

Summary of Federal Advisory Committee Meeting

Committee Name: Yakima Basin Conservation Advisory Group
Designated Federal Officer: Gwendolyn Christensen, Bureau of Reclamation, YRBWEP Manager
Chair: Gwendolyn Christensen
Meeting Dates: October 19, 2017
Meeting Location: 1910 Marsh Rd. Yakima WA
Summary of Meeting:

All six members were present. The committee had not met since April 2015 and there were two new members to CAG. Yakima River Basin Water Enhancement Project (YRBWEP) team members presented highlights on The Yakima River Basin conservation projects progress and or completion post the 2105 CAG meeting. These updates and reviews included:

- Total conserved water to date, 46,649 acre-feet for instream flows and 16,401 acre-feet for enhanced irrigation supply during drought years. Additional estimated target flows at Parker and Prosser gages for 2018 estimated to be 47,600 acre-feet or 100 additional cubic feet per second due to continued Phase II Sunnyside Valley Irrigation District lateral piping projects and Roza Irrigation District's completed reservoir.
- Review of Reclamation and partners (Ecology and District) funding 2015 – 2017, with estimated funding for 2018. This funding was set forth by YRBWEP legislation (Title XII Public Law 103-434) authority Section 1203 wildlife and irrigation and 1205 funding requirements, Tributary Enhancements under Section 1207, Yakama Nation under section 1204.
- Review of Section 1203 requirement for increased flow over the Parker and Processor gages without harming current water user's water rights.
- Yakama Nation reported on funded projects (authorized under Section 1204) design, construction and monitoring measures for the Wapato Irrigation Project (WIP) completed and in progress
 - Two newly awarded 638 contracts (Authority under Public Law 103-638 Self Determination Act). WIP construction of aged infrastructure and water monitoring. A second agreement for an irrigation demonstration project to determine cost effective, state-of-the-art irrigation water management and conservation while providing economic and agricultural sustainability for the Yakama Nation.

Two new, potential conservation project (2018) proposals were presented to CAG members for consideration and discussion.

- Selah-Moxee Irrigation District presented a brief history, their current challenges (management, aged infrastructure, and meeting customer's needs)

and their proposed conservation plans. Proposed conservation is to line earthen canals and provide pressurized pipelines reducing irrigator's power costs. With estimated conserved water of 10,000 acre-feet. Estimated \$65 million, estimated approx. \$6,500 per acre foot cost. Proposed to be completed in phases. Phase 1, 5 years, 2,200 acre-feet at a cost of \$13.3 million. This conserved water can potentially have Yakima River reach benefits.

- Union Gap Irrigation District presented a brief history, their current challenges (management, aged infrastructure, and meeting customer's needs) and their proposed conservation plans. Proposed conservation is to line earthen canals and provide pressurized pipelines, new turnouts. Diverted water approximately 17,300 acre-feet with an estimated conserved water of 9,300 acre-feet. Estimated project cost \$47 million, \$5,000 per acre-foot cost. Project would be broken into 5 Phases. Phase 1 to start in 2018. Conserved water above and below Parker Gage. This conserved water can potentially have Yakima River benefits for fish and wildlife

CAG members discussion:

SMID

- Reach specific benefits: What will be the reach benefits?
- Moxee drain below Selah, below Roza upstream?
- Accounting for target flows shapeable per SOAC
- Return flows come in above Parker, so no Parker flow benefit
- Water budget neutral
- Perhaps SMID will fit under the Integrated Plan Enhanced Conservation, or under Section 1207 for tributaries. How does it fit under Section 1203?

UGID

- Returns are above and below Parker gage
- Will benefit above Parker Gage, Naches drain

NOAA Fisheries suggested we consider new tributary projects, as this is an area that could have great benefits, and largely has been left out. Need to put thought into where we get the water and when we get the water

Think about the process, what can be done with the saved water?

Add conserved flows at Parker prior to storage control

Public Comment:

- David Ortman, Attorney for Friends of Kachess – Wanted to hear more about the projects and where they are at in terms of conserved water. Feels that it's taking too long to meet the Title XII requirements for conserved water.
- Elaine Packard, Sierra Club – wanted to know for herself personally if we knew where she could get an updated copy of the Irrigation Water Conservation Guide?

Recommendations: CAG members want additional information on the questions that were raised in the discussion regarding potential projects for SMID and UGID.

Decisions: Next meeting date was not formally scheduled

Comments:

- More information must be gathered for a decision or recommendation to be made.
- With an additional 42 people in attendance

Date prepared: 10/30/2017

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