



MEETING MINUTES

PRCC Habitat Subcommittee

Thursday, August 20, 2009

1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Chelan PUD Auditorium

Wenatchee

PRCC Habitat Subcommittee Members

Dale Bambrick, NMFS

Chris Fisher, CCT

Bob Rose, Lee Carlson, YN

Dennis Beich, Casey Baldwin, WDFW

David Morgan, USFWS

Ben Lenz, GCPUD

Carl Merkle, CTUIR

Denny Rohr, Facilitator

Meeting Attendees:

David Morgan, USFWS

Dennis Beich, WDFW

Casey Baldwin, WDFW

Lee Carlson, YN

Chris Fisher, CCT

Ben Lenz, GCPUD

Dale Bambrick, NMFS

Denny Rohr, Facilitator

ACTION ITEMS:

1. Lenz will follow up on O&M question regarding Trinidad Creek property sale.

COMMITTEE DECISIONS:

1. Approved \$30,000 funding request for the Knapp-Wham Irrigation Consolidation Project.
2. Approved \$388,790 funding request for the White River Nason View acquisition.
3. Approved funding of \$50,000 for purchase of the Trinidad Creek property subject to additional O&M discussion and final committee action.
4. Approved \$165,000.00 funding request for the Libby Creek Land Acquisition proposal.

- I. **Welcome and Introductions:** Rohr called the meeting to order and welcomed all participants.
- II. **Agenda Review:** two subjects were added to the agenda – Knapp-Wham Irrigation Consolidation Project, and Trinidad Creek.

- III. **Approval of meeting minutes:** committee members approved the July 9, 2009 draft meeting minutes as presented. Accordingly, Rohr will request these final minutes be posted to the Grant PUD website.
- IV. **Action Items Review:** Rohr noted that all action items listed from the July 9th meeting were to be discussed further in agenda items for today's meeting.
- V. **Habitat / NNI Funds Review:** The Habitat Funds Report through July 31, 2009 was reviewed and discussed by the committee.
- VI. **Nason Creek Site (Squadroni Property) (Ben L.):** The committee had further discussion of the project. Lenz noted that Chelan County DNR continues to secure the Railroad Company's (RR) approval of restoration activities in Nason Creek. Bureau of Reclamation apparently will not be involved in the design of any future projects involving RR property in Nason Creek, rather RR engineers. Lenz stated that he asked Mike Kane of Chelan County DNR to further be the point of contact with this landowner for any current or future restoration project proposals since they're leading the restoration efforts in Nason Creek. Lenz will communicate this to the landowner, Mr. Squadroni. Accordingly, the committee members will monitor the actions of others involved, and the project will remain on the committee agenda for further review and discussion.
- VII. **Dryden DOT Property Purchase (Dennis B.):** Beich informed the committee that the question regarding Chelan PUD facilities at this location possibly encroaching upon the Washington State Department of Transportation (DOT) Property is still under discussion. Additionally, Beich commented that possible lead contamination on the property has surfaced and is under further review and discussion. Accordingly, activity to purchase the property is moving slowly pending clarification of these issues. Beich will provide further updates at the next committee meeting.
- VIII. **Knapp-Wham Irrigation Consolidation Project (Ben L.):** Lenz presented a project specification sheet for this project with the Project Sponsor listed as Cascadia Conservation District (CCD). It was noted that the funding request is applicable to Phase 3 of the overall Project, with Phase 1 and Phase 2 having already been funded. The Project was described to improve habitat complexity (large resting pools for adults, juvenile rearing areas), reduce fish passage/entrainment issues, and improve late-season instream flows and associated temperature issues. The total budget listed in the Specification Sheet is \$170,000. The funding request to the PRCC Habitat Subcommittee is \$30,000. Committee members discussed the excavated pool and commented they did not want to participate in funding of the excavation of the pool if the structure was not designed to maintain the pool. After detailed discussion, committee members approved the \$30,000 request as described in the Project Specification Sheet with the caveat that the excavation of the pool is not to be included unless there is a design change that would result in protection of the pool. Lenz will discuss with CCD.
- IX. **Discussion: Project ID 2009-1, White River Nason View (Chris F.):** Fisher presented a project specification sheet for this project with the Project Sponsor listed as Chelan-Douglas Land Trust. The project type is Land/Water

Acquisition. The funding request is \$388,790. The committee decided to fund the proposal at the requested amount.

- X. **Discussion: Project ID 2009-2, Tall Timber Ranch Conservation Easement (Chris F.):** Fisher presented a project specification sheet for this project with the Project Sponsor listed as Chelan-Douglas Land Trust. The project type is Land/Water Acquisition. After detailed discussion by committee members, the decision was made to not fund the proposal.
- XI. **Trinidad Creek (Ben L.):** Lenz discussed the Trinidad Creek property that is listed for sale. The sale property is 65 acres priced at \$50,000 in an area that has had documented steelhead spawning. Casey pointed out that the spawning was observed downstream of the parcel, and that considerable development has occurred in those downstream areas. WDFW expressed interest in ownership of the property if the committee did decide to purchase, but a question of O&M funding would need further review. Accordingly, after additional committee discussion and questions, Lenz was asked if Grant PUD could cover the associated O&M funding needed. Accordingly, committee members approved \$50,000 for the property purchase, subject to Lenz following up on the O&M question and further discussion taking place at the next committee meeting before making a final decision to purchase.
- XII. **Coordination with PRCC Hatchery SC (Dennis B.):** After brief discussion, committee members directed Rohr to contact Tracy Hillman and coordinate some discussion of this subject.
- XIII. **Discussion of Libby Creek Land Acquisition (Dennis B.):** Beich presented a project specification sheet for this project with the Project Sponsor listed as WDFW. The project cost (land acquisition) is \$150,000 for 18.5 acres of functional riparian and floodplain habitat that is currently on the market. The project was described as a potential PRCC Hatchery and Habitat Subcommittees project, due to the possibility of using it for acclimation, depending on the needs and outcomes of hatchery reform. Accordingly, committee members concluded that discussion with the PRCC Hatchery SC are needed, but that purchase of the property for habitat restoration alone is warranted. Since the property is on the market and at risk of sale there is not time to converse with the hatchery committee, determine the hatchery management needs, then go forth with a coordinated effort. Committee members approved up to \$165,000 towards purchase of the land.
- XIV. **Discussion of Details Regarding Touring of McIntyre Dam and ORRI Project (All):** Committee members finalized the tour dates to be October 7th and 8th. Rohr will work with Fisher regarding additional planning and contact committee members with further details.
- XV. **Project Status Updates:**
- A. **Cashmere Pond (Dennis B.):** No additional discussion.
 - B. **McIntyre Dam (Chris F. / Ben L.):** No additional discussion.
 - C. **ORRI (Okanogan River Restoration Initiative) Project (Chris F.):** Lenz and Fisher have been following progress of this project. This project will be included in the October 7th and 8th tour of this area. Lenz will talk further with Kari Long, Project Manager, about questions of possible

budget issues and report back to the committee. Fisher will also follow up on this with Long.

D. **Blackbird Island (David M. / Ben L.):** No additional discussion.

XVI. **Next Meeting:** Thursday, September 10, 2009, 1:00 – 4:00, Wenatchee.

(Meeting minutes prepared by D. Rohr and Associates; approved October 10, 2009, Habitat SC Conference Call)