

July 11, 2012
ENTIAT WATERSHED PLANNING UNIT MEETING MINUTES
Entiat Grange Hall, Entiat, WA

Meeting Attendance: See Attendance List (**Attachment #1**)
See detailed Agenda (**Attachment #2**)
Facilitator / Watershed Coordinator: Mike Rickel / Susan Dretke
Notes: Nada Wentz

Welcome / Introductions

Meeting began at 9:08 a.m.

Mike Rickel welcomed meeting attendees and started the round of introductions.

- **Approve April EWPU Meeting Minutes**

Mike R: The July meeting notice was sent out with a link to the April minutes which were posted on the Cascadia web site for review. Does anyone have any comments or edits for the April 2012 meeting minutes?

Hearing none, the April 2012 meeting minutes are finalized.

- **Review and Accept July Agenda**

Mike R: The July Agenda was reviewed and accepted as proposed.

Future Administration of the Entiat Watershed Planning Unit (D)

Mike R: The financial support from the Department of Ecology (DOE) that funded administrative support for the Entiat Watershed Planning Unit meetings has expired. The lack of DOE funding affects Cascadia Conservation District's ability to host/facilitate quarterly meetings. Given the lack of funding, is one Planning Unit meeting a year, with the return to quarterly meetings as funding is again available, acceptable to the Planning Unit members?

Landowner Steering Committee and community events would be utilized as alternative methods to keep the information flowing between agencies and landowners. It is recognized that the Planning Unit is the best forum for information updates and exchanges and decisions to be made, but coordination with the committees could also be a way to make decisions.

Jim Small: The Planning Unit provides a valuable means of getting information to the landowners for decisions; I'm worried about losing the Planning Unit. As a landowner, I feel like I'm hanging out on a limb without the information provided at these meetings and that is a problem. I'm concerned about communication with each other and the community.

Jon Small: How much does it cost to run a meeting? Are there alternate sources for funding for staff?

Mike R: The CCD has funding for staff to develop and implement projects, but funding for meetings (administrative funding) is very difficult to find. We will continue to seek funds to support the EWPU meeting administration needs. We recognize the value of the Planning Unit meetings to continue to implement projects. It takes about \$10,000 a year to conduct EWPU meetings and follow up on the decisions made.

Mike Ward: Can you break those numbers down further? Meetings are less expensive than follow up. Maybe drop the follow-up?

Mike R: We hope to have, at the minimum, one or two meetings a year. This group provides a critical link to the community. How frequent should the meetings be? Two? Four?

Steve Kolk: Do we have the right mixture of meetings; sub-committees, EWPU, other meetings for Entiat? Will four EWPU meetings with less of the other meetings provide a better mix? I couldn't see less than two EWPU meetings. Are there regularly scheduled public meetings? Do we have all our bases covered for information sharing and feedback?

Jim S: I don't know if landowners are satisfied. I think they have had an overdose of safety with regards to the 2012 projects. If people are still interested in information, we could have a site meeting for people who are interested. That could lead up to project information with emails, then have a question and answer period about projects.

Mike Kaputa: Will you see a reduction in other forms of meetings?

Mike R: I anticipate other meetings to remain as they are. Without the filter provided by the EWPU, effectiveness of other groups is not as strong. My thoughts were as Steve Kolk suggested a minimum of two meetings a year. I do not want to reduce to less than two. What if the emphasis of some of the meetings overlaps?

Mike K: We (Wenatchee Watershed Planning Unit) are struggling with funding as well. This has been the forum for other meetings and projects. Losing this undermines the other communication. Four a year is important. How can we be effective in other groups without EPWU meetings? Opportunities for communication and leveraging would be missed. We should be able to find that support for the EWPU.

Jon S: After 20 years of doing this, we've been through many technical groups and learned together. If we don't have meetings, the communication between technical people and landowners will deteriorate. It will create problems. I'm not sure what two meetings is enough to keep coordination together.

Jason Hatch: What if the emphasis of some of the meetings overlaps? Maybe have the sub-committee meeting fewer times and the EWPU remain the same.

Mike R: What I'm hearing is that no less than quarterly EWPU meetings a year. There is a critical link between these meetings and keeping projects on the ground. I will seek funding with those criteria in mind.

Jim S: Why did DOE pull out?

Mike R: The tough state of the economy primarily in addition to the way watershed planning was set up.

Mike K: The Watershed Planning Unit had a sunset clause in it. There are funds for planning and some for implementation, but beyond that there was a sunset clause. Most have been focused on salmon recovery mitigation efforts. For those interests, there should be a desire to continue the EWPU; possibly a combination of funds for EWPU and the Landowner Steering Committee meetings.

Mike R: The funding does not necessarily need to come from DOE.

Mike K: We are having the same problem in the Wenatchee River watershed. Salmon recovery funding will help keep it going in the Wenatchee.

Jim S: What about environmental group funding? Gather a half a dozen organizations together and get funding from them.

Mike R: Bonneville Environmental Foundation (BEF) supports EWPU. Maybe the supporters of BEF would be able to help. That way it is not all DOE, Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) or BEF funding.

Jim S: What about fishermen support, commercial and public?

Mike R: BEF assisted Cascadia Conservation District to collect information, utilize existing groups such as this. We will continue to enjoy some BPA support, and I will continue to seek additional funding. At this point, we will plan for the October 3 meeting. Pear harvest may have an effect on attendance. I will bring the budget so we know what we have to work with, who we have approached to help meet funding gaps. We will continue quarterly meetings. Hearing no other comments or thoughts we'll move on to the next agenda item.

Decision Point: *Continue meeting quarterly while seeking funding to support quarterly meetings.*

Habitat

- **2012 Project Update**

Kurt Hosman: The Tyee is the only area slated for work this year for Cascadia Conservation District. The large wood to be installed on the far side of the river was staged by the helicopter earlier this week. Work will begin in earnest on July 30.

Chris Clemons: The helicopter company is from Canada and moving wood for all three projects. The flight crew is impressive. They moved wood for the Tyee project on Monday and moving wood for the Dillwater on Sunday.

Mike K: The wood was lighter at Dillwater. I don't know how that will affect construction.

Chris C: The pick-up and drop-off was done in five minutes. They work for two weeks and are off for two weeks. They are very efficient and good at what they do!

Mike K: We should thank the permitting agency for allowing a later work window. Dale Banbreck worked to keep the window open into September.

Chris C: The river is 15 inches lower than last year at this time. Work looks promising.

Kurt H: The gage reads 1700 cfs.

Chris C: In order for us to use the bridge to access the far side of the river, flow has to be 1500 cfs or below.

Viewed a video of the helicopter moving the logs.

- **Box Canyon Log Relocation**

Mike R: The other project taking place this summer is Box Canyon project.

Catherine Willard: Either this year or next, the proposal is to relocate a log, not remove them blocking bull trout passage in box canyon.

Mike W: Where is the wood located in the canyon?

Catherine W: With the high water they are hard to see.

Attachment 3: Box Canyon Relocation Presentation by Mark Nelson

Jason H: The Beaver "Re-introduction" project proposal is for 2 years and sites will be selected with a GIS model identifying target gradient and stream flow and where it makes sense to locate beaver and target numbers. The sites once identified will be field validated, riparian and vegetation resources available, unoccupied currently by beavers and with target gradient and flow conditions. And if appropriate, reintroduce. All

reintroduction sites would be in the upper watersheds of Entiat, Peshastin and Mission Creeks on USFS land. An application for SRFB funding is in the currently in the works.

Jim S: What was done to encourage them to stay?

Jason H: The gradient factor, flow criteria and building/vegetation material. We can work with folks to relocate beavers away from irrigation structures, agricultural lands and reintroduce in headwater streams on USFS land. The conditions have to be right for them to occupy identified sites. The program in the Methow, operating for 4 years, they trapped 8 beavers in one week in the Methow basin. We may use Leavenworth Hatchery empty raceways, as they do in the Methow, as holding facility for captured beavers before they are reintroduced. Once the beavers are removed from private lands, deterrents are created to keep them from returning.

Tom Degroseillier: How far up the Entiat are you talking?

Jason H: On USFS lands. Sites could be identified in Mad River headwaters. What is the carrying capacity? There is no clear answer to that. We do not have good historical information on that. The monitoring of beavers will help us build that information.

Jim S: The fire has a big impact on species.

Mike R: You are looking for relocation within the watershed?

Jason H: Yes. If we can relocate beaver farther up. How can we make certain you relocate them to a successful place?

Catherine W: I don't know if we need NEPA to do this. I'll make a note to find out.

Mike R: Has this has received funding yet?

Jason H: They are scoring it today. I will give an update in October.

Mike R: Are there other questions for Jason? The District and others are planning projects in future years. Projects are scheduled for 2014.

- **Lower Entiat Projects Update**

Mike Cushman: We, along with other project partners, are putting together design proposals for 2014 projects will include instream, boulder clusters, wood structures and log jams within the lower reach (RM 7 and downstream). Three sponsors are working on six general project areas from the Fish Hatchery down.

Cascadia Conservation District is working on levee removal, side channel and complexity from RM 0.8 to 2.3. The applications were due in the end of June. The ranking is today.

Mike R: We are very early in the process for these projects. We are working with landowners regarding the nature of these projects at the sites where we hope to install them in 2014. In September we will get confirmation from the landowners for design approval.

Jon S: Are we tagging boulders?

Mike R: We are not planning to tag any rocks at this point.

Mike K: The community outreach will start in September?

Mike R: Yes. We hope to have funding and have landowners fully supportive of each project before going to the public. We will have an update on the funding status at the time of the public meeting which will take place sometime between late September and early October.

Mike K: We could have multiple public memos going out. Let's talk about that at the September meeting. Our advertising is 300 – 500 feet. Folks may get many notices for project proximity.

- **ISEMP Monitoring Report**

Pamela Nelle: I do not have the reports with me today. We wanted to have them but Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) is printing them. I should get them Saturday.

The report covers tagging versus snorkel monitoring, temperature, and fish counts. I'm very keen to get your feedback on the report. I would like to know what you want to see. How frequently should they be produced, annually, or every two years? Copies of the report will be sent to Mike Rickel, and they will then go to every landowner who owns property adjacent to a monitoring site (approximately 213). The landowners that allowed access to the river will receive a cover letter with their report. Susan's email and phone number will be on the back of the report.

Mike R: We are excited to have that product and happy to be able to share it with the community.

Pamela N: There will be 500 copies printed. Let me know if we need more. The surveys started Thursday and Friday with warm up and training days for the new crew.

Mike W: We have seven crews with two crews dedicated to the IMW. The fish capture with US Fish and Wildlife (USFW) and the Yakama Nation (YN) started on Monday with meetings, trainings on Tuesday and monitoring starting today. There are 25 sites in the Wenatchee watershed and 25 in the Entiat.

Mike R: Thank you Pamela and Mike.

Outreach Efforts

- **Entiat River Appreciation Day, August 4, 2012**

Mike R: Susan is attending a training this week. The Entiat River Appreciation day is August 4. Folks are meeting at the KIOSK to help clean up landowner property along the river. We are excited to have an annual day to help each other.

- **Sign Installation**

Mike R: We are currently waiting for permission on sites to put the signs up. They should be installed before the end of August.

Mike K: Did you check with the Planning Department about the size of the signs?

Mike R: Yes, Susan did that.

- **IRIS Summit, November 15, 2012**

Mike R: November 15 the IRIS success summit meeting will take place. IRIS stands for Initiative for Rural Innovation & Stewardship. IRIS has a listening post for community stories to be told to the new comers. The Summit will highlight rural success stories and to share the success they have enjoyed so that others might be able to benefit from them. The Entiat High School has allowed IRIS to have their meeting in the gym. The Planning Unit has been a large part of the success story in the Entiat. I will have a reminder at the October EWPU meeting.

Jim S: I think she is working with the historical society through the school.

Mike R: Is there any other outreach I've missed?

- **Other Events**

Chris C: There is a BBQ at Wes and Sharon's on July 22, with wild game.

Mike R: The Shank celebration is July 21. We hope to be available during these community events.

Entiat Landowner Steering Committee Update

- **Status of Monitoring Crew Access Agreement**

Mike R: We put together a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) for the landowners and monitoring crews. The concern is compromising food safety, especially at the telemetry sites. Where are we at with that Jon?

Jon S: Susan sent an email, but it hasn't gone much farther than that.

Mike R: I apologize that the process has not been completed.

Jon S: We are doing work on Ray's property and had them sign a paper.

Mike R: Are they signing in each time they come in?

Jon S: No. The format we use is from the safety program and meets our needs.

Mike R: Does that meet the food safety requirements?

Tom D: Susan was working on that.

Jon S: Only the orchardists are doing it right now.

Pamela: We need to know who all the orchardists are. I will get a list from Susan.

Jon S: We're going to send out an information letter to agencies that will be on the properties.

Pamela N: Please send the list to Steve Wortman and Tom Degrosellier. I will make sure the crew foremen know to sign in as the first step.

Mike R: I will follow up with Susan this week. Are there other items or concerns from the Landowner Steering Committee that need to be shared?

Water Resources

- **Access the Entiat Water Reserve and Processing Outstanding Applications**
Attachment 4: Entiat Reservation Accounting

Mike R: There are two handout sheets at the back table. These handouts use two separate numbers to track the amount of water from the domestic reserve used since the date the plan was finalized (September 2004) to December 2011. One number is from the Department of Ecology (DOE) and the other is from the EWPU. The agriculture and industry reserves have not been tracked and we are not sure what the current status of those reserves is but don't believe any applications have been processed.

Debits go against the reserve. This was developed from homes being built since September 2004. John Monahan and I put this together for consumptive domestic use. There are slight discrepancies between DOE and the District use. Letters were sent to the EWPU members to try and determine specific outdoor water use from domestic wells. At the current rate of home development, the DOE rate would allow for 30 years. If we use the EWPU landowner rate, the domestic reserve usage would last for 60 years. The

pressure is reduced a little with the knowledge that there is sufficient water for development for the next 30 years.

Doug England: I'm having trouble reading the chart. The DOE shows usage as being twice as fast as the EWPU chart.

Mike R: DOE is using the most aggressive usage during the hottest part of the year. It is not a big difference (between the EWPU volume and DOE) right now in terms of the total volume of water used. We were requested to give information to the Planning Unit. We now know where we are with the domestic usage, but we don't know about the agriculture and light industrial usage. As far as we know DOE has not moved on any Agriculture and Industrial water right applications, and no water rights have been processed.

Jon S: Maybe we go further to change DOE's assumptions.

Mike R: This is for EWPU information. If we want to go further with this, we can go further. We did not get a good response from the letters sent out requesting that we meter outdoor water use from domestic wells. I can refine my outreach to seek out specific folks and ask that they outdoor water usage in order to give us information to determine if the assumed water use, which is the big reason for the difference in volume between the DOE and EWPU, is correct.

Jim S: I think we need to keep track of it.

Jon S: Even if it is only agriculture, if it is isolated from lawn usage, the data would be good variables to know too.

Mike R: I will pursue the site specific information to justify to DOE the correct figure to use. Interfacing with DOE has dropped off since Dave Holland is in a different position. There are a couple of things we need to do to access the agricultural usage. Entiat does not have a funding source to help act on the water right applications.

Jim S: The fact that they are not processing applications has nothing to do with money. That is not why they stopped processing 20 years ago. I would not be surprised if it isn't any different now.

Mike R: It would be good if we could get funding to hire someone to process water right applications. What are your thoughts Mike Kaputa?

Mike K: How many applications are still viable? You have to come up with funding to process applications. You can pick a contractor, or DOE can pick a contractor for you. We are going through this with the Wenatchee municipalities right now. Through this we will have some local control of how water is processed and monitored. Wenatchee is the first to use this process. Wait and see how it unfolds in the Wenatchee. The local communities come up with the money to process applications.

My questions are about the certainties of some of those rights. I don't know to what extent the viabilities are at on these applications.

Mike R: If this is a stagnating economic problem, maybe one of the potential governors could look at it. If the lack of processing applications is stagnating development for agriculture and industrial, we would have something to talk with politicians about. Also, we need to look for potential funding for water rights and evaluate which applications are still viable.

Mike K: Maybe we should put in an application to look into the interest of water right applications. If folks have been discouraged - we need to look at this.

Mike R: Working with the Wenatchee watershed will be helpful to the Entiat water right application process.

Meeting Close-out, Evaluation and Adjournment

Mike R: The next meeting will be here at the Grange Hall on October 3, 2012, at 9:00 am. Meeting evaluation forms are on the back table. I encourage you to take an evaluation form to fill out and return.

Thank you for your attendance!

The meeting adjourned at 11:32 a.m.

List of Attachments

Attachment

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| 3 | Box Canyon Presentation |

Website for presentation:

www.fws.gov/midcolumbiariverfro/pdf/Seasonal_movements_Adult_Fluvial_Bull_Trout_Entiat_River_2003-2006.pdf

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| 4 | Entiat Reservation Accounting |
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