

Icicle Creek Work Group

Thursday, June 2nd, 2016

10:00 – 3:00 PM

Confluence Technology Center (Wenatchee)

Meeting Summary

Attendees:

Mary Jo Sanborn, CCNRD; Dan Haller, Aspect Consulting; David Rice, Anchor QEA; Greg McLaughlin, WWT; Susan Adams, WWT; Erin McKay, CCNRD; Lisa Pelly, TU; Charity Davidson, WDFW; Tony Jantzer, IPID; Mel Weythman, IPID; Daryl Harnden; Farmer/PID; Jeff Gomes, Cashmere; Julia Wickerath, U. of Wyoming student; Dick Rieman, ICWC; Steve Parker, Yakama Nation; Lisa Dally Wilson, Dally Environmental; Melissa Downes, Ecology-OCR; Joel Walinski, Leavenworth; Mike Kaputa, Chelan County; Jim Craig, USFWS; Gus Bekker, ALPS; ON PHONE: Jay Manning (Cascadia Law Group); Keith Goehner (Chelan County); Lindy Johnson (USBOR)

IWG Vote of Approval of March 3, 2016 IWG Meeting Summary

Environmental Review and Outreach

- Overview of recent outreach and upcoming needs (Mary Jo)

Mary Jo provided a summary of the Public Open House held on April 20th in Leavenworth. Several articles describing the Icicle Creek process have appeared in the Wenatchee World and one in the Seattle Times this week. A table tracking outreach activities was presented. The table includes articles, open houses, local community presentations (rotary, Leavenworth City Council), upcoming meetings, potential September Eightmile field trip, etc. Mary Jo has requested that all IWG members provide her with relevant and timely information to put into the outreach tracking table. See Handout #1 dated 6-1-2016, "Icicle Creek Strategy Communication and Outreach". Mike is working to schedule another West side meeting of environmental interests in July.

Dick has completed a paper summarizing his analysis of the base package improvements and effects on instream flows with additional climate change assumptions. He has used streamflow data from 1994 to 2016 and predicted drawdown in the lakes. Dick says his analysis shows that you cannot regularly meet the 100cfs target for fish, but you can meet the 60 cfs target. The paper will be shared with the IWG, then assigned to the technical team and Instream Flow Subcommittee for review.

- SEPA Comment Response Summary (Melissa, Mike, Dan)

Handout #2, "SEPA Comment and Response Summary", 23 pp. was summarized. The response is not intended to answer the question, but instead indicates whether the question will be answered in the programmatic EIS. The County and OCR held a daylong meeting and developed the comment/response table and the scope of the Programmatic EIS. Based on the comments, there is a need to see evaluations on more alternatives, basically "showing the work" of how the IWG started with a large list of potential projects and narrowed it to the Base Package of Projects. As a result, Chelan County and Ecology will evaluate additional alternatives that are laid out in Handout #3 "Alternatives to be Considered in Icicle Strategy PEIS". The PEIS will also list alternatives not considered.

The Alternatives that were presented, in addition to no action, include:

1. Base Package
2. The Base Package without Alpine Lakes O.M.A, adding PID pump exchange at Dryden.
3. Removes both Wilderness Projects (Alpine Lake O.M.A and Eight Mile) from the base package. This would require a legislative fix to deal with OCPI. Includes PID pump exchange at Dryden with the booster to the Icicle canal.
4. Includes more storage (would probably require additional federal action).

Alternative 3 would not meet instream flows or the 8-Mile Guiding principles. Conservation efforts would not be able to make up a 15 cfs differential. Recreational impacts and benefits will be addressed in the PEIS. All alternatives will get an environmental review with a preferred alternative at the end of the PEIS. There is a continuing question of when climate change will be addressed, and when it would be applied to future scenarios. This will be discussed in the PEIS.

Lisa P asked if there was any input on the guiding principles since that was the focus of this evaluation. Dan noted that comments did not focus on the guiding principles specifically. We did not hear, for example, that the flow targets were wrong. There was a discussion on whether we can meet the GPs given future climate change scenarios. If flows continue to decrease over time, the success of this effort may decline in time too. This evaluation will be included in the PEIS. It's possible that we may meet all the GPs in 5 years (for example) but will need to re-visit them in 20 years or do more now in anticipation of future scenarios.

The IWG would like to be aware of any potential "poison pill" that may come up during the PEIS process that may affect a particular project, for example. Updates on the PEIS will be given at every IWG meeting.

- Schedule and Scope of Programmatic EIS (Melissa, Mike, Dan)

The goal is to have a draft Programmatic EIS in June of 2017 and a final in August 2017. The intent is to front load the programmatic EIS as much as possible with available information, and have project-level EIS for projects that need additional review. We don't want to hold up projects that may be ready to go, but want to be able to address substantive impacts for other projects through an additional project-level review as needed. The gantt chart will be revised to reflect the schedule discussed.

Federal nexus may complicate scheduling and NEPA connections will be evaluated in the PEIS. Dick noted that it will be critical that wilderness issues and water use questions are answered as soon as possible. Many IWG members agreed that we need answers to the wilderness questions soon – how do we get answers from USFS sooner than August of 2017? Jason K (USFS) has said previously that they will respond once they receive a proposal. That would likely occur when Tony submits a workplan. We have been working under the assumption that we wouldn't be able to push proposals to the USFS before the PEIS was completed. Tony expressed concern that timelines keep getting delayed. Lisa P strongly supported IPID moving forward with Eightmile Restoration so the district can get the work done. There was support from the Work Group in getting the Eightmile Restoration feasibility to 30% design this fall and develop a work plan so USFS could review it over the winter when they may have more time. There were questions on whether this timeline was feasible and Dan indicated it was possible.

All of these questions regarding wilderness issues, water right questions, etc. will be discussed as much as possible in the PEIS.

- Data Gaps
A table of data gaps was presented. Once it is further refined it will be sent out to the IWG. The table indicates the data gap, project, location needed and timing (e.g., PEIS or project level review or NEPA). The biggest question is the level of data that is available from the USFS to compare with the state database. Charity noted that the USFS data is likely old or not done.

Working Lunch

Project Updates

- Alpine Lakes Optimization, Modernization, and Automation – 2016 maintenance and flow augmentation pilot (Dan Haller, Tony Yantzer)
Update on trust donations (District is donating water for the pilot), Instream Flow Subcommittee meeting on June 7th to discuss summer pilot project, and maintenance schedule. This will mimic what happened in 2015 but be able to collect data and gain a better understanding of how the lakes could be managed more efficiently. For example, last year the district left water in Square Lake only because the volumes were uncertain and access is difficult. The district has maintenance and inspections to do as well. The County is in the process of hiring 2 seasonal staff to hike to the lakes and make manual adjustments. Let Mary Jo or Dan know if you would like to be updated throughout the summer/fall.
- LNFH Alternatives Analysis Update (Jim Craig)
About eight comments were received on the Alternatives Analysis, with the most substantive being from the Yakama Nation addressing fish production capacity. USFWS and BOR will be meeting in June to discuss a Master Plan with scheduling of improvements. Sequencing of likely projects will be addressed. E.g., screening, water conservation, etc. Melissa requested that the IWG see a draft of the Master Plan schedule to coordinate on project pairing. There were some questions on passage at the structures. Currently, there are pickets in Structure 5, all but the middle 2. When the Didson counter gets to 50 fish at Structure 2, they would put the last 2 pickets in. There is more upstream movement of fish when there is not water over the spillway.
- LNFH Pumpback Pilot (Dan Haller)
Dan and Jim provided an overview of the 2015 pilot project and distributed a figure showing Icicle Creek Flows during 2015. USFWS is looking at options for design of a permanent system. There was also discussion of the gate replacement at Snow Lake. There will data collection in 2016 and construction is planned for 2017. USFWS/BOR and IPID will coordinate on gate sizing.
- Cascade Orchard Irrigation Company Efficiencies (Greg McLaughlin)
Greg gave a presentation reviewing the process to date for COIC. The alternatives analysis was completed in fall 2015, extensive outreach has been done in 2016 with COIC shareholders. Alternative 1 (pump station/piped system) was adopted by COIC board by shareholder vote on June 1. Several contingencies were put in place that must be met. This alternative results in permanent elimination of the diversion above the hatchery (and shared by the hatchery). Instream Flow benefits to Icicle Creek will be between 8 and 11.9 cfs. Shareholders will vote on final pump station site selection. WWT is seeking funding from PRCC and TribCom, and others (OCR, NFWF, SRFB next year) for design and

implementation. The next step is 30% design phase. The goal is final siting of pump station location by the end of summer. IWG is o.k. to update the base package with new COIC preferred alternative information.

Some concern was expressed that until this project is funded there is some uncertainty as to the screen size the USFWS will need to use in their design. If this project is successful, USBOR and USFWS will be designing for a smaller intake. Do not want to delay the sequencing for USFWS.

Funding Coordination

- **OCR Budget Planning 2017-19 Biennium (Melissa, Mary Jo)**
\$3-4M of OCR funding ceiling is likely based on other commitments. IWG Steering committee to help coordinate OCR / non-OCR funding requests with various funding partners. Handout, "Icicle Strategy, Draft 2017-2019 Budget" updated 5/26/2016 was distributed. This budget shows a need of 13.7M from OCR or other sources. There was discussion of potential supplemental budget opportunity. Jay suggested advocating the legislature for a larger OCR budget. Melissa will get back to the IWG regarding this recommendation. Consider group lobby of legislature for OCR funding: with M. Bellon in August for Ecology budget to governor, with Governor's office in Sept/October for Governors budget to the legislature, and with the legislature directly. A plan showing what funding sources we expect for each Base Package project should be prepared prior to this effort.
- **Project Sequencing/Phasing and Pairing (all)**
Ensure all interests are being met equitably. Delegated to the July Steering Committee meeting for further discussion.

There was some discussion of roles of IWG members in relationship to funding committees and strategies for garnering funding. This will be addressed at the July SC meeting.

- **Local Delegate Meetings Update (Jay Manning)**
 - Congressman Reichert: June 27, 2:30-4:00, LNFH Tour
 - Congr. Newhouse, similar meeting on either July 26 or 27, but may need to go to Yakima
 - Senator Cantwell, indistrict, in Seattle July 19-22 – stay tuned
 - Senator Murray, July 19-22, Possibility of Leavenworth, but more likely in Seattle.
- **WA D.C. Trip Planning Update (Jay Manning)**
No ability yet, to secure high level Interior meeting in August or September in DC. Melissa mentioned a higher level Interior tour of Yakima project, and may be able to tag onto this opportunity. D.C. trip is likely to be in September or October, 2016.
- **Basin Study Funding Application for BOR Funding**
Due June 15th. Request support letters from IWG members. The program has a 50:50 cost share which would be easily covered by OCR. An example support letter will be sent out. Previous grants have ranged from 400K to 3M.

Climate Change Updates

County is setting up a meeting with the UW CIG on options for climate change assistance in the Icicle. WSU contracted to evaluate climate change in individual watersheds. Will be presenting in Wenatchee on June 22. All existing information on climate changes related to the Icicle will be pulled together for the PEIS.

Other Updates

BOR has new hire who will be IWG representative. This person will start in July and will likely attend the next Work Group meeting.

Summarize Meeting Outcomes and Next Steps

July 7th Steering Committee 1:00-4:00 PM

- Funding: local group lobbying, project plan for funding, roles of IWG members in garnering funding, COIC funding, etc.
- Update – Hatchery sequencing and Alternative Analysis
- Project Pairing: how do we move forward with a group of projects
- EIS: updates, input, resolving data gap issues with Forest Service, NEPA coordination, other.
- Alpine Lakes Pilot - update

August 4th – Meeting Cancelled

September 1st - Icicle Work Group (this date may change)

September Tour to Eightmile Lake