



Meeting Minutes

PRCC Habitat Subcommittee

Friday, February 14, 2008
Chelan PUD Auditorium, Wenatchee, WA

PRCC Habitat Subcommittee Members

Dale Bambrick, NMFS
Chris Fisher, CCT
Bob Rose, YN
Chris Parsons, WDFW

David Morgan, USFWS
Ben Lenz, GCPUD
Carl Merkle, CTUIR
Denny Rohr, Facilitator

ATTENDEES: (*Denotes PRCC HSC member)

Dale Bambrick, NMFS*
Ben Lenz, Grant PUD*
Bob Rose, YN* (by phone)
Denny Rohr, Facilitator*

Chris Fisher, CCT*
Chris Parsons, WDFW* (by phone)
Debbie Williams, Grant PUD

Distributed Items:

- **Project Specifications Sheet – Entiat River Knapp/Wham-Hanan Detwiler irrigation system consolidation.**
- **Detailed Budget – Assessment of habitat improvement and restoration designs for Nason Creek Restoration: Phase I project.**

Action Items:

- **A Letter of Intent stating, \$411,000 will be available on Feb. 15, 2009 for the ORRI project will be sent to Steve Matthews, Ministry of Fisheries and Oceans from Grant PUD.**
- **Lenz requested the PRCC HSC review and e-mail comments to him regarding the budget provided by LGL for the Nason Creek LWD project.**
- **PRCC HSC requires quarterly meetings with Joseph Jones.**
- **Rose will send LiDAR images and maps to committee to see the type of work Jones is doing.**
- **Rose and Lenz will request a meeting in April with Jones.**

- Fisher will get back to the HSC regarding any LiDAR that the CCT wants to have done in the Okanogan Basin.
- Lenz and Rose will bring LiDAR product to the next HSC meeting, so committee can review.
- Meet with Jones quarterly (April will be next meeting) (keep as an ACTION ITEM) to look at product he is giving to committee.
- SRFB applications are due in early June; Parsons will get further details on the application process for the proposed Cashmere Pond connection project.
- Lenz will email further information on the Entiat River Knapp/Wham-Hanan Detweiler Irrigation System consolidation to PRCC HSC committee members.
- HSC will look at project, email Lenz with questions, and then decide what to do. They will talk at next meeting if decision hasn't been made via email.
- Lenz will provide a copy of the Habitat Subcommittee Annual Report to the PRCC HSC.
- Approval of continuation of USGS LiDAR analysis contract in August 2008.

Decision Summary:

- PRCC HSC members will decide in Aug. 2008 if committee will continue with the 2009 portion of the USGS LiDAR contract. PRCC will require quarterly meetings with Joseph Jones.

MEETING MINUTES

- I. Welcome and Introductions – Rohr welcomed attendees.
- II. Agenda Review – Lenz added Entiat River Knapp/Wham-Hanan Detweiler Irrigation System consolidation and discussion of new BiOp language.
- III. Approval of Meeting Minutes –
 - January 11, 2008 – Approved.
- IV. Action Items Review - No action items were reviewed.
- V. Funds Review - Bambrick stated the newly formatted Habitat Funds spreadsheets were very easy to understand. Bambrick questioned the status of the Predator Study and funds to be spent. Rose stated the estimated study cost is \$1.5 million, but is still under discussion by the PRCC. Rose stated Dotson will be setting up a meeting with USGS and WDFW to determine the scope of work; it would probably start with literature review.

VI. Project Proposals Status

- A McIntyre Dam - Rohr stated the PRCC approved McIntyre Dam at the Jan. 23, 2008 meeting. Rohr suggested a Canadian visit to clarify all aspects of the contract. Lenz stated Dresser has contacted ONA regarding the contract agreement terms. Fisher stated installation would start on the McIntyre Dam project in August 2009.
- B Blackbird Island - Bambrick stated local political opposition to the installation of large woody debris (LWD) in the back channel of Blackbird Island, a popular summer recreational site, was the reason this project was proposed to Trout Unlimited by Morgan. Morgan communicated with the HSC that he was going to propose the Blackbird Island project to Mike Rickle, County Conservation District. Rickle expressed interest in the project. Bambrick stated Blackbird Island could probably be implemented in 2009, noting projects should be given enough time to develop and permit.
- C ORRI (Okanagan River Restoration Initiative) Project - Rohr noted the PRCC approved ORRI on Jan. 23, 2008. Rohr noted PRCC members approved \$411,000 from NNI Fund for ORRI project. **A Letter of Intent stating, \$411,000 will be available on Feb. 15, 2009 for the ORRI project will be sent to Steve Matthews, Ministry of Fisheries and Oceans from Grant PUD.**
- D Nason Creek LWD - Rose stated the Nason Creek LWD project might not receive priority by the Bureau of Reclamation because it doesn't fit into the Wenatchee Watershed Planning Unit implementation plan because connectivity projects have priority over complexity projects, although both are important. If this project is taken to the Bureau of Reclamation, they might help design it, but if the PRCC HSC wants to see the project move forward, Rose recommends not approaching the Bureau of Reclamation. He suggested meeting with Casey Baldwin, WDFW, and Chuck Peven, Chelan PUD regarding this project. They have been more interested in connectivity projects stated Rose. Lenz did attend the RTTs February meeting where the Nason Creek Habitat Restoration Implementation Strategy was discussed. Lenz noted LGL compiled a budget of \$58, 815, which includes \$28,068 for Habitat Assessment and Survey and \$30,747 for Restoration Strategy and Design Preparation. He stated the budget for Phase 1 is higher than he anticipated. **Lenz requested the PRCC HSC review and e-mail comments to him regarding the budget provided by LGL for the Nason Creek LWD project.** Lenz noted he and Rose met with Herrera Consultants regarding future engineering support

as suggested by Rose during the January HSC meeting. He was impressed with what he learned about their capabilities during this meeting. He will talk to LGL regarding preparation of a rehabilitation report. Lenz would like to trim \$14,000 from the original bid of \$58,815. Lenz stated the land owner, John Squadroni, who is an arborist, would like to be compensated for work he performs on this project re: riparian plantings. Lenz will talk to Squadroni to see what compensation rate he requires for his work. Lenz questioned if plan drawings or design drawings are needed for permitting. Fisher stated plan drawings are better for the contractor. Lenz questioned if plan drawings are ok with permitting. Bambrick stated typically, plan drawings are better because they are site specific. The Corps will require a permit if rock will be installed. Bambrick noted ESA consultation will be covered if BPA monies are used since programmatic consultation with BPA is already done. Bambrick explained ESA Section 7 states consultation between federal agencies, and WDFW (re: projects that may impact steelhead and spring Chinook) is required. BPA may have money available for Nason Creek assessment and implementation work stated Rose. Fisher questioned if the Yakamas could sponsor this project because of their work on the lower Nason Creek oxbow reconnection project. Rose stated they could propose similar projects to the HCP Tributary Committee for cost-shares and use Chelan County and/or Hererra Consultants as contractors. Since programmatic consultation with USFWS has occurred, they also could potentially sponsor and expedite this project. Lenz will contact David Morgan about this.

- E LiDAR Contract Update - Rose and Lenz met with Joseph Jones, they agreed on signing the \$15,000 invoice after he showed them what work had been done. He's moving forward with other reaches in the Wenatchee basin. Since Feds have fiscal year ending in Oct., in retrospect, committee should have waited for that date to pass before moving forward stated Lenz. Lenz wants committee to officially agree to move forward with work in FY 2008 since the committee only officially agreed to fund FY 2007 work. The USGS contract goes through 2009, Lenz and Rose aren't sure if they want to continue the contract. **PRCC HSC members will decide in Aug. 2008 if committee will continue with the 2009 portion of the USGS LiDAR contract. PRCC will require quarterly meetings with Joseph Jones.** Rose questioned what Jones is doing for the cost share. Lenz stated he's doing nothing for the USGS portion of the cost-share monies, but later on it might result in a report. Jones struggles with his relationship with his supervisors and is resistant to doing anything outside the written scope of work stated Lenz. Rose stated committee has large amount of

LiDAR work in their possession; committee should spend 1.5 hrs on agenda at next meeting to identify direction Jones should move in. Bambrick stated he didn't get a lot out of the LiDAR product, although he supports payment of work to people that benefit from it. Bambrick stated LiDAR is mysterious to him, as he lacks understanding of the technology, and doesn't know how long it should take to digitize data into map form, so he defers to Lenz and Rose on how to proceed with future work products. Bambrick stated he has only worked with finished GIS products. The first \$15000 FY 2007 invoice was concerning because of the amount of time charged noted Lenz. Lump sum payment doesn't have to write down amount of work vs. hours spent because of the way the contract was structured noted Lenz. Lenz stated an RFP might have been better for this product. Bambrick stated Jones was presented as sole source option for this work, now the question is, is he as good as we thought, or should we look for someone else to do this work. Rose stated the committee needs to define exactly what kind of work and details we want. The committee needs to determine where activities will be focused for future work and focus Jones there. He's shown he can do the work quickly and efficiently noted Rose. Fisher questioned benefit, what products we've gotten to this point and location, secondly, what level of detail has he done, is more required, evaluate this information the morning of the next HSC meeting and have him then chat with the committee in the afternoon. **Rose will send LiDAR images to committee to see the type of work Jones is doing.** Would Okanogan streams be useful questioned Rose? Rohr questioned instead of relying on Lenz and Rose to try to get a useful product, the committee should participate jointly to determine what they want. Bambrick stated geographical focus should be determined by the committee in course of developing product, but he has far less expertise to tell if the committee is getting their monies worth. Lenz stated Jones is doing a good job, but questions if it is worth the money. Bambrick questioned if an Ortho photo would give you the same information. Fisher stated that because of channel configuration, Ortho photo gives you better detail. **Rose and Lenz will request a meeting in April with Jones.** Fisher, BPA program that will be funded, someone will be looking for projects to be done, couple of tributaries that they (CCT) are interested in doing. **Fisher will get back to the HSC regarding any LiDAR that the CCT wants to have done in the Okanogan Basin. Lenz and Rose will bring LiDAR product to the next HSC meeting, so committee can review. Meet with Jones quarterly (April will be next meeting and keep quarterly meetings as an**

ongoing ACTION ITEM) to look at product he is giving to committee.

F **Cashmere Pond** - A 5 acre ground water influenced pond that is captured by the river at high flow, but strands fish when the water drains is the project being purposed by Parsons, noting the project would re-connect existing ponds along the Wenatchee River (upstream of Apple Box Bridge in Cashmere, WA) stated Parsons. Parsons stated a meeting was held in January with DOE and property owners, WSDOT. Project estimates are between \$200,000 and \$400,000 noted Parsons. Ground water is warmer during the winter and would provide a refuge for over wintering fish noted Parsons. Bambrick stated it might work for acclimation. Parsons questioned if the PRCC HSC committee would like to look at engineering design. Truscott stated he would be alright if Heiner agreed with the engineering on this project. Lenz stated this site was captured with LiDAR. Fisher questioned how much material would be removed. Parsons stated she didn't know, engineering still needed to be done. Parsons stated this project could also use SRFB funds. Lenz noted Grant PUD is looking for acclimation sites in the Wenatchee Basin for summer Chinook. **SRFB applications are due in early June; Parsons will get further details on the application process.** Rohr questioned if county needs to be gone through in this process. Parsons stated going through the Conservation District on this project.

VII. **Entiat River Knapp/Wham-Hanan Detwiler Irrigation System consolidation** - Lenz distributed project specification sheet for converting irrigation canal to wells. Bambrick stated this project has been around for a long time. Lenz stated the Cascadia Conservation District is asking the PRCC HSC for \$40,000 to assist in completing this project. Bambrick stated this project is approved by the Entiat Watershed group. Rose isn't willing to vote on this project right now, he would like to ask Rich Malinowski questions regarding this project. **Lenz will email further information on the Entiat River Knapp/Wham-Hanan Detweiler Irrigation System consolidation to PRCC HSC committee members.** Lenz stated \$375,000 has been committed from one source and \$350,000 from another. Further discussion will take place at the next PRCC HSC meeting. **HSC will look at project, email Lenz with questions, and then decide what to do. They will talk at next meeting if decision hasn't been made via email**

VIII. **2007 Review – 2008 Projections** - Fisher stated he would like a copy of Habitat Subcommittee Annual Report. **Lenz will provide a copy of the Habitat Subcommittee Annual Report to the PRCC HSC**

- IX. **New BiOp language - 1.30 (Page 52) Decisions regarding management of anadromous fishery resources in the UCR basin not directly linked to the Project are the purview of the agencies and Tribes. When carrying out activities that may affect local tributary habitat, the Habitat Subcommittee should seek advice from local entities, including the Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board in development of such activities.** PRCC HSC members discussed the meaning of the new BiOp language. Parsons questioned how this language affects the committee. Bambrick stated it was not right inserting this language without consulting any PRCC HSC committee members
- X. **Next Meeting:** Rohr will contact Tracy Hillman, HCP Tributary Committee Chair, to discuss coordination of meeting schedules. Rohr will notify PRCC HSC members when next meeting date has been set.