

October 4, 2017
ENTIAT WATERSHED PLANNING UNIT MEETING MINUTES
Entiat Fire Station, 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 9:08 a.m.

Jason welcomed those in attendance and began the meeting with a round of introductions.

- **Approve July 2017 EWPU Meeting Minutes**

Jason asked if there were edits for the July 2017 Minutes. No comments or edits were made and the minutes were finalized.

- **Housekeeping**

Jason: Vanessa Brinkluis is the new Department of Ecology (DOE) representative. Dave Holland retired, and Vanessa will be updating us on DOE news.

Are there any items to add to the agenda?

Mike Kaputa: I'd like to add water resource management to the agenda.

Jason: That will tie right into the WRIA 46 Plan document presentation.

Entiat Landowner Steering Committee

- **WRIA 46 Plan Update and Document Review (D)**
(Attachment 3: Entiat Action Plan presentation & review)

Jason: I'm glad to have some landowners at this meeting. Folks were busy with harvest during the July meeting, so there wasn't as much feedback as I'd hoped for. I have two goals to accomplish with this document:

1. Show folks what has been done
2. Have a document that shows new landowners a brief 'at a glance' version of the watershed plan

This is a joint effort between Chelan County and Cascadia Conservation District. The presentation will review water management, habitat and monitoring. It took over a decade to create and implement the watershed plan. This is an update for the community and the new folks to the area.

Chris Clemons: Will this get sent out?

Jason: Yes. I want a thumbs up from the Entiat Watershed Planning Unit (EWPU) before it is sent out to be printed. So far there has been no feedback and I want to make sure this is going in the right direction.

(Jason reviewed the Action Plan during the presentation.)

Mike K: Jason suggested getting a water advisory group together, if the EWPU agrees. Where is the discussion of the water plan in the document?

Page 4.

Mike K: The County is coordinating the cost reimbursement process with DOE and the landowners in the Wenatchee Watershed.

Mike Cushman: The District went through the surface water to well process when I was hired. The cost reimbursement was done to expedite the transfer process.

Mike K: These are new water rights. I don't know how many people are in line to get them. I'm interested in working with landowners and agencies to get this done.

Joe Kelly: I'm interested in this process.

Mike K: We have not changed any requirements, but there is no budget right now. We have questions about water reserve and usage. I'm interested in being a part of an advisory board.

Mike C: Addressing the needs as folks are willing and able to engage with the agencies is a key piece of the Planning Unit and a water advisory group if necessary.

Mike K: The County will have to track water usage across the county. As rights come in, we need to debit the usage against the reserve. The Entiat valley has agriculture and industrial components included in the plan. All approvals go through DOE. The County facilitates the process, but DOE makes the final decision. Sign the County up for the advisory group.

Jason: Alright, we have one for the group.

Vanessa B: Sign the DOE up as well.

Mike K: The math equation becomes really important. Water usage in the Wenatchee watershed is figured at 300 gallons per day per household. I'm not sure what it is for the Entiat watershed. I've heard that it is 4,000 per day, which is high. The reserve won't last long with that rate.

Joe K: How was that calculated?

Mike K: It was developed in the watershed plan.

Jason: I didn't get into the details with this report. But I want to make it a goal and use it to drive the discussion and planning.

Joe K: 4,000 is a large amount for domestic use, but not for agriculture.

Mike K: If it is 4,000 gallons a day, the reserve would be exhausted.

Vanessa B: Does that include the ½ acre?

Mike K: Good question. I think it does.

Joe K: Does that include irrigation?

Vanessa B: It is a maximum of a ½ acre, report usage.

Mike K: It may be good to have the Conservation District get this started.

Mike C: We should extend this invitation to the Steering Committee folks for support of this effort.

Don Olin: Changing the point of diversion to the Columbia River will change the effect on the irrigation district. We did a feasibility study to pump from the Columbia River, but the cost was too high.

Jason reviewed the Habitat section, page 9 graph, ‘what’s been done and what’s next.’ Chris Clemons, Yakama Nation, will talk about projects planned for 2017 – 2021.

Tom Degroseillier: *(Tom described the monitoring graph in the presentation.)* We’ve seen some years of improvement in recent years, but not as much as we hoped for.

Jason: What’s next? This portion is all about catching everyone up. Are there any last questions from the document? I’d like to get feedback in the next couple of weeks. Call, email, or write on the copy of the document and hand me your notes. I’d like to have comments by October 18. I will send out an email reminder.

Ken Muir is the new Project Coordinator II at Cascadia Conservation District. He will give a presentation on one way of monitoring by the usage of drones.

- **Drones: Revolutionizing Scientific Information**
(Attachment 4: Drones Usage for Monitoring - presentation)

*Acronyms for drones: UAS – Unmanned aircraft system
 sUAS – Small unmanned aircraft system
 UAV – Unmanned aerial vehicle
 RPA – Remotely piloted aircraft

Ken presented the drone video.

Chris C: Anyone using a drone has to have a license.

Ken M: FFA created a pilot’s license for them.

David Morgan: This could be used for monitoring fish.

Tom D: It would be good to get landowner feedback on this method of monitoring.

Mike C: Therein lies the presentation. It can collect a lot of data. We can fly these within a person's property with their permission. The legality of drones, the perception, is something we won't have everyone's permission to use. We want the group to know these things are available. There may be hits and misses with folks as to acceptance. I'm curious what your thoughts are.

Keith Vradenburg: We had a call at the City around three weeks ago about a drone flying around the camp grounds. We are currently working with the police about their usage in a campground. If it is under 500 feet, we don't have to worry about FFA.

Jason: We had drone pictures of the Kite Fest through the Lake Chelan Mirror. In these situations it is cool. If it is monitoring, we want to make sure we are talking with the landowners to see what is ok or not ok with them.

Bob Whitehall: I wouldn't mind it, but I want to know who it is and why. If not, it may not fly home.

David M: They make a lot of noise. We would have to be careful and have a protocol.

Mike C: Let's reach out and let the community know when and why it will happen. The concern is with GIS and land surveyor work because it's hard to tell what is professional and what is not. If landowners are not interested, we wouldn't fly over their area.

Vanessa B: Drones have been shut down in Florida because of safety issues.

Keith V: How would we enforce it?

Ken M: Local jurisdiction is the quickest and easiest way to shut them down.

Vanessa B: It is tricky legality to shut them down.

Don O: The cost effectiveness comparison between the helicopter in the wilderness and the drone may help toward getting one.

Mike C: Thank you Ken. There is a lot of information in this presentation. Outreach would be needed to simplify the matter. We will follow the process to keep the trust of the landowners.

Keith Van Den Broek: One way to know who is using the drone is to have a visual on the operator.

- **Department of Ecology Discussion**
(Attachment 5: WA DOE Progress - presentation)

Vanessa B: Dave Holland retired a little over a year ago. I moved to Washington from Florida about three months ago and work out of the Union Gap office in the water resources department. Central Washington has the highest load of permitting usage. We have 1000 permits waiting to be processed. We processed 500 permits last year.

(During the presentation these statements were interjected.)

DOE is very involved during a drought.

Claims and existing water rights can be validated through an adjudication. The only way a claim can be validated is through an adjudication.

Permit exempt wells are wells that use less than 5000 gallons of water per day.

You can change a water right from point of diversion to a well, change the area of usage, but you can't increase the quantity. Would be considered a new water right application.

Adjudicated certificate holds more power than a regular water certificate.

If a water right has not been used for 5 years, it is relinquished to the state. If folks know they will not be using it, bank it in a trust.

Joe K: In 1976 or 1977 DOE told us we had to re-claim our water. But those have not been adjudicated. Where does that leave me with my claim?

Vanessa B: Keep good records to show your water usage.

Joe K: How do I show usage?

Vanessa B: Resource Wet Map and look at claims in your area. Adjudications happen in areas with water usage problems. If there are other questions, Kelsey Collins is the Trust Water Acquisitions Lead and is most knowledgeable. The PEFA Plan Implementation & Flow Achievement is a big grant opportunity. The watershed planning funds have run out except for the PEFA grants. If help is needed for project development and permitting, DOE is available. The customer service number is 509-575-2597. The website is <https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/Guidance-technical-assistance/Water-Resources-Explorer>. There are tools in the website to help. I have business cards with me if you'd like to call later with questions.

Habitat:

- **Entiat Watershed Project Development Updates**

Jason: There are no project updates to present on the screen. The Middle Entiat projects are at 80% design level and the permit process is beginning. The current plan is to release the final document, secure the permits, obtain and stage wood in the spring. Two projects are planned for 2019 and two projects in 2020. A design check-in meeting is planned for January and the plans will be shared in April. The two meetings will help cue folks up as to what is happening.

Chris C: Yakama Nation is keeping the Land Trust property designs. We are looking to do something with the Forest Service land. We hope to implement in 2019.

Jason: James Simino had prior engagements this morning, but he will be at the Entiat Chamber meeting Thursday night, at the Fire Station. The meeting starts at 6:30.

- **Yakama Nation Projects**

(Attachment 6 – Yakama Nation Projects – presentation)

Chris C: There are five different project sites, four of which are the Upper Stillwater Habitat Enhancement Final, and the 3D Project is lower in the river. The projects are between river mile 25.8 – 27.5. The 3D project was a 2012 project at the cost of around \$130,000.

(Chris narrated through the presentation slides.)

Tom D: Jason, do you have some tours coming up? We undervalue the rip rap for fish habitat. I'm happy to see that included in these projects and impressed with the work Yakama Nation did.

Chris C: We are happy with the work.

Keith Van Den Broek: What is the life expectancy of the project?

Chris C: About 50 years.

Jason: David Morgan has some updates from the Land Trust and the project at Cottonwood Bridge.

- **Chelan-Douglas Land Trust Updates**

(Attachment 7 – Cottonwood Bridge – presentation)

(David showed before and after slides of the bridge work.)

David M: The bridge was built in 2001. Every time we went back to monitor the bridge, we saw more damage. It was clear that the project needed to be done sooner than later. Thanks to the County, the Bureau and the Chelan County PUD for their help to get the project done.

The abutment will be removed next week. The top half of the abutment has already been moved. If anyone knows of someone needing a bridge, talk to Andy. The steel is in good shape.

Mike K: Your organization did a great job getting the work done. The whole bridge was warping and that action accelerated once the work began.

- **Trout Unlimited Update**

Cody Gillin: We have a project in Roaring Creek, replacing a surface diversion. It will add about 1.5 cfs back into Roaring Creek. Pulling the diversion will improve fish passage. We put out to bid in late summer and fall but the prices were too high. We will put it out again over the winter and begin work in the spring.

- **Roundtable Updates**

Jason: Upper Columbia wasn't available to attend today, but they didn't have any updates.

Mike K: The County is in the middle of updating the County Shoreline document. There are hearings every Tuesday for the next six weeks.

Chris C: Do they still have access to the fish portion?

Mike K: Yes.

Mike C: Are they taking comments?

Mike K: Yes. It is an open comment period. Talk with me or Lilith Vespier.

Keith V: The City of Entiat signed off on the quarter rights for the marina. We hope to have the marina ready in 4 to 6 months.

Chris C: Any updates on the round-about construction?

Keith V: I have pictures, but it may be 10 years down the road for construction.

Chris C: Matt Wilberding asked that an update for the project in the Tillicum Meadow be given. It will be implemented in 2018. Permits should be ready in the next month or two. It should be a good habitat project.

Meeting Close-out, Evaluation and Adjournment

Mike C: For those who have not heard yet, I have taken over the Project Director position at the District. Ken is taking over my previous position. Thank you for coming today.

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

Meeting adjourns at 11:30 a.m.

List of Attachments

<u>Attachment</u>	<u>Contents</u>
1	Attendance List
2	October 2017 Agenda

- 3 Entiat Action Plan Presentation Review
- 4 Drone Usage for Monitoring
- 5 WA DOE Progress
- 6 Yakama Nation Projects
- 7 Cottonwood Bridge Presentation