



## Meeting Minutes

### PRCC Habitat Subcommittee

Thursday, February 12, 2009  
 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

**PRCC Habitat Subcommittee Members**

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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)**

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

**Action Items:**

1. Morgan will draft a list of Beaver Creek questions to be answered by Penvose and will distribute them to members for a one week review period.
2. Bambrick will draft a letter to WDFW on behalf of the HSC stating that the HSC doesn't support land expenditures for properties that will have grazing on it.

**Decisions:**

1. PRCC Habitat Sub-committee members agreed to cover cost overruns for the Cashmere Pond project, not to exceed 75,000.

## Meeting Minutes

- I. **Welcome and Introductions** – Rohr welcomed attendees.
- II. **Agenda Review** – The Habitat Plan will be undergoing review prior to being sent to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). Rohr invited Habitat Sub-committee (HSC) members to participate in a tour of Grant PUD's Hydro facilities in May. Consolidation of the HCP Tributary Committee and

PRCC Habitat Sub-committee agenda items was added to the agenda as well as non-member requests to attend the HSC meetings.

**III. Approval of Meeting Minutes –**

- December 19, 2009 - Approved
- January 14, 2009 Conference Call – Approved

**IV. Action Items Review –** No action items were reviewed.

**V. Habitat/NNI Funds Review –** Rohr informed members of fund balances, and reminded them that additional funds will be deposited by Grant PUD on February 16, 2009. An updated fund balance sheet was e-mailed to all members.

**VI. Habitat Plan –** Lenz is drafting the Habitat Plan to encapsulate all of the procedures from the 2008 Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), 2008 National Marine Fisheries Service's Biological Opinion (BiOp), Priest Rapids Salmon and Steelhead Settlement Agreement. He will ask for committee review within a week. The FERC deadline for the plan is April 17, 2009.

**VII. Pioneer Irrigation District –** Morgan explained that Aaron Penvose, of the Washington Conservancy is looking for funding for the Pioneer Irrigation District (PID) to get rid of a 15 cfs water diversion near Monitor, WA. Water is diverted from a side channel into an open ditch near Sleepy Hollow. Eventually the water spills back into the Columbia River downstream of the confluence of the Wenatchee River and the Columbia River. PID would like to install pressurized pipes at the Columbia River to pump water to the diversion site. Habitat restoration could be completed at the diversion site.

Members questioned if PID would pay for pumping cost. Bambrick explained that the RTT saw no biological benefit and were not supportive of this plan. The Wenatchee Reclamation District (WRD) wants to do a similar project that would contribute 50 kcfs. Members thought it made sense to combine the PID and WRD projects for a meaningful contribution to flow. The WRD project pumps 100 kcfs at Dryden, 50 kcfs of that goes in a pipe across the river. The bridge that supports the pipe is in need of repair (estimated at 3 million dollars). Bambrick explained that Rick Smith, WRD Manager, has been unwilling to discuss pumping water from the Columbia River because of possible water quality issues relating to organic farms. At times, the Columbia River is polluted and wouldn't qualify as organic. Fisher questioned if a filter could be provided. Based upon a discussion with someone who is responsible for organic certification, with whom he interacted on a similar project Morgan didn't think the organic certification would be lost if water is pumped from the Columbia River. Further discussion will take place at the next meeting.

**VIII. Beaver Creek –** Aaron Penvose, of the Washington Conservancy is looking for funding, approx. \$45,000, to convert two small irrigators that divert water (1 kcfs of surface diversion) from within 1/2 mile of the mouth of Beaver Creek to private wells. Beaver Creek is 1/2 mile from the mainstem Wenatchee. This

was originally a large ranch that has been divided into smaller ranches. WDFW says there is steelhead in the creek. Committee members thought there used to be juvenile spring Chinook in the lower end. Yakama Nation has acclimation ponds located near by. Beaver Creek has had riparian and nutrient issues in the past, but has continued to be a productive creek. **Morgan will draft a list of Beaver Creek questions to be answered by Penvose and distribute to members for a one week review period.** Carlson noted that the Yakama Nation turned down funding of this project, but he see's the benefit of getting rid of the surface diversion. The screen is not currently compliant with WDFW regulations.

#### **IX. Consolidation of HCP Tributary Committee and PRCC Habitat SC Overlapping Agenda Items**

Rohr discussed with the committee that he and Tracy Hillman, Chair of the HCP Tributary Committees, recently had discussions about combining overlapping agenda items when possible. Several of the committee members are involved in both the HCP Tributary Committees and the PRCC Habitat Subcommittee. Therefore, having one presentation where possible would result in a saving of time for all committees. However, because the HCP Tributary Committees and the PRCC Habitat Subcommittee have different policies and procedures, the groups cannot be combined. Therefore, after discussion with Hillman, Rohr proposed the following:

1. After agenda items are identified, Tracy Hillman and Denny Rohr will work together to identify common agenda items (items that overlap in both groups).
2. The agenda for the HCP Tributary Committees will be set so that items common with the PRCC Habitat SC will occur at the end of the HCP Tributary Committees meeting.
3. The PRCC Habitat SC members who are not members of the HCP Tributary Committees will join the Tributary Committees meeting to discuss those items that are common to both groups.
4. Following the Tributary Committees meeting, the PRCC Habitat Subcommittee will meet to discuss items that are relevant only to the PRCC.
5. Meeting minutes for the joint agenda items will be shared between the two groups.

The PRCC Habitat Subcommittee members agreed that combining common agenda items was appropriate and will rely on Tracy and Denny to organize agendas and schedules.

#### **X. Outside Requests to Attend PRCC Habitat Subcommittee Meeting**

Rohr commented that from time there are requests by non-committee members to attend the PRCC Habitat SC meetings. When the request comes in within a few days of the meeting, Rohr indicated that he denies the request to attend the meeting because there is not enough time to consult with each committee

member. For requests made well in advance of the meeting, however, Rohr secures the approval of all Committee members. Although the requests are not frequent, Rohr asked for guidance from the Committees on how to handle the requests.

The Committees indicated that the PRCC Habitat SC facilitator has the authority to approve or deny a request by a sponsor or other entity to attend a Committee meeting. However, the visitor must understand that they will be asked to leave when the Committee goes into executive session.

## **XI. WDFW Livestock Grazing Plan – Kittitas County –**

- A Skookumchuck** – Members discussed whether the committee should comment on the draft Environmental Impact Statement for Skookumchuck Creek regarding grazing in the upper reaches. The comment deadline is 2/23/09 (extended to 2/27/09 after meeting). Members voiced concern that WDFW allows grazing on land purchased with monies from fisheries programs. The HSC didn't realize that that grazing would take place on the Skookumchuck Creek property at the time of expenditure. **Bambrick will draft a letter to WDFW on behalf of the HSC stating that the HSC doesn't support land expenditures for properties that will have grazing on it.**

## **XII. Project Status**

- A Cashmere Pond** – HSC members are still not in agreement with the overall cost to implement and construct the Cashmere Pond project. Fisher met with Jones and Stokes and Chelan County. Jones and Stokes are going to determine what can be completed with the \$531,000 funding from the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) and the Chelan and Douglas PUD's Tributary Committees (HCPs). The cost (\$200,000) associated with the amount of wood to be used has become a contentious issue. It was suggested that Christmas trees be used, or that local orchards might be able to supply the wood. **PRCC Habitat Subcommittee members agreed to cover cost overruns for the Cashmere Pond project, not to exceed 75,000.** The project will be implemented as described in the proposal, and nothing else is to be added to the proposal. None of the paths to connect the pond to the river has been compromised or reduced, stated Fisher. Lenz will track invoicing/funding cost. Members discussed how monies will be tracked, and how to make sure that funds are adequate to cover. Lenz explained that when an invoice comes in, it will be presented to the group for approval. A clause in the habitat funding agreements can state "upon Grant PUD's approval" the invoice will be paid.
- B McIntyre Dam** –. The next meeting will be on February 23, 2009. Final designs should be complete by then. Overshot gates have been ordered, and the project is still on track and on budget.
- C ORRI (Okanagan River Restoration Initiative Project** – At a meeting to be held in early March, the Water Management group will propose to

modify the overall design to respond to the fact that the unconsolidated bed materials at the upstream end of the project area are not suitable for excavation. The design changes will divide the channel into the relic and current channels. If design changes are approved, they will move on. The dike setback to allow flood plain reconnection has been completed. Budget impacts because of design changes have not been discussed.

- D Blackbird Island** – Carlson explained that the Yakama Nation (YN) has interest in this project, but won't have funds to commit to the project until after April. The YN might be able to contribute additional funds up to \$105, 000. Morgan sent updates regarding project specs a month ago. Minor changes have been made to designs. Pools would be excavated where the wood would be placed and additional plantings would be placed to allow them to grow overhanging the bank in order to provide over water shade as quick as possible. Jones and Stokes is almost finished finalizing specs. The cost of the construction phase of the project might be under \$100,000, but we won't know for a while. Morgan was in the process of completing the landowner agreement form with the city. Due to turnover in city staff, this has taken longer than expected, but hopefully will be done soon. The plan should be on schedule to conclude this summer. Lenz explained that for Grant PUD's internal contracting process, contracts will need to be drafted by May 1<sup>st</sup> in order to be ready in August. Grant PUD took care of the preliminary archeological permitting needs for this project.
- E Hardesty Property** – No discussion took place.
- F Modified Lower Bonaparte Creek Livestock Exclusion Proposal** – The project should be complete by November 01, 2009.
- G Dryden WDOT Site** – No discussion took place.

**XIII. Next Meeting:** Thursday, March 12, 2009, time and location to be determined.