

Methow Restoration Council

April 19, 2016

Participants:

Name	Organization/Affiliation
Amy Martin	Okanogan Conservation District
Chris Johnson	MSRF
Jenni Novak	WDFW
Jessica Goldberg	MSRF
Josh Thomson	Okanogan County Public Works
Joy Juelson	UCSRB
Lee Bernheisel	OWL
Lynda Hofmann	WDFW
Paul Wagner	Colville Tribes
Rob Crandall	Methow Natives
Ryan Fortier	WDFW
Susan Crampton	Public

Meeting Notes:

Josh Thomson – Okanogan County PW – Gold Creek Loop Road [Presentation]

Chris Johnson – this area is below the Twisp to Carlton reach, which is the closest and most recent reach area, but over the years, we have done many projects outside of RA areas.

Josh – our main concerns are the county roads; there are no real sources of outside funding for these roads. Have some barrier at the road. Have about 50 feet of active erosion undermining Gold Creek Loop Road downstream of the pine tree, about 50 feet upstream of the tree that is about halfway eroded. Only about 13 feet of pavement left in that section of road, which is down to one lane. About a month ago, we had to move the barrier in about a foot because it was completely undermined. It is more stable upstream and in the riprapped section downstream.

Discussion – issues with relocating road, possibilities of purchasing area to move the road.

Josh – There is a prescriptive right of way, but the commissioners do not feel that gives the county the right to move the road into the neighboring property. Easement would typically be 30 feet from centerline on either side.

Concerns

- Safety for public
- Maintain access for residents
- School bus route
- Cost of repairs – rural access classification, no funding

Solutions

- County public works project
 - Extend riprap similar to downstream
 - Rebuild slope, repair roadway
 - Revegetate to further stabilize slope
- Partner with salmon recovery efforts

Josh – if public works does a project alone, we could do additional riprap placement from above, dig the toe from above and place the riprap. Estimate that would cost about \$40-\$50k.

Chris – at Witte Road we had a similar situation where we constructed a wood crib habitat structure at the base. It was addressing a similar issue, but is the sort of project that could have a fish benefit

Discussion – durability, cost, match, fish benefit

Lynda Hofmann – I think that it would have fish benefit. It is just down from Gold Creek, there is little cover in the area

Jessica Goldberg – what is the timeline that you are thinking of?

Josh – if something was in the works, we could build it next year. If not, we would probably do the riprap at the low water this year.

Action – Chris will follow up with Josh after discussions with CCFEG, Trib Comm, others

Chris Johnson – Beaver Creek & Frazer Creek Update:

Chris – we received funding to replace two bridges on Frazer Creek, and the bridges have been delivered. Each bridge is coming in between \$90 – 100k. Used bridges were around the same cost as new bridges, less than \$10k difference. Funding by Colville Tribes for these two bridges, which are 40 ft. by 16 ft. They were designed to meet requirements for 3 ft. clearance at 100 year flood, which is an HPA requirement. Last year we installed a bridge on Beaver Creek, replaced two smaller culverts, we had a used bridge, which cost \$74k, so not a big difference.

At one of the Frazer Creek former crossing sites where we have a bridge going in next week, we are coordinating with Colville cultural to be onsite during ground disturbance. At that site the challenge was to avoiding putting in a 60 ft. bridge. We had to shift locations somewhat due to losing bank and trees in original location. Plan to leave trees with rootballs in the creek to try to block sediment.

At the box culvert on Hwy 20 at Frazer Creek installed in 2006, sediment from fire zone is dropping into the culvert.

Poorman Creek Cutoff culvert – the culvert is still working but a debris jam upstream caused the creek to flow around the culvert, so the county went out and cleared the jam

Frazer Creek at Barker – just upstream of the box culvert; we have work planned for October 2016 to install a bridge

Beaver Creek project – we had a fire debris jam on top of the wood structure; we had two logs removed and the creek height has dropped four feet. We may work with WDFW to rebuild the structure after high water.

Jennifer Molesworth – last night Beaver Creek came up higher than it has been before. Need to keep an eye on it today

Chris – OCEC cleared for the relocated power line after the fire and the slash is blocking culvert access.

We are talking about working with the county to upsize culverts under the county road

We also walked Storer Creek with the YN and their engineer and they have some ideas for two culverts, one on Upper Beaver Creek Road and one on Balky Hill Road.

Bridge Timing – with the emergency we were able to get bridges in 6 months, now without emergency it is 16 months. Any ideas of how can we do better?

Amy Martin – we haven't done any culverts; we've done some emergency response protecting structures and wells

Chris – we are 10 structures in and four more are asking for help, a lot of budget and man hours are lost coming up with fish friendly solutions. Often surprised by the sense of entitlement vs gratitude.

Take away:

- 2014 and 2015 6 bridges @ 100k each
- 6 months from flood to installation
- 2016 – 4 crossings at 100k each
- 16 months + from flood to installation

Amy – we got in to that where we wanted to go out and do site visits, but we had to let people know that we don't have the capacity to do the projects. We directed them to resources, but we had to work on messaging to let people know that we aren't all emergency responders. I will send out information on the resources that we direct people to for people to use.

Discussion – attitudes, realities on the ground

Lee Bernheisel – can you describe the permitting?

Chris – the project generally require Corps of Engineers, WDFW permits, also cultural and ESA. Some require DNR permits

Lee – many landowners on small streams probably don't realize that they need a permit, there is not enough information out there

Discussion – some people don't want to know, some people are realizing that they need to ask for help

Amy Martin – Conservation District Update: Bob Clark is managing Emergency Watershed Protection Program, where they build protective structures like berms to protect homes; it is through NRCS. They are still taking sign up from Carlton and Okanogan Complex victims. In addition, if people flood out three times there is a possibility that they would move homes.

Amy – Terri is working with people on Benson Creek, she has been sending out mailings so if you are interested in being on that list let Terri or me know.

The state budget was signed yesterday; districts in the state are getting money for fire recovery related to fencing, culverts, seeding for erosion control. We will have 14 months to deploy the funding, so we may need to hire staff. If we can justify the resource concerns, we may be able to fund culvert replacements. We are working off the list of people who have contacted us through the fires, things can be added to the lists and we are weighting priorities and resource concerns. Needs to have a fire recovery focus.

Looks like early May; we will submit the projects to the Conservation Commission and they will help decide which projects will be funded. We will need to check with NRCS, etc. to make sure that they are not funding things that could be funded somewhere else. There will be a minimum cost share for landowners. Critical area fencing will be the highest priority.

Chris – I would like to throw you a spec sheet for Storer Creek

Amy – we will make sure that we will coordinate with others on projects.

Josh – any possibility of helping with folks on Frost road? It's a water quality issue, others

Lynda – also a fish issue because it goes from lakes with fish to the Twisp River

Amy – everything will need to be NRCS approved practice

Rob Crandall – WDFW Floodplain Trail Project: update on the trail project we are working on at the M2 WDFW floodplain site. We have a signed partner agreement, MSRF, MC, MA, Methow Trails, Methow School District, CCFEG, and we have some financial support from the Colville Tribes. This week we will have a meeting to structure a proposal for WDFW. We met on site with the new tech guy from the Methow Wildlife Area, Brandon, and he seems to be interested in getting involved, will help us coordinate with the department. He mentioned that they are working on an outreach efforts, kiosks, as we are, could work really well working with the partnership is to come up with a single stewardship message to share the message with the public.

Chris – we are using some BEF funding to bring the groups together.

Chris – we are looking at a very lite footprint, similar to what we did at Twisp Ponds, and we are looking to come up with ways to accommodate uses that are already happening on state lands and direct that use

Lynda – are other WDFW sites planned?

Rob – could definitely be a model for use on state land, for example downstream at Geestman, low cost and simple that would increase public access and get more people on to those sites. We are meeting at 3:15 at the Conservancy Office on Friday.

Joy Juelson – UCSRB Update: we still don't have an Executive Director. We've had two outreach efforts, but we still don't have a candidate. Melody Kreimes is the acting director in the meantime. Also, one month ago our RTT chair resigned. Chelan County Commissioner Ron Walter, Melody, and I met with the RTT last week. We contracted out previously for the last two RTT chairs, but we may be looking at a different model. We are helping them staff wise. My current concern is that we make it through the grant round, and they are committed to scoring the projects. They didn't feel they have the capacity to do presentations, so I will host presentations on June 8th at the regularly scheduled RTT meeting. We will have project tours in the Methow on May 5th. There are not that many projects in the Methow and Okanogan this year, so it will be a reasonable day in the field. We will have a couple of presentations at the Riverbank – the bull trout monitoring proposal and OCD's Similkameen. We will be going to Cedarosa, Burns Garrity, and Twisp Floodplain, and then a few will go to Silver. Usually it will be RTT, Trib Comm, project sponsors on the tours. If others want to come please let Joy know.

SRFB/Trib proposals: We have one in the Okanogan, five in the Methow, and twelve in the Wenatchee. Two assessments, two monitoring, four design, five protection, and five restoration. As the Bureau funds fewer designs, we are seeing more design requests to SRFB/Trib. No projects from the Entiat this year.

[Project list]

Joy – New monitoring project type is a new type of proposal. Next week we have a board meeting; the board has to certify the monitoring proposals, then they will still go through the citizens committees. Ten percent is the maximum percent of the funding that is eligible; some regions are taking that ten percent and sending out an RFP, in our region we are keeping it in the regular process. We will see what the board decides to do.

The Okanogan County Commissioners did ask for our project list.

Roundtable

Paul Wagner – Colville Tribes: not a lot new to report, we are putting in two Bridges on Frazer Creek and riparian fencing on Twisp River with MSRF

Chris – moving the cattle fencing to be 75 feet from the river

Paul – working on fencing on Lawson, and also helping Keith Kistler with some contour felling on the Little Loup Creek.

EDT – Dave Hopkins decided not to be the QAQC person for EDT, so we are looking for suggestions on who else would be good for that.

Chris Johnson – maybe Rob Richardson?

Paul – we are looking for someone who is familiar with the Methow. They will be bringing in a bunch of data that others have assembled and it needs to be ranked in terms of its representativeness and for compatible with all uses. The Data QAQC is going to happen next year. The whole project is 18 months long

Jennifer – Tara Gregg might also be good at that

Discussion – also possibly Keith or Grace Watson

Jenni Novak – WDFW: we have a design for Wolf Creek, waiting for low water. Also at Maltais, Kelli is working on roughened channel and screen designs; expect to have them in another week

Chris – once you have design let's check in. I met with Kim the other day. It will be an interesting project

Jenni – I will try to meet with him and with Kelli to go over designs

Lynda Hofmann – WDFW: I'm wondering where we are with Stokes Thurlow

Chris – the diversion and screen are concreted in with sediment from Frazer creek; we put in many hours last year digging it out, and we aren't doing that this year. We are looking at other possibilities for solutions.

Jennifer Molesworth – Bureau of Reclamation: National Fishing Day is June 11th at the Fish Hatchery. MVID is starting up their new system, pump turned on yesterday, still working on one lateral. Working on Barkley Bear

Rob Crandall – Methow Natives: I was out at Pearrygin State Park yesterday; in 2014 they reconfigured the creek where it goes into the lake. Did good last year but is epic erosion this year fine alluvial material – not good.

Josh Thomson – Okanogan County Public Works: the county has concerns about the flow path for Davis Creek and the upcoming piping for Barkley Bear; hope that they will factor that in to the Barkley Project

Jennifer – the sponsor contact for the project is Aaron Penvose with Trout Unlimited

Chris – there is a similar issue on the former MVID West near Poorman Creek road on MSRF property

Chris Johnson – Methow Salmon Recovery Foundation: we are getting ready to start Twisp River Floodplain year two, we have an issue with a new bald eagle nesting site near one of our wood features. The nesting period may conflict with the fish window, so we may not be able to construct that element. We were out there a few days ago, and after taking the top off the levee, we had water coming over the levee, which gives us the opportunity to check design flow vs reality. We are looking forward to a good project there this July.

We are working on Barkley Bear alternatives. We are doing a habitat project in the area to be abandoned for the piping project.

Paul – one other thing; last year we started annual monitoring on Frazer Creek, so let's start talking about that.

Discussion – revisit the monitoring after high water

Next MRC Meeting: May 17th

Definitions of Commonly used Acronyms

AEM	Action Effectiveness Monitoring
ANS	Aquatic Nuisance Species
AREMP	Aquatic and Riparian Effectiveness Monitoring Program
BACI	Before, After, Control, Impact (study design type)
BEF	Bonneville Environmental Foundation
BO/BiOp	Biological Opinion
BPA	Bonneville Power Administration
CAC	Citizens Advisory Committee (for SRFB funding applications)
CAO	Critical Areas Ordinance
CBFWA	Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Authority (pronounced “cubfwah”)
CCFEG	Columbia Cascade Fisheries Enhancement Group
CCT	Colville Confederated Tribes
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
FFFP	Family Forest Fish Passage Program
FIA	Forest Inventory and Analysis program (USFS)
Four “H”s	The four factors affecting salmon recovery: Hatchery, Hydro, Habitat, Harvest
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)
NFF	National Forest Foundation
NMFS	National Marine Fisheries Service

NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NPCC	Northwest Power and Conservation Council
OCD	Okanogan Conservation District
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
RFP	Request for Proposals
RM	River Mile
RPA	Reasonable and Prudent Alternative(s)
RTT	Regional Technical Team
SEPA	State Environmental Policy Act
SMP	Shoreline Management Plan
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")
SRP	State Review Panel (for SRFB funding applications)
STEM Database	Status, Trend and Effectiveness Monitoring database at NOAA's Northwest Fisheries Science Center
UCSRB	Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board
TRT	Technical Recovery Team (NOAA)
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
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.