

Meeting Notes

9 April 2008

Location: Douglas PUD Auditorium, 1151 Valley Mall Pkwy, East Wenatchee

For more info contact: Casey Baldwin 509-664-3148 baldwcomb@dfw.wa.gov

Attendance: Casey Baldwin, Julie Morgan, Carmen Andonoegui, Steve Kolk, Joe Lange, Keely Murdoch, James White, Derek Van Marter, Rick Woodsmith, Pamela Nelle, Steve Hays, Bud Hover, Tom Kahler, Russell Langshaw, Dennis Carlson, Kate Terrell, Chuck Peven, Tracy Hillman, Cameron Thomas; (Michelle McClure and Bob Rose via conference call)

1. Review and adopt the agenda

Casey called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Chuck explained to the group his transition from Chelan PUD to private consulting. Kate asked to add to the agenda a discussion of more detail for project reviews.

2. Executive session

Chuck broached the topic of convening a subgroup to more proactively develop a prioritized approach to implementing projects in each of the sub-basins. The RTT discussed various ways in which it might develop a useful product that could be utilized by the project sponsors. Some members of the RTT will attend the April 18 Entiat Habitat Subcommittee meeting to assist in the update of the implementation schedule. Chuck and Bob will review the relevant portions of the Entiat Detailed Implementation Plan and suggest a format for a potential RTT product that will be consistent with current documents but provide more details for project sponsors.

Kate mentioned that with more money coming into the Upper Columbia Region for habitat improvements it will be important to be sure that funds are spent wisely on good projects that will contribute to better habitat conditions and hopefully improve the status of the fish populations. The group discussed the need to be more direct and explicit about project proposals that are thought to have little to no biological benefit. Casey mentioned that the RTT scoring criteria should help identify those projects with limited benefit, and that our comments that accompany the scores should be the location where we make it clear why certain projects are not likely to be successful. The group agreed to put more detail in project proposal evaluation narratives to provide that clarity.

3. Nason Creek Biological Benefit Prioritization

Casey briefly presented information on the status and the major concepts of the Nason Creek biological benefit prioritization process. He presented the major concepts from a draft of a memo that was intended to go to the Wenatchee Habitat

Subcommittee as the “RTT product” in response to their “request for review”. He explained that he had presented the concepts to the Wenatchee Habitat Subcommittee and they had been well received, but he did not give them the draft memo because it had not yet gone through the RTT for approval. Casey mentioned that the WHSC had considered the concepts from the memo when identifying some near term opportunities for implementation of habitat restoration actions. The next phase of the prioritization process will focus on the quality of the habitat in the reconnected floodplain. The RTT discussed the possibility of presenting the draft memo to the Wenatchee Habitat Subcommittee for their review and feedback. The group agreed that he should provide the draft memo to WHSC for their meeting next week. In the meantime, the RTT has two weeks to review the draft product and provide feedback to Casey. He will then incorporate the input and bring it back in front of the group at the May 14th RTT meeting.

4. UCSRB Update

Derek gave the RTT a brief update of the visit by Bob Lohn and Rob Walton of NOAA at the last UCSRB meeting on March 27. Derek presented some of the highlights of the discussion and the commitments and suggestions that Bob Lohn made.

Derek also reminded the RTT of two upcoming and important meetings: the April 21-25 Hatchery Scientific Review Group review of the upper Columbia hatchery programs; and the May 1-2 Salmon Recovery Funding Board meeting in Wenatchee. Derek emphasized RTT participation in the project tour of the Entiat on May 1st.

5. Barrier Prioritization Framework

Casey provided an update to the RTT on the draft framework to prioritize barriers in the region. The workgroup still needs to work through some of the details. The next step is to integrate the categorical information in the tables into a summary explaining the nuances among the different tributaries for the Wenatchee example. The work group will need to work through the existing list, fill gaps and shore up the framework so that it can be circulated and replicated in the other sub-basins. Casey pointed out that they would probably not be able to meet the April 15th deadline requested by CCNRD for the finished product in the Wenatchee and Entiat. The workgroup will meet before the May 14th RTT meeting and provide another update at that time.

6. Project Rating Criteria Update

Kate and Joe Lange presented to the group criteria for evaluating a design proposal. They incorporated ideas presented at the last meeting and information from the SRFB applications relevant to assessment proposals. She asked for feedback from the RTT on the draft. Casey asked if the status of the design completion is still a factor (i.e. 30%, 60% or 90%). Kate said that the factor of design completion is factored into the

second table and takes into account information provided by Steve Kolk which was more descriptive, rather than relying on arbitrary percentages. Other members of the RTT offered input for Kate and Joe. Casey said he would work with Kate to update Appendix D (project rating criteria) for use during the SRFB 9th Round of funding. Derek emphasized that it would need to be completed prior to the April 30th “kickoff” meeting.

Keely provided an update on criteria for rating assessment proposals. The Monitoring and Data Management Committee used the data gap framework to develop the criteria for rating the biological benefit of assessment proposals. Keely said the MaDMC is going to continue to develop more definition for the “use of information” criterion. Cameron suggested that the project rating criteria should also address the statistical analysis and design approach, ensuring that the assessment will ultimately answer the question being posed. Casey and Keely will work together to finalize the assessment rating criteria and insert it into Appendix D for use in the SRFB Round 9 evaluation.

7. MaDMC update (Keely)

Keely provided an update to the RTT regarding the committee’s work on prioritizing data gaps. A revised draft of the data gap table was circulated to the RTT prior to the meeting. Keely suggested using a quartile approach for establishing tiers for the data gap prioritization. Casey asked for additional input, and then for approval. After a brief discussion the data gap prioritization was approved.

Julie asked about the importance of using the score versus an associated tier level. The group discussed the difference of these, acknowledging the lack of certainty in any particular score relative to the importance of the information coming out of the research.

Keely then provided additional updates from the March 28th MaDMC meeting. Pamela Nelle had circulated the current draft of Appendix A (Wenatchee specific monitoring plan) of the Monitoring Strategy to the MaDMC. The MaDMC agreed to review and provide input to Pamela Nelle by June 1st. Pamela said she could include the updates in her contract starting in June.

The committee also discussed its 2008 work plan. The committee started putting dates and priorities on the tasks with which the MaDMC will be involved.

8. GSRO 2009-2011 implementation priorities

Julie reviewed the list with the RTT, and incorporated several suggestions and revisions. The RTT did not conduct a review of the estimated cost associated with any particular action (a column in the table that Julie said would be deleted). No major additions to the table were suggested. Julie suggested that if an RTT member

had any additional suggestions or comments to email those to her within the next couple of days.

9. Wrap-up and next steps

Next steps were captured within each of the agenda topics. Casey thanked everyone for coming and adjourned the meeting at 1:50 p.m.