

## FINAL MEETING MINUTES

## CONFERENCE CALL

### PRCC Habitat Subcommittee

Wednesday, March 14, 2007

1:00 – 2:30

#### PRCC Habitat Subcommittee Members

Chris Fisher, CCT

Carl Merkle, CTUIR

David Morgan, USFWS

Ben Lenz, GPUD

Bob Rose, YN

Dale Bambrick, NMFS

Chris Parsons, WDFW

Denny Rohr, Facilitator

#### **PARTICIPANTS (\*denotes subcommittee member):**

\*Dale Bambrick, NOAA Fisheries

\*Chris Parsons, WDFW

\*David Morgan, USFWS

\*Ben Lenz, Grant PUD

\*Bob Rose, YN

\*Chris Fisher, CCT

Denny Rohr, facilitator

Shannon Lowry, Grant PUD

#### **DECISION SUMMARY:**

- Members approved an additional contribution of \$10,000 from PRCC Habitat Funds (Rose noted his approval of an additional amount if necessary) for the Omak Creek culvert replacement project.
- Members approved contribution of up to \$5,000 from PRCC Habitat Funds to off-set appraisal fees for a 16.5-acre parcel on the Twisp River (project sponsored by Methow Conservancy).

#### **DISTRIBUTED ITEMS:**

- Methow Conservancy Twisp River Project Proposal documents.

#### **ACTION ITEMS:**

- Rose will distribute to subcommittee members the link to the Puget Sound Consortium website for LiDAR access. Rose will also provide additional information on the process for downloading ortho images.
- Rose and Rohr will coordinate meeting dates for upcoming informational meetings concerning LiDAR data. Rohr will notify committee members.
- Rohr will provide information at the next meeting on Microsoft "Live Office" conference call technology.
- Rohr will notify the Priest Rapids Coordinating Committee that the PRCC Habitat Subcommittee is drafting a Habitat Plan for presentation to and discussion with the PRCC.
- Rohr will draft a habitat spending plan, which will include project proposal procedures and detailed funding criteria outlined in the Priest Rapids Salmon and Steelhead Settlement Agreement and the Biological Opinion.

Lenz provided current totals for Habitat Funds as of Feb. 28, 2007:

SSA – NNI: \$2,445,718

SSA – Habitat Supplemental Fund: \$1,776,625

BiOp – Habitat Account: \$843,895 (*does not include expenditure for Skookumchuck land purchase*)

**TOTAL: \$5,066,238**

## **DRAFT MEETING MINUTES**

- I) **Welcome and Introductions** – Rohr welcomed participants.
- II) **Agenda Review** – David Morgan added a project proposal for a 16.5-acre land purchase on the Upper Twisp River to the agenda. Additional land acquisition proposal information (Godwin and Kahler Glen) were also added.
- III) **Approval of Meeting Minutes** - January 11, 2007 – approved.
- IV) **LIDAR Update** – LiDAR data is being distributed to various entities, stated Rose, noting the Wenatchee River data was completed last week. Informational meetings concerning the data will be scheduled for the Methow River (late May) and Wenatchee River (late April, early May). Rose and Rohr will coordinate on meeting schedules, and Rohr will notify committee members. The LiDAR data will be available on the Puget Sound Consortium website and Rose will distribute the PSC web link to members and any other agency members who are interested. The Bureau of Reclamation is distributing the ortho images. Rose will also provide information on how to download the images to individual hard drives.
- V) **Review of Omak Creek Culvert Replacement** – Fisher notified members that administrative process issues resulted in construction delays, which caused work to be completed in inclement weather conditions. The contractor is requesting an additional \$40,000 due to the construction schedule delays and adjustments. CCT is proposing to pay the contractor an additional \$20,000, with \$10,000 provided from BPA funds and an additional \$10,000 from the PRCC Habitat Funds. Subcommittee members expressed concern on what would happen if the \$20,000 settlement was not accepted by the contractor. Rose suggested not capping the amount from the PRCC Habitat Account in the case that the \$20,000 offer is not accepted. Members approved a contribution of \$10,000 from Habitat Funds (Rose noted his approval of an additional amount if necessary).
- VI) **Upper Twisp River Property Purchase** – Morgan presented a proposal to acquire a 16.5-acre parcel on the Twisp River. The property is at risk of degradation due to flooding. Emergency flood control measures could involve destruction of valuable log jams and natural riparian processes, and loss of an important refuge for juvenile spring Chinook rearing. The proposed project sponsor is the Methow Conservancy, which, if the land is purchased, would sell the property to either the USFS or to a private owner. All proceeds from the sale would either be returned to the PRCC Habitat Funds or set aside into a riparian habitat protection account at the Methow Conservancy. Project cost is estimated at \$392,000 (including appraisal fees). Morgan noted that the USFS would provide a letter of interest indicating the property would likely be purchased in 2009 with Land and Water Conservation Funds. Parsons and Bambrick expressed concern that if the property is purchased with Habitat Funds, it could affect the USFS' ability to receive funding for the purchase. Members agreed that if the USFS indicates its interest in the purchase, a decision whether to purchase the property with Habitat Funds can be made.

Parsons also recommended having two appraisals conducted on the property. Members approved contribution of up to \$5,000 from the Habitat Funds to off-set appraisal fees, with a suggestion to the Methow Conservancy that two appraisals occur. Morgan will provide additional information concerning the proposal at the April meeting, followed by a request to the purchase the property with PRCC Habitat Funds.

- VII) **Godwin Property** – Lenz provided to WDFW appraisal information for a proposed 63-acre land purchase in the Nason Creek Basin. WDFW is considering acquiring the property through Habitat Accounts, but the agency is discussing internally the need to negotiate long-term maintenance and management funding. Lenz noted that any O&M funds would need to be paid from Habitat Funds. A site tour is being scheduled for early April.
- VIII) **Kahler Glen Property** – In January, PRCC HSC members approved funds of \$3,000 for an extended appraisal of the Kahler Glen parcel (adjacent to Godwin property). The extended appraisal includes a wetlands delineation. The appraisal will be conducted soon, noted Lenz.
- IX) **NNI Fund Discussion** – Rohr provided background on the PRCC's request for discussion concerning oversight authority and use of NNI funds provided under the Salmon & Steelhead Settlement Fund. The PRCC has requested a workgroup made of up of two members from each committee to discuss these issues. Rose suggested that funding proposals from all three committees be discussed on a case-by-case basis by all three committees. Bambrick stated that the Settlement Agreement obligates the Habitat Subcommittee to develop a spending plan, noting that such a plan needs to state that sockeye and summer Chinook (non-listed species) will be a focus for funding. The account is intended to provide near-term compensation for annual survivals that are less than the survival objectives in the performance standards for spring and summer Chinook, steelhead and sockeye. Rose suggested the working group develop a 10-year plan. Rohr will notify PRCC members that the Habitat Subcommittee is drafting a plan for presentation to and discussion with the PRCC. Rohr will provide the first draft of the plan. Rohr recommended discussion occur in May at a combined meeting of all three committees.
- X) **Next Meeting** – April 16, 1:30 p.m., conference call. Rose requested research on Microsoft "Live Office" conference call technology. Rohr will provide information at the next meeting.