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Tom Tebb, Washington State Department of Ecology, (509) 574-3989**

Meeting Notes

Yakima River Basin Water Enhancement Project Workgroup

December 13, 2023

In-person and WebEx Virtual Meeting

Welcome, Introductions, and Agenda Overview

Ben Floyd of White Bluffs Consulting welcomed the Yakima River Basin Water Enhancement Project (YRBWEP) Workgroup members and other attendees participating virtually and in person.

- Lori Brady of the Sunnyside Valley Irrigation District introduced David Felman as the incoming general manager when she retires in June 2024. Rick Dieker of the Yakima-Tieton Irrigation District (YTID) introduced Travis Okelberry as the incoming manager when he retires at the end of February 2024.

The following notes summarize the YRBWEP Workgroup presentations and public comments. For more information, please see the full presentations on the Yakima Basin Integrated Plan (YBIP) website: [Yakima Basin Integrated Plan](#).

Executive and Implementation Committee Updates

Wendy Christensen, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation): Wendy shared exciting news about the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL)-funded WaterSMART program: YRBWEP-related projects received \$8.3 million in grant funding, including two for the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation (Yakama Nation) on the Naches Fish Survival project (\$2 million) and the Yakima River Mile 89.5 Side Channel project (\$600,000). Kittitas Conservation Trust's (KCT's) Gold Creek Restoration Phase 2 project received \$2.5 million, and Kittitas Reclamation District's (KRD's) South Branch Piping project received \$3 million. More information can be found in the [press release](#) announcing these grant recipients.

Wendy also announced a recent land exchange between Reclamation, the City of Ellensburg, and Twin City Foods. The Schaake Land Exchange adds approximately 75 acres along the Yakima River to the Schaake Habitat Improvement project (total acreage for floodplain restoration: 205 acres). Reclamation plans to include this new property in the revegetation efforts for the rest of the Schaake property.

The Clear Creek Dam Fish Passage project is undergoing environmental compliance. Reclamation plans to share a draft environmental assessment (EA) with the public because of its location within the recreational area. The agency is partnering with the United States Forest Service (USFS) and the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology). The EA will be out for public comment from January 2 through 17 and will be announced in a news release that will be posted on Reclamation's website. For more information, please contact Bruce Sully, project manager.

Tom Tebb, Washington State Department of Ecology: Ecology is working with YBIP subcommittee chairs and grant recipients for the current biennium (2023–2025), \$49 million capital budget

appropriation. As those progress, the Office of Columbia River is also preparing the state 2025–2027 capital budget request and the fiscal year (FY) 2025 federal appropriations request and will continue to work closely with the YBIP Executive Committee and various subcommittees to determine what an appropriate request would be for the State Capital Budget request in the 2025-2027 biennium.

Ecology has developed a draft 2021 Implementation Status and 2022 Cost Estimate and Financing Plan Combined Report for the Yakima River Basin Integrated Water Resource Management Plan. The report was shared with the Executive Committee and is under review by the Washington State Office of Financial Management and the Washington State Governor’s Office. Ecology expects to be able to release the report to the legislature and public once final approval is given by the Governor’s Office and OFM soon.

C: Rick Dieker of YTID reported that the alternatives appraisal study for the Tieton River Restoration project is under review by the full Executive Committee and other agencies. This draft report was produced through the adaptive management process to evaluate new proposals and new alternatives to meet the goals and objectives of the Integrated Plan. YTID plans to meet with the Water Use Subcommittee in January 2024 to identify ways to potentially move that project forward and select a preferred alternative with YBIP stakeholders and partners.

C: Jeff Tayer of the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) recognized that the Gold Creek and Clear Creek projects are essential for bull trout restoration. He also acknowledged the various agency partnerships and people who worked on the Schaake acquisition and noted the amount of work going on to benefit the basin is a significant increase from where we started.

Framework for Project Selection and Groundwater Recharge

Danielle Squeochs of the Yakama Nation presented an overview of a framework for selecting surface-water and groundwater storage opportunities and the various factors considered in determining appropriate projects and areas for these projects. Generally, the simpler and less costly storage projects provide less certain, more localized benefits. In contrast, more expensive and complex projects can be used to provide broader basin-wide benefits with more certainty but can often be more challenging to implement successfully. Some low-cost groundwater recharge opportunities, such as natural infrastructure, stream restoration and floodplain reconnection, and forest management projects, can provide greater ecosystem and habitat benefits while addressing water-supply concerns. Other managed groundwater recharge projects that may cost more require additional resources, such as staffing, maintenance, design, and engineering work.

The Groundwater Storage Subcommittee has worked to identify areas where groundwater storage can address water-supply needs in the Yakima Basin. These opportunities include:

- Holistic watershed restoration
- Shallow groundwater storage—specifically alluvial fan structures
- Municipal aquifer storage and recovery (ASR)
- Agricultural ASR—regions with available storage (basalts)

The subcommittee has explored the following projects within the basin:

- Natural Infrastructure and Restoration
 - Alluvial Fan Groundwater Storage
 - Indian Creek Stream Restoration
 - Teanaway Groundwater Study
- Shallow Groundwater Recharge
 - Springwood Managed Aquifer Recharge (MAR) Evaluation
 - Yakima River Groundwater Infiltration
 - Taneum Creek Groundwater Recharge
 - Toppenish Fan Groundwater Recharge
- Agricultural ASR
 - Rattlesnake/Konnowac Pass MAR
 - Basalt ASR Assessment
- Municipal ASR
 - City of Moxee
 - City of Prosser
 - City of Ellensburg
 - City of Yakima
- Measurement and Monitoring
 - Yakima Basin Measurement and Monitoring

Danielle also shared an update on groundwater storage opportunities for the Toppenish Fan Shallow Aquifer Recharge (TFSAR) and Taneum Pilot projects.

Toppenish Fan Shallow Aquifer Recharge project: This project is located on the Yakama Reservation, southwest of White Swan. Because of flood control and changes in hydrology, the groundwater storage in the Toppenish fan shallow alluvial aquifer has decreased, and historical springs are no longer active. This reduced storage has impacted flows to Simcoe and Toppenish Creeks. The project aims to restore springs and improve flows.

The results from this project showed that water recharged to TFSAR returns to Simcoe Creek, seeps, and springs located northeast of the project area. The groundwater mound (15 feet) returned to pre-recharge conditions by late October, with little to no carryover storage. The project effectively mimics groundwater recharge that would have otherwise occurred through flooding.

Taneum Creek MAR pilot project: Dr. Maria Daugherty of Jacobs Engineering and the KRD consultant provided an overview of the Taneum Creek MAR pilot project. KRD assessed MAR potential in the Kittitas Basin and identified 57 high-ranking locations suitable for MAR application. As part of the pilot test, four groundwater monitoring wells were installed at Reclamation’s Heart K property near Taneum Creek, the highest-ranking site, and a streamflow monitoring program was developed in 2020 at four streams in the Kittitas Basin, with additional sites added in 2022. The tests confirmed that a significant amount of water could be discharged to the ground, and a recharge project would not impact groundwater quality in this area.

The pilot test data set also indicated that water applied to the surface at the Taneum Creek project area percolates quickly to the water table and causes a rise in the local water table elevation. The aquifer at the Taneum Creek project area will likely discharge to Taneum Creek at, or near, the confluence with

the Yakima River. Discharged water will likely be delayed approximately 6 to 8 weeks before releasing to the Yakima River.

Q: Can you discuss the impacts of temperature?

Danielle: *We have temperature issues throughout the Yakima Basin, including the tributaries. Groundwater recharge has the potential to improve water quality. When you have 400 cfs [cubic feet per second] in the Yakima River and 20 cfs in cool groundwater, it'll give you local spots of thermal refugia but does not shift the temperature dramatically. When you're in a tributary creek where you have groundwater returns, you'll see a big shift in temperature. The temperature benefits for groundwater recharge are shown in the headwaters and upper systems. We're not going to fix the lower Yakima River with groundwater recharge, but we can do some other things to look at the whole system to see if we can move the dial a bit.*

Q: For the pilot area, do we have an estimate of how long that water could continue to run once you've stopped adequate water supply?

Danielle: *The next stage of this project will focus on the duration of water running in this area after the water supply has stopped.*

Q: Have you seen water in those springs since you started this project?

Danielle: *Yes, for limited time frames. We have done some streamflow monitoring during the season, and in 2020, we saw reactivation in one of the springs. The project's next steps would be improving the diversion infrastructure to deliver more water through the site.*

Conjunctive Surface-Water and Groundwater Management as a Catalyst for Yakima River Basin Water Marketing

Arden Thomas of Kittitas County presented the concept of conjunctive surface-water and groundwater management in the Yakima River Basin. This presentation included a historical overview of surface-water rights, statutes, and significant activities dating back to the 1890s. Water banking activities in the Yakima River Basin have taken place since 2010. Below is a list of Yakima River Basin water programs for exempt wells:

- **2015:** Kittitas County Public Water Bank Program
- **2017:** Yakima County Water Resource System
- **2020:** Benton County Rural Water Supply Program

In July 2021, the Washington State Legislature provided up to \$14 million in funding to buy water to develop water banks in rural headwater counties. The funding goals were to help public entities preserve local water rights and protect instream flows.

Arden reviewed Kittitas County's Public Bank Program Expansion, which aims to:

- Expand Kittitas County-exempt well water banks to include mitigation for Group-A water systems
- Acquire a water right for bank expansion (for the benefit of the City of Kittitas)

- Establish an interlocal agreement between the City of Kittitas and Kittitas County
- Update the Kittitas County Code, Master Trust Water Rights Agreement, and other forms and procedures

In 2024, the Municipal Subgroup will establish a steering committee to identify municipal water-supply needs, tools, resources, and partners to meet those needs. The committee will identify vulnerabilities, projected growth and demand, and barriers to municipal water supply. The group will also develop and advocate for specific projects to address gaps in municipal water supply, including tools and outreach materials.

Q: Can other valley communities or towns apply the same strategies that the City of Kittitas and Kittitas County deployed to establish interlocal agreements for water banks?

Arden: *The Municipal Subgroup is looking to identify towns with that need. If the proviso is changed and expanded to additional counties, they can participate in these public water bank programs.*

Q: Are temporary (single water-year) market-based water transfers allowed between irrigation districts? For example, could KRD sell temporary water rights to the Roza Irrigation District (Roza)?

Response: *Temporary water transfers are allowed consistent with state rules.*

Public Comment

Dan Peplow: From 2008 to 2016, I collaborated with the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) to address the issues that were articulated in this forum. I’ve attended the meetings and been in Maria Cantwell’s office in [Washington,] D.C. We really worked to understand what the goals were and tried to get ahead of them. We met with Bryan Mercier at the BIA. Bryan said he would talk to the superintendent in Toppenish. I worked with him closely. We built a conservation plan together that addressed the goals of this group and met my business goals. There was a joint project combined with production and conservation. We replaced non-native irrigation-dependent foliage plants with native plants that did not require irrigation. It was a significant investment and cost me about \$1,000 an acre. The BIA, specifically Dave Shaw, the superintendent, offset those expenses through waivers, operations, and maintenance. We met approximately 3 percent of the goals that were specified by this group at the time. I was told by people in this room that it was insignificant. I’m not here to tell you that it was not insignificant. In 2016 (I’m wondering if it coincides with the \$78 million the BIA received to enhance their infrastructure), the BIA overturned the project and just completely withdrew relief, demanded waivers, tarnished my Social Security, and put a lien on my property. They refuse to discuss their 180-degree policy reversal. People here have said it’s messy working with the public. I’m here to ask this group, the BIA, and the working group to agree to a facilitated discussion of the issues I’m describing:

- Support, don’t oppose, producer-level conservation
- Support, don’t oppose, water sharing to offset water shortages

Chris Maykut, Friends of Bumping Lake: I am submitting an LA Times column by Michael Hiltzik from November 12, 2023, entitled “This water project is expensive, wasteful and ecologically damaging. Why is it being fast-tracked?” The secondary headline is “The Sites Reservoir won’t provide much

water to farmers and urban residents, but it will cost a fortune and wreak unimaginable environmental damage.”

I would like to read a section of this article that parallels my organization’s views of the workgroup’s misguided and controversial plans for Bumping Lake.

“The last major on-stream reservoir project in the state was... the construction of Diamond Valley Lake, an off-stream reservoir completed by the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California in 1999. That brought to a close a dam-building era in California that had been launched in 1923 by the construction of O’Shaughnessy Dam, which flooded the picturesque Hetch Hetchy Valley to provide drinking water for San Francisco. In the interim, Californians built more than 800 dams. By the end of that period, the outsized cost of building dams and the ecological damage they do was becoming recognized, as were options that are far more cost-effective, efficient and ecologically sound. Indeed, America as a whole has shifted to tearing dams down — more than 1,100 have been removed in recent years, in an effort to return the ecosystems that they spoiled to their pre-construction conditions. The most effective programs to improve water supplies don’t require dams. “The smartest thing we can do is improve conservation and efficiency,” says [Peter Gleick of the Pacific Institute], “to expand wastewater treatment and re-use, which we’re doing, and especially to figure out how to capture more stormwater not in surface reservoirs, but in groundwater. There needs to be a lot more of that. Those are the smartest, cheapest, fastest things we can do.”

David Ortman:

The following comment was provided to the Yakima Workgroup at the March 8, 2023 meeting: RCW 90.38.100(1) requires a Yakima River Basin Integrated Water Resource Management Plan Implementation Status Report to the Legislature and to the Governor and Section (2) requires, by December 1, 2021, a statement of progress in achieving the water supply facility permit and funding milestone, as defined in RCW 90.38.010. As of the beginning of March 2023, this status report has still not been provided. In response to the status of this 2021 report at the December 14, 2022, Workgroup meeting, Ecology noted that this report was still not final. As it is now 1 year and 3 months overdue, what is the status of this report?

Response: Thank you for your comment. The referenced report is currently undergoing internal review and is delayed due to some staff changes that have occurred over the course of 2022. Ecology will publish the report once it is finalized and completed.

It is now December 13, 2023, over TWO YEARS past the December 1, 2021, Implementation Status Report. What is the status of this report?

Also, the March 8, 2023, meeting notes included Wendy Christensen’s statement that: “Reclamation’s Technical Service Center engineers from Denver will be conducting a Value Planning Study later this month and are here to look at potential storage sites in the mid- to lower-basin.” **Has this Value Planning Study been completed?**

Last month, the Department of Ecology issued an (attached) Public Notice of Application by the United States Department of Interior for Extension of the Period of Withdrawal of the Unappropriated Waters of the Columbia River and Its Tributaries (November 26, December 3, 10, and 17, 2023) with a comment deadline of 30 days from December 17, 2023. Questions concerning the notice were sent to both Ecology and the Bureau of Reclamation on Nov. 27, 2023. Ecology and the Bureau of Reclamation

have determined that the Public Notice text incorrectly cited to extension of the period of withdraw from further appropriation of all the presently appropriated waters of the Columbia River and its tributaries. However, other than a voice mail from the Bureau of Reclamation confirming that the proposed withdrawal is meant to facilitate the potential for an inter basin transfer from the Columbia River [as committed to in the Yakima Plan FPEIS, p. 2-24, March 2012,¹ which would include the Yakima Basin Storage Alliance's Black Rock Project] no written response has been received to the following concerning the Public Notice:

- Paragraph four stated that only “unappropriated” waters occurring within the State of Washington and located upstream from Priest Rapids Dam would be affected. This would include all Columbia River and all tributaries extending upstream to Canada. Paragraph two stated that during the proposed extension period such water cannot be further appropriated “unless formerly released by the United States.” **Does this mean that the United States must formerly sign off on any water permit application for ANY Columbia River tributary water above Priest Rapids Dam?**
- Paragraph one stated that the Department of Interior application was made by the Department of Interior in accordance with the provisions of Federal reclamation law and Chapter 90.40 RCW. **Please provide specific references to the Federal reclamation law mentioned.**

The public notice did not cite to any specific sections of Chapter 90.40 RCW. RCW 90.40.030, Notice and certificate, states:

- Whenever the secretary of the interior of the United States, or any officer of the United States duly authorized, shall notify the commissioner of public lands of this state that pursuant to the provisions of the act of congress approved June 17, 1902, entitled, “An act appropriating the receipts from the sale and disposal of public lands in certain states and territories to the construction of irrigation works for the reclamation of arid lands,” or any amendment of said act or substitute therefor, the United States intends to make examinations or surveys for the utilization of certain specified waters, the waters so described shall not thereafter be subject to appropriation under any law of this state for a period of one year from and after the date of the receipt of such notice by such commissioner of public lands; but such notice shall not in any wise affect the appropriation of any water theretofore in good faith initiated under any law of this state, but such appropriation may be completed in accordance with the law in the same manner and to the same extent as though such notice had not been given.

If this is the section of Chapter 90.40 RCW that is being activated, why is there no mention of the Commissioner of Public Lands, or the limitation of appropriation exemptions to only one year? If not, please identify what sections of Chapter 90.40 RCW apply.

Paragraph three stated that the United States intends to utilize “unappropriated waters” to satisfy various purposes authorized under the Act of February 20, 2003 (PL-108-7). This is puzzling. The only applicable reference in PL-108-7 appears to be Title II Sec. 214: “The Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Bureau of Reclamation, shall conduct a feasibility study of options for additional water storage in the Yakima River Basin, Washington, with emphasis on the feasibility of storage of Columbia River water in the potential Black Rock Reservoir and the benefit of additional storage to endangered and threatened fish, irrigated agriculture, and municipal water supply. There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out this Act.” However, in 2008 the BuRec already conducted this water storage feasibility study on Black Rock (and on page 2-131 rejected a new

Bumping Lake alternative: “Because of the reasons stated above, Reclamation has concluded that the proposal for Bumping Lake Enlargement Alternative will be eliminated from further consideration in the Storage Study.”) . **What are the “various purposes” authorized PL-108-7 mentioned in this notice? Does BuRec intend to use “unappropriated” water to resurrect the Black Rock project?**

Paragraph five stated that the subject withdrawal was “initiated by notice filed by the Secretary of Interior on December 28, 2004, stating that the United States intended to make examinations and surveys for the possible utilization of such waters for projects evaluated under the Yakima River Basin Integrated Water Resources Management Plan.” This is factually incorrect. **How was this possible as the Washington Department of Ecology did not formulate the “Yakima Plan” until 2009 (before the first ever meeting of the Yakima Workgroup)? This is NOT what the Secretary of Interior’s December 28, 2004, letter says, and the Public Notice should be corrected.**

Finally, was the Department of Interior’s intent to file a Notice of Application for an Extension reviewed by the Yakima Workgroup or Office of Columbia River’s Policy Advisory Group at any of their past meetings? If so, on what date?

Response: Thank you for your comment.

Jay Schwartz: I want to just thank Danielle and Maria for the nicely put together, informative presentation. In future renditions, if we could address the degree to which additional projects affect existing domestic groundwater wells, particularly in areas like Lake Kachess, that would be super helpful because that’s when those projects can kind of move from a win-win to a win-lose status. Thanks for squeezing me in.

Follow-Up: 2023 Water Management and Climate Update, Carryover Storage, and 2024 Look-Ahead Update

Nick Bond, Washington State Climatologist, University of Washington:

Nick shared the 2024 climate update with the workgroup. He reported that there will be an El Niño season and showed a range of how strong it will be. Trends for stronger El Niño seasons show that they tend to have abnormal precipitation, as opposed to less intense seasons with drier conditions, which could affect water supply in the basin. Nick reviewed the precipitation numbers from early December 2023. Areas west of the Cascade Mountains received about 3 to 4 inches of precipitation, compared to the Yakima River Basin watershed, which received about 1 inch. Generally, for December 2023, precipitation levels are above normal in the Yakima River Basin but are trending as a normal water year. Nick expects a warmer than normal winter season, which could result in less snowpack.

Chris Lynch, Reclamation

Chris reported a dry October (23 percent of average) and below-average November (80 percent of average) for carryover storage in the Yakima River Basin’s five reservoirs. The first third of December showed a 109 percent average for storage, and December 1 recorded 143,000 acre-feet of storage. Generally, the reservoirs are carrying low storage, and it is difficult to predict the rain and snowfall in the coming months. However, the storage impacts may be less severe if 2024 shows similar conditions to the 2016 El Niño season.

Jason McShane, Kennewick Irrigation District (KID)

Jason presented examples of demand management practices that KID is implementing and how they are communicating to affected growers, homeowners, and irrigators about potential drought impacts. He pointed out specific challenges related to different information being shared regarding water use and drought from national, state, regional, and local media; and how it can sometimes create an inaccurate perception about local drought conditions. He pointed to a public education campaign they have put together to educate and share helpful water conservation tips with the local communities.

Ethan Lockwood, Washington Water Trust (WWT)

Ethan shared an update on WWT's work in the Teanaway River, including its 2023 Drought Lease Program. WWT has been working throughout the state since 1988, specifically on voluntary water transactions and market-based tools to improve and protect instream flows. WWT's Drought Leasing Program, funded by Ecology, pays senior water users to forgo available water and improve baseflow conditions during severe water years. Through the program WWT contacted 12 senior water users with a 2-week deadline to respond to the initial ask. Out of the 12 water users, 4 responded, and WWT was able to contract with 3. WWT conducted compliance monitoring during this period to ensure that other water-right holders did not use the water they had acquired for instream flow. A combination of the lease programs and curtailment orders generated a positive response for flows in the Teanaway River.

Ethan noted that funding is important to engage and contract with landowners. Additional coordination with the local water master, Ecology, and WDFW is required to understand curtailment timing, priorities, and other drought triggers. WWT is interested in establishing contracts with landowners that they can activate in an emergency drought situation.

Focus on Recent Kachess Watershed Bull Trout Activities

Todd Newsome, Yakama Nation Fisheries

Todd provided an update on the Yakama Nation's Bull Trout Rescue and Rear Program. The program focuses on rearing and releasing bull trout into tributaries that offer hope for self-sustainability.

Mark Divins, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

Mark noted that WDFW regularly conducts spawning surveys within the Yakima River Basin in the fall (September through November) for several bull trout populations. For the last 5 years, agency staff and partners have collected data in the field using iPads fed into a statewide database. Paper records are also being inputted to review long-term spawning trends. Mark reported that the spawning numbers are looking good this year.

Mitch Long, Kittitas Conservation Trust

Mitch shared updates on the completion of the Kachess River Restoration project. KCT and agency partners restored more than 1 mile of Kachess River and associated floodplain that included more than 60 large wood structures and almost 14,000 plants. The restoration work occurred from May through September 2023. KCT has identified 2.5 miles of river in Gold Creek suitable for restoration and will look into potential funding sources to complete that work.

Scott Kline, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

Scott reported on the Box Canyon Creek Fish Passage Flume project. Box Canyon Creek is the tributary to the Kachess Reservoir and hosts one of three bull trout populations in the upper Yakima River Basin. Since installing the new flume, WDFW has observed fish detections in this area, including 10 redds.

C: Jeff Tayer, WDFW: We weren't sure how many bull trout we had left in Kachess; the spawning numbers were so low. It's gratifying to see that they're still there and the second highest redd count we've seen immediately after the restoration effort. None of this would have been happening 10 years ago, and I can't help but be impressed at how responsive Roza Irrigation District (Roza) and KRD were in helping with the Box Canyon Creek flume.

C: Tom Tebb (Ecology): The flume installation was completed in a day and a half, due in part to Roza and KRD's assistance.

Q: Did Roza or KRD obtain an NPDES [National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System] permit for the discharge of straw and plastic into Lake Kachess, as has happened in past years when this was tried?

Response: *Thank you for your question. A permit was not required for this temporary condition. All items used were disposed of properly.*

2023 Highlights

Wendy shared the 2023 Yakima Basin Integrated Plan Highlights document with the workgroup. She thanked all the agency partners and staff who contributed articles. Specifically, she thanked Abbey Gatlin, Jordynn Eld, and Michael Coffey for assembling this edition. The 2023 Highlights will be made available on Reclamation's website, and hard copies will be available in January 2024.

Roundtable Discussion/Recognition: Workgroup Members

Ben Floyd, on behalf of the YRBWEP Workgroup, recognized Rick Dieker for his 44 years of service to the Yakima River Basin. Rick is retiring at the end of February 2024. Rick was honored with a framed photo, e-card, and gift card; several workgroup members congratulated him on his retirement and thanked him for his contributions to the YBIP and the YRBWEP Workgroup.

David Blodgett of the Yakama Nation expressed appreciation for the workgroup and its membership over the years.

Brandon Parsons of American Rivers expressed gratitude for being part of the workgroup. He is also interested in participating in project tours before or after the March workgroup meeting and other future meetings.

Arden Thomas of Kittitas County recognized that additional work needs to be done based on the information shared in the water-supply forecast presentation.

Chad Stuart of Reclamation recognized our partnership with Rick Dieker and all the hard work that continues to be completed by the group and is hoping for a lot of snow this winter.

Joe Blodgett of the Yakama Nation shared encouragement for the recent bull trout results.

Charlie de la Chappelle of the Yakima Basin Storage Alliance said it was encouraging to see the progress within the basin, including the groundwater recharge work. He requested an update on the status of the draft Environmental Impact Statement for Kachess.

Alex Conley of the Yakima Basin Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board expressed excitement for the work in Kachess. The Salmon Recovery Funding Board is meeting to approve two new grant rounds for riparian projects in January 2024.

Mike Livingston of WDFW appreciated all the bull trout updates shared at the meeting.

Craig Haskell of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service appreciated all the work in the upper Yakima River Basin to help bull trout, especially the monitoring data being used to inform current and future work in the basin.

Jason McShane of KID noted that a workgroup meeting will be held in the Tri-Cities in 2024. He is excited to see everyone there.

Kathryn Furr of USFS thanked KCT for its work in the Kachess River. She was excited to see the response in redd bull trout numbers and acknowledged the Yakama Nation for its work to help those populations.

Upcoming Meeting

The next workgroup meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 13, 2024, from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The meeting will be held at Hotel Windrow, 501 N Main Street, in Ellensburg, Washington.

Please note that the original announcement mentioned Richland as the venue for this meeting, but the schedule has been updated. The Tri-Cities will now host the June workgroup meeting.

Attendance

Workgroup Members:

Adam Fyall, Benton County (alternate for Will McKay)

Alex Conley, Yakima Basin Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board

Arden Thomas, Kittitas County (alternate for Cory Wright)

Brandon Parsons, American Rivers

Chad Stuart, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (alternate for Chris Duke)

Charlie de la Chapelle, Yakima Basin Storage Alliance

Craig Haskell, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Crystal Elliot, Trout Unlimited

Danielle Squeochs, Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation

David Blodgett, Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation (alternate for Phil Rigdon)

David Haws, Yakima County

Jaelyn Hancock, Washington State Department of Agriculture

Jason McShane, Kennewick Irrigation District and Lower River Subcommittee Chair

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

Joe Blodgett, Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation

Kathryn Furr, United States Forest Service

Larry Leach, Washington State Department of Natural Resources
Lori Brady, Sunnyside Valley Irrigation District (alternate for Ron Cowin)
Mike Livingston, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Mike Shane, City of Yakima
Peter Dykstra, Watershed Lands Conservation Subcommittee Chair
Rick Dieker, Yakima-Tieton Irrigation District
Scott Revell, Roza Irrigation District and Water Use Subcommittee Chair
Sean Gross, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (National Marine Fisheries Service)
Seth Defoe, Kennewick Irrigation District
Tom Tebb, Washington State Department of Ecology
Urban Eberhart, Kittitas Reclamation District
Wendy Christensen, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, Columbia-Cascades Area Office

Other Attendees:

Abbey Gatlin, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
Alan Chapman
Annie Gibbs
Ben Floyd, White Bluffs Consulting
Ben Woodard, Kennewick Irrigation District
Bob Main, Kittitas Reclamation District
Chris Lynch, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
Chris Maykut, Friends of Bumping Lake
Christina Frantz, Washington State Department of Natural Resources
Cynthia Carlstad, Northwest Hydraulic Consultants
Daniel Peplow, Heirloom Cattle Ranch
Dave Brown
David Felman, Sunnyside Valley Irrigation District
David Mckenzie, Kennewick Irrigation District
David Ortman
David Reavill, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Dennis Sandstrom, HDR Engineering, Inc.
Devin Stoker, Jacobs Engineering
Ed Lisowski
Elaine Packard
Erin Cox, Jacobs Engineering
Ethan Lockwood, Washington Water Trust
Glenn Grette, Grette Associates
Heather May, Washington State Department of Ecology
Hernann Ambion, HDR Engineering, Inc.
Jason Douglas, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Jay Schwartz
Jean Mendoza
Jeff Dermond, Washington State Department of Ecology
Jenelle Jansik Cooper
Joel Hubble, Yakima Basin Joint Board of Irrigators
John Cowling, City of Kennewick
John Crotty, Western Legal PLLC

John Stuhlmiller, Washington State Water Resources Association
Jonathan Kohr, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Justin Bezold, Trout Unlimited
Justin Harter, Naches-Selah Irrigation District
Kayeloni Scott, American Rivers
Kelsey Collins, Washington State Department of Ecology
Kelsey Green, Consultant
Kerrie Mathews, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
Kevin Eslinger, Kittitas Reclamation District
Kevin Hayden, Washington State Department of Ecology
Laine Young, Washington State Department of Ecology
Marc Divens, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Maria Daugherty, Jacobs Engineering
Mike Schwisow
Mitch Long, Kittitas Conservation Trust
Nick Bond, University of Washington
Pam Druliner, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
Patrick Monk, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
Paul Jewell, Washington State Association of Counties
Paul Tabayoyon, Asian Pacific Islander Coalition of Yakima
Raquel Murray Crowley, Office of U.S. Senator Patty Murray
Robert Montgomery, Anchor QEA
Rodney Heit, South Yakima Conservation District
Samantha Cox, Kittitas County
Scott Kline, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Sepideh Sadeghi, Washington State Department of Ecology
Stuart Crane, Yakama Nation Water Resources
Tim Poppleton, Washington State Department of Ecology
Todd Newsome, Yakama Nation Fisheries
Tom Ring
Travis Okelberry, Yakima-Tieton Irrigation District
Trevor Hutton, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Tyson Carlson, Aspect Consulting
Walt Larrick, Yakima Basin Joint Board of Irrigators
William Meyer, 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.