completed projects to transition the forest to a self-sustaining management regime, with more projects to come.

William Meyer, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, described the following recent accomplishments:

- Road maintenance and decommissioning – reduces sediment loads into rivers
- Recreation enhancements, including two grants for campground improvements
- 6 miles of grazing fencing installed, with more to come
- Removal of fish barriers
- Numerous volunteer opportunities including 1,150 volunteer hours to-date.

Ryan DeKnikker, Yakama Nation Fisheries, mentioned the Tribe is working on a hydrologic model and geomorphic assessment on the North Fork Teanaway River with the goal of improving side-channel and floodplain connection. Floodplain connection is poor due to channel incision. Nearby trees are generally small and when introduced to the river do not provide sufficient floodplain connection and habitat development.

Becca Wassell, Mid-Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group (MCF), noted the region has potential for floodplain and side-channel reconnection. MCF has designed wood-trapping structures that mimic large wood. MCF plans to install nine structures in the North Fork Teanaway River. The Yakima-Klickitat

Fisheries Program also intends to install 33 of their own wood trapping structures. Other projects include removal of a floodplain-blocking structure, previously referred to as a “splash dam” and loose wood placement. When the river’s energy is spread across the floodplain rather than kept in the river, there will be less scouring of gravel and less removal of woody materials that fish habitat requires.

Ryan also mentioned work occurring in the Indian Creek watershed. One notable project is the re-grade of a former railroad embankment, which will enable floodplain functions to occur.

Workgroup Discussion:

Jeff Tayer, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife: One goal of the Integrated Plan is to acquire 70,000 acres for land conservation. To provide the desired benefits, acquisitions must be coupled with restoration. Jeff is pleased with the extensive restoration activities occurring in the TCF.

Public input on this agenda item:

None.

Workgroup Roundtable

Tom Tebb, Washington Department of Ecology: Tom thanked Workgroup members and those who serve on subcommittees. He recognizes the importance of conservation, restoration, and all parties sticking with the process. The Phase III authorization is an incredible milestone, but there is much more to do. It’s time to think about what the next phase of this endeavor will be.

Dawn Wiedmeier, Bureau of Reclamation, Columbia-Cascades Area Office: Dawn thanked the day’s presenters. This is great work. Dawn congratulated the Workgroup and Implementation Committee members who traveled to and from Washington D.C. to get the legislation passed.

Bret Walters, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers: The Corps has been a minor player thus far, but Bret hopes to establish more Corps involvement in the Integrated Plan process. Bret congratulated everybody on recent successes.

Alex Conley, Yakima Basin Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board: Alex is excited to see good work moving forward.

Jason Romine, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service: Jason is excited about the Yakama Nation Bull Trout population management project. The rescue exercise is important, but the habitat restoration piece is also important so the fish have good habitat where they can thrive.

Matt Bischoff, Washington Department of Agriculture: It is exciting to see groups and individuals working together to move this plan forward.

Sid Morrison, Yakima Basin Storage Alliance: This group exists because of imbalances, particularly with water. There are two other imbalances to consider. Political imbalance – the Workgroup needs to express appreciation for bipartisan efforts that led to the signing of the bill. Another imbalance is energy. There will be imbalances with energy production and distribution as we consider and develop other energy sources.

Rick Dieker, Yakima Tieton Irrigation District: Thank you to everyone for your hard work.

Lisa Pelly, Trout Unlimited: Lisa thanked the State's Congressional delegation for their interest in the Integrated Plan and efforts in passing the bill. Lisa appreciates Reclamation for providing Representative Kim Schrier with a tour of Cle Elum Reservoir. Those kinds of events are important, so interested parties may talk about accomplishments and future projects and get to know each other in a personal way.

Dave Brown, City of Yakima: The City will sign a contract for Nelson Dam replacement next month, and is currently recharging water to the ground through their aquifer storage and recovery project.

Wendy McDermott, American Rivers: Wendy moved to Ellensburg for graduate school 10 years ago. She is proud to be working on the largest sockeye restoration in the lower 48 states. It takes a collaborative effort among all parties to make this happen. Not everyone supports every component of the plan, but it takes pushing on the same oar to make these things happen.

Mike Livingston, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife: "Ecosystem management" has previously been, primarily, an academic term, and Mike is proud to be putting the management techniques into practice. Mike considers it a career highlight. Both Federal and State legislation are now in place to support this, and he enjoys the process.

Phil Rigdon, Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation: Phil is pleased the legislation was signed on this long path. He recalls the first female Tribal Chair who sometimes clashed with Washington State officials. At a key meeting, she turned and asked Jay Manning and Derek Sandison (representing Ecology at the time) to, "do something good for the Yakama Nation." The cross-agency work done since then has resulted in great things. It is a true honor to work with these people. He noted his staff inspires him and he needs their support to continue forward. The support of the Tribal Council has been critical throughout the process. We hit milestones and immediately begin thinking about moving forward, but it's important to stop and take time to celebrate today.

Urban Eberhart, Kittitas Reclamation District: Through respect and civility, we have found a way to set up an ecosystem in which the economy and society will survive into the next century. This is not just about us here and now, but those who came before and those who will come after us well. This is a very special time for the Yakima River basin society.

Dale Bambrick, National Marine Fisheries Service: Dale sends his thanks to DNR, WDFW, and the Yakama Nation for the ongoing pace and scale of restoration on the TCF. He expects significant landscape changes will become visible within the next decade.

Scott Revell, Roza Irrigation District: Scott is pleased with the improved relationship between the irrigation districts and the WDFW. Scott reflected on Ron Van Gundy's role in establishing legislation for YRBWEP Phases I and II. He and others have learned that irrigators and environmental agencies have more in common than originally thought.

Jeff Tayer, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife: John Dingell Jr. was a giant of conservation, and through the naming of the public lands legislation after him, this process is now linked to him. Mr. Dingell authored the Dingell-Johnson Act in 1950, which has resulted in billions of dollars

for fish restoration across the Nation. Jeff is honored to have this linked to him and believes Mr. Dingell would have been proud of the Integrated Plan process.

After the roundtable, Tom Tebb mentioned that the *Acquavella* adjudication will be brought to a close after 42 years. He congratulated everyone who has participated in the longest court case in Washington State history.

Ben Floyd received an email from Mike Leita, Yakima County. He sends his appreciation to Tom Tebb and all Workgroup members and Integrated Plan team members on the signing of the Federal legislation. Ben also mentioned a potential change of meeting structure to include tours, such as Integrated Plan facilities. Some workgroup members and audience members are interested, so they will potentially consider including tours in upcoming meetings.

Upcoming Meetings

The next Workgroup meeting will be held on June 5, 2019, and is tentatively scheduled to be held in Yakima, Washington (9:30 a.m.), but this could change depending upon how the meeting plan comes together and if a tour is included. Stay tuned for additional details.

Attendance

Workgroup Members:

Dale Bambrick, National Marine Fisheries Service

Matt Bischoff, Washington Department of Agriculture (Workgroup Alternate for Jaclyn Hancock)

Dave Brown, City of Yakima (Workgroup Alternate for Carmen Mendez)

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

Alex Conley, Yakima Basin Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board

Ron Cowin P.E., Sunnyside Valley Irrigation District

Seth Defoe, Kennewick Irrigation District

Rick Dieker, Yakima-Tieton Irrigation District

Urban Eberhart, Kittitas Reclamation District

Mike Livingston, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

Sid Morrison, Yakima Basin Storage Alliance

Wendy McDermott, American Rivers

Jerrod MacPherson, Benton County (Workgroup Alternate for Jerome Delvin)

Lisa Pelly, Trout Unlimited

Scott Revell, Roza Irrigation District and Chair of Water Use Subcommittee

Jason Romine, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Phil Rigdon, Confederated Bands and Tribes of the Yakama Nation

Jeff Tayer, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and Chair of Habitat Subcommittee

Tom Tebb, Washington State Department of Ecology

Erick Walker, U.S. Forest Service

Bret Walters, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Dawn Wiedmeier, Bureau of Reclamation, Columbia-Cascades Area Office

Cory Wright, Kittitas County

Other Attendees:

Rob Aigner, Citizen
Nora Boylan, Oregon State University
Mary and Paul Brault, Save Lake Kachess
Douglass Brewer, Citizen
Byron Bridges, Yakima Valley Farmer
Russ Byington, Yakama Nation Fisheries
Michael Callahan, Washington State Department of Ecology
Bill Campbell, Lake Kachess HOA
Debbie Carlson, Bonneville Power Administration
Charlie de la Chapelle, Yakima Basin Storage Alliance
Mark Cook, Kittitas County
Stuart Crane, Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation
Jane Creech, Washington Department of Ecology
Raquel Ferrell Crowley, Office of Senator Patty Murray
Ryan DeKnikker, Yakama Nation Fisheries
Jeanne Demorest, Bureau of Reclamation, Columbia-Cascades Area Office
Karen Dera, Bureau of Reclamation - Columbia-Cascades Area Office
Richard Dills, Yakama Nation Engineering
Melissa Downes, Washington State Department of Ecology
Jack and Beneitta Eaton, Landowners
Rich Evans, Office of Senator Maria Cantwell
Kevin Eslinger, Kittitas Reclamation District
Carrey Fincham-Galloway, Lake Kachess HOA
Ben Floyd, White Bluffs Consulting
Tim and Jean Fountain, Lake Kachess HOA
Chuck Freeman, Kennewick Irrigation District
Kathryn Furr, U.S. Forest Service
Denis Fury, Save Lake Kachess
Tom Garrison, Yakima Valley Farmer
Lonnie Gienger, Citizen
Andrew Graham, HDR Engineering, Inc.
Dan Graves, HDR Engineering, Inc.
Grace Hamilton, Save Lake Kachess
Justin Harter, Naches-Selah Irrigation District
Elayne Hovde, Bureau of Reclamation, Columbia-Cascades Area Office
Joel Hubble, Kittitas Reclamation District
Christine Johnson, Lake Kachess HOA
Brad Jonas, Lake Kachess HOA
Tim King, Citizen
Brady Kent, Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation

Chuck Klarich, Yakima Basin Storage Alliance
Sandy and Gary Knauft, Save Lake Kachess
Cindy Konigson, Save Lake Kachess
Anna Lael, Kittitas County Conservation District
Grant Learned Sr., Land Owner
Ann Lewis, Yakima Basin Coalition
Edward Lizowski, Citizen
Julia Long, Bureau of Reclamation, Columbia-Cascades Area Office
Chris Lynch, Bureau of Reclamation, Columbia-Cascades Area Office
Tyler Mackay, Office of Representative Kim Schrier
Steve Malloch, Western Water Futures LLC (alternate for American Rivers)
David McKenzie, Kennewick Irrigation District
Jason McShane, Kennewick Irrigation District
Sharlett Mena, Washington Department of Ecology
Jean Mendoza, Friends of Toppenish Creek
William Meyer, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Jim Milton, Yakima-Tieton Irrigation District
Brian Murphy, Save Lake Kachess
Bryan Myre, Yakama Reservation Irrigation District
Todd Newsome, Yakama-Klickitat Fisheries Project
Scott Nicolai, Yakama-Klickitat Fisheries Project
Sage Park, Washington Department of Ecology
Tim Poppleton, Washington State Department of Ecology
Bruce Poulin, Citizen
Cole Province, Washington Department of Ecology
Joye Redfield-Wilder, Washington Department of Ecology
John Reeves, Lake Kachess HOA
Tom Ring, Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation
Jeanne Sheldon, Lake Kachess HOA
Danielle Squeochs, Washington State Department of Ecology
Bruce Sully, Bureau of Reclamation, Columbia-Cascades Area Office
Jennifer Stephens, Washington State Department of Ecology
Sara Vickers, Kittitas Reclamation District
Richard Visser, Bureau of Reclamation, Columbia-Cascades Area Office
Rebecca Wassell, Mid-Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group
Gordon Wind, Wapato Irrigation Project
Judith Windsor-Newman, Citizen
Laine Young, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

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.

Audience Submissions

Submission from Chuck Klarich

Pipeline complex in the Umatilla Basin would bring Columbia River water to farmland.

The Umatilla project would provide water for 3 different areas in the Umatilla Basin. The 3 pipelines each 6½ feet in diameter will transfer water from the Columbia River to the farms. Part of the mitigation would eliminate the need to continue pumping groundwater. Groundwater retention could provide additional water for the Umatilla River.

40 years ago, a Columbia River pumping project provided water for farms and instream flow. This new project would enhance the population of salmonids in the Umatilla River. The first phase of the Columbia River water project for the Umatilla Basin farms will begin in 2019. Secured bank financing will enable the project to go online in 2020.

The Yakima River Basin Workplan includes a review of the use of Columbia River water for the Yakima Basin. Ten years have passed, and the Yakima Integrated Plan Work Group has not considered how the transfer and storage of Columbia River water would address all the needs for agriculture, fish and the economy in the Basin.

The question is why have other regions been able to benefit from the Columbia River but not the Yakima Basin? It's time to move forward toward solving the Yakima Basin's water problem for the next century.

Charles Klarich
Concerned Resident



Submission from Christine Johnson

Written Comments Submitted March 13, 2019

Good morning,

My name is Christine Johnson and I am the President of the Kachess Community Association – a homeowners association representing 163 parcels of land near Lake Kachess.

I am here today to share my number one reason for opposing the Kachess Drought Relief Pumping Plant and that it:

WHEN KDRPP IS PUT INTO OPERATION AND A MAJOR DRAW DOWN OCCURS, HOW LONG WILL THE LAKE TAKE TO REFILL??

This point should be of vital concern not only to residents of upper Kittitas County who rely on Lake Kachess water for fire fighting efforts, for well water and for recreation – but it should also be of VITAL to those concerned about the health of the fish population in Kachess and downstream and MOST OF ALL to the downstream recipients of KDRPP generated water.

If KDRPP is put into operation, but then Lake Kachess fails to refill in subsequent years, the project will fail, not only to meet it's objectives, but it could put all parties who rely on Kachess water in a far worse position than they were in had KDRPP never been constructed.

Lake Kachess is already a deficit water shed. In other words, the current system already has the ability to draw more water out of the lake than the water shed above it can refill in an average season.

KDRPP proposes to more than double the amount of water that can be withdrawn from Lake Kachess.

Using only DEIS and SDEIS information, the question of whether or not Lake Kachess water levels will recover after a major draw down is unclear.

The 2015 SDEIS acknowledged this fact and stated very clearly that any pumping plant on Lake Kachess would REQUIRE A REFILL MECHANISM and that the KDRPP project could NOT stand on its own. It proposed a refill mechanism of a conveyance pipe to move water from Lake Keechelus to Lake Kachess. It also stated that without KKC, Lake Kachess would not refill for 20 years.

Fast forward to the 2018 SDEIS and the just published 2019 EIS. KKC becomes too expensive or difficult to construct for the small amount of refill water it can produce. So suddenly the refill data radically changes. Kachess no longer needs a refill mechanism.

The EIS states that the KDRPP-Floating Pumping Plant is the Preferred Alternative. And without the previously critical refill mechanism.

It leads me to ask – what changed between 2015 and now:

2015 – MUST have a refill mechanism or the lake will not refill for 20 years

Today – No refill mechanism needed

I think anyone who relies on Lake Kachess water being available from year to year should be asking this question. Because after a major draw down is too late to realize that the lake may never recover.

Christine Johnson
40 Mt. View Lane
Easton, WA