

ICICLE STRATEGY
Icicle Work Group Meeting
Conference Call (Teams)
Thursday, April 8th, 12:30 – 3:30 PM

Meeting Summary

Members/Alternates Present: Jeff Dengel, WDFW; Mara Bohman, ICWC; Jim Craig, USFWS; Christi Davis-Kernan, Reclamation; Chuck Brushwood; David Blodgett, Yakama Nation; Sharon Lunz, ICWC; Carmen Andonaegui, WDFW; Dale Bambrick, NMFS; Greg McLaughlin, COIC; Lisa Pelly, TU; Jeff Rivera, USFS; Ryan Williams, CCD; Tom Tebb, Ecology; Tim Walsh, COIC; Melissa Downes, Ecology; Erick Walker, USFS; Ana Cortez, City of Leavenworth; Bob Bugert, Chelan County; Mike Kaputa, Chelan County

Guests Present: Dick Fiddler, Dave and Margie Van Cleve; Don Parks; Dan Von Seggern; Mark Hersh; Megan Birzell; Kitty Craig

Staff/Consultants Present: Cynthia Carlstad, NHC; Peter Dykstra, Plauche & Carr; Mary Jo Sanborn, Chelan County; Dan Haller, Aspect Consulting;; Dave Rice, Anchor QEA; Elizabeth Heether, Reclamation; Dan Church, Reclamation; Ingrid Eckstrom, Ecology; Cole Provence, Ecology; Lisa Adolfson, ESA Associates; Robes Parrish, USFWS (SNOTEL agenda item only)

Technical difficulties occurred during this meeting that resulted in many participants being unable to join until approximately 1:00 PM.

Meeting Summaries

IWG Decision: The IWG approved the January 14, 2021 meeting summary with the addition of Sharon Lunz to the attendee list.

Leavenworth National Fish Hatchery Project Updates (Reclamation)

The Bureau of Reclamation and USFWS have been making great progress on projects at the LNFH to implement the 2017 NMFS BiOp. Christi Davis-Kernan gave an update with a powerpoint presentation that is available at the following link:

<https://www.co.chelan.wa.us/natural-resources/pages/icicle-work-group-meeting-information>

Projects being completed to implement the 2017 NMFS Biological Opinion will be completed by May 31, 2023. These projects include Pilot Circular Tanks and Surface Water Intake Fish Screens and Fish Passage (SWISP).

Connection to Icicle Strategy Guiding Principles:

- Adequate Streamflow – LNFH water conservation target is 20 cfs at full buildout of circular tanks. Pilot circular tanks (4 tanks) will be monitored to inform full buildout.

Circular tanks will also reduce phosphorus discharge. SWISP will provide greater flexibility in water use to help with water conservation goals.

- SWISP improves fish passage and provides fish screening.
- Both projects improve reliability of hatchery operations which support a sustainable hatchery and the Tribal harvest.
- Both projects comply with laws and regulations as both are outlined in the 2017 NMFS BiOp for LNFH Operations and help address NPDES requirements.

Pilot Circular Tanks

4 tanks are currently under construction and will be completed summer of 2021. Three years of monitoring and evaluation will then begin for fish performance and will inform full build out. This project is expected to reduce hatchery water use by at least 50% and address phosphorus discharge issues.

Surface Water Intake Fish Screens, Passage Project (SWISP) and Pipeline Rehabilitation

Phase I = fish screens and fish passage

Phase II = pipeline rehabilitation

Phase III = riparian restoration of disturbed areas by USFWS

Final designs are completed for Phases I and II. NEPA compliance was through an EIS published 3/26/2021. The Record of Decision on 4/30/2021. Solicitation is expected for Phase I and II in May 2021 with permits completed and contract award in summer 2021. Construction of Phase I will begin spring 2022. Phase II pipeline rehabilitation will begin in spring 2023.

Summary

Commitment to complete both projects by May 2023 under NMFS 2017 Biological Opinion for continued hatchery operation.

Support from the IWG has helped both projects.

Multi-agency design input led to an improved design, which helped solve previous issues.

Icicle Peshastin Pumpback Project

Project Description and Status Update (Tony Jantzer, Mike Kaputa, Dave Rice)

Cynthia introduced this topic, which was originally put on the agenda as a project update. This project has not had a firm place within the Icicle Strategy but has the potential for significant benefits to Icicle. Recently, a larger idea involving this project has developed. Peter will introduce this new concept after a project overview.

Mike began the presentation giving the history. Many years have been spent working with IPID to find alternative ways to supply water to both the Peshastin Canal and Icicle Canal with the

goal of reducing diversions. This project began focused on a way to reduce Peshastin Creek diversions. Peshastin Creek streamflow gets very low.

Tony and Dave presented the project concept and status.

- This project has the potential to benefit several guiding principles: improve stream flow in Icicle Creek, benefit fish passage and habitat, and benefit the Treaty and non-Treat harvest.
- This project would have significant instream flow benefits to Peshastin Creek, which got as low as 2 cfs in 2015.
- The concept includes building one or more pump station facilities on the right bank of the Wenatchee River.
- Benefits: elimination of the Peshastin Creek Diversion, reduced diversions from Icicle Creek.
- Currently evaluating the potential to couple with a small hydropower project on IPID property at Snow Creek or some other project to offset pumping power costs.
- Future potential to expand to “full piping concept” with additional pump stations
- This project does not eliminate the need for stored water. Diversions would move downstream on the Wenatchee River. Instream Flow issues exist on the mainstem Wenatchee River as well as the tributaries.
- The Bureau of Reclamation assisted with a Value Planning Study in 2019-2020 to help evaluate alternatives.
- Current Work includes completing an alternatives evaluation of pump station locations (will be completed soon), conducting site investigations, engineering and cost analyses and conceptual design drawings. Also being completed is an evaluation of power supply options. A Draft Feasibility Report will be completed Fall 2021.
- Challenge: Pumping costs are additional costs to the district and will need to be covered by a different funding source. IPID will need assurance that these long-term costs will be covered.
- Summary and Next Steps: This project could have substantial benefits to both Peshastin and Icicle Creeks. The project can be designed to allow for future phased expansion toward a fully piped delivery system.

Questions/Discussion

Q: Are there potential negative impacts to the Wenatchee River? A: No, the purpose of this project is to increase instream flows between the current diversions and a new point of diversion. This would be a change in point of diversion. Some piping will result in overall instream flow improvement to the Wenatchee River also.

Q: Are you considering solar as an option? A: yes, that will be considered as well.

Q: Can Chelan PUD consider a long-term contract with IPID? Is there the potential for long-term funding from Tributary Committee as part of the mitigation? A: It would be great to get support

from those types of funders. They are not set up well for that kind of long-term agreement, we would need some creativity on how it could work – some creative financing is needed.

Q: Have you looked at sites other than Snow Creek for potential power generation? A: yes, we will brainstorm other ideas to offset power supply including other hydropower sites and solar.

Q: Is full piping of IPID being evaluated? A: It has been evaluated at a high level. This project is a first phase where full piping could be added in the future.

Q: Are you considering noise of the pump stations and the high level of recreation on the Wenatchee River? A: These pump stations can be designed with limited noise and are fully enclosed in a building. The visual impacts would be greater with a pump station building, screen, etc.

New Concept

Peter introduced that a new concept has emerged on how the IPID Pump Exchange project could fit into the Icicle Strategy. This concept is the result of ongoing facilitated discussions with the wilderness stakeholder group.

Margie and Dave Van Cleve introduced the idea that was a result of brainstorming ideas to compromise around some of the issues with storage at the alpine lakes and following dam safety issues with High Hazard Dam status.

Tony noted that IPID has a mutual concern with Margie that an Ecology Dam Safety Report classified all of the dams as High Hazard. IPID is working with Ecology on the result of that. Colchuck Lake may likely stay high hazard and be in need of a considerable amount of work to meet standards. Tony noted that the IPID Board has stated that as long as IPID is not negatively impacted in the amount of water they serve to their growers and they will not incur increased costs, they are willing to consider any options.

Peter introduced the new concept focused on several guidelines. This is in the idea phase, there have been no commitments and a lot of work will be needed to explore this.

- Ensure Wilderness Values
- Ensure IPID Water Supply
- Ensure Instream Flow goals in the Icicle are met

Six Elements to this Concept:

1. Work with Dam Safety Office to correct classifications for Klonaqua, Square, and Colchuck Lakes
2. Colchuck would not continue as a storage reservoir, consider a transition away from storage.
3. The Pump Exchange project would gain united support from this group and help secure funding, permitting, and regulatory approvals.
4. Automation at Eightmile, Klonaqua and Square Lakes would be implemented
5. Eightmile Lake moves forward with 2,000 ac-ft of storage. No roads and no pumping.

6. Water conservation, including local governments

Discussion/Questions

Melissa noted that she appreciates the creative thinking and willingness to discuss different topics and ideas.

Tony noted that IPID is already conserving water that is a part of the Icicle Strategy. This concept needs work to figure out how the instream flow goals are impacted with the loss of storage at Colchuck.

Dave Blodgett said that Tony's point on instream flows is very important to the Yakama Nation. With climate change, it is very important to think about how storage is used.

Peter stated that the plan is to continue thinking about this concept unless the IWG says no. *Peter asked IWG members if anyone thinks this concept should not be pursued? There was no objection to moving forward.*

Anyone interested in being included in these discussions should email Peter.

Budget Status and Allocations

Mary Jo reviewed the current status of the OCR funds available and allocated towards the Icicle Strategy. Budget remaining that is unallocated in the 2019-2021 Biennium is \$496,000.

IWG Decision: The IWG approved allocation of \$60,000 for continued facilitation and technical support through September 30th (the end of this biennial contract). The IWG approved \$130,000 to be used for development of outreach products (new films and a new website). The IWG authorized the Steering Committee to approve specific allocations in the coming months as more information becomes available. This covers the remaining allocation of up to \$306,433 to be used on such things as project data collection, the Tribal fishery AMP, City Fish Screen completion, COIC, Eightmile EIS data collection, or other.

Melissa gave an update on the 2021-2023 Budget process. The Governor's budget proposal in December came at a time when the economic forecast was not good. The March forecast was significantly better. The OCR request included \$4 million towards the Icicle Strategy work. Currently, the legislature is reconciling the different budgets. It looks like there will be a final budget April 25th. It also looks likely that the Icicle Strategy will have funding on a similar scale as the current biennium.

Next steps are to build the 2021-2023 budget for the Icicle Strategy. IWG members should provide information on things that may need funding during the 2021-2023 biennium to Mary Jo or Cynthia.

There was one request for funding from the 2021-2023 budget. The Lower Icicle Riparian/Sediment Reduction Project was just awarded partial construction funding from BOR's WaterSMART program. Total cost of this project is \$502,093. Secured funding from DOE Centennial is \$174,439 and BOR is \$221,058. Remaining need is \$106,596. An IWG commitment for this funding now allows the project to commit to 2022 construction.

IWG Decision: The IWG approved allocation of \$106,596 from the 2021-2023 biennium for the Lower Icicle Riparian/Sediment Reduction Project.

Other Updates, Public Comment, Upcoming Schedule

Snow Lakes Trail Bridge – Construction is complete. Tony is happy with the new bridge, it came out well. There are a few small clean up items, seeding and mulching once the snow is fully melted.

IPID Canal Lining – IPID is currently lining a section of canal that is 129 years old and has never been lined. 700 ft of canal lined with concrete. This is one of several lining projects being done this year. This project cost \$31,000.

SNOTEL Site in Icicle – Robes Parrish (USFWS) gave an update on the status of getting a SNOTEL site added to the Icicle Watershed which would be very helpful to have local water data. Robes has been working with NRCS on this. Siting constraints include: Not within the Wilderness Area, the site needs to be in representative area (elevation, aspect, vegetation etc), preference for a natural opening, aesthetically unobtrusive, and accessible.

Robes worked with NRCS to narrow down site options to a small area on the north side of Mt. Cashmere. The site may include soil moisture as well. Next steps are for NRCS to work through permitting with the USFS. NRCS has an existing Master MOU with the USFS to facilitate development of special use permits. There was also a NEPA revision added in 2020 that added meteorological sampling sites as a Cat Ex category.

Next step should be a call with the USFS to discuss permitting.

Special Acknowledgement – Dale Bambrick is retiring. The IWG members expressed appreciation for all of Dale's work over the years. Dale's participation and NMFS' role in the Icicle Strategy has been invaluable. Thank You Dale!

Public Comment

- Don Von Seggern – regarding the 2,000 ac-ft of storage at Eightmile Lake. This group cannot make that decision. Ecology makes this decision. When would we see a preliminary review of water rights?

Melissa responded that as part of the Eightmile EIS a preliminary assessment of water rights will be done. Ecology is working on this assessment, which is very complicated. There is a lot of information to review over 100 years. We will likely have a draft EIS in the fall.

- Mark Hersh – noted that he sent a letter to Ecology after the comment period closed for the Eightmile EIS scoping. The letter focused on potential unintended consequences of lake releases. The concern is with nutrient loading increasing. There should be discussions with biologists and limnologists to see about potential impacts.

The next IWG meeting is July 8th.

Meeting Adjourned.