

October 2, 2013
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
Notes: Nada Wentz

Welcome / Introductions

Meeting began at 10:00 a.m.

Due to the Government Shutdown on October 1st, not many folks attended the meeting. Mike Rickel welcomed those in attendance and started the round of introductions.

- **Approve July 2013 EWPU Meeting Minutes**

Mike Rickel: The October 2013 meeting notice and agenda were emailed out the middle of September, with a link to the July 2013 minutes, and posted on the Cascadia web site for review. Does anyone have any comments or edits for the July 2013 meeting minutes?

Hearing none, the July 2013 meeting minutes are finalized.

Water Resources

- **Update from the Department of Ecology**
(Attachment 3: Wenatchee Watershed Overview – Peshastin Flow Charts)

Dave handed out Flow Charts referencing them during his update.

Dave Holland: Karin Whitehall previously asked how the difference between senior and junior water rights is determined. Turn to page 2 of the ‘Wenatchee Watershed Overview’ handout. The ‘Minimum Flows at Peshastin Gage’ chart is at the top of the page colored in blue and yellow. The senior water rights are those established before 1983, shown in yellow. The junior water rights are those established after 1983 and shown in the blue area.

The principle for water rights in the Entiat Watershed will be about the same as they are in Wenatchee Watershed, but carried out a little different. During times of low flow and the river is below a certain level, the junior water rights users would be required to shut their water off until the levels go higher. The senior water rights users would not be required to shut off their water. Junior water rights cannot impact/impair senior water rights.

The flows are monitored at Peshastin with a USGS gage. The flow changes every day. Once a low flow occurs, the person monitoring the levels will call, or send letters, to

junior water right users. When they receive the call/letter that the low flow is in effect, they are required to check in daily before using water.

The reserve portion to be set aside in the Entiat Watershed is 2 – 3 cfs. An exempt well is not exempt from the water law. We are not sure how to measure the water used by domestic users. You could say indoor / outdoor usage, and the outdoor usage would be impacted by the low flow.

Dave H: If an existing well was changed, the date of the change will determine the junior / senior water right classification.

The Department of Ecology may get some water quality funding from the State budget and, if so, it should happen this fall. An official notice will go out when it is available. It is an encouragement for smaller project funding. Give me a call.

Habitat

- **2014 Project Planning Update**

Mike R: The Yakama Nation has submitted site project permit applications and landowner agreements are in place. A community meeting is planned when the plans are firmed up for all projects sites and landowner agreements are in place.

Preliminary observations of the 2012 projects are that lots of fish in the side channel portion of those projects. It looks like the fish prefer the side channels over the woody structures. Project sponsors are looking to construct more side channels as part of the 2014 projects which will lessen the concern about wood structures in the lower portion of the river.

Cascadia hired Jason Sims to fill the position previously held by Susan. He's getting a lot of exposure to the Entiat landowners and projects.

Chris Clemens: There have been other staffing changes as well. Today is Kathryn's last day with the Forest Service. She is going to work for the PUD. A temporary person has been hired to fill her position, and the new Forest Supervisor just started work yesterday

Yakama Nation Upper Columbia Restoration Signage Plan

(Attachment 4: Draft Yakama Nation UC Restoration Signage Plan)

Chris C: The Yakama Nation is heading up a sign campaign to inform the public of restoration projects implemented in the river. We put this PowerPoint together to present to the Steering Committee. They said no. *(Chris presented the PowerPoint and provided a handout.)*

We want to install signs showing where the river access areas are in an effort to stop the entries through private property. We would like to put a couple of signs around

snowmobile sites. Three suggested locations are Coopers, the KIOSK at Entiaqua Park, the Preston Area at River Mile 24, and a campground area (yet to be determined).

Jon Small: How many signs?

Chris C: There are about four signs planned for the Entiat.

Mike R: Is that too many Jon?

Jon S: That sounds about right.

Chris C: Cooper's Store would like for our sign to be placed across the road from the store.

Mike R: I will have Jason call Cooper's and get the specific place for relocation.

Keith V: We control the river banks. Come to the city, and the city notifies the county, but the city has the final say. If the store doesn't work, an alternative spot would be on the fire station property.

Mike R: Will they be installed this year?

Chris C: Possibly this year or next spring.

Jon S: I don't see people recreating on the river.

Outreach Efforts

- **November Public Meeting**

Mike R: A mid-November public outreach meeting is planned to showcase the 2014 projects and answer any questions landowners may have. We are waiting until all landowner agreements for 2014 projects are signed and permits applications have been submitted. In addition we will be providing an update on the monitoring that has been taking place of the 2012 projects. It is hoped that the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) will attend and explain their claim of ownership of the river bottom. Until recently, the District understood that permission to access the river should come from the landowner. We, and all project sponsors, will continue to coordinate with the landowners.

DNR has stated that the bottom of the river is their property and permits will be required before access to the river is granted. This conflicts with landowners who have deeds stating their property line includes the river bottom. It also creates more paperwork and time to get a project on the ground.

Chris C: A lot of questions can be raised with this stance. If the river meanders, do you follow the river line? If the river floods and moves, where would the property line be?

Mike R: The concern is for the landowners. Are the landowners losing property and paying the same tax, or paying a lesser tax and not know the property line has been cut back.

Chris C: Projects will depend on DNR for permitting.

Mike R: Does the city of Entiat own the KIOSK?

Keith Vradenberg: The County owns that property up to the city limits.

Chris C: DNR said they have ownership of the river bottom. See the slide page titled, "Notes from DNR Attorney General."

Dave H: What is the QR code?

Chris C: There is a bar code on the signs for cell phones users to scan. All the specifics of the river, including the dangerous areas, can be viewed.

Dave H: When I'm in the canyon, I can't make or receive phone calls. Will the code on the sign work?

Chris C: The code worked for me. Signs can't be edited once folks signed off on them. They will be installed in the spring. The cost of the signs and installation at the KIOSK will be \$6,000 to \$8,000.

Mike R: We will contact Cooper's. Do you need financial help?

Chris C: No, not really. We just need locations.

Jon S: What was the objection of the Land Trust?

Chris C: Site intrusions.

Kurt Hosman: Some folks would rather not have all the information known.

Chris C: Mickey Fleming suggested an attorney, but the Land Trust and the Steering Committee turned it down.

Keith V: We conducted a recreational river survey on the Wenatchee and Methow Rivers'. The results were that 70-75% of the people recreating on these two rivers are from the west side of the state. Further information from the survey is that life jackets are not being used and alcohol is frequently involved. J Russel Marketing charges about \$400 - \$450 a sign. He is relocating his business to Badger Mountain.

Meeting Close-out, Evaluation and Adjournment

Mike R: The next Planning Unit meeting is on January 8, 2014 at 9:00 a.m., at the Entiat Grange Hall. Please let me know if there are other items you would like to see on the agenda.

Keith V: The trail under the railroad bridge has three turnouts with signs planned.

Mike R: RTT shot the idea down, so I'm not hopeful.

Keith V: We need to develop Preston Marina for fueling purposes.

Mike R: Thank you for coming! See you on January 8, 2014.

The meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

List of Attachments

<u>Attachment</u>	<u>Contents</u>
1	Attendance List
2	October 2013 Agenda
3	DOE – Wenatchee Watershed Overview & Peshastin Flow Charts
4	Draft Yakama Nation UC Restoration Signage Plan
5	Letter of Support to Land Trust – Upland Property Sale