



## MEETING

### PRCC Habitat Subcommittee

Friday, November 16, 2007

Wenatchee - Douglas PUD, Wells Engineering Conference Room

#### PRCC Habitat Subcommittee Members

Dale Bambrick, NMFS	David Morgan, USFWS
Chris Fisher, CCT	Ben Lenz, GCPUD
Bob Rose, YN	Carl Merkle, CTUIR
Chris Parsons, WDFW	Denny Rohr, Facilitator

#### **ATTENDEES (\*denotes PRCC HSC member):**

Dale Bambrick*, NMFS	Ben Lenz*, GCPUD
Chris Fisher*, CCT	Denny Rohr, Facilitator
Bob Rose*, YN (by phone)	Debbie Williams, Grant PUD
Chris Parsons*, WDFW	Shannon Lowry, Grant PUD
David Morgan*, USFWS	

#### **Distributed items:**

- Letter from the Town of Oliver concerning modifications and fish screening at McIntyre Dam.
- Letter from Grant PUD on behalf of the PRCC confirming partial funding of the McIntyre Dam fish passage project.

#### **Action items:**

- Lowry will distribute the Habitat Funds expenditure spreadsheet to PRCC HSC members
- PRCC Habitat Subcommittee (HSC) members will provide edits to Dresser's letter prior to it being sent to the Town of Oliver concerning McIntyre Dam.
- Fisher will distribute McIntyre Dam project engineering alternatives to Rohr who will distribute to the PRCC HSC.
- The Okanagan River Restoration Initiative (ORRI) project will be presented for approval to the PRCC on Nov. 28, 2007. Fisher will distribute to the PRCC HSC a revised project proposal.
- Rose will provide information to Lenz following his discussion with Joseph Jones next week concerning LiDAR analysis.

**Decision summary:**

- **PRCC Habitat Subcommittee members approved funding of the ORRI program. The project will be presented to the PRCC on Nov. 28, 2007.**

**Draft meeting minutes:**

- I. **Welcome and Introductions** – Rohr welcomed attendees and introduced Grant PUD FWWQ Administrative Assistant Debbie Williams.
- II. **Agenda Review** – The Blackbird Island project proposal, Habitat Funds status report and ORRI project vote were added to the agenda.
- III. **Approval of Meeting Minutes**
  - October 12 – approved.
  - Nov. 2 CC – approved.
- IV. **Action Items Review** – Members reviewed and updated action items.
- V. **Project Proposals Status** –
  - Antoine Creek Culvert Replacement – affirmation – Morgan and Lenz were not in attendance on the Nov. 2 conference call, but provided approval for the project by e-mail. The project was affirmed by all members in attendance at today’s meeting. The Regional Fish Enhancement Group (RFEG) is handling administration of the project and a contractor was selected Oct. 30. The JARPA has been distributed to the appropriate agencies for review. Approval to begin construction is tentatively set for Nov. 20, stated Fisher, noting the contractor has ordered the replacement pipe. Lenz is working on developing the funding agreement, noting Grant PUD’s attorney has asked questions about the legal status of the RFEG. The group is a state-funded non-profit organization which does not require a competitive bid process, stated Fisher.
  - Goodfellows Fish Enhancement – information (Ben, Dale) – Lenz, Morgan and Bambrick toured the site. Bambrick distributed photos of the Wenatchee River RM 1.5 site, which involves habitat enhancements adjacent to a side-channel. Bambrick considers funding for a conservation easement to protect the site, which reside in the channel migration zone. Bambrick suggested that the project proponents need to present more detailed information about providing more flow through the existing side channel. Lenz noted that information about proposed habitat enhancement to the side channel is also needed prior to a funding decision. Morgan and Parsons will work on gathering further information about the project. Fisher suggested being up front with the project sponsor that

diverting water from the side channel is unacceptable. Parsons suggested working with Chelan County to identify land-ownership on the upstream end of the side channel. Further discussion will occur.

- McIntyre Dam – PRCC approval contingencies (Chris) – The McIntyre Dam project was approved by the Habitat Subcommittee and by the PRCC with three contingencies, stated Fisher. The contingencies included identification of O&M responsibilities, review of the dam design by NOAA Fisheries engineer Bryan Nordlund, and formal assurance that irrigation canal screen would be constructed and funded by the Town of Oliver or another funding agency. The Canadian Department of Ministry (Ministry) notified the PRCC HSC that it would be responsible for O&M on the riffles. A formal letter is forthcoming. The Town of Oliver sent notification that they have been ordered by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans to have the screen in place by April 2010. Funding is currently being sought for that project. Bryan Nordlund reviewed the designs and has three areas of concern: 1) Jump height, 2) riffle design, and 3) downstream passage. Regarding jump height, Nordlund expressed concern that the identified jump height of 8.25 inches is misleading because it was calculated as the difference between jump pool water surface and the gate crest elevation. NMFS criteria for maximum allowable jump height over a man-made structure are one foot. Project engineers are working with Nordlund on an alternative design. Rohr distributed letters from the Town of Oliver to Grant PUD regarding modifications and fish screening at McIntyre Dam, and another draft letter from Grant PUD to the Town of Oliver on behalf of the PRCC confirming the PRCC's commitment to partial funding for the McIntyre project. Rohr suggested Fisher work with Grant PUD Fish, Wildlife and Water Quality Manager, Tom Dresser, PRCC HSC representatives, and project sponsors concerning the issues. Parsons suggested the Town of Oliver commit to an earlier time-frame for modifications to the fish screen to coincide with adult sockeye passage in fall 2009 followed by juvenile passage in 2010 (the screen is intended to prohibit entrainment of juveniles). Fisher noted that if the Town of Oliver meets the April 2010 deadline for screen modifications as outlined in its letter of commitment, it would coincide with juvenile passage. Rohr requested edits to Dresser's letter prior to it being sent to the Town of Oliver. Fisher will distribute project engineering alternatives to Rohr who will distribute to the PRCC HSC. Fisher and Lenz will also continue discussions on funding administration questions.
- Blackbird Island Ponds – Morgan provided information about a proposed project to provide fish protection in a low-grading back

channel behind Blackbird Island, a city of Leavenworth park. Morgan requested Jones & Stokes, which had conducted a channel migration zone (CMZ) study in the area, to evaluate the site for possible log jam improvements. Mike Kaputa, director of Chelan County Natural Resources, is working with Morgan on the project in addressing issues surrounding the recreational safety of log jams. Parsons stated that WDFW engineers will look at the site and assess the viability of log jam construction. Fisher asked if Morgan had approached the City of Leavenworth. Bambrick suggested letting Trout Unlimited sponsor the project with assistance from Morgan in working with the City of Leavenworth on the project. Lenz noted his support of pursuing further information about the project. Fisher suggested keeping involvement in the project narrowed only to those who are directly involved. Members agreed pursuing the project.

- VI. **Habitat Funds** – Members discussed Habitat Funds status. Members agreed to use BiOp Habitat Funds to fund the Antoine Creek project proposal (benefiting steelhead). Members also discussed the intention of each fund and the agreements which require them. Members also discussed a Priest Rapids Project predator study proposed by the PRCC for NNI funding. The PRCC is meeting Nov. 29 with potential contractors for the potential three-year study. Members discussed the three contractor proposals under consideration. Bambrick expressed concern about the RFP, and questioned what the management response threshold of predation is, given that the RFP requests a 95% confidence interval which will be difficult to achieve. Bambrick also expressed concern with spending \$2-\$3 million on studying predation only in the Priest Rapids Project's two reservoirs. Members also discussed using information gathered from downstream reservoirs. Rohr urged communication between PRCC Habitat and PRCC representatives. Parsons stated that the goal is to eliminate predation in these reservoirs in a way that can be documented, noting that questioning contractors is a good way to better define what should be studied. Parsons has been asking internal staff what the objective of the study is, noting her concern over the cost of the study and potential results. Bambrick noted that a program to reduce predation is an appropriate use of NNI funds, but to spend an estimated half of the available funds to simply study predation with no clear objective is concerning to NMFS. Fisher noted he believes the data is transferable from other studies, but first there is a need to get an abundance estimate.
- VII. **ORRI (Okanagan River Restoration Initiative) project** – Fisher is requesting \$411,000 from NNI funds for the project, which is being partially funded by the HCP Tributary Committee. Members approved requesting funding for the project from NNI Habitat Funds. The project

will be presented to the PRCC for approval at the Nov. 28 meeting. Fisher will distribute a revised project proposal.

#### VIII. **Current Projects Status**

- Omak Creek Culvert Replacement (Chris F.) - Project is completed.
- Hardesty Property (David) – Project is completed.
- Godwin Property (Ben) – Lenz will review the WDFW's Lands 20/20 process information given to him by Parsons so as to continue working on transferring ownership of this property from Grant PUD to WDFW.
- Monitor Irrigation Diversion Improvements, Jones-Shotwell Project (Ben) – project is nearing completion.
- LiDAR Contract Coordination (*Rose joins by conference call*) - Lenz has received a \$15,000.00 invoice from USGS for work on the side channel mapping (LiDAR analysis). Lenz noted that Joseph Jones of USGS needs more guidance on what the PRCC HSC wants him to do and Grant PUD cannot pay the invoice without a deliverable. Rose stated he will discuss the issue with Jones early next week, noting there is a need to clarify what the Bureau of Reclamation has already done and what Jones needs to do to avoid duplication. Rose noted that he, Casey Baldwin, Tracy Hillman, and Lenz discussed with Jones identification of habitat attributes of the Nason Creek reach that are easily observable and useful for LiDAR analysis, including human-caused constraints, etc. Bambrick and Lenz stated that a report on the work is required as a deliverable for payment of an itemized invoice. Rose will provide information to Lenz following his discussion with Jones next week.

#### IX. **Next Meeting:** December 14, 2007 – conference call @ 9:00 a.m.