

Methow Restoration Council

September 15, 2015

Participants:

Name	Organization/Affiliation
Catherine Means	Methow Beaver Project
Chris Johnson	MSRF
George Schneider	George Schneider & Assoc.
Greg Knott	Van Hees Environmental
Izzie Tween	Methow Beaver Project
Jason Schilling	Tulalip Tribes
Jeri Timm	Trout Unlimited
Jessica Goldberg	MSRF
John Crandall	MSRF
Joy Juelson	UCSRB
Julie Nelson	Methow Beaver Project
Katie Weber	Methow Beaver Project
Kelli Snodgrass	WDFW
Ken Muir	USFWS
Kent Woodruff	USFS/Methow Beaver Project
Lee Bernheisel	Okanogan Wilderness League
Matt Shales	CCFEG
Molly Alves	Tulalip Tribes
Paul Wagner	Colville Tribes
Torre Stockard	Methow Beaver Project

Meeting Notes:

John Crandall – Monitoring Update: Data management for the salmon recovery world has been a very elusive holy grail. Trying to get all of the information from the different monitoring programs in a single location has much easier thought about than done. Efforts have been made to work on a central data repository, but they haven't been successful. Specific monitoring programs develop data management programs to meet their needs. For example, with all of the temperature information that is collected, how do we put them all together to allow for a meta-analysis? I'm wondering how we could put it together so that it would be useful – people would have to be willing to share the data, we could maybe put links to sources on the MRC web site. I would like people to think about what they need and what might work for them. Would like to find a simple way to link Methow monitoring programs with the data.

Chris Johnson– when we first started this, the idea was to make a searchable database, but it didn't work. Instead, we are going back to identifying where the library of information is and point people to the right library.

John – and we have a large volume of data that is being generated.

Lee Bernheisel –most of the money that pays for the data that is out there is from public sources, why when money comes from the public for the data, why wouldn't people want to share it?

John – the issue is when there is a research approach, there is a proprietary approach with respect to being able to publish first, so there is a timing issue. In the Methow, there are very few examples of people holding on to the data. If there is a research component, then there can be a delay, but ultimately it is all made available.

Torre Stockard – another issue is that the QAQCs can take a long time with some of the data, and some of the organizations are reluctant to share the preliminary data until it has been QAQC'd.

Lee – I have an issue with people making decisions on the limited data

Chris – we also have issues with small science vs. big science.

Discussions – limitations on observational data from a small number of data points; can't necessarily make assumptions on results from only a few years.

Jessica Goldberg– follow up on last month's discussion on fish stranding, I had someone from our distribution list contact me about volunteering to help salvage fish.

John – Charlie Snow's crews have been moving fish that have been stranded in places that they don't normally get stranded in. Generally we don't usually have a lot of adults getting stuck, but this year we have spring Chinook getting stuck in the Upper Methow; we will likely have bull trout stranding later in the season. Ryan Fortier with WDFW is the best person to follow up with on this. Things are a currently little less dire due to decreases in water temperature.

Chris – we are taking an expanded look at how fish are doing in our expanded habitats in our restoration areas and whether we need to move the fish or whether we salvage them and lose the opportunity to monitor the losses and survival.

Joy Juelson – UCSRB Updates: the Outreach and Education grant opportunity for Okanogan County closes at the end of this week. We have about \$25k to allocate in the county. These funds were originally allocated to the County, but they have allowed us to administer the funds. We work with them to review the proposals. The three sponsors that had projects last year will present to the board next week.

Joy – SRFB process – this year for the SRFB round we had two proposed projects up in the Methow: Right Sugar and Poorman acquisitions. We completed our regional process and sent our list to the State Review Panel, which they will review for potential Projects of Concern. SRFB makes final decisions in December.

Joy – RTT Updates – the RTT has begun reviewing the Upper Methow Reach Assessment; there should be a month for review. The Twisp to Carlton Assessment, they reviewed it previously.

Matt Shales– we are going to work with Cardno to update the Twisp to Carlton RA to include habitat info, and will try to have it finalized by December.

Chris – when we floated that reach, Sean Welch with BPA had some good suggestions and thought it would be good to have a round table about that.

Joy – we are trying to get all of the RAs all in one place, such as on our website, and are working on getting permissions for that. Would be a great resource for people trying to get assessments.

Joy – also, we are trying to get a response to a piece by the NOAA science center published recently in the Columbia Basin Bulletin. There is a concern that it was based on some flawed assumptions. The RTT is having meetings to determine whether they will have a formal response.

Joy – we are initiating a call for nominations for a Citizen's Advisory Member for the Methow. There are some criteria, one is geographic criteria, and we are specifically looking at having someone from the Methow. Another is that there be diverse representation. This year we are looking for someone that is from : local governments, business interests, local tribes, volunteer groups, and other habitat interests. The call for nominations will come out this week and will be open for about a month. Nominations need to go through Jessica; we should have received all of the nominations by next meetings. Then the

nominations go to the local county commissioners, who will pick one, who then has to be approved by the UCSRB board. Quite a process.

Chris – if you think of someone, try to think of someone who would be able to review projects fairly and avoid the appearance of bias.

Joy – there is a conflict of interest statement at the bottom. They will need to write a letter of interest and a short bio.

Izzie Tween – 2015 International Intern on the Methow Beaver Project: Came to the Methow from the UK to study beavers after doing an undergraduate dissertation on beaver reintroduction in Scotland. UK Beavers were hunted to extinction approximately 400 years ago; in 1900 they estimated that there were only about 1200 beavers across Europe. They first started reintroductions in Sweden in 1920, followed by Scandinavia, Germany, and the Baltics. In the UK, due to geographic isolation, physical reintroduction was required.

[PowerPoint – overview of 4 beaver reintroductions/projects/trials in the UK – Scotland, England, and Wales]

Izzie – In the Methow Beaver Project, I have been measuring the water depth behind dams to come up with a cross section.

Joy – I think it would be great if Izzie could present this information to the RTT

Kent Woodruff – we imagined with an international exchange; we've participated in the international beaver conference in Oregon each year, in February last year, we discussed an exchange. The experience has far surpassed our expectations.

Kent – we are also interested in looking at the underground water storage.

Discussion – Izzie will now work with the Tulalip tribes for a month; there may be an opportunity for a story in the Wenatchee World

Kent – Izzie will be working on a final report that will go over her time with the Methow Beaver Project and the Tulalip tribes; there also may be a presentation at the Woodland Park Zoo. The Washington Beaver Working group is working on an expansion of the practice throughout the state, Oregon, and California.

George Schneider – if the ponds remain full at the driest time of the year, how do they fluctuate, how does water move through the structures?

Kent – this year has been especially helpful for us to see the answers to some of those questions. We had a dam that was burned over in the Carlton Complex fires, those ponds were still holding water even a month ago, upstream there was a dry dusty channel, but downstream there was flow downstream.

We use a sponge metaphor. We are trying to quantify the way that the sponge works

John – it's not just surface water, it is hydrologic connectivity

Greg Knott – the hyporheic flows are no longer subject to evaporative loss, so it is more than water in and water out.

George – the true hydrologic measurement would be really valuable.

Izzie – there are a lot of parameters that go into that; it's a very long formula

Jason Schilling – we have someone working on that for their PhD

Chris – think that some of the observational data could still be valuable

Roundtable

Kent Woodruff – Methow Beaver Project: the Beaver Project had a very strong start, a very early successful trapping season, we started earlier than ever, a great crew, also a great crew of engaged volunteers. However, the season has been bumpy and challenging from a fire, low flow, warm temperatures/streamflow standpoint, so it has been largely an unfavorable year for establishments. Fall is always a good season for us to gain again.

Chris – Kent and I talked about next steps after two catastrophic fires and trying to bring together a group to bring a new set of goals/tools/strategies to look at the project in a way to have meaningful data coming out of it. Excited to find ways to modify things to look at climate change, fire, etc. Education is important, we spend a lot of time emphasizing that beavers improve streams, store water. Discussion – education, beaver dam analogs, beaver project efforts in Wenatchee/Entiat. Beaver dam analogs are good to attract beavers, but beavers maintain their dams and also are better at selecting the right locations.

John Crandall – Methow Monitoring: we have a completed Lamprey Habitat Restoration Guide now available – we have hard copies here and also on the MSRF web site. On the Lamprey front, I think the Yakama Nation will be releasing 300 adult lamprey into the Methow in the next few weeks. We did our annual lamprey sampling, which we have been doing every year since 2008; this year we came close to rock bottom. Numbers were extremely low and the larvae were extremely large, every year the mean larvae size gets larger, which means that we are getting less and less production. The thought behind the reintroduction is that the PIT tagged adults will stay here and spawn and then we will get lots of larvae that release pheromones that attract more adults. There is a genetic components, appears that there is a lot of mixing that goes on, some debate in the lamprey world. The release will probably be on a weekend. We will publicize it, if you've never seen an adult Pacific Lamprey, they are pretty cool. Out in the field, we are pretty close to not having them here at all.

We hope to do the salmon in the classroom with the Methow Valley 6th graders this year – a lot of interest through the school.

John – Okanogan Conservation District is getting together the BAER group again for the Okanogan Complex fires, a separate non-federal group. It will begin soon.

Jason Schilling – Tulalip Tribe: I work on the Skykomish Beaver Project with the Tulalip tribes and the UW; we are in our second year. We have trapped and relocated about 16 beavers this year, not as many as last year, but we've had more success with dam building. We had record low flows in the Skykomish, 9% of average. We will be trapping and relocating through mid-November.

Matt Shales– CCFEG: At Silver we are still trying to fund the Phase I piece in anticipation that we would do Phase II in the future. We had 6 applicants for our Twisp position; the interviews will be next week. The person will have space to work in the RiverBank. It is a 24-32 hour per week position.

Greg Knott – VHE: Important to remember that beavers do more than just build dams, they farm the riparian vegetation, harvest it, and then move on. In the UK, the social issues will be the biggest challenges, and the siltation problem is a lot due to deforestation in the uplands and then replanting with non-native species.

Greg – the MVID project continues to flounder between disaster and controversy, but we are still on budget and on schedule. The West Canal failed, and since it is the last season of operation, and the fix would have been delicate and expensive, so it is shut down forever.

Greg – The Methow Watershed Council – we are still working on our Davis Lake project to try to restore late season flows in Bear Creek which are either taken by the golf course or was fed by irrigation canals which are now piped except the Fulton. We are trying to use Davis Lake as a reservoir for late season flows, but there are issues with costs vs. benefits. If Beaver Project could get better quantification of storage, we may be able to direct some funding in that direction.

George Schneider – George Schneider & Associates: I am part of the conference committee for the WA chapter of the American Water Resource Association – we have a conference in Seattle on October 22nd

AWRA.org, there will be speakers from the fish community, also people talking about science of climate change, state of the science, keynote is the deputy director of the climate impacts group from UW.

Ken Muir – USFWS: Over the winter Robes and I will be working on starting a beaver project in the Wenatchee. This fall, we will be working on the Goat Creek project in October with MSRF, NFF, and Forest Service

Chris – MSRF will also be working with USFWS on Beaver Dam Analogues on Frazer Creek

Kent – we will work with you this winter to help you with developing a beaver program

Ken – the Wenatchee River Salmon Festival is this weekend at the Leavenworth National Fish Hatchery; main event is Saturday 75th anniversary of the hatchery and 25th anniversary of the festival.

Finally, the RFP is out for USFWS funding for the fish passage program and Partners; due November 2nd;

Ken – Contact Ken, Robes, or Kate for more information.

Kelli Snodgrass – WDFW: I will be in the Methow next Thursday on the M2 WDFW floodplain tour, with Pad Smith and Graham Simon, Carmen. If anyone has any pressing issues, they can meet up with me there. Looking forward to seeing the site.

Joy Juelson – UCSRB: I asked Melody Kreimes for an update on aquatics and forest health from the Forest Health Collaborative – the collaborative is offering to assist the MVRD with planning support for the next priority watershed, which is the Twisp, there will be a robust aquatics analysis similar to Libby and Buttermilk

Paul Wagner – CCT: Working on environmental cultural compliance on a number of projects, including bridges on Frazer Creek, contour felling with DNR on Frazer Creek, riparian fencing at Devaney on the Twisp River. I am also working on the Forest Service Mission Project as part of the Forest Health Collaborative effort, working on fish presence absence work through electrofishing, have been some discussions on additional road surveys.

Joy – John Crandall is compiling information on existing habitat data, identifying areas of high impact

Julie Nelson– Methow Beaver Project: we've been working on a video to go on our website, a local video; should be available soon.

Kent – just this week another video, Beavers Back to the Future, hit the streets – a very professional production that our partner Sarah Konigsburg produced for the Grand Canyon Trust out of Utah

Chris Johnson – MSRF: we've had some inquiries of whether the Methow is still here or if we are all burned out. We've had an idea for a geocache model of photo monitoring where people can go to sites and take photos. It could be more than just fish, also can include art, other community features. If you have any interest in participating, I am putting Tara Gregg as lead on that.

Got a call last night from a private landowner from someone up Wood's Canyon planning some contour felling. Recommended that they make some contacts before they start sawing, a good example of how people can try to respond, but may need help. I recommended that they contact OCD, if anyone else has ideas for resources for people.

We are kicking off our contractor walk through for the Twisp River Floodplain project today, we planned our timing for the first phase of restoration for October after the MVID shut off.

Next MRC: October 20th

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
FFFPP	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.