

Methow Restoration Council

June 20, 2017

Participants:

Name	Organization/Affiliation
Amy Martin	Okanogan Conservation District
Ben Truscott	WDFW
Chris Johnson	MSRF
David LaFever	Public
Greer Maier	UCSRB
Greg Knott	Methow Watershed Council
Ian Fair	Public
Jarred Johnson	Yakama Nation
Jessica Goldberg	MSRF
John Crandall	MSRF
Joy Juelson	UCSRB
Ken Muir	USFWS
Kristen Kirkby	CCFEG
Maddie Eckmann	Yakama Nation
Paul Wagner	Colville Tribes
Rachel McClure	Okanogan Conservation District
Robes Parrish	USFWS
Ryan Fortier	WDFW
Steve Kolk	Reclamation

Meeting Notes

John Crandall – Monitoring Update: spring is a good time to clean gear to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species – especially if you work in more than one watershed. For those of you who move between watersheds please be extra diligent. You really need to look at your gear, waders, boots, etc. Inspect, clean and dry should be an automatic part of every trip. If you see anything suspect please report because we don't have much of that here but the way things are going, it is definitely within the realm of possibility. Drying things in the sun is a good way, pick things off. Boats and trailers also, need to look for vegetation.

For the paper of the month, I have been looking at different models for fish carrying capacity. Most people are familiar with Habitat Suitability Index (HSI) models; there is another approach called the Net Rate of Energy Intake (NREI) model, which has done a better job of predicting fish density of steelhead at the reach scale. Goes beyond HSI and addresses territory size. Like many models, it has some assumptions. It was developed by people working on ISEMP. Paper: *Net rate of energy intake predicts reach-level steelhead (Oncorhynchus mykiss) densities in diverse basins from a large monitoring program* (Wall et al 2015).

Kristen Kirkby – were they using the macroinvertebrate data?

John – yes, I think it was more than the CHaMP samples too, and a bunch of fish capture. It did a good job of predicting carrying capacity. Spatial arrangement of habitat is important. Seemed like they got good results, although there are still issues that they are working on. We will likely be pulling some of this into the Lower Methow Reach Assessment.

Last Thursday we crammed ourselves into a room in Wenatchee and the MaDMC revised the Upper Columbia Data Gaps List. It is a process. A lot of what was in there before was pretty dated. There has been new

information and work done, previously climate change wasn't on the list. We took the old list, archived the old stuff so it is not totally gone, and made a new list that is formatted differently, simpler to follow. It relates categories of data gaps, based on larger categories. There are a lot of new gaps that were put on by the MaDMC. The group has it in their hands, and we will go through and flesh it out a little bit, then it will circulate through the WATs for input, then it will come back to MaDMC to be revised based on comments, then it will go to RTT. There is a lot on there, a few "catch all" ones. It leaves a lot to work with. A lot associated with lower rivers and mainstem, temperature stuff, barriers, threats, gold mining, productivity, etc. The list will likely come to the WAT July meetings, and it may come out ahead of time so we can talk about it at the meetings. It will be on a fast track, but will be a living document. This won't be the last time it will be revised, and it will be focused on listed species and recovering listed species.

Joy Juelson and Greer Maier – UCSRB/Regional Updates:

Joy – we have a board meeting this week, Thursday the 22nd, at the Chelan County Commissioner Building in Wenatchee. On the agenda is the Upper Beaver Creek washout issue, and Chris will be coming down to join the meeting to discuss that later in the day. There was a partner survey by the board, and out of that sparked conversation about outreach. There have been some issues that came up, and the county commissioner members of the board expressed interest in having more opportunities to be involved in the outreach. They asked staff to look for opportunities to do this, and it's generally acknowledged that the WATs are charged with that kind of outreach, but they would like to be more involved.

The IT meeting will be a week from today in Chelan; it will focus on the EDT work that has been done in the Okanogan and the Methow. We will talk about how it could feed into a prioritization methodology, and Jeremy Cram will also be there to talk about how it could fit in with other models like the life cycle modeling. We will be talking about how we bring the WATs in, whether to have a management committee, etc. The IT meeting will be June 27 in Chelan at the fire hall from 9-noon, RTT subgroup on prioritization will meet after in the same location.

The SRFB process is in play; it looks like we will have 1.8 million this year, which is more than last year. The state still has not weighed in with their budget, so this is a projection based on \$18 million from the state. Next year is unknown, but this year is looking good. Last week we had presentations to RTT and SRFB; final proposals are due June 30. I will send out RTT notes on the presentations from Tracy Hillman, but there will not be official consensus comments.

We have two new CAC members. We have two committees, one in Chelan County and one in Okanogan County, and they are the final deciders on the list of salmon recovery projects that go to the state. The RTT scores for biological benefit, and then the CAC has their own criteria they use to rank the projects. We had two openings on the Okanogan CAC this year, and we had 7 nominees. Those nominees went to the Okanogan County Commissioners for selection. They selected John Bartella and Sam Israel. John Bartella lives in Omak, where he owned and operated an orchard for 20 years, and worked with many local organizations. Sam Israel lives in Twisp, he's a professional forester, has his own business providing guidance to private forest landowners. I will send a next steps for SRFB/Trib process to project sponsors by tomorrow. The presentations to the Okanogan CAC will be the 18th in this room in the evening. The Wenatchee presentations will be the 20th.

Greer– the ISAB is the Independent Scientific Advisory Board to the Northwest Power Council. Last year the 5-year status review and the GSRO state of the salmon report showed that the UCR Spring Chinook are some of the worst performing populations and they are trying to figure out why. Last fall Andrew Murdoch and Melody went and presented to the ISAB, and we don't really know why spring Chinook are doing so poorly. In May of this year, the Power Council asked the ISAB to come and review our ESU. Not sure how it will go. They hope to finish by December. They are doing scoping now, and will be visiting the region July 19-21st. They are hoping to tour one or two subbasins, which may include the Methow. The questions that they are asking are in terms of the habitat work we have done and whether it addresses limiting factors and the needs of spring chinook in the

area; the 2014 habitat report will give them some information. Also wondering which sites would be good for them to visit if they come to the Methow. Once I have a draft itinerary, I can also send that out for review.

Discussion – project sites, what information are they looking for from site visits

Greer – these folks are coming from all over the country, some of them have never been in the Upper Columbia, so this would be to ground them in the work on the ground. They may also want to interact with project sponsors. The field visits are to give them a sense of the type of work that is going on. This is mainly a heads up. If you would like to participate in the field visits or the workshop, I will send an invite; the workshop will likely be in Wenatchee.

Chris Johnson – if we had more guidance on what they are looking for, what questions they have, that would be helpful.

Greer – I can out send the list of questions that they hope to answer with the review.

Also from the council, the RME questionnaire, with regard to the CHaMP/ISEMP data. The council is looking for direction on the RME program, and they are also drafting a monitoring plan that they are hoping to finalize by the end of the summer. I sent out a survey and 21 folks responded. I summarized all of the responses and sent them to the council earlier this month. It was not that different from what we discussed earlier; it highlighted what partners were finding useful and what they weren't. If you are interested in the survey data, I can provide that. I will also send the research strategy, and will also provide the monitoring strategy when it is done. This is the council's view on research and monitoring and this will help direct BPA and NOAA.

The council also provided recommendations for our “umbrella projects”, which are our BPA-funded Targeted Solicitation projects. We provided a report, the ISRP reviewed our projects, and the council provided recommendations to BPA on some changes they would like to see in the projects. All work will have to have goals and objectives. We are hoping that prioritization will help with that, and they also asked for that prioritization. There was also a recommendation to have a landscape approach to habitat restoration, and we are still working with BPA to figure out what that means. All these projects will be discussing how we will meet that recommendation. Also some recommendations pertaining to climate change, toxics, action effectiveness. Finally, UCSRB will also be sending out the announcements for the targeted solicitations rather than BPA.

Chris – now we go through a process for goals and objectives, does this mean we will have to have that at the application stage?

Greer – no, it means we will need goals and objectives for the overall programmatic project. There are other umbrella projects doing this, and it is a bit of a WAG. We have awhile to figure it out, and it will be good to get input from the sponsors to help us.

Steve Kolk – what is the different between the ISRP and the ISAB?

Greer - The ISRP is technical, it reviews programs or projects for BPA, and the ISAB reviews policy and issues.

Greg Knott– how big is the landscape?

Greer – That is a good question, and it is not clear from their comments, they just say a “comprehensive landscape approach”, but I read that as ridgetop to river, and also food-web all the way up to the fish

Greg – that is a huge undertaking

Chris – I'm interested in seeing how you roll up the information from the reach assessments into that

Greg – also the land management agencies are also looking at ridgetop to rivers, so it will be interesting to roll that up, difficult but possible.

Chris – I can see us spending more time on that than on projects, and that is what scares me.

Joy – and the council does make recommendations, but BPA may not necessarily follow it, so it is a work in progress.

Greer – we will be sitting down with BPA to figure out how we incorporate these comments into our umbrella projects.

John Crandall – Outreach Update: We had an outreach and education meeting, and we had people from Methow Conservancy, Okanogan Conservation District, Trout Unlimited, Methow Natives, Cascade Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group, and the Methow Beaver project. We updated the matrix of different education programs we are doing; most are related to work with the school districts, and tried to figure out which grades are getting serviced. The schools are thrilled, and the relationships are getting stronger. It's a good situation. A number of programs are going on, first Tuesdays, Fishing Day, River Camp. In the spring there is a career fair, and it would be good to have more natural resource representation.

Jessica – the school contacted me about that this year and I brought it up at MRC; unfortunately this year's fair was during the Salmon Conference.

John – there is also an internship program that the Conservancy is doing, and they have a volunteer program as well. I'm trying to get some of those volunteers to do some maintenance on some riparian sites that are out of funding cycles. We also talked about some other things that have potential, like a river cleanup. If anyone is interested, please let me know.

Chris – when we did that last time, it was good to have small and defined segments of the river to coordinate removal points and dumpster locations, etc.

John – we are also getting together a landowner survey, based on one done in the Rogue valley in southern Oregon. It will be focused with a letter campaign, with follow up. Goal is to gather information on people's feelings, beliefs, and opinions on salmon and forest restoration, and to tease out what their understanding is what goes on here. I hope it helps us do better, more targeted outreach.

We are working on the second edition of the Methow Fish guide, so if you have snazzy pictures or comments, please contact John.

Greg – as a grandparent of current students, I want to say thank you and Rob Crandall and Kristen Kirkby for the work that you are doing in the schools – it makes a difference

Roundtable

Amy Martin and Rachel McClure – Okanogan Conservation District: we have a few small riparian projects over here. Working on the Voluntary Stewardship Program; the county is leading the effort and is hiring a consultant to work on the plan; OCD is providing technical assistance. They need to have an approved plan by December 2018, so they need a draft plan this fall. I think the county will be doing more outreach on goals and objectives for agricultural and critical areas, so I will keep the group updated. They may be posting meeting notes on their web site and you can also get on the mailing list.

The Envirothon team from Okanogan High School the won state competition and are going to nationals in Maryland in July. They have been learning east coast ecology. They are excited to go. They have been practicing in our office, and the school is raising money for the airfare, so if anyone wants to support them, that would be great.

Chris – OCD was managing the fire recovery funds that expire June 30. Do we know if they will be reauthorized?

Amy – we are all waiting for the state budget. I haven't heard whether they will reauthorize the fund.

A lot of stuff was delayed because of spring flooding

Chris – I talked with commissioner Hover about the difficulty of using those funds at the interface of public and private. May be opportunities for reviewing restrictions if it does get authorized.

John Crandall – Methow Monitoring: I have been working to get eDNA sampling going for bull trout in the basin to get at some of the questions about distribution of the species in the basin. They are in the process in the Wenatchee, and they have already found 7 locations that were previously unknown. Once locations are identified there are opportunities for additional work. Pretty exciting, really supports the validity of doing that work. There is also some interest in what other kind of work can be done when you are out there taking that sample. It is possible to look for additional species, it just costs a little more. It could be a good way to tie up

some of the questions we have about additional fish species in the Methow. I think you can run about 10 species per sample.

Kristen Kirkby – CCFEG: we don't have any construction projects this summer, Burns Garrity is on hold due to potential real estate transactions.

We are looking at opportunities for Twisp to Carlton. Also looking at FFFPP projects in the Okanogan.

I have been working with forest service to do snorkeling events with kids.

We also got some money from the Kiwanis club

Greg – Amy, have you gone to the Okanogan and Omak Kiwanis club for the Envirothon? They meet every other Wednesday, and I recommend you talk to them

Ian Fair– Public: I just moved from Leavenworth to Winthrop. I came from the Wenatchee River Institute, and have experience in partnership development, working with schools, blending stewardship science, in connection to place. I came to listen and learn what is going on.

Ryan Fortier – WDFW: the sockeye are coming, same with summer Chinook; we will have a season. I really doubt that there will be a heat blockage. If you are up near Enloe, I recommend fishing this year. Counts for spring chinook are low, but they are misleading; it is a poor return this year. It will also be the worst run of steelhead since 1980.

Jarred Johnson – YN: we have several projects this year. Will be finishing the Newby Narrows project, also trying to work out things with DNR to do the Big Valley Project. Chris Butler is doing work on the Chewuch, and Maddie is doing work on the Twisp. Still working on the Beaver Creek Reach Assessment – it probably won't be reviewed by the RTT until their September meeting, so look for it in late fall.

Paul Wagner – CTCR: Nothing new right now; I'm finishing up 2016 contract projects, invoicing, and looking at upcoming projects.

Greg Knott – Methow Watershed Council: as soon as we figure out what the ISAB wants to see then that will be a better time to talk about four locations. But people should remember that from 2000-2008 about \$20 million was spent on removing direct take from irrigation diversions and putting in fish screens. If we are looking at an overall question of what we are doing for fish, the first thing we did was stop directly killing fish. I am also here as the current chair of the Methow Watershed Council, which is the successor organization to the Watershed planning unit. It was started with the idea that citizens should be involved in issues of water in their area. In the Methow, we chose to address water quantity and water quality. We have a WAC (173-548) that sets base flows for the Methow River. Since then, we've embarked on a program we are calling "Water 2066," because we believe that people in the Methow should start thinking about what water will look like 2066. A lot of pressures. The first thing we envision will be a large stakeholder discussion. We are going to propose some revisions to the WAC. One of the questions that has come up is "what about instream flows?" that are being affected by climate change. There could be up to a 30% decline in late summer flows, which are affected by the permanent snow fields. We feel we need to integrate our efforts with the people who are concerned about the aquatic environment. We have a funded outreach program, and we are planning 4 presentations from experts; we should probably talk with the MRC outreach group.

Chris – I have also invited the county to start sending someone to MRC as well.

Greg – we have an opening on the Council, and anyone who lives in the Methow can serve. The members are chosen by the three initiating governments: Twisp, Winthrop, and Okanogan County. We have one meeting per month, third Thursday from 5-7. Members are usually asked to serve on one committee that meets sporadically.

Steve Kolk – Reclamation: we have a new student starting today, Catherine Means. She is a grad student at UW working with the Beaver Project

Chris – she will be working with the Beaver Project along with another student. They will also be doing some fish work through the summer.

Joy Juelson – UCSRB: I try to get to all of the WATs every month. I saw a presentation at the Entiat subcommittee meeting. Tom Degrossier with USFWS presented an analysis on the life history of Entiat spring Chinook. It was really fascinating and he will be presenting it again at the August RTT meeting. I highly recommend going to see it. He had some information pulled in from other sources, including in the Methow. He is trying to get funding to do more work.

Chris Johnson – MSRF: with flows coming down, we've had a couple of calls with regard to structures. This year is the first real test of many of the structures in the main river. We are in the process of developing new projects with the HIP III that has very specific requirements. We will be looking at all of our projects and hope others will do the same to help with the discussion with BPA.

Everyone knows about the state budget; we may need to stop work on the active state grants on June 30; I have heard that they are more behind than usual.

We're looking forward to working with CCFEG and CTCR on Twisp to Carlton

We also have a local job announcement that will be going out; it will be full time contract position for 9-18 months.

Robes Parrish – USFWS: I'm listening to what you said about structure performance at first good high flow in a while, it may be some value in rolling up an assessment looking at project performance at the watershed scale, maybe even extending to other watersheds, and seeing what we can learn from these things. I have had concern about the direction that we have been pushed from the HB 1194, so it may be a good time to check back in with that.

Chris – that is exactly where I was going, but would like people to volunteer information, if people share information we could roll it up. I'm hesitant to look at projects that are done by other groups to avoid perceptions of bias.

Robes – it would be nice to have a consistent set of criteria, it could be facilitated by the UCSRB. It doesn't need to be complicated, it's an opportunity to learn, not to ding people.

Joy – these issues have come up and there is a discussion around it. We will talk more about it.

Greer – maybe if we have time at the IT meeting there could be work teeing that up to do some implementation monitoring and do some review with the major sponsors involved.

Robes – Rob Richardson did something similar in the Entiat a few years back

Steve – yes, we had the IMW in the Entiat, and we wanted to inform our plan. Rob led an effort to go through and assess the original goals of the project vs. what they looked like in 2012. We used that to inform the 2014 round of implementation under the IMW. It is on our web page if anyone wants to look at it. It was more in depth than what you are talking about, something maybe a little more abbreviated may be what you are talking about. But you could use it as a starting point.

Chris – not sure if Rob looked at the biological goals and objectives or just the physical structures. I was thinking about public safety and hazards to properties, infrastructure.

Steve – he didn't look at the biological impacts, we looked at what was the intent, what was built, and whether it is still functioning in terms of the physical intent. You wouldn't do that without going through the risk based design guidelines that Reclamation has been using.

Chris – I hadn't thought about using the risk based quadrant, but that is a good way to define how the projects are working

Steve –we have talked internally about reevaluating through that quadrant after an event

Joy – were any of the issues in the Okanogan related to or near projects?

Chris – I asked the county engineer to come up with a list of issues that are near anadromous streams and infrastructure

Robes – On the Goat Creek project, we are planning to go next month to evaluate annual performance. We are going to do more investigation this year.

I was at the Silver project last Tuesday, and the flows were coming down enough that the water was just inside the new channel and no longer over the banks. There was at least 4 ft. of water over most of the project for quite a while. What we saw last week was that everything looked good, and no apparent negative effects. I will give a later summer or fall update.

We are planning to start work on Hancock springs phase II. We worked with John Jorgensen with YN in 2011 to do the upstream reach. The downstream reach was not touched due to the monitoring plan. There were many years of monitoring and data collected. The Methow Conservancy has been talking with the new landowner on the south side of the creek, and they are really excited about seeing Phase II completed. We are just beginning the process with them to construct a length of channel, slightly different impacts than the upstream reach. Excited to start working on that, best project opportunity in the Methow.

Kristen – will you go downstream of Wolf Creek road?

Robes – probably not, but yet to be determined. Probably down to where the trees begin again.

Also, many of you saw the presentation on Triple Creek last fall. At the time we had just built the project. It has performed very well. We had a good sustained high flow this spring, at least one structure has aggraded over 5 ½ ft. in just one year. I know that there are many folks who are interested in BDA projects, so I want to share performance on this emerging tool. We have a lot of monitoring, Ken and I will go re-survey, and we may do some additional work there. We will share our results.

Chris – if you can put together before, during and after pictures that would be nice.

Robes – Okanogan Highlands Alliance has a lot of pictures on their website

(<http://www.okanoganhighlands.org/restoration/triple-creek>); she has been adding stuff pretty frequently

Amy – Facebook too

Robes – you can call Julie Ashmore at OHA too, if you need something specific.

Next MRC July 18th

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)
BDA	Beaver Dam Analogue
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 (newer acronym is CTCR – see below)
CTCR	Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation (older acronym is CCT – see above)
CHaMP	Columbia Habitat Monitoring Program
CMZ	Channel Migration Zone
CREP	Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program
CSF	Community Salmon Fund
EDT	Ecosystem Diagnosis and Treatment
EQIP	Environmental Quality Incentives Program
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
ISAB	Independent Science Advisory Board
ISEMP	Integrated Status and Effectiveness Monitoring Project
ISRP	Independent Scientific Review Panel (reviews BPA projects)
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")
PHABSIM	Physical Habitat Simulation
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
Snerd	Fish Capture-Snorkel Herding
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.