



Grant County
PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT
Excellence in Service and Leadership

FINAL MEETING MINUTES

PRCC Habitat Subcommittee

Tuesday, October 6, 2009

1:30 p.m. Conference Call

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:

Chris Fisher, CCT

Ben Lenz, GCPUD

Lee Carlson, YN

Richelle Beck, D.Rohr & Assoc.

Dennis Beich, WDFW

Dale Bambrick, NMFS

Denny Rohr, Facilitator

The purpose of this conference call was to discuss and seek approval for the Trinidad Creek Property Purchase. Rohr began the call by stating that Lenz had sent out a spec sheet with the break-down of the costs. All attendees affirmed they had received it. The spec sheet identified the total cost of the purchase to be \$122K. There had been some questions regarding some of the costs, which Lenz followed up on and clarified with Terry Preston of WDFW.

One of the questions was with regard to the costs for the environmental assessment (EA) and what seemed to be high costs for the EA work. Lenz stated the costs were on the high end because WDFW wanted to be sure the costs would be covered for whatever contingencies that arose with the completion of the EA, including possible work on a cultural resource survey if it becomes apparent one is needed with the completion of the Phase I EA. A Phase I EA will define those extra costs and could ultimately be less than estimated. The costs for "other" on the spec sheet will go toward additional administration services. The O&M costs will include BLM and Bureau requirements. It was discussed by Committee members that every site is unique and this amount will be a one-time cost to put into the Habitat funds "bank" for use as needed.

Lenz stated the PUD is ready to negotiate with the land owner and discuss the waiting period for final approval, if the Committee is ready to move forward. Lenz noted if the PUD conducts the appraisal, it will shorten the process by a few months from the typical 9 month WDFW process. This will not reduce the costs but will reduce the length of time for process completion. Beich stated WDFW is fine with the PUD doing the appraisal as long as it is yellow-book and lists WDFW as a co-client. This work could be conducted once the landowner's permission to move forward is received.

The Committee members unanimously approved the \$122K requested dollar amount, and the Committee members also approved Grant PUD conducting the appraisal, with the understanding that \$122K is the maximum amount and the actual costs could be less based on EA results.

At the end of the call, the Committee approved the August 20, 2009 meeting minutes but asked for more time to review the September 10, 2009 meeting minutes. The group members agreed to provide comments to Rohr via e-mail prior to the next Habitat SC meeting scheduled for November 12. In addition, the Committee agreed to wait until the November 12 meeting for the quarterly report in order to have a clear picture of the Habitat Fund amounts after any October spending is complete.

(Meeting Minutes Prepared by D. Rohr & Associates)