

Methow Restoration Council

April 16, 2013

Participants:

Name	Organization/Affiliation
Allen Lebovitz	WDNR
Brian Fisher	MSRF
Carolyn Schmekel	MV Interpretive Center
Charlie Snow	WDFW
Chris Butler	Yakama Nation
David Duvall	Grant PUD
Greg Knott	Van Hees
Hans Smith	Yakama Nation
Jarred Johnson	Yakama Nation
Jason Lundgren	CCFEG
Jason Paulsen	Methow Conservancy
Jennifer Molesworth	Reclamation
Jeri Timm	WWP-TU
Jessica Goldberg	MSRF
Joe Connor	BPA
John Crandall	MRC
Julie Grialou	Methow Conservancy
Lee Hatcher	Methow Watershed Council
Lynda Hofmann	WDFW
Matt Shales	CCFEG
Michael Notaro	Watershed Resource Solutions
Rob Crandall	Methow Natives
Robes Parrish	US Fish and Wildlife Service
Roy Beaty	Bonneville Power Administration
Steven Foreman	Methownet/MethowGrist
Tara Gregg	MSRF
Terri Williams	Okanogan Conservation District

Meeting Notes:

Derek Van Marter—UCSRB Update: the board and staff went down to Portland to visit with agency executives. We met with the Regional Forester, Regional Director of USFWS, and the BPA fish and wildlife director. The purpose was to check in on priorities and progress. Last week we went to DC, met with agency folks, talked about PCSRF, forest health. While we were there, the president's budget came out, PCSRF budget is around 50 million in the budget. The PNW delegation was disappointed with that number, which has been at 65 million, as it is more than a 20 percent cut. We expect quite a bit of discussion and dialogue about the PCSRF budget to continue; we will see how it turns out for FY 14. We also met with Eric Schwaab at NOAA, and also the director of the Forest Service. Agencies are supportive; they appreciate the grass roots response to the natural resource effort.

The next UCSRB Board meeting is on April 25th in Chelan at the Firehouse. In other news, two weeks ago district courts issued a permanent injunction on the culvert case; this means that all state-managed

culverts need to be updated for salmon passage. We don't know what that means, but work is underway to figure out the process. Was an important decision that has been lingering for several years. Not sure what the next steps are.

Allen Lebovitz—DNR already has a culvert list; we will probably put that forward and try to show progress working on that list. Not sure how WDFW and DOT will proceed.

Lynda Hofmann—we also have a list and we are working through it.

John Crandall—is it only culverts that affect salmon habitat?

Derek—yes. The decision says that within 6 months the state has to provide a list of culverts on state-owned or maintained roads back to the court.

Roy Beaty—Upper Columbia Targeted Results Update: These are the results of the UC targeted process that started last fall. It started out with abstracts and then moved to full proposals. Action agencies have made selections; UCSRB provided assistance as well [PowerPoint]

Roy—we will also be presenting these to the other WATs. 9 projects were proposed; each has a score. The number one project is the Twisp Floodplain at MVID West. Next 4 are on a provisional list; if things line up, then we might select from this list for funding, but we have not made a commitment. The RTT evaluated biological benefits, BPA and Reclamation evaluated expert panel/BiOp benefits; we subtracted risk and cost, and then came up with a score. We also had some BiOp priorities and budget planning that we factored in. This is only for programmatic funds to be committed, but Reclamation will be committing funds separately. We also have the Entiat Imperative, 2014, 2016/2017, and the expert panel results indicated that we have to spend more in the Entiat; the rest is a balance among the other subbasins.

Derek—at the June 4th Implementation Team meeting, Jude Trapani, (the new “Joe Spinazola”) will be coming to talk about what the Action Agencies will be doing in the subbasins; will only be at the IT meeting, not the WATs

Roy—the budget for the UC Programmatic funding is relatively flat through 2018; some is already allocated. 2015 is the only year that we have at least 1 million to invest in a big project. We will probably pick one of the Wenatchee big projects for that year, likely Upper White Pine.

Jennifer Molesworth—Barkley projects scored low because there wasn't enough information, depending on what happens in the next year or two, it will likely fare better in the next round.

Roy—next steps:

- Meet with MSRF on Twisp Floodplain project implementation meeting, contracting
- Provisional list projects: Stand by
 - Upper White Pine conditions
 - Near term budget uncertainties (on Entiat projects, will get update tomorrow; also Burlington Northern RR)
- Debriefing for this cycle: Sponsor input
- Next cycle
 - TBD; will be looking at the budget, may focus on an area

John Crandall—Monitoring Update: The Washington Department of Ecology completed their Habitat Status and Trends monitoring program in the Methow last year. They are on a four year rotating cycle, similar to CHaMP; some of the Ecology sites and CHaMP sites are close together; it will be interesting to see how the data compares. Of the Ecology sites, because they were chosen at random, more than half fell outside of the anadromous zone; it will be interesting to see the different types of information. All the data should be available in a few weeks. They also did water quality. The website they've set up is pretty interactive and easy to use. The CHaMP data is also available, they have topo data, habitat metrics, a massive amount of information www.champmonitoring.org, they have 35 sites, and will be

adding 10 more this year. After this season CHaMP will no longer be selecting new sites unless something happens to the old ones. They will be coming when the water drops in July, August. Sites are mostly selected, working on landowner access. This is a huge hit for habitat monitoring here. Looks like the FS will be doing their stream inventory on the Twisp River, Little Bridge Creek to the anadromous barrier; it will be a mix of private and public land. It has been done before, but not in such a large area at once.

From RME side of things, with Reclamation and USGS, work is ongoing to develop the productivity model. There is a desire to get real data off the ground here; they've been working on a data harvester program from U of I; it looks like it is going in a positive direction, and when it is up and running it could be a neat tool that will be shared for folks to use.

The Methow Monitoring plan; there is now a push to get it done. It is an appendix to the Upper Columbia Monitoring Strategy which is an appendix to the Upper Columbia Recovery Plan. We will be looking at how the entire monitoring body of work in the Methow relates to the goals in the Recovery Plan, trying to figure out how we are addressing key management questions in the Methow. When we put it all together, it is a pretty complete monitoring program that we have going on here, although each component has its own problems. The key is how we monitor in a consistent way to have confidence in the data we get over time; protocols help to have the consistency over time. I will be contacting project sponsors for information on project implementation monitoring; we need information on what everyone is up to, and how you are addressing the implementation monitoring.

Robes Parrish—what about the data management? A lot of data, is there a logical path to acquire information, is there a plan for that?

John—that is hard to figure out, the first line is to have the information organized. We are trying to make the information available to someone who is looking for it, UCSRB is working on it

Derek—there is a difference between having a nexus to figure out where the information is, as opposed to having a repository of all the data; we are heading towards the former

Allen—on the implementation side, what is the best way to access that data?

John—right now it is with the project sponsors themselves, and perhaps on HWS; it is a grey area as to what is the responsibility of the sponsor to do any implementation monitoring over all

Allen—I'm thinking about what we are going to do with the data, how will we be inspired by that; the key is to get data back to funders to help them understand why to fund it

John—it is a grey area, status and trend and effectiveness is more coordinated and documented, implementation monitoring still comes to the sponsors; sponsors have a lot more information about the structures, design, and purpose

Discussion—project sponsors are best suited to say what the purpose of the structures were, whether they met intent, project sponsors best able to define success and failure based on the project objectives

John Crandall—Outreach Update: we have been working on a Twisp Ponds Discovery Guide, it will be a self-guided nature walk, Rob Crandall has been helping; it should be out there in the next month or two, will be a booklet of 7-10 pages that helps people discover the watershed as well as the specific site.

Think it is a great outreach bit.

National Fishing Day is June 8th, at the Winthrop Fish Hatchery, and we need all the help we can get; beavers will be there. If anyone is interested, talk to John and he will get you on the email list

Kent Woodruff—it is exposure to about 500 people for an outreach event

John—it will be a really great day, lots of kids, lots of fun, has been going for over 20 years

We've done one Watershed Watchers program this year, and we also have programs at the NC Basecamp this spring, volunteers are welcome and appreciated.

John—I also still have copies of the fish guide if anyone needs one

Jennifer—Methow Arts is working on the next calendar for us; we hope to have it in August, and it will include a call to action, link to participant web pages with things to do, activities, so it is important to know if people want to have that link, talk to Chris Johnson soon if you want your site included.

Kent Woodruff—Beaver Project Update: appreciate the opportunity to be able to come to the meetings and share; here we will be sharing the state of the project report on the Beaver Project, and I will send it to Jessica to distribute; a lot of people have contributed to the Beaver Project. The collaborative has been at this for 5 years, a year ago Heide Andersen had the idea to get the things we do into a video format. Steven Foreman with Methownet has done great work on the video; I recommend talking with him about other projects. Methow Conservancy has been the project sponsor for the 5 years.

Jason Paulsen—to echo what Kent said, it has been a lot of fun to get the project up and running. Like everything we do, public education is an ongoing challenge, and we are looking for feedback on the messaging on the video so that we can continue to refine the messages that we present to the public. Ongoing funding is a challenge, and we appreciate the assistance that people have given
[Video presentation]

Kent—one of the things that Steven highlighted well in the video is that a lot of people are working together to make this happen, improve the watershed, and the education part is really fun. I also need to thank Charlie Snow; one real success is the PIT tags that we put in each beaver, if one of Charlie's people find a dead beaver, they can scan it and see if it is one of ours, and they can also help us with detection of beavers as they move throughout the watershed. This is helping us learn about beaver movements. A lot of the project innovations are included in the report. Have a map of temperature loggers, flow monitors, and places where we have put beavers and places where they beavers have stayed.

Jason P—partners are really important to this project; this is one of the great highlights of how each player can contribute and we can put it together to make the project happen. Kent will be scheduling field site tours, so let us know if you want to participate.

Allen—budget?

Kent—we have funding committed for this year, project budget is \$250,000, most goes to on the ground work, we are about \$100k short next year, and it gets shorter from there. We have a 10-year plan, we feel good about what we've accomplished towards the goal.

Q—where will you post the video?

Jason P—we are still working on that; we welcome ideas, but we are early in figuring out the right locations. Kent will present it at RCO salmon conference.

Kent—there is a secret link in the report that will take you to the video. We will also be getting a copy of a Canadian program “the Beaver Whisperer” that we have a small part in; will work on a presentation when we get it.

Jason Lundgren—CCFEG Methow Updates: I am here to give an update on four projects in the Methow; two are funded and two are proposed. We have a new project manager, Matt Shales, who came to work with us in March. He came from Chelan County Natural Resources, he is a good fit for the organization, we are spread thin and it is good timing, you will be seeing more of him in the future. We are one of 14 regional fisheries enhancement groups, started by legislature in 1990 as a grassroots way to address salmon recovery. Our roots are in salmon propagation. Our RFEG was late on the scene, ours was incorporated in 2000, based in Oroville in 2010, restarted in 2010 with a new board, new name. Projects:

- Methow Riparian planting: We were successful through open solicitation to work on riparian restoration on WDFW land: Geestman property and the Judd Ranch. May also place loose

wood from Wells dam along the floodplain if WDFW allows, sites will have to be irrigated and fenced for deer exclusion. Plan is to start small with demonstration projects on the state land.

- Methow/Chewuch Groundwater, funded by Chelan PUD Trib; committed to do groundwater monitoring in the Sliver Side Channel, Lewisia, and Burns-Garrity, hope to do monitoring to support restoration design and future restoration efforts.
- One proposed project that we will pursue this year is a design effort at Silver Side Channel; Gina McCoy has some conceptual designs for habitat improvements; we hope that the groundwater monitoring effort will aid in this, and Bureau has committed to hydraulic modeling and survey. We will put this to the open solicitation this year. May also try to capture Alder Creek as part of the design effort this year. Not yet clear what the geographic extent will be.
- Finally, the last project is the Twisp to Carlton Reach Assessment, Bureau has in-kind match for hydro, bathometric modeling, geomorphic assistance to help with the effort. Not sure if this will go to open solicitation; we are currently looking at some different options.

Robes—Silver is being put forward in advance of the RA because it is recognized as an important area

Derek—I recommend that you emphasize that to the RTT

Jason L—Gina and Robes will work together on the design

Roundtable

Joe Connor—BPA: all of our Methow contracts are on schedule, we have three with MSRF, and we will arrange a meeting before we proceed to contracting with the Twisp Floodplain

Roy Beaty—BPA: we are meeting with Okanogan County Commissioners this afternoon on BPA projects, how this works for ratepayers

We will also be meeting with USFWS and UCSRB on the design program this week

Kent Woodruff—USFS: we will bring the Beaver field crew on the first week in May. When you are out in the streams, let me know where you see fresh beaver activity; that would be helpful for our project

John Crandall—Monitoring Coordinator: we got the grant for the Lamprey Restoration Guide; it will be about a one-year project, and it will be Columbia basin wide, Pacific lamprey focused, a lot of people are signed up to help out with that. We are seeing fish move into the restoration areas with the wood structures.

Matt Shales—CCFEG: New to CCFEG; I'm looking forward to working up here and meeting you all

Lynda Hofmann—WDFW: I have seen beaver activity on Goat Creek, and I'm expecting the county to call any day; so heads up

Robes Parrish—USFWS: I apologize that we pitched and then suspended the HRT proposals; we hope to get it resolved soon. A little maintenance and planting is going on at Hancock; John Jorgensen is working on a quantitative report.

Greg Knott—MWC hat: The Watershed Council is going to do a presentation on our Davis Lake project soon; one objective is restoring flows in Bear Creek; the other thing is that we had a bill introduced in the legislature; we are trying to change our organizational structure to a more permanent group

because the Watershed Planning Act wasn't so long term. It was introduced last session, will continue and we will be looking for support

Brian Fisher—MSRF: John Crandall was out at Wolf Ridge and got some great video of fish using the wood structures, USGS got out to Whitefish this spring and captured, bull trout, juvenile Chinook, O. mykiss, and coho; project is already being used. The M2 WDFW projects are out to bid, we will be closing on Friday April 19th, going smoothly right now. Upper Beaver Creek project, we have been meeting with landowners and irrigators, and the project is on track. Also at Whitefish, we made a big sign to put at the entrance to the side channel to encourage people to go left. I did float the side channel in a dry suit, and it wasn't too scary.

Jeri Timm—TU: we are working on a Twisp River well conversion project; the well should be in this year, and up and running this year. It will mean 4.5 cfs back in the river.

Jason Lundgren—CCFEG: we just finished a conceptual design for an outdoor exhibit at the Leavenworth Fish Hatchery; worked with the hatchery's Friends group, TU is a partner. It is a walking path, a scaled down version of the watershed, where you walk through eco-regions, native American features throughout, hatchery feature, tells about the salmon journey out to the ocean and back, includes sections on upland impacts, and it ties in the whole watershed. Presented it to Leavenworth chamber and city council. The Leavenworth hatchery is most visited hatchery, has 100,000 visitors each year, this will help balance the message of hatcheries with kids and other visitors and help emphasize the habitat component. Price tag is 2 Million. Also my AmeriCorps person has an active Facebook page that is updated daily.

David Duvall—Grant PUD: our legal review team has reviewed the contract for the 1890s side channel land purchase, is back in YN's court.

Steven Forman—MethowNet/Grist: I'm thinking of doing a documentary on the Methow Watershed, doing research to see where we are going, will publish things along the way, if you are doing projects that you want covered let me know.

Charlie Snow—WDFW: we have two new permanent PIT tag sites; one on Lost River and the other at Early Winters downstream of HWY 20; not online yet but will be soon

Robes—two new ones are going into Hancock, are you doing those?

Charlie—we would like the data, but we are not specifically involved

Roy—I think it is the Bureau/USGS

Charlie—we are trying to reposition the data to get steelhead spawning data without doing surveys; PIT tag data gives you data on hatchery vs. natural, but you lose other data on way points;

Derek—can help with the life cycle model

Charlie—will be many useful benefits

John—have you shown any shifts in spawning locations?

Charlie—a lot going on, one thing is that hatchery release locations have changed a lot too, when we moved our plants the distribution changed; we are also trying to recognize that the spawning distribution is only based on the habitat that is there now based on where they are rearing, if there are projects that open up new habitat, we need to address that in our plan; hope the PIT arrays will help us do that. If you identify new open habitats, let us know so we can get in there.

Chris Butler—YN: MIG will start the river use assessment on the Chewuch, Twisp, and Big Valley; we will also put in cameras on Big Valley to lower costs

Derek Van Marter—landowner liability legislation, moved to Senate, moved out of committee and is now in rules; it has until the end of the month to make it out of rules. If you have any connections in the rules committee, recommend that you contact them and ask that it be moved out of rules and move out of the committee to the floor for a hearing. Linda Parlette. Judiciary committee addressed an amendment that largely addressed her concerns, so the more she hears support the better.

Greg Knott—TU hat: for those who are interested, there is a web site for the MVID project; the directors have decided on an alternative, 11 cfs back to the Twisp River; a combination of actions in the alternative; stay tuned www.mvid.org. There will be a public meeting on the 25th

Jessica Goldberg—MSRF: Reclamation has a video on the Whitefish project; can see at <http://www.usbr.gov/pn/programs/fcrps/thp/index.html>. It is the first of three videos; the second is on the Tyee project (Entiat) and the third is from the Yankee Fork.

Next MRC May 21st

Definitions of Commonly used Acronyms	
ANS	Aquatic Nuisance Species
AREMP	Aquatic and Riparian Effectiveness Monitoring Program
BEF	Bonneville Environmental Foundation
BO/BiOp	Biological Opinion
BPA	Bonneville Power Administration
CBFWA	Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Authority (pronounced "cubfwah")
CCFEG	Columbia Cascade Fisheries Enhancement Group (formerly Upper Columbia Regional Fisheries Enhancement Group)
CHaMP	Columbia Habitat Monitoring Program
CMZ	Channel Migration Zone
CREP	Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program
CSF	Community Salmon Fund
EDT	Ecosystem Diagnosis and Treatment
ESA	Endangered Species Act
FCRPS	Federal Columbia River Power System
FFFPP	Family Forest Fish Passage Program
FIA	Forest Inventory and Analysis program (USFS)
HACCP	Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point
HGMP	Hatchery Genetic Management Plan
HPA	Hydraulic Project Approval
HSRG	Hatchery Scientific Review Group
HWS	Habitat Work Schedule
IMW	Intensively Monitored Watershed
IS	Implementation Schedule
ISEMP	Integrated Status and Effectiveness Monitoring Project
ISRP	Independent Scientific Review Panel
IT	Implementation Team
LW/LWD	Large Wood/Large Woody Debris
M2	Middle Methow (a project area defined as the reach between Winthrop and Twisp)
MaDMC	Monitoring and Data Management Committee (pronounced "madmac")
MOA	Memorandum of Agreement
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MRC	Methow Restoration Council
MSRF	Methow Salmon Recovery Foundation (pronounced "em-surf")
MVRD	Methow Valley Ranger District
MWC	Methow Watershed Council
MYAP	Multi-year Action Plan (also sometimes called the 3-year workplan)
NMFS	National Marine Fisheries Service
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NPCC	Northwest Power and Conservation Council
OBMEP	Okanogan Basin Monitoring and Evaluation Program
OWL	Okanogan Wilderness League
PCSRF	Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund (pronounced "Pacsurf")

PIBO	PACFISH/INFISH* Biological Opinion
PNAMP	Pacific Northwest Aquatic Monitoring Partnership
PUD	Public Utility District
QAQC	Quality Assurance, Quality Control
RA	Reach Assessment
RCO	(Washington State) Recreation and Conservation Office
REI	Reach-based Ecosystem Indicators (used in Reach Assessments)
RFEG	Regional Fisheries Enhancement Group
RM	River Mile
RPA	Reasonable and Prudent Alternative(s)
RTT	Regional Technical Team
SEPA	State Environmental Policy Act
SOAL	State Owned Aquatic Lands
SOW	Statement of Work
SPIF	Specific Project Information Form (used with the Corps ESA programmatic)
SRFB	(Washington State) Salmon Recovery Funding Board (pronounced "surfboard")
STEM Database	Status, Trend and Effectiveness Monitoring database at NOAA's Northwest Fisheries Science Center
UCSRB	Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board
USFS	US Forest Service
USGS	US Geological Survey
VSP	Viable Salmonid Population
WAT	Watershed Action Team (the MRC is our WAT)
WDFW	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
WDNR	Washington Department of Natural Resources
WNFH	Winthrop National Fish Hatchery
WWP-TU	Washington Water Project of Trout Unlimited (formerly Washington Rivers Conservancy)
YN	Yakama Nation

*PACFISH/INFISH The PACFISH/INFISH Biological Opinion (PIBO) Effectiveness Monitoring Program was initiated in 1998 to provide a consistent framework for monitoring aquatic and riparian resources on most Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management lands within the Upper Columbia River Basin. This 7-year status report gives our funding sources, partners, and the public an overview of past activities, current business practices, products and publications, and future program directions. It is designed to increase accountability and summarize our accomplishments during the initial phase of the program.