



**Grant County**  
**PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT**  
*Excellence in Service and Leadership*

**Meeting Minutes**

**PRCC Habitat Subcommittee**

**Friday, December 19, 2008**

**1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.**

**Chelan PUD Fish and Wildlife Conference Room  
Wenatchee, WA**

**PRCC Habitat Subcommittee Members**

Dale Bambrick, NMFS	David Morgan, USFWS
Chris Fisher, CCT	Ben Lenz, GCPUD
Bob Rose, YN	Carl Merkle, CTUIR
Dennis Beich, WDFW	

**ATTENDEES: (\*denotes PRCC HSC members)**

Dale Bambrick, NMFS*(by phone)	David Morgan, USFWS*
Chris Fisher, CCT*	Dennis Beich, WDFW*
Bob Rose, YN*(by phone)	Ben Lenz, GCPUD*
Debbie Williams, GCPUD (by phone)	Alyssa Buck, GCPUD (by phone)
Denny Rohr, Facilitator	

**Decisions:**

- **The PRCC Habitat Subcommittee approved the sale of the Hardesty property to the United States Forest Service (USFS) in the amount of \$250,000.**
- **The PRCC Habitat Subcommittee approved \$27,577.90 for funding of the Lower Bonaparte Creek Livestock Exclusion Project.**

**Meeting Minutes**

- I. **Welcome and Introductions** – Rohr welcomed attendees.

- II. **Agenda Review** – Agenda items were reviewed. Rohr will coordinate PRCC Habitat Subcommittee meetings with Tracy Hillman, facilitator of the HCP meetings. It was suggested that meeting times be scheduled regularly from 1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. following the HCP meeting. Rose suggested that lunch be provided by the PUD's so members can work through lunch.
- III. **Approval of Meeting Minutes** –
- September 30, 2008 – Approved
- IV. **Action Items Review** – Rohr reviewed action items.
- V. **Habitat Funds Review** – **Williams will distribute Habitat Fund updates.** Grant PUD will deposit contributions into the funds on February 15, 2009.
- VI. **Project Proposals Status**
- A **Cashmere Pond (Dennis B)** – The project has received funding from the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) through the Mid Columbia Tributary committee, but they have concerns with the overall cost of the project. The Yakama Nation (YN) has committed up to \$500,000 for funding of this project. NMFS expressed concern with the \$167,000 contract for Jones & Stokes to oversee the project. A vote will be delayed until the next meeting.
- B **McIntyre Dam (Chris F. /Lenz)** – In November, Lenz attended a project meeting in Penticton. Designs are 85% complete, and working toward the final approval stage. The project is on task and schedule with presenting a 100% design package on January 19, 2009. Newberry riffle installation might take longer than originally anticipated, but contractors would like to start by July 01, 2009.
- C **ORRI (Okanagan River Restoration Initiative) Project** – Chris Fisher reported that he and Ben Lenz toured the Okanogan River Restoration Initiative (ORRI) Project on Thursday, December 11<sup>th</sup>. The ORRI project proposed the reconnection of two historic channel meanders (Phase I) and the creation of two channel meanders (Phase II). Chris reported that during implementation, a dyke that channelized the Okanogan River was moved away from the channel to substantially increase floodplain area. The relocation of the dyke was completed in November 2008. Test pits were then dug within the area proposed for creation of two meanders. The test pits revealed

that under an organic layer there was partially saturated, unconsolidated, coarse sand, which would likely not maintain lateral and vertical channel stability. This concerned the project manager, on-site engineer, and scientific advisor. Meetings were held with project proponents and regulatory agencies to discuss modifications to the original plan.

The results of the meetings were to omit the creation of the upper-most meanders and to investigate the reconnection of a relic side channel immediately upstream and on the east side of the channelized reach. Early assessments indicate that the dyke would need to be breached in two places (inlet and outlet) to accommodate the relic channel. Bottomless arch culverts or bridges would be used to maintain connectivity of the relic channel. In addition, the planners are considering maintaining the original channelized reach, but designing the channelized reach to be active only during high flow conditions. Recall that the reconnection of the two lower-most meanders initially included a single channel and disconnecting the channelized reach. Chris reported that the final design for Phase I is expected in March 2009. Phase II preliminary design should be completed in late 2009.

- D **Blackbird Island (David M.)** – After a site visit by Jones and Stokes, contractors, and PRCC Habitat Subcommittee member's, contractors proposed that logs be place by helicopter to minimize mobilization issues. The contractors will provide an estimate for helicopter placement. Modified land owner permitting is under review by the City of Leavenworth attorney. After approvals, construction would start summer 2009. The project could be completed within a couple of days if the helicopter is utilized. The committee does not want to spend more than \$100,000.00 for the construction phase of the project.
- E **Hardesty Property – The PRCC Habitat Subcommittee approved the sale of the Hardesty property to the United States Forest Service (USFS) in the amount of \$250,000.** The USFS has one year (October 2009) to approve the purchase contract.
- F **Lower Bonaparte Creek Livestock Exclusion Project – The PRCC Habitat Subcommittee approved \$27,577.90 for funding of the Lower Bonaparte Creek Livestock Exclusion Project.** The project will start in June 2009.
- G **FERC Habitat Plan** – The PRCC Habitat Subcommittee is responsible for developing a Habitat Plan per the 2008 Priest

Rapids Project License. The deadline is April 17, 2009. Members agreed that the current habitat plan will be modified to reflect a flexible process that considers regional efforts. Rose reminded members that there are four salmon restoration funding sources (YN, CCT, Grant PUD, and HCP) and that regional planning strategies should be developed. Bambrick noted concern that project sponsors have requested equal shares of money for each project.

- VII. **Next Meeting:** Wednesday, January 14, 2009, time and location to be determined.