

FINAL MEETING MINUTES
PRCC Habitat Subcommittee
Conference Call
Tuesday, June 19, 2007
8:00 – 8:50 AM

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:

*David Morgan, USFWS

*Ben Lenz, GCPUD

*Chris Parsons, WDFW

*Chris Fisher, CCT

Denny Rohr, Facilitator

*Bob Rose, Yakama Nation

*Dale Bambrick, NMFS

Julie Yount, GCPUD

Distributed Items:

- Lenz distributed via email on June 15, 2007 a project proposal for Wenatchee River irrigation diversion to assist the Chelan County Conservation District with a request for \$35,000.
- Rohr distributed a draft agenda and Habitat Fund Activity Report for the planned June 22, 2007 Habitat SC meeting.
- Lenz distributed via email June 15, 2007 a spec sheet for the Kahler Glen parcel, adjacent to the Godwin parcels on Nason Creek.
- Morgan distributed via email June 15, 2007 a project proposal with Methow Conservancy for an upper Twisp River property purchase (Hardesty property).

Action Items:

- Morgan to contact USFS regarding their track record using the bidding process proposed for the Hardesty property acquisition.
- Morgan to contact Methow Conservancy to find out their willingness to manage the Hardesty property if the USFS funding does not come through.

Decision Summary:

- Committee agreed to move forward with the request for USFS pursuing the purchase of the Hardesty property in the Methow subbasin, following results of the title search.
- Committee voted to supplement the Chelan County Conservation District budget for irrigation diversion in Monitor in the amount of \$35,000.
- Committee agreed to make the offer of \$75,000 for the Kahler Glen 9-acre parcel, in accordance with the recent appraisal.

Action Item Review:

- Lenz was to develop a list of potential scope of work for the USGS LiDAR evaluation. A conference call is scheduled later this morning between Rose, Baldwin, Lenz, and Jones to discuss project focus. Fisher questioned what the end product will look like for the initial \$30,000 investment. Rose indicated this will depend on the geographical area identified. The committee will discuss Friday the possibility of establishing a steering committee. Parsons indicated she will not be there Friday but has questions: 1) Will this contract help identify future projects or priorities? 2) What will then be the next course of action? Rohr indicated these will be addressed Friday.

Hardesty Property

Morgan previously emailed information on this parcel to committee members. It has riverfront of .3 mile. Paulson is in charge of Methow Conservancy. They have not gotten title search results back yet. USFS will not provide letter of intent until the title search results are received. Morgan indicates he will be out of office after this week until mid-July. Rohr asked if the committee was prepared to vote. Rose suggested a contingency vote based on current information with the option to say no if any other factors are uncovered. Morgan stated if USFS has this as top priority, funding will be requested in 2009, and if not, would have to wait until next fiscal cycle. Parsons questioned if money would need to be spent on clean-up and trash removal and cabin removal? Morgan indicated the budget includes \$23,000 for this purpose. Cabin may need to be dismantled to avoid damage to trees in the area.

Fisher questioned if the USFS has had success using this bidding process in the past? Morgan was uncertain, but would look into it. Bambrick clarified if the USFS deal does not pan out, Methow Conservancy may then sell to private landowners with certain conditions. This may then result without the same potential for repayments. Parsons supports moving forward. Morgan asked if more detail is needed on restrictions if USFS is unable to purchase. Lenz indicated Grant PUD would prefer to forfeit repayment to allow Methow Conservancy to manage the property if USFS cannot purchase. All members on call agreed to move forward.

Morgan stated two more discussions are needed. He will look into the following: 1) What is the track record for USFS using this type of bidding process? 2) What are the options for ownership in about a year. He will speak to both Methow Conservancy and USFS. Morgan will speak to Methow Conservancy to see if they are willing to hold the property rather than turn it over to private property owners if USFS does not get funding.

Discussion was held regarding USFS plans for use of the property. Parsons questioned if it is adjacent to current USFS holdings. Bambrick stated he believes this location will be managed for aesthetics and recreational value, and he is comfortable with USFS managing this land.

Next Meeting (postponed)

Committee discussed the plan to further outline the LiDAR evaluation project during the planned Friday (June 22) meeting. Parsons and Fisher are unable to attend, Rose will be late, and Bambrick needs to leave by midday. Bambrick questioned if it

would be beneficial to meet due to lack of attendees. Rose indicated mid-July may be a good time to coordinate with Ecology.

Rohr suggested postponing the next Habitat SC meeting until Tuesday, July 17, at 9:00 am in Wenatchee. Rose will cancel Joseph Jones for this Friday.

Methow Salmon Recovery Foundation

Jenny Mosworth was also scheduled for this Friday to discuss Heath property Methow Salmon Recovery Foundation project. Committee questioned if this is a Habitat SC project or a HCP project. Rohr indicated he had been contacted by Bob Bugert to have this added to the agenda. Rohr will clarify. Bambrick will contact Jenny to cancel.

Chelan County Conservation District

Lenz discussed this irrigation diversion near Monitor. Information was sent via email to committee members. The Chelan County Conservation District has requested \$35,000 to cover the bids they received. Bids were higher than anticipated due to inflation resulting from delays in the bidding process. Question was raised - Is there cost share by the Irrigation District? Lenz was not aware. Rohr requested a vote by the committee. Parsons, Morgan (via email), Bambrick, Rose, Fisher, and Lenz agreed to fund the project.

Kahler Glen

Appraisal came in for this 9 acres at \$75,000. Owners had not been favorable to \$75,000 offer previously, but Lenz would like permission to make that offer again. Members agreed to make the offer of \$75,000.