

ICICLE STRATEGY

Icicle Work Group Meeting

Confluence Technology Center, Wenatchee

Thursday, March 22, 2018

10:00 AM – 2:30 PM

MEETING SUMMARY

Attendees:

Mary Jo Sanborn, CCNRD; Dan Haller, Aspect Consulting; Tyler Roberts, Ecology OCR; Jeff Gomes, City of Cashmere; Mel Weythman, Icicle Irrigation District; Keith Goehner, Chelan County; Daryl Harnden, Peshastin Irrigation District; Bruce Williams, Citizen; Dave Irving, USFWS; Bill Gale, USFWS; Tony Jantzer, Icicle Peshastin Irrigation District; Chuck Brushwood, Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, Dale Bambrick, NMFS; Steve Parker, Yakama Nation; Jeff Dengel, WDFW; Jim Brown WDFW; Holly Krake, USFS; Ryan Nehl, USFS; Michelle Gonye, Icicle Island HOA; Lisa Pelly, TU; David Klinger, Citizen; Aaron Penvose, TU; Mike Cushman, Cascadia CD; David Rice, Anchor QEA; Mike Kaputa, Chelan County; Jenni Novak, WDFW; Melissa Downes, Ecology OCR; Jeff Rivera, USFS; Heather Lawrence, Reclamation; Carmen Andonaegui, WDFW; Dan Church, Reclamation; Christi Davis-Kernan, Reclamation; Dawn Wiedmeier, Reclamation; Dick Rieman, Icicle Creek Watershed Council; Sharon Lunz, Icicle Creek Watershed Council, Kitty Craig, The Wilderness Society; Joel Walinski, City of Leavenworth

The December 7, 2017 IWG Meeting Summary was approved by the IWG.

Public Comment

Michelle Gonye – Icicle Island property owner, expressed desire to be acknowledged as a stakeholder. The Icicle Island HOA annual meeting will be in May, this is a good time to engage with those landowners.

Gus Bekker – ALPS has asked for a public meeting on the West side. Decisions here will affect people near Seattle too. They are requesting the same public meeting on the West side as will be held in Leavenworth.

Mike Kaputa – would like to remind folks that ALPS and others sent a letter to Governor Inslee asking for a legal SEPA meeting on the West side. The response to that letter was that there will not be an equivalent SEPA meeting on the West side/Seattle area but the Co-Leads will have a public informational meeting and they are currently working with Karl Forsgaard on that.

Eightmile Lake Update (Tony Jantzer)

The IPID Board assessed current conditions at Eightmile Lake resulting from the Jack Creek fire last fall. The USFS analysis indicates that because of the high burn severity there is now a high risk of increased flows and flooding. WA State Dept of Ecology's Dam Safety Office looked at hazard level designation and determined it to be very high. There are over 50 buildings in danger downstream of the Eightmile Dam. As a result, the IPID Board issued an emergency

declaration and are now working with Ecology Dam Safety Office, the County Emergency Management and USFS to develop a plan to reduce the risk of dam failure. Initial steps include removal of trees and debris at the dam a few weeks ago, all the spill boards are out which sets the water level lower. They would like to lower it more so it can absorb more runoff but they can't because the outlet pipe is plugged and there are ice conditions now. IPID is hoping to repair the dam and is working with USFS on equipment access. They are hiring an engineering firm.

Coordination Roles: Kent Sisszen, Chelan County Emergency Management is working with NOAA Weather to get a warning system in place. IPID submitted an emergency action plan to the County. Kent is meeting with the County Board of Commissioners and Dam Safety next week, where the County may consider emergency declaration. A community meeting for Icicle residents is being planned. Ecology's Dam Safety Office is responsible for evaluating dam conditions all over the state. They are working with IPID, County Emergency Management and USFS on a plan.

Jeff Rivera noted that USFS is aware of the situation and their law enforcement is working with the County Emergency Management and IPID on response. The regional office has a dam engineer that is involved. They want to separate the potential emergency actions from long term management of the lake. There's the potential for an engineered breach.

Melissa noted that Ecology is the lead for SEPA because the reservoir is over 40 acres in size. They are working through what is needed.

Mike asked Jeff about the engineered breach idea. How would that work if the District needs water in 2019? When would the dam be re-built? Jeff said it was one idea being discussed. For re-construction a minimum tools analysis would be needed.

Steve Parker mentioned that because of the timing of the tribal fishery, the tribes should be notified as well.

Public Questions:

Gus Bekker requested the same information and data for Eightmile.

Michelle Gonye asked about flow rates and connection to the Snow Lake valve project. Is there a correlation between flow increases at the Snow Lake valve and the potential for the dam to break? How do we know that the dam is damaged this time of year?

Bill Gale described the Snow Lake valve project and that it is a different project and location than Eightmile Lake dam.

Dan explained that all of the Icicle Strategy projects focused on improving instream flows are directed to the low flow time of year. These projects will increase low flow conditions, there is no risk of increasing high flow conditions from these projects.

Tony said that the Eightmile Lake dam has not changed recently. It has been damaged for over 7 years. The changing condition was the fire last fall that changes the runoff potential.

Kitty Craig – How would anticipated flow be different in a high snow year. Are there reports and information available?

Mike responded that this is not Icicle Work Group info and reports, that currently other agencies have them. The USFS has their post fire BAER (Burned Area Emergency Response) Report, <http://centralwashingtonfirerecovery.info/wildfire-reports/jack-creek-fire/> Ecology Dam Safety may have information also.

Kitty asked at what level will Eightmile Dam be rebuilt to?
Tony responded that they will rebuild to its original height.

Fish Screens and Boulder Field

Jeff Dengel, WDFW, began - WDFW has funding from BPA to design screens for the City of Leavenworth and IPID diversions. Conceptual designs were presented to the IWG in December, designs are expected to be finished in August. WDFW and TU asked PRCC and Trib Committee for construction funding. The Committees responded that they want a 25% contribution from IPID and City of Leavenworth. Someone made a request to OCR for that 25% match. WDFW prefers to bring this discussion to the IWG. Currently, design is at 30% so the cost estimates are still a moving target. Additional information on the status, timing and funding of the Boulder Field would be helpful. Jim noted that this project is bigger and involves their CAMP process at WDFW. There are issues about cost, liability, funding, etc. The screens and boulder field projects are connected so we need to answer some questions about process, timing, etc.

Steve Parker – has noted before that passage to the upper Icicle is a real dilemma for the YN. Normally, they would support any passage projects but this one is complicated with the Tribal Fishery at the LNFH, which is mitigation for Grand Coulee Dam. There are some fundamental fish management questions that have not been addressed. They have not discussed whether we *should* restore passage at the Boulder Field. He feels left behind in the decision process – there needs to be more discussion on this.

Chuck Brushwood voiced concerns about how restoring passage at the Boulder Field may affect LNFH operations and the tribal fishery. There needs to be discussions if passage should be opened up, how would the tribal fishery be protected. The tribal fishery must be kept whole.

Aaron Penrose said that he has been coordinating with the tribes and WDFW on the Boulder Field project and as project manager he is pushing as hard as he can to ensure pieces line up for implementation. He is pushing for August, he realizes this may not be a reality, but some of the funding expires in December. Last December, BPA gave a March deadline to get landowner signatures. They decided to try to secure screen funding to help with the landowner discussions with IPID and Leavenworth.

Steve: because YN does not have a clear policy decision, staff have not obstructed the process. However, they have not been aware of the timeline. Do BPA funds expire in December?

Aaron: Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) funds expire in December. There is a potential to extend them. They are working through permitting. The status of the BPA funding deadline is not clear. BPA needs landowner agreements.

Joel Walinski: The City of Leavenworth's perspective is that this is not a city priority. City funds are going to water conservation and other projects. Staff are working with partners on screen design and would like to see funding in place.

Lisa Pelly: The Leavenworth portion of the 25% can be covered by OCR. The PRCC conditions were that the 25% not come from SRFB.

Tony Jantzer: IPID is the landowner for the Boulder Field. They generally support improved fish passage but they have concern about the potential for harm to IPID. Funding for screen upgrades for IPID were passed up years ago because the Boulder Field blocked limited passage. IPID Board is concerned about liability if the Boulder Field is constructed before screens are in place.

Dale: Given the life history timing of steelhead, he thinks the risk is low.

Jim Brown: WDFW would like screens in place regardless of anadromy, they want them compliant.

Dale: the process for an incidental take permit is difficult. The preference is to get the screens in place first, but BPA funds came in.

Lisa Pelly: TU will continue to work with the Tribes on this.

Tony: IPID needs to feel "covered" regarding liability. The other issue is that the Boulder Field needs 40 cfs. How does that happen? IPID needs assurance that if the 40 cfs is not there instream, IPID is not responsible for decreasing their diversion.

Aaron: the design is based on a percentage by season and life history.

Steve: Needs to bring pros and cons to the Tribal Council. They need to include specifics on how we will manage fish in the Icicle.

Dan: Another update on these topics will come to the next Steering Committee meeting. Steve will work with fishery managers on a path forward, MOU, etc. City of Leavenworth and IPID are working with TU on conditions for landowner agreements.

TU will share the SEPA checklist with Aspect.

If there are funding deadlines, some IWG members could help with that.

WDFW will get to 30% design and then go to PRCC with good cost estimates.

Alpine Lakes Optimization, Automation

- No Lake Runners this year to do manual releases.
- WDFW will collect tributary data again
- Chelan County will collect lake temperature data at Square and Klonouqua Lakes

Snow Lake Valve

Christi said the EA will be out this summer. Construction will be in fall of 2019.

Coordinated Cost Reimbursement

County, cities and other water rights holders are working through the coordinated cost reimbursement process. Some of that allocation of water from the instream flow rule reserve comes from the Icicle for the City of Leavenworth and groundwater for exempt wells.

Budget and Funding Coordination

There was a discussion of future facilitation needs for the IWG. There is value in having someone dedicated shuttle diplomacy among IWG members, agenda development, prep for meetings, etc. The IWG agreed to have Dan do this for now and revisit the topic with the Steering Committee in the future.

The IWG approved the Phase 1 distribution of OCR funds: Approximately \$445,000 to include work group facilitation, technical support, funding coordination, project administration, finalization of the EIS, outreach, lake temperature data collection and tribal fishery adaptive management plan. Some funding will go directly to WDFW for French and Leland Creek data collection. If additional funds are needed, for COIC for example, that can be brought to the steering committee.

PEIS and Outreach Update

Dan Haller reminded the IWG of the SEPA scoping that was done two years ago on the Guiding Principles. At that time, we said we could do nothing or meet the GPs with the base package, Alternative 1. Based on public comment, we developed three more alternatives that all could meet the GPs and had been working on the draft PEIS. Two things changed:

- 1) The No Action alternative needed to be re-worked. Some projects have so much support or other circumstances that they are likely to happen regardless of the PEIS outcome. For example, COIC and Screens will likely be implemented. The emergency situation at Eightmile Lake is another example. That project may occur within or separate from the Icicle Strategy – the difference would be the fate of the water.
- 2) The second change is that originally one of the alternatives not considered was a point of diversion change for IPID. Then, during the conservation/efficiency management plan, information about this as a potential project came up. IPID was okay adding this in as an alternative 5. The inclusion of this project into a new alternative does not mean that storage projects fall off. Storage is still needed to meet instream flow targets in August and September. It doesn't get rid of the need to maintain and operate and potentially automate the lakes. This project concept includes fully piping the IPID system and having several pump stations along the Wenatchee River. Screens would still stay on the project list due to the timeline and project phasing that would be needed with this scale of project. This would be such a big project, it could take 10+ years, so screens would still be needed for IPID in the short-term.

The Draft PEIS is expected to be out for public review in May. A Public Hearing will be held in Leavenworth similar to the scoping meeting. The comment period will be 60 days. After the comment period, the IWG will meet to discuss a recommendation to the co-leads on a preferred alternative.

Process for project permitting after the PEIS is completed: As a project moves towards implementation, the permit agency will make a determination that the PEIS is sufficient or not. If not, then a supplemental is needed. If yes, then it's good enough to move forward. Additional NEPA may be needed.

Videos – the IWG discussed using short videos at the public meeting to communicate topics within the PEIS such as project types, the process and guiding principles. These could then be posted to the website for people who were unable to attend.

Melissa will be presenting to the American Water Works national conference.

The WA D.C. trip will occur in early June. Attendees so far include Tom Tebb, Keith Goehner, and a YN Tribal Council member.

Public Comment:

Kitty Craig – how long will the PEIS be?

Dan responded that we do not have a page count at this time.