

October 5, 2016
ENTIAT WATERSHED PLANNING UNIT MEETING MINUTES
Entiat Grange Hall, Entiat, WA
9:00 a.m.

Meeting Attendance: See Attendance List (**Attachment #1**)
See detailed Agenda (**Attachment #2**)
Facilitator / Watershed Coordinator: Jason Sims
Notes: Nada Wentz

Welcome / Introductions

Meeting began at 9:09 a.m.

Jason welcomed those in attendance and began the meeting with a round of introductions.

- **Approve July 2016 EWPU Meeting Minutes**

Jason asked if there were edits to make to the July 2016 Minutes. No comments or edits were requested and the minutes were finalized. There were no additions to the agenda for October.

Entiat Landowner Steering Committee:

- **Voluntary Stewardship Program (VSP) Update**

Mike Kaputa: We've talked about the Voluntary Stewardship Program before. The key component of the program is to monitor critical areas and achieve long term goals for their preservation. The condition of identified critical areas as of July 2011 needs to be protected into the future. The critical areas then need to be monitored to see if the criteria is being met. There is a menu of options for Ag growers to choose from. It is difficult to know how to monitor all the conditions. Once we have that established, we will outreach the information to the County.

Thurston and Chelan counties are the VSP templates. The draft should be ready for people to review in two or three months. A question to answer is: how are you protecting critical areas? If we don't meet the standards, we may be going in a regulatory direction. My message is, "stay tuned." This monitoring is a critical part of the program.

Karin Whitehall: How soon will the draft be ready?

Mike K: The draft may be out in a couple of months. We should have something by the January meeting. The final plan needs to be submitted for review in April. We will want input from the landowners before the January meeting.

Karin W: It would be good to review it before basketball season.

- **Shoreline Master Program Update**

Mike K: The Planning Commission is going through the Shoreline Draft. My role is advisor of certain topics. I thought they were taking portions of the plan to the meeting in October. I don't know if it will be wrapped up by the end of the year or not. The Master Plan original was on the books for 40 years. Adoption of the updated plan time frame will be longer than expected.

- **Plan Update**

Jason S: We discussed reviewing the original Entiat Watershed Plan at the last meeting. The review turned out to be bigger and take more time than anticipated. The review was scaled down to the implementation portion of the plan. A list of actions was made from the implementation portion, and then handed to a few landowners. I would like to gain more history from the landowners to help me understand the perspective: where we've been, what we've done and what we have left to do. Where are we right now? It may be true that agencies have a few holes in their understanding of the plan. Phil Archibald was a great resource for the plan development. It was my goal to have the review finished and polished by January, but that is unrealistic. Would it be best to reach out by email or phone calls to gather this information?

Sharon Rose: Not everyone has all that background. Maybe it would be good to have a meeting to catch everyone up on the plan.

Jason S: That is what I'd like to see happen. I'd be happy to get some of the information from the last meeting to you. I want to fill in the gaps so we can move forward. It would be good to have a follow up in January, and maybe again in April so we have a more solid understanding. Are there any volunteers to help me?

Mike K: I will help.

Keith Vradenburg: At the next landowners meeting, could we let all the landowners know and invite them?

Jason S: Yes.

Mike K: Could we bring the VSP information to that meeting? I could also have a plan update to bring the VSP in.

- **UW Case Study Proposal**

(Attachment 3: University of Washington Project Briefing Paper)

Jason S: A University of Washington (UW) graduate student doing research work on watershed management plans contacted the District. He asked if he could interview a few landowners and agencies working in the watershed. *(See the UW Project Briefing Paper – Attachment 3.)* The interviews could take 30 minutes to an hour. His questions will center on the plan and how it has affected the watershed. I need a few volunteers from the Planning Unit for him to interview.

Once he talks to us and others, he would be ready to have a presentation at the April meeting. Chris Clemons, Karin Whitehall, Jon Small, and a CDLT person volunteered.

Chris Clemons: He could come to the Landowner Steering Committee meeting.

Karin W: We would like to have the questions ahead of time so we can reflect on the answers.

Jason S: I'll send his contact information to the Steering Committee first and ask him for a list of questions.

Habitat:

- **2017/2018 Project Development Update**

Jason S: The projects proposed for implementation in 2017 involve the middle Entiat River area. We are looking to implement about half of the 2017 projects. Projects scheduled for 2018 have issues to be worked out. The projects planned for 2017/2018 are complicated to work out. I had hoped to have more certainty at this meeting. Project maps are available to those who wish to see them. Please let me know.

We are still working toward implementation next year, and I will keep you updated as much as I can. I'll let you know when the comment period for the NEPA process is.

Wes Childers: Is a public meeting required for the NEPA?

Karin W: Every agency has their own requirements.

Chris C: The Yakama Nation met with the Forest Service yesterday with responses. A decision should be issued the first part of November.

Sharon Rose: Does that go out to the public?

Chris C: Yes, there is a list.

Wes C: It is not an inclusive list. I would like to see that list expanded. I brought a copy of BPA's responses to my comments.

Mike K: We may be waiting a few years after the fire to see what the burned areas are going to do. Then the worry will be less.

Sharon R: The worry never goes away.

Wes C: We are worried about all the wood being put in the river and where it will end up downstream.

Mike K: We anticipated that some of the projects would go away. We are also considering the impact downstream. A lot of energy can be spread out if the Bremmer levy is removed.

Chris C: The Forest Service felt some of our projects were not appropriate for the area.

Jason S: We were starting with close to 200 structures and it has been pared down to 13-14 projects for 2017.

Wes C: I thought the EA was thin.

Mike K: One of the hallmarks of the Entiat plan is to work together to do the projects. In the last few months, that togetherness has fractured in many places. We need to all pull together as we used to. What could happen is that we can't do the work in the Entiat.

Wes C: That is a good point. All the agencies involved, and don't know what is happening. We hammered on this in the document. Landowners need to be notified. In 2011, we didn't know anything about the projects until we saw the trucks with the root wads going up the river. We have a loose Entiat River Residents Association. We didn't hear about the comment period until the period passed.

Jason S: Did you get the 'Lookout' inserts I sent out? The inserts regarding the meetings and projects?

Karin W: Because of the buyers, the 'Lookout' with those inserts came the same week or just after the event. So we missed the events.

Chris C: Maybe we should have a meeting with the Entiat Landowners Association to address those questions.

Wes C: We couldn't comment before the permits were in hand.

Mike K: I appreciate your frustration with the regulatory way of reaching out to the public with the meetings and the projects going on. Jason, you talked about doing more outreach in the Entiat Valley. I don't know what the solution is, but we need to get everyone on the same page.

Jason S: We have asked before how to reach out to people better. We are open to any ideas to do a better job of getting the word out to the landowners. We want to do the best we can for you and the Steering Committee. Social media, phone calls, what works best?

Mike K: Would it be possible for the Landowner Steering Committee and association to meet together?

Karin W: The landowners have changed a lot since 1994 and the beginning of the plan. There is a lot of diversity in interest that wasn't there.

Sharon R: The new people don't have any idea of what is going on. There is talk about spreading out the river to reduce the impact of flooding. One thing to think about is mosquitos. All the pooled water will be a huge issue.

Karin W: There is a mosquito issue now.

Sharon R: With more pooled water, the mosquitos will be a bigger deal.

Mike C: The faster water runs off, the less time there is to restore the aquifers and wells. The core went in the river in 1971. They didn't mitigate their cleaning out of wood structures. We need to find a balance.

Keith V: The Corps cleaned out the river bed and banks, and it had a bad impact in the 1972 flood. Who has been working in the river the last few weeks, down by Keystone?

Mike C: DOE has been doing some stream flow measuring.

Mike K: The new residents were not part of the planning process, so they don't have ownership in the plan. It would be good to go over the plan and include the new residents so they have ownership in the updating of the plan. What are the concerns? What work can we do? We need to get out of the box we are in right now and take it forward.

Jason S: I would like to get back to that.

Wes C: One thing we can do, when you come out with an EA, do a mailing so they have notification and have time to comment. On the next project, BPA – do a mailing to let landowners know.

Jason S: BPA told me to back off.

Wes C: They put a notice in the legal section of the newspaper. Who is going to read that?

Steve K: We had a lot of meetings with landowners. When a federal agency starts a project, they have a policy to go guide them. That is not the only avenue to steer the project. There is more utility in being a participant.

Sharon R: If I understand this right, if it is a federal process, they have their own policy and will do what they want?

Mike K: We are relying on the federal government and the NEPA process. The federal agencies initiate the NEPA when they are concerned about litigation. When the public involvement fails, it is out of Jason's hands.

Karin W: Agencies are problem solvers. They take a problem and say, "we think this would be a good way to solve that. What do you think about that?" Or, "this is the end result we want. How do we go about doing that?" The best example of public involvement from an agency was when we had a guy knock on the doors with a handout and say, "We are burning up there, just letting you know." Jason is trying to get involvement before the NEPA process goes out.

Jason S: Attempts were made to get community and landowner involvement when the project designs were at 15 and 30%. Project feedback was requested, but there was very little involvement. I would like to see the fragmented portions be pulled back together. What is the best way to do that?

Mike C: We did get input from the recreationists. We held BBQ's, inviting landowners to see the project presentations. Everyone in the valley has different levels of interest. There were many field trips held to provide information to landowners. We want to give credit for the feedback we do have from all the outreach work.

Pamela Nelle: In the beginning, folks felt that they don't want the federal government coming on their property. The community banded together to make a plan. They don't do that now. We need to work together so that we don't get caught up in well intentioned plans and fragmentation.

Chris C: Not all items are required to be public with the NEPA process.

Steve K: That is the perfect example of how fragmentation occurs. The agencies have their individual set of policies they are responsible to uphold. Then there is the FOIA, or Freedom of Information Act.

Chris C: We all have to follow our agency policies. We all have our own bosses to be accountable to.

Mike K: You can't always make everyone happy. Is there a regularly scheduled meeting date for the landowners association? Can we engage them as a group? If Sharon and Wes could help us get that coordinated, that would be great.

Wes C: Give us a call.

Mickey Fleming: All of the issues were addressed in the management plan and it all needs to be presented to the new landowners in the valley.

Jason S: A new issue of the updates for the whole plan is over my head.

Pamela N: Are you proposing to open up the watershed plan and see what needs changing?

Mike C: That is a question for the Planning Unit.

Pamela N: Let's get the new people to know what the plan is, but be careful about saying 'updating' which implies changing the plan.

Jason S: It is a legal document.

Mike K: The County Commission has to approve the plan and or any changes. If we want folks to have ownership in the plan, it needs to be a formal direction through the County Commission.

Steve K: I don't know if that is the best way to get the plan information out. If the Entiat planning unit decides the program is not filling the bill, create amendments to add to the plan.

Mike K: The original folks that made the plan and the new people may not agree with the plan or the recommendations.

Bob Whitehall: As far as going back and looking at the entire plan, have a questionnaire to see who is interested in going through the plan. I don't see the people volunteering like that now days.

Mike K: We were responding to a threat when the plan was created.

Steve K: It was a plan that affected people's livelihood. They cared what happened.

Pamela N: The questionnaire is a good way to get interest going. Have it be more targeted.

Mike C: Use the Planning Unit to drive this forward.

Steve K: This group struggled with how it should continue. Is it effective? Should we hold the meetings at night or quarterly? It still seems to be the best way of getting people involved.

Jason S: Any other discussion?

Mickey F: I have an update on the Land Trust properties upland in the middle Entiat area. The Chelan-Douglas Land Trust (CDLT) is interested in making those properties available to the public. The Upper Columbia Board wrote a letter supporting the CDLT and we have sold five of those pieces of property. Two of them were funded by the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB), and three of them were funded by the PUD. We replaced those properties with river property. It is going pretty well. We are protecting what is really important to the salmon recovery. There were articles in the newspaper about the Enlow property house relocation. Now we want to get the restoration work done.

Mike K: We ought to thank you for doing that work. There was a lot of bureaucracy to go through to get that done.

Pamela N: And it was in consideration of the community concerns.

Jason S: Are there any other updates?

Bob W: We probably will not have a steelhead fishing season because there are not enough fish in the river to allow it.

Keith van den Brock: Terraqua and ISEMP will be out in the river to do fish counts, but we are pretty close to done.

Sharon R: Would we be sitting here if there weren't eight dams on the Columbia River? Does the work in the Entiat River make any difference when ocean conditions and dams are affecting fish counts before they can get back to the Entiat? The improvements need to happen at the beginning of the line instead of the end of the line.

Keith van den Brock: We are spending money on dams now, at the beginning of the line.

Steve K: How many fish went out last year? Ocean conditions have a high mortality rate. Would there be less fish if we hadn't done the work we've accomplished so far?

Pamela N: Those are the two biggest political issues to get through, fish counts and dams.

Bob W: I'm probably one of the most frustrated fisherman here. But we have had larger fish counts. There are a lot of things going on in the lower Columbia, where they can fish. But we can't fish because not enough are coming back up the Entiat. We are getting some record runs. It is turning around. We will never have the fish numbers high enough to be allowed to fish. If we had a hatchery program for steelhead, it would be better. Dams have made great improvements on fish passage.

Keith V: When I was young, the grocery store had a lot of fishing gear for sale. Now there is hardly any gear and the store has been impacted.

David Morgan: Sometime next year we have a historic barn we would like to see relocated. We'd like to see it carefully taken apart and set up somewhere else. If you could get the word out and have them contact me, I would appreciate it.

Meeting Close-out, Evaluation and Adjournment

Jason S: The next Planning Unit meeting is on January 4, 2017, at the Entiat Grange Hall. Please fill out an evaluation of the meeting before you leave. They are found on the back table.

Thank you for coming and see you next year!

The meeting adjourned at 10:55 a.m.

List of Attachments

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3	UW Project Briefing Paper