



Grant County
PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT
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FINAL MEETING MINUTES

PRCC Habitat Subcommittee

Thursday, March 11, 2010

1:30-4:00 pm

PRCC Habitat Subcommittee Members

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

Meeting Attendees:

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

ACTION ITEMS:

1. Lenz to contact Kaputa for full details of exactly what CCNRD needs to move forward with the design plans.
2. Rohr to discuss the question of acclimation at Tall Timbers with PRCC.
3. Bambrick to talk with Bob Bugert of Chelan-Douglas Land Trust (CDLT) regarding potential funding for CDLT to identify property needing habitat protection.
4. Lenz to check into questions and process regarding potentially contracting with CDLT
5. Fisher to put together proposal for Vertical Drop Structure 13.

- **Welcome and Introductions**
- **Agenda Review:** There were no additional items or changes made to the agenda
- **Approval of Meeting Minutes:**

1. **February 11, 2010** – Minutes approved by committee

2. **February 23, 2010 Conference Call** – David Morgan provided edits to the group prior to the meeting and the committee approved the minutes with those edits.
- **Habitat/NNI Funds Review:** A full report was not yet available. Lenz hopes to have one by the end of the month which he will send to Rohr for distribution to Committee members.
 - **Nason Creek LWP Floodplain Reconnection Assessment:** During the February 23, 2010 Habitat SC conference call on this issue, the Committee agreed to provide Chelan County Natural Resources Department (CCNRD) with approximately \$50K for this project, which was assumed to cover 30% of the design. Conversation with Mike Kaputa, CCNRD, last week at the March 3rd LWP Reconnection Project Strategy Session for this project indicated they will actually need another \$100K to meet the 30% design. The Committee discussed how to proceed with this information in mind. Some stated that since this deviation from the original request has occurred, perhaps the funding should be pulled back. Others commented that since the decision to pay \$50K has already been made, the Committee should follow through with that and discuss further funding as a separate item. Lenz noted a new Spec Sheet will be required before consideration of any further funding. Lenz agreed to contact Kaputa and talk to him further about the issue. The subject will be discussed further at the next Habitat SC meeting on March 8th.
 - **White River Nason View Property Proposal:** Rohr began by explaining the discussion that took place at the February 24, 2010 PRCC meeting wherein Rohr explained the White River Nason View amended funding proposal which was approved by the Habitat SC at their meeting on February 11th. Rohr explained to the PRCC that the amended funding proposal discussion also included the addition of the Tall Timber Proposal. The Tall Timber Proposal was a request for funding for a Conservation Easement on the Tall Timber property. After some discussion during the February 24th PRCC meeting, the PRCC did agree to the NNI portion of the amended funding proposal, which included funding for both the White River Nason View proposal and the Tall Timber proposal, with the caveat that the Tall Timber Proposal would not preclude an acclimation site on the Tall Timber property. Rohr stated a completed Spec Sheet for the Tall Timber Proposal is now needed to move this proposal forward. Bambrick stated they are still not yet sure if the Tall Timber Proposal will be appropriate for an acclimation site, and that there are some concerns regarding accessing an acclimation site on the property. Rohr felt that since there was uncertainty about the Tall Timber acclimation site, it was necessary for him to go back to the PRCC and clarify the situation. The Habitat Committee Members discussed the importance to secure the Tall Timber Conservation Easement now and handle the acclimation question later. Rohr felt he needed to discuss the proposal in detail with the PRCC as he felt they had clearly agreed to NNI Funding of the Tall Timber Proposal with the caveat that an acclimation site on the property would not be precluded. The Committee agreed with Rohr discussing the Tall Timber Proposal with the PRCC. However, the Committee did state their full support of funding the Tall Timber Conservation Easement even without knowing whether acclimation on that site is precluded or not. At this point, Rohr requested and received affirmation that the Habitat SC had already approved the White River Nason View Proposal for a funding total of \$388,790, which includes \$249,395 from the Supplemental Fund, and the remaining balance of \$139,395 would come from the NNI fund, with the NNI portion having been approved by the PRCC on February

24th. Rohr also stated that the \$55,000 requested for the Tall Timber Conservation Easement, which was recommended by the Habitat SC to come from the NNI Fund, was also approved by the PRCC on February 24th to come from the NNI Fund, but Rohr will discuss this proposal further with the PRCC regarding the caveat of not precluding an acclimation easement on the Tall Timber property.

- **Chelan/Douglas Land Trust Coordination:** Bambrick explained the work effort that CDLT performs in the investigation of properties being considered for habitat protection. He explained that at times the work they perform arrives at a dead end, and the CDLT is left with stranded costs. Bambrick stated the CDLT does a good job of identifying properties needing protection, and he would like to have the Habitat SC consider providing funding to assist them in their process. Bambrick suggested consideration of funding perhaps \$40,000 per year to help CDLT continue their work which is beneficial to the activities of the Habitat SC. Accordingly, the Committee Members discussed the suggestion and how it might be handled. Additionally, Lenz stated he would need to check further on whether this idea would be feasible from a contractual standpoint. The Committee felt further discussion is needed before this could be considered. The Committee agreed that Bambrick should talk with Bob Bugert, CDLT, about the idea, and explore having Bugert attend the May Habitat SC meeting to discuss the subject in more detail. Additionally, Lenz will look into the contractual issue. The Committee will discuss the subject further at the May 13th meeting.
- **Vertical Drop Structure (VDS) 13 Proposal:** Fisher stated the outstanding question has been one of getting support to modify VDS-13 to increase velocity in hopes of getting better egg to fry survival. The costs for the project are \$285K (\$75K has already been secured). The Ministry of Water Management appeared to be supportive of the proposal, but some issues have surfaced that may put the modification on hold. Some of the issues include concerns of warming temperatures in August and the idea to hold water back in Okanogan Lake for temperature augmentation, as well as issues with the buildup of trash behind the pedestrian bridge, which may need to be removed or modified. Funding appears to not be available for any kind of work on the bridge, so concerns exist over when the needed work will get done. Fisher is putting together a proposal for the Habitat SC to review, and he agreed to hopefully have that to the Committee within a week.
- **Vaseux Creek Project – Continued Discussion:** Fisher explained Vaseux Creek has an unscreened diversion that services about 12 private owners. When he visited the area in October, there were juveniles in the canal system so it is not a fish friendly system. A meeting was held with the property owners and 3 options were suggested to fix the problem, with an additional strongly supported position of drilling individual wells instead. The property owners did not like any of the options provided and instead counter-offered a screen configuration they felt would work best. The design was unfamiliar and there was some concern that the design may block access to several of the property owners. Fisher stated he intends to continue working with this group, and he may ask for help from the Department of Fisheries. For now, the Committee agreed this item does not need to be on future agendas, but Fisher agreed to update the group if any major developments arise.

- **Project Updates:**
 1. **McIntyre Dam:** Although there was nothing new to report on this project, Morgan presented a question whether experimenting with the gates at a specific time of year has been resolved. Fisher stated there has been discussion of having a real-time camera put in place to observe fish activity but nothing has been decided. Fisher agreed to look further into it. Rohr mentioned the Committee's discussion of taking a field trip up there to look around. The Committee agreed but wanted to wait for needed information to determine the timing of the fish runs before making a final decision.
 2. **ORRI:** Fisher stated there is a \$90K shortfall, mostly due to the exchange rate between Canadian and US dollars. Fisher had just been made aware of this issue so there was no recommendation or ideas presented on how to resolve this issue. The Committee members stated if more is needed from the Habitat SC, they will need full details on exactly what happened, and also what the exchange rate was. Lenz stated he had received two invoices for ORRI and the 2nd one was approximately \$48K more than what was originally asked for, which means he does have a description of what happened. The Committee agreed to discuss the issue again further at the next meeting when more information is available.
 3. **Trinidad Creek Property Purchase:** There was no new information to add. This project will be removed from future agendas.
 4. **Libby Creek:** Lenz stated this project is slowly moving through the process. This item will also be removed from future agendas.
- **The next PRCC Habitat SC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 8, 2010, 1:00 pm in Wenatchee.**