

Methow Restoration Council

August 18, 2015

Participants:

Name	Organization/Affiliation
Amy Martin	Okanogan Conservation District
Chris Johnson	MSRF
Crystal Elliot	Trout Unlimited
Jarred Johnson	Yakama Nation
Jennifer Molesworth	Reclamation
Jessica Goldberg	MSRF
John Crandall	MRC
Ken Muir	USFWS
Lynda Hofmann	WDFW
Matt Shales	CCFEG
Paul Wagner	Colville Tribes
Rob Crandall	Methow Natives
Rosy Mazaika	BPA
Susan Crampton	Local Citizen

Meeting Notes:

John Crandall and Chris Johnson – Low Water, Play Dams, Fish Stranding/Salvage Coordination:

John – there is not a lot of water in the stream – we are near record low stream flows. Andrews Creek is showing the lowest flow recorded for the dates, over 50 years of record. This is interesting, because this spring we had record high flows. Beaver Creek is dry below the Class 1 weir. [photos]

Jennifer Molesworth – upstream on Beaver Creek there is plenty of water

John – on the mainstem, at the M2 WDFW restored side channel, there are isolated pools, and we are also seeing this on the Twisp River and the upper Methow. We are seeing stranding of abundant numbers of fish in these pools. I talked to Charlie Snow yesterday. They are seeing both juveniles and adults stranded; there has been work to salvage and move the fish. People are making play dams and taking down signs. Charlie has surveys out for spring chinook spawning, so people are out walking, identifying stranding issues, and getting a crew out to deal with it. The predation rate can get high in the pools. Charlie has the gear but not enough people to do the work. Lynda can help, because it is illegal to capture endangered fish.

Lynda Hofmann – we have a drought coordinator who is working statewide on these issues and money from Ecology to work on this. Also, we have a statewide HPA to provide temporary fish passage to help with this. This pretty much provides an HPA for everything related to fish stranding. It is WDFW's permit, and so any action has to be coordinated with us, and there is monitoring and reporting involved.

Chris – we also had a call from Ecology's CCC that there is labor involved to help with this. Sam who runs the local Corps was looking to see if anyone needed labor.

John – Charlie isn't set up to coordinate; Ryan Fortier at WDFW is a good contact, and the person to contact is also Ben Goodman is the one who has been coordinating their efforts. Probably good to email Ben and Ryan in the same email with anyone who is interested in volunteering. Charlie's crew has the locations. With adults, you have to move fast.

Lynda – we have to report to NMFS and USFWS on the handling, etc.

John – someone had brought up that we could have some kind of outreach event. We have play dams being put up right next to signs that say they are bad.

Lynda – the signs are working, in that we are getting calls from people when they see the dams
Chris – at those sites, we have looked at doing some adaptive work at some of the restoration sites; one thing for natural areas, but not great for restoration areas. Does this HPA cover changes to those?

Lynda – I think so.

Jennifer – we should use our adaptive process

Chris – we should come up with a list

Jennifer – where there is flow, those structures are definitely providing refuge habitat.

Crystal Elliot – Lisa's group had expressed an interest in helping out with an outreach event if folks were interested, or an MV News letter to the editor, she would be willing to do that. Would need to happen pretty soon; as it is late in the season.

Jennifer – the news has had two articles on drought and how to help, and they highlighted the play dam thing, but not anything about water conservation, which was disappointing.

Lynda – I think the combination of fires and drought has people on edge and they are irrigating

Jennifer – I think that the signs are out, and the fact that people are taking them down and putting up the play dams means the message is out, and some people are reacting

John – a lot of messaging out there, may want to put something on the bulletin board; not sure what an outreach event would look like

Jennifer – K-Root fishing show may be a good outlet

Chris – information on what species are affected

Jennifer – think the projects are definitely helping provide areas for fish; this may be what our rivers look like more in the future, so may be a good time to start looking at adaptations going forward.

Lynda – the “let em pass” signs, have a number but it goes to Olympia, and they call Jason Day. Any other contact information?

Chris – think that Ryan Fortier would be the right contact, and then he can ask us for help. What about the HPA use? Who do we call?

Lynda – anyone in fish management at WDFW so we can do the reporting piece – Lynda, Ryan, Charlie, etc.

John – Ben Goodman Benjamin.Goodman@dfw.wa.gov – he is a good contact to coordinate on fish salvage, if people see salvage fish or have people that can help with fish salvage, email Ryan and Ben, because they have the gear.

Paul Wagner – where are the adult stranding locations?

John – Upper Methow, and likely it will happen on the Twisp.

Joy Juelson – UCSRB Update: we will be launching another outreach and education grant process for Okanogan County. The Lead Entities used to be separate and administer the outreach funds. In Okanogan County we work with them to administer the funds. Last year we had three sponsor projects. We will be doing another one launching today. A maximum of \$10k per sponsor request; we have \$25k total available, and there is no need for match. We are lucky to have the funds to allocate. We hope to get everyone under contract by October 15th and will run through June first. The proposals will be due September 18th. The funds are for Lead Entity outreach. The proposal has guidance for the types of proposals and eligibility criteria. You have to have a current SRFB grant or have a partner who has one. I will work with Char Schumacher at the county to make the selection, and I will also go through Commissioner Campbell. I have the scoring criteria available. More far-reaching proposal the better, reasonable cost, sustainable, etc.

I will compose an email that Jessica can send out to the distribution list; I will also send it to Keith Kistler. If you plan to submit a proposal, please get in touch with Joy to discuss the process.

Joy – SRFB grants: we've gone through our regional process, and we are sending our list to the state; the Okanogan only had two projects; the M2 Right Sugar acquisition was the highest ranking project, and also the Poorman CE. There will also likely be funds from the Silver Side Channel that become available, so it is looking like a project currently under the funding line may be partially funded.

We have an Implementation Team meeting on September 8th; at the CTC in Wenatchee; I really encourage sponsors to come to that; Phil Roni, Andrew Murdoch, and Jennifer O'Neal will be there. I will be sending the agenda out early next week likely.

2014 LE Outreach Grant Presentations – CCFEG, OCD, MSRF:

Matt Shales - CCFEG: [PowerPoint] January through June; we had four public movie nights We worked on connecting with teachers at both high school and elementary in the Methow and in the Okanogan. We partnered with the WSU Extension office down in Wenatchee on curriculum and lesson plan for in-class fish dissections, and purchased educational supplies. We met with municipal employees to discuss a storm drain marking program in Okanogan County. We worked on a mailer to be sent out to residents in the Twisp-Carlton area regarding the recent CCFEG Reach Assessment. We worked on advertisements for the Movie Nights with additional outreach to riverfront landowners. Lesson planning that meets the new state standards.

Amy Martin– for Kirsten Cook – Okanogan Conservation District: [Handout] Our project was design, fabrication, and installation of two high quality interpretive signs on the Okanogan River. This was part of an ongoing salmon recovery project working with CCT. The site was the field site for Ecology of the Okanogan science class with Okanogan high school. Through the program, we have a lot of local and regional natural resource professionals come in and work with the students.

Susan Crampton – how big are the signs?

Amy – really large. Students have been conducting monitoring in the side channel, and the students helped develop the signs. The art work and design was with the help from Dan Brown, the art teacher at Okanogan high school, and Jennifer Tate with Earth and Sky studio. The signs will be high pressure laminate; these are a good value, will be long term and low maintenance, and easy to install. We got the signs on August 11th, and the incoming science class will install this September. One will be at the beginning of the trail, and the other at the end.

Chris – it is an incredible transformation from what the area was prior to when the Colvilles got involved. A real turning point for that area of the town.

Amy – there is good parking available, and it is a nice gravel trail, very accessible.

John Crandall – MSRF: [PowerPoint] Our project was on environmental education in the Methow Valley through Salmon in the Classroom and Watershed Watchers. This was done in the spring of this year over about 5 months. The funding supported two different efforts. Salmon in the Classroom in the MV Elementary 6th grade class – we did a refresh of an existing program. We also did a continuation of the long-term Watershed Watchers program.

Salmon in the Classroom in the 6th grade: there is an aquarium set up, and we bring in salmon eggs from the hatchery. We had a new twist on the program; one was doing the fish lifecycle. Pretty good success with the tank; we had too many eggs and too high survival. We are trying to get away from the hatchery message and toward that we are working towards fish survival. There were about 4 different presentations to the students through the winter, which set the stage of the program. We had microscopes, we looked at pond water, etc. to look at flow of energy through the stream, showing them how salmon grow on trees rather than just the hatchery model. I think we can improve upon this, bring in some math. We shifted gears from aquatic production into salmon recovery, used role playing, and broke the class into stakeholder groups. We spoke to them about the 4 H's, the salmon recovery plan,

and we tried to show them that this is a real world problem that people in their community are working on now. We called our discussion the “great debate”, it was a mock community forum around salmon recovery. Paul Wagner and Jennifer Molesworth, Michael Humling, a fishing guide, Methow Conservancy, all came in and gave different perspective. We tried to make it local. Each kid was put in a group.

Susan – were there many questions from the kids?

John – it varied by group, but there were some amazing questions, and we really noticed that the messages from the outside presenters really stuck. Each stakeholder group got a position statement; it was a real world exercise in collaboration, compromise, and commitment to solutions. Derek Van Marter acted as a facilitator for the Great Debate. The kids were amazing, and really got into their roles. It was really neat to see them get into their roles, the work from the preparation time. We are hoping to continue this in the fall. Works better with the curriculum.

Watershed Watchers – we had three programs, blending of science education, art, involving kindergarten and third grade.

Rob Crandall – this was our tenth year at Twisp Ponds. We’ve almost done the habitat work there that we want to do; this was the first year that we also did the program at M2 WDFW Floodplain. I think we will work towards getting more WW programs set up out there; there are a lot of planting opportunities, and it is really close to the school. A lot of monitoring activities there.

Chris – we are working on a long term plan for the site, trail planning, Temporary Use Permit, etc.

Rob – it is a great site that really lends itself to watershed education.

John – kids go around to different stations, it engages parents, kids, etc.

Jennifer – for the next years’ grant cycle, one thing I’ve heard that we need to do more of is talking about what we do. People don’t know about our projects, they don’t know how they’re performing, and they aren’t getting the story about the work. I think we need to figure out how to communicate with the community about how things are working. We need to tell our story.

Chris – that is a good point; a comment came up from the CAC; we are working on getting a story in the paper on how the projects are working in the low water, who is doing what.

John – it is difficult to get a wide slice of the community to get engaged in a site visit; often you get the same people.

Chris – on the positive side of things, years ago public outreach was just damage control. We are in a better place now.

Roundtable

John Crandall – Monitoring Coordinator: the [Pacific Lamprey Habitat Restoration Guide](#) is here. There is a pdf copy on the MSRF web site; we also have hard copies here in the office. The Methow Water Quality survey is up and running, we’ve had about 100 responses so far; will probably leave it open through the end of September. Seeing a complete cross-section; it will be really interesting to see what we see.

Rob Crandall – Methow Natives: with CCFEG also working with the schools, we should coordinate to avoid confusion.

Matt – Sean did coordinate with John on the work he did last year.

Amy Martin – Okanogan Conservation District: it sounds like there may be some fire relief funding that expired from the state that may be coming back; we are doing outreach to find out the needs; probably riparian fencing, livestock exclusion; still gathering information on the needs

Chris – would be good to get info on the new timeline

Amy – NRCS Equip proposals will be rated in October, fire preparation, forest thinning, work may be prioritized; have high ranking watersheds. Contact me for more information.

Crystal Elliot – TU: I am still working with Ecology on developing funding for abandoned mine restoration in the state. It will be a long-term project. We've been working with partners on the Triple Creek restoration in the Okanogan Highlands, beaver habitat restoration, hoping to construct this fall. The suction dredging reform campaign is moving forward, had a film crew out through KCTS program that will be out this fall – stay tuned. I'm continuing to work with Forest Service on the planning process for the Mission Project. It will be interesting to see how it plays out a lot of people working to add capacity; launch for the restoration strategy in the MVRD, trying to help make it a success where they are balancing aquatic needs/forest health and timber management.

Susan Crampton – Local Citizen: about the outreach, it is very useful and worthwhile to do, getting people out and snorkeling in the new engineering projects, but there is a whole lot in between. Some kind of progression, building on some initial ideas and slowly moving forward, get something out there and build on it.

Jennifer – do you have an idea on what might be effective?

Susan – I will make a short list and send it to Jessica.

Chris – we've never been able to make a jump to a volunteer connection to our projects, but we will be in touch about that

Jarred Johnson – YN: Chris Butler has finished Chewuch 13-15; the reveg mostly done. Chewuch River Right is about 40% done. At Fender Mill, Hans' project, they are moving ahead, moving 2000 cy per day, and they are moving along on schedule. The excavated material is going to a Cascade Concrete pit.

Paul Wagner – CCT: Our new BPA contract started July 1; we have two bridges on Frazer with MSRF, a test well on Beaver Creek, and I'm working on a CCR for additional work on Aspen Meadows, replacing fencing on the Devaney property and moving it back from the river to recover riparian area. We are doing contour felling on DNR property on Frazer Creek for sediment abatement. Working with Crystal on road surveys in conjunction with the aquatics modeling on the Mission Project - gathering baseline data.

Crystal – they're funding John to do the baseline data analysis

Matt Shales – CCFEG: there was a small fire out at Silver last Friday. We declined BPA's match on Silver, so we have an application to Trib for their review to satisfy the match. We are focusing on the downstream third of the original project area on the WDFW property; we hope to do a second phase on Smith/Hill project. The downstream portion of the project is not reliant on the upstream portion of the design. Working with a design group that is familiar with wetland systems to ensure a continuation of duck habitat.

John – what limiting factor are you addressing with the restoration?

Matt – off channel winter rearing habitat, we will be improving structure to improve the habitat, with a wetland and riparian re-vegetation component. Still only a down channel connection. Stable hyporheic and groundwater connection. If anyone has questions, contact Matt – can arrange site visits, etc. The Twisp to Carlton RA is in limbo between draft and final. Waiting on inclusion of some habitat information that was not in our original scope; hope to have a finalized draft RA by this winter.

Lynda Hofmann – WDFW: I have been working on a lot of these projects. Silver would be a good place for outreach and education too; and they could use some plants there too.

Chris Johnson – MSRF: we have put our applications to Winthrop for westernization of the river safety outreach signs that would be put up there. We are looking to do two kiosks; one at the barn and one at the Stephens Bridge. They would be a little larger kiosks that would have room for additional signage like at WDFW.

We got 23 of the cars out of the river before the deadline on our funding. We've got about 19 cars left. They have almost zero value, but we got support from Randy's towing in Okanogan and he said he would hold on to them until steel goes up.

Jenni Novak and I have been coordinating on the Maltais diversion on Frazer Creek and working on a way that WDFW and MSRF can work together; we will likely be putting in an application to Tributary to address that.

John Crandall – MSRF: the Goat Creek project is moving ahead; we are working on final permitting. Contract getting underway for moving wood from the landslide up War Creek to Goat Creek. Wood will likely be moved in September, work in October, six wood structures and felling wood into the creek. We are trying to push implementation while balancing a lot of needs.

Next MRC September 15th

Definitions of Commonly used Acronyms	
AEM	Action Effectiveness Monitoring
ANS	Aquatic Nuisance Species
AREMP	Aquatic and Riparian Effectiveness Monitoring Program
BACI	Before, After, Control, Impact (study design type)
BEF	Bonneville Environmental Foundation
BO/BiOp	Biological Opinion
BPA	Bonneville Power Administration
CAC	Citizens Advisory Committee (for SRFB funding applications)
CAO	Critical Areas Ordinance
CBFWA	Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Authority (pronounced "cubfwah")
CCFEG	Columbia Cascade Fisheries Enhancement Group
CCT	Colville Confederated Tribes
CHaMP	Columbia Habitat Monitoring Program
CMZ	Channel Migration Zone
CREP	Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program
CSF	Community Salmon Fund
EDT	Ecosystem Diagnosis and Treatment
ESA	Endangered Species Act
FCRPS	Federal Columbia River Power System
FFFP	Family Forest Fish Passage Program
FIA	Forest Inventory and Analysis program (USFS)
Four "H"s	The four factors affecting salmon recovery: Hatchery, Hydro, Habitat, Harvest
HACCP	Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point
HGMP	Hatchery Genetic Management Plan
HPA	Hydraulic Project Approval
HSRG	Hatchery Scientific Review Group
HWS	Habitat Work Schedule
IMW	Intensively Monitored Watershed
IS	Implementation Schedule
ISEMP	Integrated Status and Effectiveness Monitoring Project
ISRP	Independent Scientific Review Panel
IT	Implementation Team
LW/LWD	Large Wood/Large Woody Debris
M2	Middle Methow (a project area defined as the reach between Winthrop and Twisp)
MaDMC	Monitoring and Data Management Committee (pronounced "madmac")
MOA	Memorandum of Agreement
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MRC	Methow Restoration Council
MSRF	Methow Salmon Recovery Foundation (pronounced "em-surf")
MVRD	Methow Valley Ranger District
MWC	Methow Watershed Council
MYAP	Multi-year Action Plan (also sometimes called the 3-year workplan)
NFF	National Forest Foundation
NMFS	National Marine Fisheries Service
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NPCC	Northwest Power and Conservation Council

OCD	Okanogan Conservation District
OBMEP	Okanogan Basin Monitoring and Evaluation Program
OWL	Okanogan Wilderness League
PCSRF	Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund (pronounced "Pacsurf")
PIBO	PACFISH/INFISH* Biological Opinion
PNAMP	Pacific Northwest Aquatic Monitoring Partnership
PUD	Public Utility District
QAQC	Quality Assurance, Quality Control
RA	Reach Assessment
RCO	(Washington State) Recreation and Conservation Office
REI	Reach-based Ecosystem Indicators (used in Reach Assessments)
RFEG	Regional Fisheries Enhancement Group
RFP	Request for Proposals
RM	River Mile
RPA	Reasonable and Prudent Alternative(s)
RTT	Regional Technical Team
SEPA	State Environmental Policy Act
SMP	Shoreline Management Plan
SOAL	State Owned Aquatic Lands
SOW	Statement of Work
SPIF	Specific Project Information Form (used with the Corps ESA programmatic)
SRFB	(Washington State) Salmon Recovery Funding Board (pronounced "surfboard")
SRP	State Review Panel (for SRFB funding applications)
STEM Database	Status, Trend and Effectiveness Monitoring database at NOAA's Northwest Fisheries Science Center
UCSRB	Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board
TRT	Technical Recovery Team (NOAA)
USFS	US Forest Service
USGS	US Geological Survey
VSP	Viable Salmonid Population
WAT	Watershed Action Team (the MRC is our WAT)
WDFW	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
WDNR	Washington Department of Natural Resources
WNFH	Winthrop National Fish Hatchery
WWP-TU	Washington Water Project of Trout Unlimited
YN	Yakama Nation

*PACFISH/INFISH The PACFISH/INFISH Biological Opinion (PIBO) Effectiveness Monitoring Program was initiated in 1998 to provide a consistent framework for monitoring aquatic and riparian resources on most Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management lands within the Upper Columbia River Basin.