

Icicle Strategy
Icicle Work Group Meeting
December 7, 2017, 12:00-3:00 PM

Chelan County Fire District 11, 206 Easy Street, Wenatchee

MEETING SUMMARY

Attendees:

Mary Jo Sanborn, Chelan County; Dan Haller, Aspect Consulting; Melissa Downes, Ecology-OCR; Bill Gale, USFWS; Dave Irving, USFWS; Dave Klinger, Citizen; Carmen Andonaegui, WDFW; Jim Brown, WDFW; Sharon Waters, City of Leavenworth Council; Joel Walinski, City of Leavenworth, Jeff Dengel, WDFW; Mike Cushman, Cascadia Conservation District; Jeff Gomes, City of Cashmere; Mel Weythman, Icicle Irrigation District; Daryl Harnden, Farmer/Peshastin Irrigation District; Keith Goehner, Chelan County; Heather Lawrence, Reclamation; Dan Church, Reclamation; Bruce Williams, Citizen; Mike Kaputa, Chelan County; Lisa Pelly, Trout Unlimited

The July 27th, 2017 Meeting Summary was approved by the IWG as originally sent out with some minor grammar and spelling edits. Karl Forsgaard's version with his edits in track changes will be added as an addendum in a separate document.

Instream Flow Committee Update (Dan Haller)

Dan gave an overview of the information presented and discussed at the November 30th Instream Flow Committee meeting. Overall, the Committee felt that the 2017 pilot flow augmentation project was good and that there are still opportunities to continue learning how releases can be optimized for both IPID and fish. Manual operation of the releases create steep increases with quick drops as the lake head drops each week. Automating would help smooth these releases to mimic natural flows. More information on temperature in the lakes and from other nearby sources is needed. Outlet pipes could then be placed at the depth(s) with the most desired temperature. The Committee will reconvene in the spring to discuss augmentation and data collection possibilities for 2018 once budget and drought conditions are known.

Screen Design Update (Jenni Novak)

Jenni presented progress on screen designs for both the City of Leavenworth and Icicle Peshastin Irrigation District (IPID) diversions. The Leavenworth location is smaller and so is further along. WDFW has been working with Leavenworth staff and engineers on options. The location being explored now for IPID is at Snow Creek. It is too early to determine if construction sequencing of the two can happen. There may be some savings if done together. Conceptual designs are on track to be completed early 2018.

LNFH Update

- Both USFWS and USBR felt that the November 6th Director's meeting went well. Dave would like the USFS to help clarify wilderness questions, ownership and easements for work proposed at the lakes. Mike Kaputa has met with Mike Williams (USFS Forest Supervisor), who attended the November 6th meeting, and is working on identifying someone to replace Jason Kuiken since he has left this Forest.
- The NPDES permit should be in place this month.
- The Snow Lake Valve Draft Environmental Assessment is being updated and will be released this month (December).
- Water Intake/Screen Project – new NEPA requirements limit the time frame and page limits. In order to meet the timeframe, they will need to be further along in design before initiating NEPA on this project.
- In general, all work at LNFH is on track. Reclamation and USFWS are focused on using the right NEPA tool from the start for each project.

Outreach and Communication

- WA D.C. Trip: The need for a group of IWG members to go to D.C. came out of the November federal agency meeting. IWG members would like to help ensure that there will be enough funding in place for all of the projects at LNFH. It looks like a small subset of IWG members could go in spring 2018. Chuck Brushwood said that it's possible that a Tribal Council Member may be able to go. The Steering Committee will discuss details and logistics. Federal employees will not participate in this trip. Tyler MacKay (Rep Riechert's Office) gave some advice on timing of a trip. Tyler can work with Steering Committee members on trip details.
- Other Outreach: There have been several Op Eds in the Wenatchee World lately. Several IWG members have been contacted by the Wenatchee World about writing a larger story. There is no clear protocol on how IWG members should respond to these types of inquiries and how to manage information and responses, etc. The IWG discussed having more structure, a process or a specific public information officer. The Steering Committee should discuss this more.
- Other opportunities for outreach and communication include continuing the IWG Update that was done last spring and updated in November, which could be posted to the website or emailed out. The Conservation District quarterly newsletter can contain regular updates.
- Upcoming Conferences include the American Water Works Conference March 27, Melissa is presenting the Icicle. The National Instream Flow Council has a conference in Fort Collins focused on managing reservoirs in Climate Change conditions that might be appropriate to present at or attend.

Draft PEIS (Melissa Downes, Mike Kaputa)

We are still behind schedule on completing the Draft and releasing for review. The lack of a capital budget has slowed progress on ensuring the no action/baseline conditions and all alternatives are complete. As time passes, new information becomes available that we need to wrap in. Hoping for a March release, planning a 60-day comment period.

Other Updates

- Melissa noted that it was not likely there would be a special session in December to pass the capital budget. There is a Hirst work session scheduled for December 12th. The January session begins January 8th.
- Mary Jo noted that some grant funding cycles are coming up. The Reclamation WaterSMART Drought Resiliency is open now and other WaterSMART grants will be announced in January/February. The Salmon Recovery Funding Board cycle starts late winter, if the state budget is passed.

2018 Meeting Schedule

The Icicle Work Group will stick with the 4th Thursday of every month schedule.

The next Steering Committee meeting will be on January 25th.

The next IWG meeting is set for March 22nd.

Public Comment

None

Adjourn