

MRC Meeting Notes – 17 July 2013

Riverbank Conference Room; 9AM-1125AM

Attendees – John Crandall, Derek Van Marter, Crystal Elliot, Jeri Timm, Terri Williams, Chris Johnson, Grace Watson, Jennifer Molesworth

1. TU Abandoned Mines Program - Crystal

Program aimed at addressing water quality and habitat issues associated with abandoned mines. Program can coordinate clean-ups and solution to address on-going WQ problems. Coordinated with WA DOE. Less engagement with active mines as they operate under permits and increased oversight. Abandoned mines are less regulated and fall under the radar in many instances. Currently looking for regionally-based projects to develop, contact Crystal with any leads.

2. UCSRB UPDATE – Derek Van Marter

WA legislature passed budget last minute. UCSRB operational funds are federal, but state budget needed to pass. SRFB funds tied to this as well. Looks like \$18M available statewide; UC portion is 10.85% of statewide total or \$1.953M or thereabouts in 2013. WA sells bonds to fund salmon recovery, \$10M/biennium. PACSRF funding went down slightly and that trend should continue in the future. UCSRB works to keep this funding stream alive. Overall, there are many moving parts to the budget process, but UCSRB has plans to develop additional funding sources and thoughts to obtain impact capital funds, mitigation funds from various sources to support river restoration. Need to keep up with capacity funding – to date this has been primarily public sourced. CJ- Difficult to get private funding for some efforts, but broad support for clean water and healthy rivers. DVM- need to be creative in development of new funding sources.

2013 Lead Entity Process- Aug 14th RTT project scoring, Aug 22nd present to CAC, 29th Aug CAC rank projects. 21 projects total in 2013 for UC. 9 in Okanogan County. More funds requested than available as usual. Usually 10-12 projects funded/year.

UCSRB examined where and what types of projects have been proposed this year. Restoration mostly targets priority areas from Biological Strategy. Fewer projects in lower priority areas as they will not score as high all things being equal (biological benefit etc.). Also looked at how projects addressed ecological concerns. Water quantity had the most projects (N=5), channel structure and form (instream habitat) was second. Projects proposed benefitted species at 100% steelhead, 76% BT, 58% spring Chinook. Combined, proposed projects would do an amazing amount of work.

Landowner Liability – Becomes active 28 July but local sponsors proceeding as if it is already in place. UCSRB is tracking how new law influences projects design and adaptive management. Highlights a need for long-term stewardship to jive with long-term project maintenance. UCSRB encourages project sponsors to track how this law affects their efforts. UCSRB will summarize these findings across UC. Potential to develop a long-term stewardship fund.

CJ- cannot get bonds or private insurance under the current structure to guarantee project will not have negative effects. Contractors cannot take on this responsibility either. MSRF has developed language and process for a right for re-entry to project sites under permits to have the ability to adaptively manage projects. This helps with landowner relationships and it currently in the works on the Upper Beaver project that will be implemented this year. DVM- Challenges exist in developing projects outside the current funding structure. CJ- Can UCSRB develop link to PRCC? Better vetting of projects and increased engagement with this funding opportunity. DVM- Joy J. of UCSRB developing this relationship at the regional level and working to find out where their interest lie in terms of project support.

3. OUTREACH UPDATE – John Crandall

MRC calendar in development. Methow Arts is taking the lead on layout and design. MRC partners have provided content and photographs. Should be ready for distribution by August 1 or thereabouts. 2013 effort will provide web links to MRC website that will have calls to action for each month with some added content/material. Goal of this is to strengthen partnership with collective work by the MRC and get more information out to the public.

Twisp Ponds Discovery Trail guide has been drafted and is in-press. Informational kiosk is under construction and markers for the discovery trail will be installed soon. Free and open to the public. Kiosk will also have large wood and river safety information as a portion of the larger effort.

Salmon Celebration September 14. Harvest fest is September 29th and these events will not be coordinated this year to re-invigorate the harvest dinner as it was in the past.

4. MONITORING UPDATE – John Crandall

Methow Monitoring Plan – MMP plan is under development and moving towards completion. Methow effort will be closely tied to the Recovery Plan. This approach differs from how the other subbasins in the UC dealt with monitoring plans which are an appendix to the UC Monitoring Strategy which is an appendix of the Recovery Plan. Draft out this fall for review. CJ- Challenges of getting recovery information to the public. Post-project monitoring can help get results to public showing that projects had an impact in the near-term. But how do these results impact overall recovery? It's all inter-related and project success is the building block for

subbasin recovery at larger scales. JM- How does climate change play in the work we are doing now? Make our work relevant to the public. Economic, efficient irrigations systems, keep rivers healthy are impacts but make sure we get this information out there. Action Agencies put out Comprehensive Evaluation under BiOp. 10-year evaluation of work to date and posted at salmonrecovery.gov. Check it out. CE- Climate change and exploring new sources of funding. Local folks (Sarah Joyce Steel, Benjamin Drummand) work with climate change media. Possible resource to develop something compelling to get message out. JM- Need to engage younger (high school, post-graduates) generations in all that is going on in terms of climate change and environmental issues. What are alternate means of engaging them? Social media etc. Not just this realm, challenges in any type of topics.

UC Science Conference - 13-14 November in Wenatchee. "Science in Practice" is the theme. Goal is to share information and inform stakeholders.

5. M2 UPDATE – Chris Johnson

In construction at WDFW floodplain. All permits secured. BCI from Portland is contractor and they are doing a great job. First structure installed this week. Work is proceeding on time and things running smoothly. 20 structures laid out and ready for ground work. Landowners engaged and on-board with signed agreements. North culvert installed and south culvert in progress. Riparian plantings in progress too. Site tours have occurred and the potential exists for more, just ask Chris Johnson.

Post-project evaluation at WFI in underway. Lamprey found in accumulated silt downstream of Z structure. Outreach signage being installed. Site is now being used as river access site by the public.

All projects in M2 align with new wood legislation HB1194. Had to remove a few structures from design plans that would have otherwise not conformed to the legislation criteria.

MSRF working with Winthrop to do westernization river signage at Winthrop Barn and Footbridge.

3R now funded through BPA targeted solicitation funding. It was removed from SRFB process as a result.

6. ROUNDTABLE

UCSRB/DVM- Launched forest health collaborative last month. 39 participants. Agencies, tribes, public, county commissioners were there. 2 day program and lots of support to increase forest health. Good sharing and trust building occurred and spending time with each other. Not regular UCSRB funds supporting, Icicle Fund and NFF primary funders. Thought is connect

uplands to watershed health but need new funding streams develop as the majority of salmon funds cannot be used for ecosystem services and uplands. JM- Will this result in new road construction? DVM- These tough topics not included in the current effort, will be discussed as they come up.

Office of Columbia River provided funding to UCSRB look at hydro modeling to examine forest canopy and runoff. Researchers at USFS lab involved and just starting the modeling effort.

USBR/JM – Working on MVID and its moving forward, article on Grist about history. WA DOE will fund bulk of project and TU looking at additional funds. Lots of permit questions remain.

Barkely pumps being installed today downstream of diversion. Twisp River floodplain project tour tomorrow. Continuation of reach based approach to restoration. Complex project that has MSRF as sponsor, but good example of reach based restoration. Includes MVID West headgate and surrounding area. Current efforts are high viability and present good opportunity for outreach.

OCD/TW – Working with Troy Accord to develop fencing along Beaver Creek and move pasture/lot to uplands. Other small projects including livestock evaluations to get BMPs installed.

TU/JT – Devaney (Right Elbow) change of point of diversion could be completed by end of July.

USGS/GW –Field work underway at WFI, snorkel surveys. Also looking at having PIT antennas installed this fall in WFI. Also install Carlton interrogation site as well. NOAA contracting the work. WQ sondes installed basinwide and lots of Beaver Creek fish sampling this summer.

MSRF/CJ- MSRF is now acting as project sponsor for beaver reintroduction program.

Right of entry developing for Right Elbow project area. A component need for the project to proceed.

PRCC funding purchase of land associated with Sugar Dike and 1890s channel (that is a YN habitat project).

Beaver Creek addressing Thurlow diversion. Functioning as barrier at low water. SEPA process underway with comments involved. WDWF review of site helped out and design is being modified to reflect this input. Funding is changing so this will prevent Marracci from being implemented. Stay tuned for updates but it's in flux.

Lampson diversion has been completed and site has riparian restoration.

Aug 1 Upper Beaver project start date. Old Schoolhouse implementation in 2 weeks. 12 structures and lots of wood. Riparian components too.

MSRF/Jessica—I owe John a beer for taking such detailed notes. (*What??—JG*)

Next Meeting- Tuesday Aug 20, 9AM

Float potential at next meeting, JC to investigate.