

October 3, 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 9:10 a.m.

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

- **Approve July EWPU Meeting Minutes**

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

Hearing none, the July 2012 meeting minutes are finalized.

- **Review and Accept October Agenda**

Mike R: An item to add to the Agenda under New Business is a Forest Service update on the fire and restoration plans. Amy Hendershot, NRCS Conservationist in the Wenatchee office, called a coalition of agencies to talk about rehabilitation after the fires. Cascadia will be working with landowners and Washington State University (WSU) will take the lead in organizing community meetings. The goal is for all agencies involved to give the best support to landowners affected by the fires to offer them information about what they can do and what resources are available to them for ground stabilization.

Jim Small: Are landowners participating in the meetings?

Susan Dretke: For now, it is mostly agencies.

Jim S: Sometimes it helps to have someone from both sides to balance the discussion.

Joe Kelly: What does BAER mean?

Karin Whitehall: Burn Area Emergency Rehabilitation. This is an acronym from the Forest Service.

Susan D: The agencies are putting together cost shares to help.

Doug England: Landowners can be prepared by keeping the storm drains open.

Jim S: The railroad and Department of Transportation need to be included in the meetings.

Nancy Warner: Was DOT at the meeting?

Susan D: I wasn't able to attend. I heard that it was a good turn-out for such short notice.

Mike R: Make sure the landowners are engaged in the process, also the railroad and the DOT.

The Agenda was reviewed and accepted.

Administration of the Entiat Watershed Planning Unit Update

Mike R: At the July meeting we had the discussion of funding for the Planning Unit meetings. The feedback from the group was that this is a valuable format to keep the work going, and to continue the quarterly meetings. I worked with a couple of agencies to find funding to administer the meetings. Currently proposals to the Yakama Nation and the Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board are being drafted. Funding to hold the quarterly meetings should be in place once the agreements are signed. The next Planning Unit meeting will be in January 2013.

Karin W: I think meetings are important and I appreciate that you took time to find funding to keep it going.

Mike R: Your word of mouth is also a valuable link to the community. Thank you for your attendance.

Karin W: The new signs look really nice!

Water Resources

(Attachment 3: Power Point: Use of LANDSAT Satellite Imaging to Assess Historical Water Usage)

Trevor Hutton: This is a good tool to study the agricultural practices and the effect on the crops in the past compared to how practices are implemented now. A new satellite is scheduled to be launched in December of this year. Two satellites will give a good 16 day cycle showing how the current irrigation practices are working, and give landowners the opportunity to modify their irrigation practices.

He showed the group many examples seasonal changes, how different ground covers appear in the picture, and how the use of different colors can be used to show specific items of information.

(Attachment 4: Power Point: WSU Revisions to the Washington Irrigation Guide (WIG); Potential Impact on Water Rights Permitting and Changes)

Dr. Troy Peters: *(Dr. Peters went through the Power Point, and the following are additional comments.)* There is a lot of data, but the old Washington Irrigation Guide (WIG) needs to be cleaned up and organized to be more useful in estimating water usage. Station location is important. The number of data stations has had a significant increase. There are differences from the existing WIG document and the new WIG document. The new document shows the Entiat area estimations stayed the same or went up a little. The new numbers come closer, within 10%, to the numbers the irrigation designers designed the systems to do. Web soil maps are available.

DOE will use the older WIG until the whole document has been through a purging process. We hope to have the new WIG out in the spring.

Jim S: There is a lot of science in applying water. It is a big impact on the pocket book if you don't have it right.

Dr. Peters: I don't expect your water rights to change much.

Habitat

- **2012 Project Update**

Susan D: The Intensively Monitored Watershed (IMW) projects between River Mile 20 and 25 that were constructed this summer were sponsored by Chelan County, Cascadia Conservation District and the Yakama Nation.

The 3-D project, sponsored by the Yakama Nation, was completed around August 10. Shortly after completion, the US Fish and Wildlife crew conducted a mark and recapture of juvenile fish near the northernmost large wood structure and found a large number of juvenile fish already utilizing the refuge provided by the wood which is a preliminary positive outcome. The Tyee Ranch and Dillwater projects are back under construction this week after having been shutdown due to Industrial Fire Protection Level ratings. The DNR granted a waiver to go back to work on both projects. Cascadia CD will finish one wood structure which was begun prior to the shut down. Two large wood structures will then be left to complete; one on the far side of the river to do and one on the near side. The levee work will be completed next. When the construction of all the structures is complete, the road will be taken out and reseeded.

No active restoration projects are planned in 2013. There will be monitoring to see the response of the juvenile salmon to the new structures.

Jim S: Are there pictures of the structures before they are buried? It would ease the landowners concerns.

Susan D: We have a number of pictures to monitor points at different times of year. It will be a photo document and GPS.

Joe Kelly: I was up with the Yakama Nation and was amazed at how well the construction site was built.

Susan D: When you go out on the site, you can tell the construction is very carefully done.

Steve Kolk: We have Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) folks are taking between 100-1000 pictures during construction. One set of documentation photos show a time lapse film of construction.

Jim S: That would be a good follow-up for the landowners to see and ease their concerns.

Susan D: A tour for the Yakama Nation projects is this afternoon at 12:30 for all who would like to go. Cascadia CD will have a tour in November.

Entiat is not only a model watershed under Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), it is an intensively monitored watershed. The next round of IMW habitat restoration projects are scheduled for construction in 2014. We are in the early design stage for the projects in the lower Entiat River. A community meeting is scheduled for October 24, to show the physical locations and biological reasons for the projects. We want to bring people into the process from the beginning and get their feedback. There will be a slide show presentation at the meeting showing what this year's projects look like.

Joe K: Will the meeting be here?

Susan D: The meeting will be here at the Grange Hall from 6 to 8 p.m. Rob Richardson will be here to explain the physical science of the lower Entiat as to how the projects for 2014 were developed.

Steve K: He will show what is proposed as to what has already been implemented.

- **ISEMP Monitoring Report**

Susan D: There are at least six different monitoring efforts going on in the river. This year the crews ended half a dozen sites early because of the air quality and fire concerns. One group is with the Pacific NW Forestry Science. All the data collected will be put in the report to explain what they are finding. From the adult fish that were counted, the bull trout are trending up.

Nancy Warner: What species were the Yakama Nation monitoring?

Susan D: Chinook, and more likely spring Chinook. It is very encouraging to have not just juveniles but adult fish going in right away upon completion of the Yakama Nation project.

Outreach Efforts

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

Susan D: The River Appreciation weekend will be kept as the first weekend of August. The turnout was disappointing, but those who attended had a lot of fun. We may plan things differently next year and work with the church youth group. This year's group worked on plantings at the fish hatchery and noxious weed control.

Bonneville Environmental Foundation (BEF) is the funder of the Cascadia Conservation District sponsored model watershed program. Their funds provide technical support as well. BEF hired a consultant from Pyramid Communications to put together an outreach strategy. The outreach strategy will be finalized and ready for the January meeting.

An evening meeting is scheduled for October 24, at the Entiat Grange Hall. Invitations will be going out next week. I will follow up with emails and phone calls.

- **Sign Installation**

Mike R: Four watershed identification signs have been installed along the Entiat River. We hope they make it through the hunting season unscathed.

Joe K: I think most road closures will be opened for hunting season except the burned areas. They will remain closed.

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

(Attachment 5: NCW Community Success Summit registration form)

Nancy W: We are hosting the Success Summit this year. Initiative for Rural Innovation & Stewardship (IRIS) has collected success stories for the last three years. We started with Pateros and last year we focused on Manson. Now we are gathering stories from the Entiat. In ten years from now, we will have a whole region of success stories. Some stories will be in written form as supplements and some are printed in the Wenatchee World. This year's Summit event is November 15 at the Entiat High School. We expect this year's summit to be as good as the summits held so far. People have connected across the room with the ideas they share.

Mike R: We are excited to host it here in Entiat. It reflects the successful community and the social success will be highlighted. It also allows for improvement for future meetings in the Entiat. We struggled with a by-line for the success and a link to the community, but "Entiat Rocks" states it well.

Joe K: Is that video available online?

Mike R: Yes, it is on our website, (*Cascadiacd.org*).

Joe K: Is IRIS doing the interviews?

Nancy W: Cascadia's interview with Conard Petersen was the second interview. We will do a series of interviews with the Forest Service. They may not all be completed by the summit, but they will all be completed and left for the community. By January, IRIS will be choosing another community to highlight. The summit will be really good. I hope you will come and share the information with others.

Mike R: I will send that out to the landowners involved with the Planning Unit. The mailing list is 90% local landowners. In order to reach out of the area landowners, the information would need to be mailed in hardcopy form.

Nancy W: The school has been wonderful to work with. The food for lunch will be provided by locally grown food. There will also be sponsorship tables available.

Entiat Landowner Steering Committee Update

Mike R: I was not able to find information about restoration after the fire. We will send that information out electronically with the meeting minutes, but keep it separate from the minutes.

Jim S: Restoration after the fire is current and important. Also the railroad, DOT and landowners should be invited to the public meeting on October 24.

Doug E: We received the NRCS Emergency Watershed Project Agreement (EWP). We are clarifying what the match is. We have the draft agreement in hand. We need to have an estimate of what the cost and timeline are by October 14. Talk with Trout Unlimited, the Mule Deer Foundation and the Elk Foundation.

Meeting Close-out, Evaluation and Adjournment

Mike R: The next EWPU meeting will be January 9, 2013. Please fill out a meeting survey and thank you for your attendance! See you on January 9, if not before.

The meeting adjourned at 11:28 a.m.

List of Attachments

<u>Attachment</u>	<u>Contents</u>
1	Attendance List
2	October 2012 Agenda
3	LANDSAT Satellite Imaging – Power-point
4	Washington Irrigation Guide (WIG) Revisions – Power-point
5	NCW Community Success Summit Registration Forms