

February 7, 2018
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 9:05 a.m.

Jason welcomed those in attendance and thanked them for being open to meeting schedule changes. He continued the meeting with a round of introductions.

- **Approve October 2017 EWPU Meeting Minutes**

Jason asked if the October 2017 Minutes were reviewed. The minutes apparently were not provided. Jason asked that folks review them as soon as we get them posted. A sign-up sheet was made available for those who wish to receive a hard copy of the minutes instead of reading them online. The October 2017 and the February 2018 minutes will be reviewed at the May meeting.

- **Review & Accept February Agenda**

No additions or edits were made to the February Agenda.

Entiat Landowner Steering Committee

- **2018 Goals and Planning**

Jason: Thank you to Keith Vradenburg and others for their letters of support for the District's Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) funding application.

Jason and the group discussed ways to encourage meeting attendance. Jason asked about having one evening meeting a year so working folks can attend.

Chris Clemens: One evening meeting a year is a good idea.

Jason: What night would be good Keith?

Keith Vradenburg: Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday nights are best.

Jason: We've used Facebook and other media as outreach tools. The Entiat Lookout newspaper is another tool. The new EWPU meeting schedule is February, May, August and November. February is the yearly planning meeting to set goals to meet for the year. The November meeting can cover what was accomplished during the year and what goals are left to do.

Chris C: We may talk about what will be done this year. The fall meeting can be a recap of what was done.

Jason: Is May a good time of year to have an evening meeting?

Chris C: An open house is a good format, possibly at the old bakery.

Keith Vradenburg: the Fire Station is a good location.

Jason: An open house was successful. Is that something we should plan for?

Keith Vradenburg: At the end of the presentations, have stations for individuals to go around and talk with agency folks.

Mike Cushman: Planning for the city?

Keith Vradenburg: I haven't got our water permit yet. We could bring in something related to city projects to get more interest.

Jason: I will look at meeting dates in May.

Jason: Let's bring in other groups, the city as well. We have the same problem getting attendance at the Chamber meetings too.

- **WRIA 46 Plan Update and Document Review (D)**

Jason: The only feedback about the WRIA 46 Plan Update was from the Land Trust. There are 16 pages, half is an update and half is a recruitment tool.

Is the information relevant? Is the information solid? Does it look good? What are we doing in the river and why? This document attempts to answer these questions.

Jon Small: Do you have it online?

Jason: I'll get a copy to you after the meeting. I want this document to be relevant, and be filtered by the community to make sure we are on target.

Mike K: I appreciate the work you put into it. I have nothing to add.

- **Water Advisory Group Discussion**

Jason introduced Vanessa Brinkluis, the new representative from the Department of Ecology (DOE).

Vanessa B: Stream flows were established on September 3, 2005. We've had some discussion about reserve accounting, what's been done and how to debit what has been done. We are currently debiting conservatively and would like to calculate the data at a realistic amount for the reserve.

We are doing research to see if the limit on the amount of water usage should be set at a lesser amount. We are focusing on applications for the Yakima. There isn't a specific date to process applications for the Entiat. A reservation and pending application status list was handed out.

Vanessa B: A lot of these water rights were applied for in the 1990's. The dates of older pending water right applications will stand.

Wes Childers: How do you validate the claims?

Vanessa B: To validate a claim requires legal action known as an adjudication. DOE can't validate claims. They must go through an adjudication.

Joe Kelly: Some of those were claimed in the 1970's.

Vanessa B: You want to have the date for the first water usage to be a pre-water code.

Wes C: How do you do that? The claims were filed.

Vanessa B: The claim has to be adjudicated to be certificated. DOE cannot validate the claim. We don't give legal advice on it. Adjudications are a lengthy process.

Mike K: We are putting together some maps according to the Hirst rule for the Entiat. We see an opportunity to process some water rights.

Jason: Keith, as we get more information, who would be the person from the community to contact and be involved in the discussion? Who should be at the table?

Keith Vradenburg: It would be important to the Entiat Irrigation District. I will give you a list. John Monahan helped set that up.

Mike K: Is that within the city limits?

Keith Vradenburg: Yes.

Mike K: We want to help with figuring out the gallons used per day for domestic, and outdoor use. From the county view, we want to make sure we are in agreement. We want to get to a number that is realistic. Other components we want to know about are DOE issued water rights against commercial usage.

Wes C: Before water rights are issued, you have to adjudicate?

Vanessa B: No.

Wes C: You can apply for a water right at this time?

Vanessa B: Yes, we had many applications in backlog. There are not enough staff to process them all in a timely fashion. The Entiat is on our radar, but we don't have a time frame for you yet on when we can process new applications.

Mike K: Even if it is a year or two and that is better than 20 years. There is a lot of work to do before processing a water right. It would take a year to do the pre-work for the application. There may be 100 – 150 applications in the Wenatchee. Out of the 140, 15 were processed. For the other applications, plans changed, the land was sold, or owners passed away.

Mike C: The planning unit might be a good place to have these discussions rather than have another meeting. We want to make sure everyone has an opportunity to join in the conversation and know what is going on.

Jason: That was my plan for the group, to have it included in the EWPU meeting for a year. Then break it out for smaller discussions, if needed.

Mike K: Part of what we have planned is to have some Hirst outreach meetings in the next few months, get the message out clearly for the community. We could be more specific about what water is being used. Some details need to be brought out. A water report to go through the health district.

Mike K: There are some geographic areas not included in the rule. We are trying to figure out how to apply the watershed regulations regarding the inclusion of the Hirst rule. How does DOE interpret the Hirst Bill?

Joe Kelly: There is an article in the bill that the state changed from the first bill submission.

Mike K: Chelan County, Wenatchee and Entiat watersheds are business as usual. Stemilt and other areas will have different rules applied. There are some watersheds that need to do a new watershed plan.

Vanessa B: There was a good map given out in the last week. Maybe share that link to the planning unit.

Mike K: We took that map and are looking for areas that are questionable.

Wes C: Some wells are exempt?

Mike K: The colors line up with certain sections of the bill. There are a few specific carve outs, but they didn't apply to this area.

Vanessa B: The last time we did an open house, we had people ask for a presentation.

Mike K: We will be doing a presentation.

Jason: The water discussion should be folded into the EWPU group for now. Any other ideas?

Chris C: How do the new shoreline rules tie in with the Hirst bill?

Mike K: They don't. In six to eight months we will have the review and comments. The outside groups can appeal or comment on the shoreline rules at that time.

Habitat:

- **Entiat Watershed Project Development Updates**

Jason: The intensive monitoring effort is winding down. There is a review process going on. February and early March will be the last big push to get the monitoring work done, and night time monitoring. Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) is putting a pause on monitoring activities in the Entiat. There will not calls for monitoring access this summer. It is uncertain how much monitoring will be done in the future. It may wind down to site specific and project specific areas.

Keith van den Broek: We will be completing our monitoring and information gathering by June.

Joe K: I was told there was a review last summer. Some group tried to come in and decide why some fish are not doing as well. I'd like to get that information.

Tom Degroseillier: Spring Chinook in the Upper Columbia are not doing as well. The Independent Science Advisory Board (ISAB) was asked to research why. We don't have the recommendations from ISAB yet and they should be coming any time.

Jason: I will get that out to you as soon as I can.

Tom D: Regarding USFWS monitoring, some of our projects were dropped. We were awarded a contract to monitor the screw trap for another year. At some point all of our work was rolled into the Intensively Monitored Watershed (IMW) work. Some of the work will continue, but we don't know to what extent.

Keith van den Broek: Were you awarded any other contracts?

Tom D: Yes. We are to do some redd surveys, steelhead, and we may monitor redds before project construction and during construction.

Chris C: Karl has approached us about funding for monitoring and pre-monitoring.

Jason: We included this as part of the Water Smart grant.

Jason: We will continue the mailers and information will be included in the Entiat Lookout. In some cases we may see some Department of Fish and Wildlife folks come out to monitor. How and when they come out will be communicated through Cascadia. The February Lookout will have an article about the fish hatchery project. It is well written. Craig couldn't make it to the meeting today, but he is usually available.

Mike C: It is a Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) project. The trail head and access are closed because of the construction activity going on.

- **Middle Entiat Projects**

Jason: Permitting process initiated Joint Aquatic Resources Permit Application (JARPA), and is moving forward. The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) is wrapping up and we should have the final document tomorrow. I will get that link out to the community. They will send me the comments that were made.

Joe K: Who is doing the NEPA?

Jason: BOR is doing the NEPA. The link will be sent to me. BOR has no appeal process.

Joe K: Is there a way to know if those corrections we requested were made?

Jason: The information is provided in the final document.

Joe K: When Chelan County does the impact findings, how does that affect the NEPA?

Mike K: The lead federal agency has to do the NEPA. The State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) is run through the county. The county did not see where the process was crossed. There is a SEPA check list we put together. We can adopt a federal NEPA, but the federal lead agency can't adopt a SEPA.

Jason: When the JARPA, NEPA and SEPA are all wrapped up, the County will contract for wood. The Bremmer Levy is a big area. They will store wood over the year. The Bremmer Levy and two other log jam projects will be constructed in 2019. The other projects will be constructed in 2020, and potentially 2021. We want to have a public meeting. Would it be better to have the meeting before the wood is collected or after they start?

Keith V: Heads up, early is better than after the fact.

Mike K: Wes, there are a number of folks that get together.

Wes C: A group of folks that talk about the impacts of the changes in the river.

Jason: If your group is getting together, should we be coming to talk with the group?

Mike K: Is there is an opportunity to engage with the Landowner Steering Committee to discuss things too?

Jason: There are years of follow-up after a project. If you have a date Wes, let me know. If the group wants to come to the May meeting, that meeting will be in the evening.

Wes C: We need to have a meeting time available for folks that work.

Chris C: According to the Forest Service, sometime in September is when they will start the NEPA process for our Yakama Nation projects planned for 2019 implementation. The Tillicum Creek project will be done this summer. This will re-meander the Tillicum through the lower portion of the valley near the mouth.

Mike C: The Mad River assessment?

Chris C: Will be done in May or June, sometime this summer.

Jason: The Mad River, Roaring, and Mills Creek drainage are still being scoped. The ranger station will be happy to answer questions.

Chris C: We will speak to that at the open house.

Graham S: Trout Unlimited Roaring Creek project is going out to bid this year.

Jason: There is no news to share from Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board.

- **Roundtable Updates**

Keith van den Broek: February 20 is our start date. The flows are high right now, so we'll wait and see about monitoring closer to the 20th.

Keith V: I want to talk to the WA Department of Fish and Wildlife about the cougar issues. One of them is not far from the school.

Joe K: Mike Kaputa, your idea about going around to give out information about Hirst is good. It would help landowners to have a ten minute explanation on water rights, a recap of it.

Vanessa B: That may be a DOE presentation. We have material to hand out at meetings, something they can take with them.

Mike K: We want to provide absolute information on the Hirst bill.

Wes C: Mike Kaputa, in my experience with SEPA a notice should be sent out to the landowners.

Mike K: We told you on the phone, we didn't see any deficiency. We feel comfortable with our process.

Joe K: Can we go read the reports? The component, the project will make a big impact on the area. There are possibilities of recreationists having dangerous conditions. I would like to come and read the reports.

Mike K: It is a high mark.

Wes C: What about the check list, do you list mitigations?

Mike K: We feel we have reviewed all the check list marks. And we feel it is safe.

Jason: It was good to know what boating routes you took. It is all important.

Mike K: The long term is important. I hope this conversation continues.

Jason: This would be a good follow-up item, to show project status, show what we are seeing. There has been a lot of time that passed. We could show images from existing projects and provide status updates.

Mike K: My question is, should we do some expanded outreach to Wes's group?

Joe K: His group should ask for a presentation.

Mike K: If someone feels they need to have more information, we want to do that for them. Would you or your group want some more outreach from us? I don't want to have a blind spot. If we re-open the SEPA process, would that shed some new light on the projects?

Wes C: What I was driving at was there wasn't a notice, except in the legal section of the newspaper.

Jason: Do you have the Lookout inserts Wes?

Wes C: My partner has them.

Chris C: The Forest Service, Emily Johnson's position opened today. She took another position at the SO. There should be more information by May.

Mike K: The commissioners adopted the shoreline plan. It doesn't go into effect until it has been reviewed at the State level. We are also working on potentially adopting a Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) code. It would be a new chapter in the building code, which will include construction materials for roofing and windows with tempered glass.

Meeting Close-out, Evaluation and Adjournment

Jason: Thanks for coming and see you in May 2018.

Meeting adjourns at 11:00 a.m.

List of Attachments

Attachment

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