

Meeting Notes 9 Sept 2009

Location: Chelan PUD Auditorium, 327 N. Wen Ave., Wenatchee

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RTT members present: Joe Lange, Kate Terrell, Tracy Hillman, Casey Baldwin, Karl Polivka, Keely Murdoch, Russell Langshaw, and John Arterburn. **Others present:** Julie Morgan, James White and Pamela Nelle

9:10 Casey started the meeting and asked for any changes to the agenda. Pamela asked to add an update on ISEMP plans in the Wenatchee in 2010.

Updates: 1) Casey gave an update on the SRFB / Trib Fund process and the results of the individual and combined Citizens Advisory Committee meetings. He handed out a table that showed the rankings and the SRFB funding line. There was a question regarding the final order of the projects and the fact that the projects ranked lowest by the RTT were in the middle of the group that was recommended for funding. Casey said that the individual CAC ranks had not diverged very much from the RTT ratings but that when combined in the 1-1, 2-2 format the low ranking projects moved up. The combined CAC had discussed it and decided to leave the projects where they were based on geographic equity, rather than biological benefit.

2) UCSRB: Julie notified the group that they will receive a formal invitation to the 10 year celebration banquet for the UCSRB. Everyone needs to RSVP with Barb Carillo. Julie described the recent bus tour sponsored by the USSRB with high ranking federal natural resource executives, legislative staffers, and many others to highlight the good work being accomplished by implementing the Salmon Recovery Plan in the Upper Columbia. The tour provided a great opportunity for Upper Columbia Board members, landowners and project sponsors to interact with Portland, Olympia, and Washington D.C. executives and share information on our progress. Julie also described the recent efforts towards project funding and coordination and the UCSRB efforts with BPA to explore the possibility of a programmatic approach to habitat restoration and protection. Casey requested that Julie work closely with the RTT if there would be a science review role for the RTT so they could manage the workload issues that might be involved with additional project review.

3) Casey described a process that the WDOE is undertaking to evaluate and potentially cut back on the number of water quality and quantity gages in the Upper Columbia. He circulated an e-mail from MaryJo Sanborn that asked for help filling out a table that described all the uses and users of the WDOE gages. Casey asked that everyone respond directly to MaryJo with their response. Julie suggested contacting Bob Cusimano and discussing the possibility of using their effort or monitoring related funding to go towards the water quality and quantity gages. The RTT was supportive of Casey making this contact and officially letting WDOE know that all of their gages are important to the salmon recovery efforts in the Upper Columbia.

4) Casey said he had been approached by Katherine Bill (WA Rivers Cons.) about the possibility of giving a presentation to the RTT regarding their efforts and options for long term protection of water for in stream uses in the Chewuch River. Katherine and others had put together a white paper that described their efforts and options and wanted to give the RTT an update and seek informal feedback. The group was supportive of receiving the presentation at our next meeting (Oct 14). Casey will contact Katherine and set it up.

5) Keely provided an update of MaDMC activities. The major item that the MaDMC needed to do was to review and comment on the draft write up of the data gaps report that Chuck and Keely had prepared and distributed. Casey thought it made sense to tie in that review with planning for the Data Gaps session of the RTT analysis workshop. The group talked about the other efforts to identify data gaps (i.e. CBFWA sub-regional workshops) and the need to update the RTT data gaps information. James asked if we should also include the priority level of ongoing monitoring since BPA wanted people to evaluate a 10% reduction. People thought that all ongoing monitoring was a high priority but that the document and the RTT needs to be responsive to changes such as the potential loss of WDOE gages creating a gap that was not there previously. Also, Kate mentioned that the USFWS may stop surveying for spring Chinook redds in the Entiat since they are no longer producing spring Chinook at their hatchery. Casey thought that the USFWS would not be able to evaluate the affect of their summer Chinook program to wild spring Chinook if they discontinue that monitoring. Regardless, that is another good example of the need for flexibility in the RTT prioritization of data gaps. The plan was for the MaDMC to review the draft report, the MaDMC would then meet on the afternoon of Oct 14 (after the regular RTT meeting) and combine those edits with a planning effort for the RTT analysis workshop. The document should probably not be finalized until after the RTT analysis workshop. No decision was made on the requirement or timing of review by the full RTT.

Keely described several other ongoing efforts from the MaDMC workplan and their status, including contributing to the RTT analysis workshop. Casey suggested that the MaDMC time and focus would be needed to contribute to the RTT analysis workshop between now and Nov 4.

6) Pamela described ISEMPs efforts to cut back on monitoring in the Wenatchee so they could free up funding for analysis. In 2010, they would not do random sites, only fixed sites. They also will reduce support for smolt trapping and move that effort to PIT tagging. In the Entiat they have begun testing mark-recapture techniques as an alternative to snorkeling and electrofishing and the initial results were encouraging.

RTT Operating Procedures Edits: Casey projected and described the changes he had made to the operating procedures. He explained that the changes focused on providing clarity and detail around our project review process and procedures and on updating the membership attachment. A few minor edits were offered, along with those Cameron had submitted before the meeting. Casey will re-circulate with a reminder to provide comments within one week, then he will finalize via e-mail approval.

RTT Analysis Workshop: James handed out the current draft agenda for the RTT analysis workshop and Casey described the edits and additions since the previous outline had been developed last spring. The group went through the agenda offering suggestions and making edits. Casey and James will incorporate those changes and re-circulate. Session moderators were identified and will be responsible for working with Casey and James to develop the objectives and discussion points for their session.

The need for a workgroup was discussed, to focus on an analysis of how well the previously implemented actions link to limiting factors and impaired VSP parameters. This workgroup product is an important component of the session that focuses on the implemented actions and the guidance / recommendations that the RTT needs to provide to project sponsors. James said the HWS output is ready for the next step where the RTT needs to determine the limiting factors and VSP parameters that were addressed. Casey and Kate agreed to participate on the workgroup and thought that Cameron would also be a helpful addition. James will put together a Doodlepoll to find a date for the group to do the analysis.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:45.