

April 1, 2015
ENTIAT WATERSHED PLANNING UNIT MEETING MINUTES
Entiat Grange Hall, Entiat, WA
7:00 p.m.

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 7:08 p.m.

Mike Rickel welcomed those in attendance and opened the meeting with a round of introductions. The meeting was changed from the morning to the evening hoping that it would be a better time for community members to attend.

- **Approve January 2015 EWPU Meeting Minutes**

Mike asked if there were edits to make to the January 2015 Minutes. No comments or edits were requested, and the minutes were finalized. He called for new business items; reviewed and accepted the April 2015 agenda.

Entiat Landowner Steering Committee Update

- **Call for New EWPU Participants**

Mike R: Any suggestions or ideas of who to invite and engage as members to the Planning Unit meetings, please let me know.

Mike Kaputa: We've tried to get more community folks engaged with our meetings as well. Maybe we should spend a minute or two to think about the reasons why they are not coming. Maybe we should make the agenda relevant to the folks in the area. Tell them what we are doing here.

Mike R: Ray Sandidge, Jim Small and a few others that have been with the Planning Unit since it began, and don't participate as much due to health and burn out. I hope to get others involved.

Mike K: Direct dialogue between landowners and agencies is a critical tool. Can we approach the community in a different way? Even some of the agency folks have thinned out in attendance. It needs to be balanced between landowners and agencies. Make a call out.

Mike R: Phone calls were made. I always refer back to what Keith says, if folks are upset about something – you will hear about it. When folks are quiet, they may care but they are not worried.

Keith Vradenburg: A new couple are moving into the valley in a month or two. I will chat with them about the meetings. The watershed has a lot of progress that is completed with information about it online. The same people that have lived here for many years volunteer for many things, and they are getting burned out.

Mike R: Thank you for your comments Mike K. How do we address the other issues, besides fish, to engage the landowners?

Don Olin: The hot topic is road closures!

Mike R: We addressed that at the January meeting.

Jon Small: The community doesn't know what is going on with the roads.

Keith V: Maybe the Forest Service is trying to hire two new folks, and are limited on time right now. The road closures are upsetting folks.

Tom Desgroseillier: Will they be closed for the summer?

Keith V: The Forest Service is talking about keeping them closed for the next two to three years.

Tracy Eisenhard: Did they do their final assessment?

Jon S: We need to have the Forest Service here to answer that. They closed the ridge tops after the fires. There is no reason for the ridge tops to be closed, so I wonder what else is going on.

Mike K: It could be the road issues. There are no current issues that are compelling them to come. Moving forward, we want to build relationships before trouble happens.

Keith V: We used to have a good relationship with the Forest Service. It has really fallen down. If we had a person here we could get information to and from them.

Mike R: I will commit to getting the concerns about road closures to them.

Keith V: Arch Lake, Myrtle Lake, and others are only available by hiking in.

Don O: You can't even hike in now. The Forest Service is being pressured too, possibly about liability issues.

Tracy E: I called about volunteering to clean trails but the Forest Service says only trained people are allowed to do that. I've been trained and cleaned the trails for years, but now they won't accept that either.

Jon S: We've been cleaning saddle trails for years too, now they won't accept us either.

Don O: We all signed off on it.

Mike R: I will share this information with Janet, and make them aware of the lack of communication and concerns.

- **Voluntary Stewardship Program (VSP)**

(Attachment 3: March 2015 VSP Meeting Agenda)

(Attachment 4: VSP Benchmarks, Objectives, Discussion 2015.3.20)

Mike K: VSP is a compromise between local governments, ecology, and agriculture. There are a number of law suits on the west side that make it brutal on how counties regulate critical areas. Our goal is to figure out a way to protect and enhance critical areas within agricultural areas. We want to direct the VSP in a non-meticulous, non-regulatory way and we signed on to this thinking it is the better way to go.

(Attachment 5: Draft Chelan VSP Outline 2015.3.20)

Our staff work group, Cascadia Conservation District, NRCS, Tree Fruit, Local and State Farm Bureaus, and Ecology are working with us to develop this work plan. We've made a lot of progress in trying to understand what legislation is all about. There are bumps in the road in trying to develop the plan. Please review the draft work plan and ask questions. And let's talk about the next steps.

Referring to the draft work plan: VSP only occurs where critical areas and agricultural areas intersect. There are about 63 acres of wetlands intersecting with tree fruit industries, which is a pretty small percentage when considering all the agricultural areas in the county. Many in the tree fruit industry are already exceeding the expectancy.

Page 2 of the draft plan describes the work group structure and roles. The work group is structured similar to the watershed planning unit.

Page 4 - Paints a picture of the work in Chelan County. Tim Smith gave us a lot of the information pertaining to the numbers in different sectors of agriculture in the county.

Page 5&6 go into descriptions of tree fruit practices and challenges. We are currently working with Elayne Hovde, the new NRCS Resource Conservationist in the Wenatchee office. The tree fruit industry is already exceeding NRCS standards. We want to discuss and create ways to protect growers.

Keith V: We've talked of agriculture being tree fruit. Shouldn't the VSP language protecting tree fruit include language to protect vineyards too?

Mike K: You are right. We have used tree fruit as the predominant use. Grapes are included.

Page 8 - describes core elements needed to meet the statutory test of the State Technical Panel when they review the work plan. We submit the plan to the State Panel and they

will tell us if we have met the standards or not. There are a lot of unknowns with this process. The panel has only met once or twice and they have never had a plan come before them, so we don't know what they are going to say.

Page 9 – July 2011 is the starting point to give credit for improvements made toward protection of critical areas. We want to address this with respect to riparian areas, and not establish riparian areas as a no touch zone. They need to be managed.

Page 10 – Creating and maintaining benchmarks. We have to establish some benchmarks and measurable objectives so we can show the level of improvement over the years.

Pages 12 & 13 – Updating of watershed plans to include VSP work.

Pages 14 & 16 – Capture Global G.A.P. and pesticide standards. We want to paint a picture of what is already going on.

Page 18 – Table of intersection of Agriculture and Critical Areas in Chelan County. This is where you get a perspective of the areas that intersect.

Page 19 – Wildlife Habitat. This table shows where the intersection occurs between critical areas and rangeland. We want to protect folks from geological hazardous areas. The baseline and measurable objectives is where we have spent most time right now. It may be the most pertinent portion to this group. Benchmarks to set, how to do it and how they work.

A new sheet for VSP may be a menu of activities that could help. We want to work with growers to see where the need is and how willing growers are to work with the VSP. This is the piece we will work the most on. June 30 is the deadline for the plan.

Page 20 – has one or two data sources. We will get credit for projects that have occurred since July 2011. Most of them are in the Entiat Valley.

Page 22 – We are starting to list the technical assistance providers. The list includes Cascadia Conservation District, DNR, NRCS, Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board, and Trout Unlimited are a few providers. We want to be broad with the list. We will continue to work on the measurable objectives piece. In June, we will have a final workshop with the County and VSP. We would like to invite as many folks as able to come. The workgroup meeting will finalize the plan before sending it off to the State Panel.

The VSP work plans would be a product of the local watershed planning units. It would be nice to make the VSP plan a visible program for everyone to access. The EWPU could be a nice place to house the monitoring.

Are there questions or comments? I am curious to know the growers perspective of this plan. I'm interested in getting feedback and discussions.

Keith V: We can get the feedback from you?

Mike K: I could work with Mike Rickel to get the feedback to you.

Keith V: I like the fact that you are not making specifics to each critical area. We want to keep as much control as we can.

Mike R: Is your sense that there is much awareness in the grower community?

Jon S: I'm interested and support this.

Mike K: The strange thing is that the grandfathered agricultural lands are not changed.

Keith V: Agriculture is being pushed hard now with the Global G.A.P. and other agencies.

Don O: It is getting very tough!

Mike K: We understand. We don't need one more thing.

Doug England: Safety issues are important.

- **Shoreline Master Program**

Keith V: The Entiat is completed.

Mike K: The County is not completed. We had some challenges with the policies from the old Ecology staff. The new Ecology staff and DNR are working together and re-opening the books. We are also working with the Planning Commission and hope to kick off a public process toward the end of the year. We are two years behind schedule, but currently making a lot of progress. When we unveil the new graph we will ask Entiat to review it for feedback.

Mike R: If there are no further questions or comments, we'll move on to the next item.

Habitat

- **2016/2017 Project Developments**

Jason Sims: We should be to the 30% design level in May. The stretch of river involved for the 2016-17 projects is river mile (RM) 16 to RM 21.6. The projects include habitat improvement and wood projects. A public meeting to engage landowners will be planned sometime after May. This is a pretty short report for now.

Mike R: Will there be a presentation of the designs at the July EWPU meeting?

Jason S: Yes, we will have the 30% design at that point. I will bring updates from the 2012 and 2014 projects, and start distributing information about the 2016-17 projects at that time.

Mike K: It's my understanding that there is a lot of wood projected in the designs.

Mike R: These are conceptual designs, and they could change a great deal before the final projects are approved.

Jason S: I have heard of the big meetings and the big issues that have come up in the past. I'm willing to take in any ideas you may have on that. So far the plan is to have public meetings and handouts at events.

Mike K: There are a lot of groups working on this, but we want to get ahead of any issues.

Keith V: Are you looking at next fall for the meeting?

Jason S: We have a couple of events we are already participating in. Later this summer for a meeting.

Keith V: DOT is proposing a Round-About in front of the store. There will be a lot of people at that meeting.

Mike R: Pamela has the first presentation on monitoring results.

- **Monitoring Results:**

- **Terraqua**

(Attachment 6: Entiat River Intensively Monitored Watershed Update – Power Point Presentation)

Pamela Nelle: The habitat monitoring is funded through Bonneville Power Administration (BPA).

Pamela presented slides of the river before and after the habitat projects were put in, monitoring points along the control and the project sites, changes in the river channel after implementation, as well as graphs and charts showing fish counts.

- **USFWS**

(Attachment 7: Seasonal Usage of Off-Channel Habitats in the Entiat River - Power Point Presentation)

Nick Albrecht and Tom Desgroseillier presented their slides. The study showed the areas monitored, methods of PIT tag and mark-recapture, size, density, survival and movement between monitored side channels during different seasons. Conclusions and future directions were discussed near the end of the presentation.

- **USFS**

(Attachment 8: Entiat Effectiveness Monitoring Update - Power Point Presentation)

Karl Polivka gave his presentation. The Chinook and Steelhead response to untreated habitat versus restored pools within the same reach. The years covered in this study are between 2009-2014.

Mike R: The fish appear to be responding to smaller habitat structures?

Karl P: The spacing matters regardless of structure size. 2014 is a suspect year because of the fires. We will go on and learn more before we say much more about large structures.

Keith V: Were there fewer fish during the fires?

Karl P: We couldn't get in. The silt would stir things up so you couldn't see.

Tracy Eisenhard: Does that affect their reproduction?

Tom D: It could. We'll see.

Meeting Close-out, Evaluation and Adjournment

Mike R: The next Planning Unit meeting is on July 1, 2015, at the Entiat Grange Hall. Please fill out an evaluation of the meeting before you leave. They are found at the back table.

Thank you for coming! See you on July 1, 2015.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

List of Attachments

<u>Attachment</u>	<u>Contents</u>
1	Attendance List
2	April 2015 Agenda
3	March 2015 VSP Meeting Agenda
4	VSP Benchmarks - Objectives – Discussion
5	Draft Chelan VSP Outline 2015.3.20
6	Entiat River Intensively Monitored Watershed Update (Power Point Presentation)

- 7 Seasonal Usage of Off-Channel Habitats in the Entiat River
 (*Power Point Presentation*)

- 8 Entiat Effectiveness Monitoring Update
 (*Power Point Presentation*)