

Icicle Creek Work Group

Thursday, March 3, 2016

10:00-3:00 PM

Confluence Technology Center (Wenatchee)

Meeting Summary

Attendees

Lisa Dally Wilson, Dally Environmental; Mick Mueller, USFS; Gabe Snider, USFS; Susan Adams, WWT; Greg McLaughlin, WWT; Dick Rieman, ICWC; Jim Brown, WDFW; Melissa Downes, Ecology-OCR; Keith Goehner, Chelan County; Daryl Harnden, PID/Farmer; Anthony Jantzer, IPID; Dave Irving, USFWS; Joel Walinski, City of Leavenworth; Jeff Gomes, City of Cashmere; Lisa Pelly, TU; Tom Ring, YN; Steve Kolk, USBR; Gus Bekker, ALPS; Mary Jo Sanborn, Chelan County; Dan Haller, Aspect Consulting; Erin McKay, Chelan County; Chuck Brushwood, Colville Tribe; Jay Manning, Cascadia Law Group; Mike Kaputa, Chelan County; Raquel Ferrell-Crowly, Senator Patty Murray's Office.

Introductions, Review Agenda

IWG Decision Point: December 3, 2015 IWG Meeting Summary Approved

Request that footers with date and current version number be included on all IWG handouts.

SEPA and Outreach Update

SEPA Timeline and Process (Dan Haller, Mike Kaputa)

SEPA has been launched, documents are on the County Natural Resource Department website (<http://www.co.chelan.wa.us/natural-resources/pages/icicle-work-group?parent=Planning>). An expanded SEPA checklist and Affected Environment section is included to provide context to readers. This material identifies how we will be assessing impacts. Optional scoping is provided to expose whether our understanding of the project and affected environment is acceptable and/or correct. Dan Haller explained that the goal for the IWG is to discuss SEPA comments at the June IWG meeting, address data gaps and schedule the Programmatic EIS (PEIS). Following scoping, a workplan for the PEIS will be developed. This will be a discussion item for the IWG in June. It's likely that the PEIS will be as robust as possible so once a project is ready for project level SEPA, much of the environmental review work will have been covered in the programmatic document. Identifying data gaps are an important part of the scoping process; SEPA consultant will try to assemble all comments on data gaps for the June IWG meeting. Summer work following scoping will be focused on the PEIS Work Plan, Data Gap Decisions, and SEPA/NEPA integration. We've received two comment letters to date: from Colville Tribe and Alpine Lakes Foundation.

IWG members should consider how your own organization wants to comment, and ensure consistency within your organization. If IWG members need information or technical support for your internal networking, let Mary Jo know. The gantt chart showing SEPA schedule will be

updated.

There was discussion that climate change data gaps may exist and should be addressed. Potential sources of data addressing climate change include Alpine Lakes Automation report, WSU / OCR Supply and Demand Forecast, Forest Health Collaborative, LNFH Alternatives Analysis, UW CIG reports, etc. Dick and TU have been doing some work on this and requested time on the next Steering Committee agenda. Dick asked what the forecast horizon was and whether we were looking far enough into the future. Climate change agenda item is scheduled for the next Steering Committee meeting.

Upcoming outreach opportunities and meeting needs

The formal SEPA Public Meeting will be held April 20, 4:00-8:00 at Leavenworth Fire Hall. Entire IWG is encouraged to attend and take an active role.

Outreach materials and handouts (Dan Haller, Mary Jo Sanborn)

Existing outreach materials were summarized and the completed ones are posted to the website. Project summaries (i.e. 2-pagers) are being updated and used at the public meeting. These will be distributed in the next couple of weeks for review. A suggestion was made to address in a footnote why steelhead is in figures for instream flow preference and indicate that PEIS will look at full range of fish species and life stages.

Funding Coordination Update

Master scope of work and funding coordination (Mary Jo Sanborn)

Updated information from WDFW for screening have been added to the spreadsheet. Costs for screening need to be added, Tony requested that the costs also be provided to him. Mary Jo continues to work with other to try to fill funding gaps (i.e. bathymetry, COIC design, etc). Melissa urged the IWG to discuss funding needs for 2017-2019 funding request. Agency package is due in September, but information is needed from IWG by June. Melissa will work through the Steering Committee on this.

Federal Funding Efforts (Jay Manning)

Jay discussed a trip to Washington DC to visit the Department of Interior and several senators and congressional representatives. OCR funding may diminish over time and this visit will focus on garnering support for federal funding. We need to show that this effort is financially supported by more than just state funds. We are looking for IWG volunteers. It's important to have a diverse group of members. Raquel Crowley (staff to Senator Murray's office) suggested that it might be possible to have the meeting(s) here in Washington. IWG members supported this concept, Jay will explore possibilities further for a WA state meeting or WA DC meetings and will start to develop a set of messages. IWG members interested so far include: Keith Goehner, Tony Jantzer, Daryl Harnden, Tom Tebb, WDFW has a legislative liaison in DC, Chuck will ask the Tribal Council is someone would like to go. Federal employees can only participate in meetings with agency folks to provide information.

A similar effort will be needed in Olympia next year to show support for OCR funding.

LNFH Alternatives Analysis Update (Dave Irving)

Dave provided an overview of the Alternatives Analysis for the LNFH. After review by a neutral third party it was determined that the USFWS Hatchery should remain where it is and that updates and repairs should be made. A 5-10 year master plan is included. The schedule is dictated by the Biological Opinion, and there are 7 years left in the BIOP compliance schedule. BOR will need to secure funding and USFWS and BOR have started developing a funding strategy. A draft of the Alternatives Analysis has been completed and will be shared with:

1. Yakama Nation and Colvilles (in March).
2. Stakeholders including IWG (in April).
3. Public (in May).

Chelan County agreed to help facilitate this roll-out. Likely a special workshop for stakeholders in April since there isn't a regular IWG meeting.

IWG expressed some questions/comments: The timing of federal funding request and final alternatives analysis should be coordinated with the DC trip. Is this a BOR priority? How will the Alternatives Analysis and Base package be integrated?

Also, the valve replacement at Snow Lake is scheduled by LNFH for 2017.

Tribal Fishery Analysis

Presentation on draft report (Dan Haller, Dave Rice)

Dave gave a presentation that summarized the report. The scope of the report was to evaluate and characterize flow conditions in the Hatchery and Historic Channels, evaluate the hydraulic conditions that induce scour, turbulence, and sediment deposition and transport in the pool at the bottom of the Hatchery Channel (contact Mary Jo for the full presentation). Next steps include further evaluation of the impact of increased flow in the historic channel on sediment delivery to scour pools downstream of the spillway, continue to observe spillway conditions at high flow to document turbulence, and further evaluation of potential methods to reduce sediment deposition, maintaining scour, and inducing turbulence at air entrainment.

Request for Funding for Creel Monitoring (Chuck Brushwood)

Creel monitoring has been identified as an important data gap that will determine CPUE (Catch per unit effort) of the Tribal fishery and will help in the development of the Tribal Fishery Adaptive Management Plan. We know that harvest has decreased over time, but we don't know if it is because of a decrease in effort or in catch per unit effort. This would compliment the catch number information. The goal would be to obtain this information for the joint Yakama and Colville fisheries by interviewing fisherman to determine number of fish caught per hour.

The request is to allocate up to \$24,000 to fund creel monitoring in 2016 for the 3 month period. IWG approved to fund this from a portion of the \$75K allocated in the OCR budget for the Tribal Fishery Enhancement task.

There was discussion around options to preserve the existing fishery at current location, AND options for new, augmented fishery at other locations (e.g Boulder Field). There is sensitivity to moving Tribal fishing area.

There was a suggestion to look for ways to expand the survey and ask other questions where possible, however creel monitoring should proceed in advance of any other surveying because of

the need to get “right questions” asked, and ensure that numeric creel data can be collected in 2016. We can follow up with Steve and Chuck to get the other questions answered.

We need to summarize the fishery regulations from Yakama Nation and Colvilles in PEIS.

Project Updates

ESSB 6513 (Mike Kaputa)

Current bill to keep OCPI and the reservation in the Wenatchee and Dungeness watersheds (previously SB5491). The bill has passed the senate and is now in the house. Things look good so far, Chelan County and City of Leavenworth provided testimony. This has implications for the domestic metrics in the guiding principles.

Cascade Orchard Irrigation Company Alternatives (WWT)

Held a public meeting, approximately 40 people attended. A preferred option is rising to the top, the goal is to have preferred alternative selected at the Shareholder meeting in May.

Alpine Lakes automation, modernization, optimization feasibility (Dan Haller)

A work plan is being developed for 2016 maintenance and data collection for IPID, LNFH, and USFS review, including bathymetry, lake level and flow measurement, routine maintenance, flow release plan, metering, and photos. Tony shared a “real life” example of automation benefit is 17 cfs was left in the lakes in September 2015 during the extreme low flow/drought because of lack of information on how much was left and inability to effectively access the lakes to effectuate a release.

IWG Member Letters of Support

Yakama Nation – MaryJo will follow up

Bureau of Reclamation – Melissa is working on meeting attendance

Bureau of Reclamation/USFWS – a letter may be more likely after the Alternative Analysis is released.

IPID – not currently planning on writing a letter – don’t feel that all guiding principles are being equally supported. One alternative is to write a support letter that states the exceptions.

COIC – waiting until May after selection of preferred alternative.

USFS – Jason is still researching guiding principles and wilderness act

Public Comment – Gus mentioned that ALPS will submit SEPA comments.

April – June Schedule

- Steering Committee Meeting changed to April 11th, 2016 (2:00 – 6:00 pm at the CTC).
NOTE this is not the 1st Thursday of the month, the April 7th meeting is cancelled.
- Alternatives Analysis Rollout to Stakeholders: possibly April 19 or 20th (tbd)
- SEPA public meeting – April 20th (4:00 – 8:00, Leavenworth Fire Hall)
- IWG Meeting: June 2, 2016 (10:00 AM at the CTC)

2:30 Agenda Items for next ISC

- Climate Impacts – Short presentation by Dick Reiman and TU (Cody)

- Climate Impacts, SC to discuss how to integrate climate work (PEIS data gap), consider forecast horizon, try to inventory climate activities prior to SC meeting
- What does an adaptive management program look like at 8 Mile, other lakes?
- Flow Augmentation plan for Alpine Lakes – instream flow committee or other?
- Messaging amongst IWG members – eg., characterization of projects
- OCR Funding request – 2017-2019
- Watershed Planning/Flow Improvement Funding for Wenatchee and Mission Creek and overlap with Icicle.
- Preparation – SEPA public meeting
- Preparation – Alternatives Analysis Rollout to Stakeholders meeting

Agenda Items for June IWG

- Discuss PEIS Content (programmatic or project level emphasis)
- SEPA comments and comment response
- SEPA/NEPA Nexus – coordinate with federal entities
- Information for 2017-2019 OCR Budget request.