

ICICLE STRATEGY
Icicle Work Group Meeting
Conference Call (Teams)
Thursday, July 8th, 1:00 – 3:30 PM

Meeting Summary

Members/Alternates Present: Jeff Dengel, WDFW; Jim Craig, USFWS; Sharon Lunz, ICWC; Justin Yaeger, NMFS; Greg McLaughlin, COIC; Lisa Pelly, TU; Jeff Rivera, USFS; Tom Tebb, Ecology; Melissa Downes, Ecology; Erick Walker, USFS; Ana Cortez, City of Leavenworth; Bob Bugert, Chelan County; Mike Kaputa, Chelan County; David Child, Reclamation; Cory Kamphaus, Yakama Nation; Bill Gale, USFWS; Mike Livingston, WDFW; Carl Florea, City of Leavenworth

Guests Present: Dave and Margie Van Cleve, Sierra Club; Megan Birzell, The Wilderness Society; Buford Howell, ICWC; Mara Bohman, ICWC, John Sirois; Mat Maxey, USFWS; Ingrid Eckstrom, Ecology; Lisa Adolfson, ESA Associates; Tom Wachholder, City of Leavenworth

Staff/Consultants Present: Cynthia Carlstad, NHC; Peter Dykstra, Plauche & Carr; Mary Jo Sanborn, Chelan County; Dan Haller, Aspect Consulting;; Dave Rice, Anchor QEA;

Welcome, Introductions, Announcements

- Mara Bohman invited John Sirois with Colville Confederated Tribe to attend this meeting.
- Leavenworth has a new Public Works Director, Tom Wachholder.
- Justin Yeager will now represent NOAA Fisheries following Dale's retirement
- Jeff Rivera, USFS, is taking a new position in New Mexico and will be leaving the Wenatchee River Ranger District this summer.
- We plan to resume in-person meetings in September.

IWG Decision: The IWG approved the April 8th Meeting Summary.

Steering Committee Report

Steering Committee and IWG Meeting Announcements and Material Distribution

Cynthia noted past confusion about membership, participation and information distribution. This discussion is focused on clarifying the distinction between the IWG meetings and Steering Committee meetings.

- The Steering Committee is a smaller group whose purpose is to steer the day-to-day work and long range management of the Icicle Strategy. There is an official member list based on IWG member volunteers. The focus is intended to dig into details, develop solutions, and tee up topics for IWG discussion and decision making.
- Steering Committee information has never been distributed widely beyond members and meetings have typically included only Steering Committee members. IWG meetings are more broadly advertised to a large distribution list, guests are welcome, and public comment opportunity is provided.

IWG Decision – Continue communication of Steering Committee meetings, announcements, agendas to Steering Committee members only. Meeting summaries can be distributed to a broader list and/or posted on the website.

Big Idea next steps

Follow up meetings will take place over the summer. A project team will be identified to work through details. A more detailed update is expected in October.

Budget items

The IWG authorized the Steering Committee to make final allocations from the 2019-21 budget in April. The Steering Committee has discussed a funding gap that exists for IPID screens. WDFW will provide more updates soon and will make a funding request to fill that gap to the Steering Committee soon.

Outreach Videos

Peter gave an update on the development of two videos being produced by North 40 Productions. The goal of these is to increase awareness of the Icicle Strategy and have the story told from the IWG perspective. These films can be used in many ways. We started with two films, one is the Origin Story and the other is focused on specific projects. These were distributed to the IWG for review. Several IWG members have provided comments/edits so far and we are gathering more. Next steps will be to work with North 40 to make requested edits.

Cory noted that the two videos were well received on his end.

Jim thought that the origin story was well done and appreciated the focus on current projects. A future film could show the work that IPID has already done for irrigation conservation work.

A few corrections were noted that are needed in titles, etc.

Sharon summarized the comments provided by ICWC. Overall, the films are well done. The ICWC perspective is that the films made things look too positive. ICWC has not agreed with everything in the PEIS Preferred Alternative and the film glosses over some of the challenges.

Peter noted that we are also discussing the next films and what topics should be covered. Do people have input on how to show Eightmile Lake and Wilderness? How can we show success and struggles?

Sharon would like to see reference to the issues at Eightmile Lake in the current films and not wait for a new one.

Lisa Pelly noted that she provided comments as well and concurs with Sharon's comments. We also need to include climate change.

Cory appreciates comments made, but expressed caution if we change more than editorial on the current films. YN really likes them the way they are and will need to review any changes.

Municipal/Domestic Water Needs and the Icicle Strategy

The purpose of this topic is to begin to review specific guiding principles to refresh IWG members about the basis and check in on progress to meet those guiding principles. This is also informative for new IWG members.

Dan Haller provided a presentation as a foundation for the conversation on the municipal and domestic water supply guiding principle. The City of Leavenworth's water quantity listed in the Guiding Principles is in part based on their agreement to dismiss a lawsuit with Ecology if an alternate source of water could be found through the Icicle Strategy. A foundational goal of the IWG was to find an alternate path to this litigation. The City also expressed a need for water for growth. The County's domestic supply is based on a need to meet rural growth which is primarily supplied from individual wells.

Dan reviewed how the water need quantities were derived and how the goals would be accomplished. Chelan County tracks debits of water use under the Icicle Reserve when landowners apply for a building permit. The County is adding the capability to track where outdoor use is met by separate irrigation water right. The interim reserve is 0.1 cfs under the Instream Flow Rule. This can increase to 0.5 cfs when instream flow improvements are made.

The County Water Supply Development Plan includes:

- Increase instream flow reserve to 0.5 cfs under the Icicle Strategy
- New water supply development under the Icicle Strategy
- Targeted water right purchases when available

City Water Supply Development includes:

- Smart meter construction (currently in progress)
- Rate Study
- Conservation in Water System Plan
- New water supply development under Icicle Strategy

Questions/Discussion: What questions do IWG members have that we can come back and answer in the future?

Lisa Pelly asked if we ever look at improving flows in the Wenatchee River?

Dan responded this is not a specific guiding principle but we can look at those opportunities. For example, some projects will have instream flow benefits in the Icicle and downstream.

Sharon commented that the City Water Plan allocates most of the water for growth to commercial growth. Will that be re-visited?

Ana responded yes, this will be discussed over the next 18 months.

Carl noted that as Mayor, he is focusing on sustainable tourism. Carl will be forming a diverse group to help inform what that looks like.

Public Comments:

David Van Cleve – the powerpoint focus is on “wants” not “needs”. Dave feels that both the City and County can really reduce future needs through aggressive conservation. Cynthia asked for clarification on this point and for help identifying what this conservation could look like. What information is needed for this? Dave responded that it is all in his comments on the Draft PEIS. Mike Kaputa responded to Dave’s comment that local government does not always know what is needed in the future so they must use growth projections. More explanation on growth projections and the uncertainty with those would be helpful.

Burford expressed concern about water temperature. Others responded that adaptive management will help track temperature and there have been successful thermal refuge projects in other areas of the Wenatchee River that may be appropriate in the Icicle also. Bill Gale noted that temperature is important but it’s also important to note that the Icicle exceeds state temperature criteria above any withdrawals in some years. He believes we need to consider temperature but not lose focus on improving instream flows.

Updates

Eightmile Lake – Melissa stated that the EIS scoping summary is published. This is not an individual responsiveness summary but it does indicate how comments will be addressed. A new alternative has been added. The target completion for the Draft EIS is late fall.

Public Comment

Margie Van Cleve – expressed concern and surprise that the Steering Committee meetings are no longer open to the public and would like a response on why. She does not feel like this is working in good faith. She would like to see future meeting summaries.

Cynthia responded and clarified that the Steering Committee meetings have never been open public meetings. With online meetings during COVID, there has been confusion about which meetings are Steering Committee and which are IWG. She apologized for that confusion. The Steering Committee’s job is to identify issues and potential solutions, vet budget requests, and conduct long-range planning - all for IWG consideration. The Steering Committee is not making decisions outside of specific authorities given to them from the IWG (e.g. deciding on requests from the remaining 2019-2021 funds.) All Steering Committee work comes to the IWG when a

decision is needed. Limiting distribution of announcements and materials is not intended to decrease transparency but rather decrease confusion around work-in-progress discussions.

Upcoming Meetings

Steering Committee meets September 9th and December 9th.

Icicle Work Group meets October 14th and January 13th.