



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

## FINAL MEETING MINUTES

(Approved March 11, 2010)

### PRCC Habitat Subcommittee

Thursday, February 11, 2010

1:30-4:00 pm

#### **PRCC Habitat Subcommittee Members**

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Dale Bambrick, NMFS	David Morgan, USFWS
Chris Fisher, CCT	Ben Lenz, GCPUD
Lee Carlson, Bob Rose YN	Carl Merkle, CTUIR
Dennis Beich, Casey Baldwin, WDFW	Denny Rohr, Facilitator

#### **Meeting Attendees:**

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Dale Bambrick, NMFS	David Morgan, USFWS
Chris Fisher, CCT	Ben Lenz, GCPUD
Lee Carlson, YN	Dennis Beich
Denny Rohr, Facilitator	Richelle Beck, D. Rohr & Assoc (telephone)

#### **ACTION ITEMS:**

1. DRA to provide call-in number and spec sheet for Habitat SC conf call, Feb 23, 8:00 am.
2. Rohr to contact Kaputa regarding Nason Creek LWP Floodplain Reconnection Assessment Proposal.
3. Rohr to contact Kaputa regarding scheduling of planning meeting for the Nason Creek LWP Floodplain Reconnection Assessment Proposal.
4. Rohr to discuss White River Nason View proposal and Tall Timbers proposal with the PRCC at their next meeting.

#### **COMMITTEE DECISIONS:**

1. **Approved funding proposal for White River Nason View Property and Tall Timbers proposal.**
  2. **Approved funding proposal for Libby Creek Land Acquisition (Lenz abstained).**
- **Welcome and Introductions -**

- **Agenda Review** – Nason Creek Lower White Pine Floodplain Reconnection Assessment discussion added by Rohr. Vaseux Creek Project added by Fisher.
- **Approval of Meeting Minutes**
  - A. January 14, 2010 - Approved
- **Action Items Review (See List Below)**
- **Review/Affirmation of Listed PRCC Habitat Subcommittee Members (D. Rohr)** – Rohr reviewed the current committee membership and affirmed the following: WDFW - Dennis Beich, representative, Casey Baldwin, alternate; Yakama Nation - Lee Carlson, representative, Bob Rose, alternate; Colville Confederated Tribes – Chris Fisher, representative; Grant PUD – Ben Lenz, representative; USFWS – David Morgan, representative; NMFS – Dale Bambrick, representative.
- **Habitat / NNI Funds Review (D. Rohr)** – Rohr commented that annual additions to the funds will take place about February 15<sup>th</sup>. He will have summary information available for discussion at the March 11<sup>th</sup> meeting.
- **Nason Creek Site (Squadroni Property) (Ben L.) (Combined meeting with HCP Tributary Committee to meet with CCNRD and BOR)** – The Committee received a briefing of the discussion held in the morning HCP Tributary Committee meeting with representatives of the Chelan County Natural Resources Department, the Bureau of Reclamation, and BPA. The morning meeting was a discussion of the Nason Creek Lower White Pine Floodplain Reconnection Assessment, which includes the Nason Creek Site (Squadroni Property) that has been discussed previously on several occasions by the HSC. The morning meeting included discussion of the different phases of the project and who might possibly be funding participants in each phase. The discussion also included a review of potential participants, design teams, and public outreach. Currently, the focus is on Phase 1 which would be an Alternatives Analysis of the proposal. After discussion, the HCP Tributary Committee concluded they would not be participants at this time. Accordingly, during the HSC meeting, there was discussion of the HSC giving consideration to being a participant in the Phase 1 funding needs. Preliminary information indicated \$100,000 was needed for the Phase 1 task, with \$50,000 having been committed by the SRFB. Accordingly, the HSC was being asked to consider funding the remaining \$50,000 that was needed for phase 1. HSC committee members had discussion of the funding needs for the remaining design work needed for the proposal. There was additional discussion regarding who would be participating in the proposal and specific involvement in different design phases with the expectation of starting construction in July, 2011. The project sponsor is understood to be CCNRD, and they apparently have stated they need \$50K from the HSC by April to be able to begin construction in 2011. Lenz commented that if the HSC were to approve the \$50,000, there could be a timing problem with having it available in April. Lenz also noted the PUD cannot pay for past work on this project, but they can start paying once a contract is signed and in effect. After additional discussion, the HSC agreed that more information is needed in order to consider the proposal. Additionally, a completed HSC Spec Sheet is needed for the committee members to review. Rohr was directed to contact Mike Kaputa, CCNRD, to request completion of Spec Sheet. In addition, Kaputa had

commented in the morning HCP Tributary Committee meeting of the intent to hold a planning meeting soon for the HSC members and others to attend and have all questions answered. There was HSC agreement that this project is worth further review and consideration. Accordingly, Rohr will contact Kaputa regarding the need to have a Spec Sheet completed for the proposal, and also to inform him that the HSC is requesting the planning meeting he mentioned needs to happen soon to allow for further discussion. Accordingly, the HSC agreed to discuss the issue again via conference call on Tuesday, Feb. 23, 8:00am-9:00am. The HSC is expecting to have a completed Spec Sheet for the proposal from Kaputa prior to the conference call, and perhaps have additional information regarding the scheduling of the planning meeting as well. Rohr will send out call-in information and other information when received.

- **Dryden DOT Property Purchase (Dennis B.):** Beich reported on the status of this project and commented that discussions were still taking place between the Washington State Department of transportation, the Yakama Nation, BPA, and some Washington State legislative representatives. Rohr asked if this item should continue on the agenda for further discussion because the HSC was asked to consider funding participation in this subject. After discussion, it was agreed to remove the item from the agenda until such time as additional information becomes available.
- **White River Nason View Property proposal (D. Rohr) Discussion of PRCC Committee Members Review and Comments from January 27, 2010 PRCC Meeting**  
– Rohr began by reviewing the process thus far, informing the HSC that at the last PRCC meeting on January 27th, he presented the idea of a 50/50 NNI/Supplemental Fund split regarding funding of this proposal and they said no and had more questions. Accordingly, some PRCC committee members stated they would like to have a better understanding of the coordination between the hatchery and habitat subcommittees prior to considering this proposal. Accordingly, Rohr suggested a combined meeting of the PRCC and HSC to review and address specific questions. Rohr was directed by the PRCC to discuss the subject further with the HSC. At this point of the HSC meeting, the HSC continued to discuss the subject with some comments made of the Public Meeting held on February 20<sup>th</sup> in Leavenworth regarding the hatchery activities in the White River Basin, and that the UCSRB was apparently going to assist with public outreach. Additional HSC discussion occurred regarding acclimation sites in the White River Basin and property owned by Grant PUD. Also, Bambrick stated he had recently looked further into the existing Tall Timbers Property Conservation Easement proposal and determined the property may have more possibilities than was originally thought, and that including an acclimation site within the conservation agreement would be appropriate. Accordingly, Bambrick discussed a funding outline for the Tall Timbers proposal and the White River Nason View proposal for the HSC to consider, which included an acclimation site on the Tall Timbers property. The funding request for the White River Nason View Property is \$388,790. Additional funding needed for the Tall Timbers proposal is up to \$55,000. Therefore, Bambrick proposed taking up to \$55K out of the NNI fund and using that for the Tall Timbers proposal. Additionally, Bambrick proposed taking up to \$139,395 from the NNI Fund and adding it to funds from the Habitat Supplemental Fund of up to \$249,395, for a total of \$388,790, for the purchase of the White River Nason View Property. After questions and further discussion, the HSC

approved the funding proposal as presented by Bambrick, which included an acclimation site on the Tall Timbers property, and directed Rohr to discuss the NNI Funding application with the PRCC at their next meeting. Additionally, Bambrick raised the question of possibly doing some coordination work with the Chelan-Douglas Land Trust regarding property identification and possible acquisition. HSC members had several questions regarding this subject, and it was agreed to continue the discussion at the next meeting.

- **ACTION ITEM for APPROVAL: Libby Creek Land Acquisition (Dennis B.):** Beich directed Committee members to the spec sheet for this project, dated December 2009, accompanied by the Budget Spread Sheet. The spec sheet was sent to members via e-mail on February 1, and this is the third spec sheet. Rohr stated the Committee approved this project for \$165K last August. The current December, 2009 spec sheet states a new budget of \$206,600. Rohr is looking for action from the Committee on how they wish to move forward with this new budget in hand. After discussion the HSC agreed to the new budget and approved the proposal as presented, with Lenz abstaining.
- **Vertical Drop Structure 13 Proposal (Chris F.)** Fisher reported on the Feb 10<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Water Management Group in Oliver to discuss this proposal. He stated the Group did meet the prior day and the Ministry was in attendance, along with NOAA and others. There was a handout provided of the proposed schedule. Overall, the feeling about the project at the Water Management Group meeting was positive, however many questions remain. The group discussed what was accomplished and what still has to be done. Several options were presented and discussed. One of them included the building of a dike. The HSC discussed whether it would be a good idea to take a field trip up to the project for onsite review. The thought was perhaps to make the trip in August or September, depending on the fish runs. The Committee agreed to keep the item on the agenda to discuss the trip further.
- **Vaseux Creek Project** – This project is a small diversion on Vaseux Creek. The HSC reviewed several options presented as to how the project might move forward. Some general HSC preference focused upon options 1, 2, or 4, but all were still open for discussion. Additional discussion will take place at the next HSC meeting, and Fisher will continue to secure additional information to share with the HSC
- **Project Status Updates** – the projects had no new information for review or discussion.
- **Next Meeting:** March 11, 2010, 1:00 – 4:00 pm in Wenatchee.

Submitted by D. Rohr & Associates