

**ICICLE STRATEGY**  
**Icicle Work Group Meeting**  
*Conference Call (Teams)*  
*Thursday, October 14<sup>th</sup>, 1:00 – 3:30 PM*

**Meeting Summary**

**Members/Alternates Present:** Chuck Brushwood, Colville Confederated Tribes; Mike Kaputa, Chelan County; Carl Florea, City of Leavenworth; David Blodgett, Yakama Nation; Jeff Dengel, WDFW; Melissa Downes, Ecology-OCR; Bill Gale, USFWS; Greg McLaughlin, WWT; Brock Hoenes, WDFW; Lisa Pelly, TU; Ryan Williams, CCD; Sharon Lunz, ICWC; Tom Tebb, Ecology-OCR; Tony Jantzer, IPID; Erick Walker, USFS; Bob Bugert, Chelan County Commissioner; Christi Davis-Kernan; Reclamation; Tim Walsh, COIC

**Guests Present:** Dave and Margie Van Cleve, Sierra Club; David Ortman; Ingrid Eckstrom, Ecology; Lisa Adolfson, ESA; Keith Goehner, WA State Representative; Jason Lundgren, Cascade Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group; Mark Hersch; Cole Provence, Ecology; Kelli Scott, US Representative Schrier's Office; Mat Maxey, USFWS; Dick Fiddler, Sierra Club

**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**

- New IWG Member: Brock Hoenes, WDFW
- Departure: Erick Walker, USFS is leaving for a new job as Forest Supervisor for Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit. Kristen Bail will take Erick's place as the USFS representative on the IWG.

**IWG Decision:** The IWG approved the July 8<sup>th</sup> Meeting Summary.

**Tribal Fishery Adaptive Management Committee Update** (Mary Jo Sanborn, Chelan County) Committee met last week and discussed two main items: facility/amenity improvements and the geomorphic assessment.

- Facility/amenity improvements – continued outreach to Tribal Fishers in August with a meeting with YN Wildlife and Fish Committee. A meeting with CCT occurred in 2019. Gaining valuable feedback on improving access and amenities, which is being incorporated into project development. Projects ready for implementation include installation of a double restroom near the parking/entrance for Tribal Fishers. A second restroom location across the spillway bridge is being considered but it's not clear if that is necessary. Also ready for implementation are access/trail improvements, especially at the boulders that lead to platforms. Implementation will be coordinated with tribal fishers, LNFH staff. Other items being considered for future are lighting (for safety), power at restroom, fish cleaning stations, improved access for dip netting.
- Geomorphic Assessment – Natural Systems Design met with committee members for a site visit in July. A work plan was developed focused on determining how changes in the flow

regime, LNFH operations, and geomorphology of the historic channel have influenced the tribal fishing area. The assessment will include collecting LIDAR, field data, conducting hydrologic and hydraulic analysis, evaluating sediment dynamics, and completing habitat suitability index modeling (updating the 2013 USFWS study). The goal is to identify causes of change and identify opportunities to protect and improve plunge pool conditions and improve habitat.

### **Icicle Creek Tributary Fish Barrier and Beaver Dam Analog Assessments / Rat Creek Beaver and BDA Supplementation** (Lisa Pelly, TU)

A presentation was given to describe these two proposed projects. The Fish Barriers and Beaver Dam Analog Assessments project would evaluate and prioritize correcting barriers above the Boulder Field. It would also identify potential Beaver Dam Analog (BDA) sites. The barrier inventory will include tributary culvert assessments. The second proposed project - Rat Creek Beaver and BDA Supplementation – would repair an abandoned beaver colony on Rat Creek with BDAs to restore the habitat provided by the beaver colony and potentially attract a new beaver colony to take up residence.

#### Questions/Comments

David Blodgett expressed caution about moving beavers/translocation unless we know why they left that area before.

**Outreach Videos** (Peter Dykstra) – links sent out earlier this week are for revised two videos incorporating edits from IWG members. One final edit was made last night to the projects video. This is difficult to show via Teams as the quality is not good. The IWG took a break to review these updated videos. Cascadia Conservation District needs to be added as an IWG member at the end. With that addition, the group approved the videos for use.

Upcoming video production – at the last IWG meeting, the IWG approved funding for additional videos. Some of that funding was used to edit these first two. The Outreach Subcommittee is now looking at three new films focused on (1) conservation, (2) Alpine Lakes storage and wilderness, and (3) how the Icicle Watershed works. We have been working on identifying topics, developing scripts, and collecting b-roll video. We would like to begin outreach to stakeholders to gain input on how best to do these new films, set up interviews, etc. We will provide more info as it's developed. If anyone is interested in providing input into the development of these new films, would like to be interviewed, please contact Peter.

***Icicle Work Group Decision:*** Approval of these first two videos and no objections moving forward with the next videos.

### **Water Conservation** (Cynthia Carlstad)

The project opportunity list was discussed at the Steering Committee. Projects focused on the main three entities that could implement these types of projects. Chelan County is interested in moving forward on first two on the list: promote and subsidize lawn conservation, and on-farm efficiencies in Icicle. A third project ready to implement is updating the IPID conservation plan. All of these are in the budget spreadsheet.

Mike Kaputa gave an overview of the County projects. The first effort is focused on reducing lawn size and outdoor water needs by providing outreach and technical support to landowners. The County adopted a new Water Code tied to the building permit process which creates an opportunity to tie in outdoor water conservation. Greg noted that there's interest at COIC in this type of conservation. Chelan County would need to identify the geographic scope in terms of Icicle focus and how this could be expanded to the rest of the County. Discussion among IWG members focused on considering the timing for COIC shareholders to focus on pump and piping project first. It's important to get started to get a sense of interest in the community. IPID could benefit from this effort as well; it could help with changes in demand (timing) with conversion from orchard to large lot home sites. Consider focusing on "education on reducing water demand by residential users".

The second project the County is interested in leading - on-farm efficiencies - focuses on the Fromm land in lower Icicle. Chelan County has been working on a riparian project to be constructed next year on their property. Mike will be meeting with the family next month to discuss water conservation opportunities – irrigation efficiencies. They are very interested. The County is working on securing additional funding as well. Jeff Dengel asked for clarity on the fate of the conserved water and noted interest in having it protected all the way downstream to ocean.

#### Questions/Comments

1. Margie appreciates this focus on the demand side of water as a good start.
2. Dick Fiddler commented that if you're willing to make large financial investments you can see large benefits in residential and commercial use. It's key that the water go back to the river if using public funds; you'd need that kind of guarantee. He recognizes the difficulty in this.
3. Sharon noted that we need some way that these water rights can stay in the river. There needs to be a guarantee that the water saved stays in stream. We may need to add the development of this structure into the task. Peter pointed out that the State Trust Water Program is the structure we would use to protect water instream. The challenge is ensuring enforcement. This could work for individual residents and shares within an irrigation system. Cynthia noted that the process is in place through the IWG decision-making on what is worthy of funding.
4. Margie and Dave Van Cleve– What is the status of the City of Leavenworth conducting a rate study? We are very interested in focusing on the demand side of water use. Mayor Florea – is committed to doing what they can on the demand side. We are a couple of years out from doing the next rate study. Things do not move quickly, but they are committed to taking next steps.

Cynthia closed the conservation topic with an announcement that Aspect has been working on developing a conservation Story Map as a way to describe the conservation elements within the Icicle Strategy. This allows both high level information and more detailed information for those who want that. We will be finishing this in the coming month and will distribute to the IWG members for review.

## **2021-2023 Budget**

Cynthia presented the funding allocation spreadsheet to the IWG to consider approvals for the items advanced by the Steering Committee. The format of the spreadsheet is the same as last Biennium, however this includes all projects, even if they do not expect any OCR funding (e.g. Reclamation projects). This provides a quick reference to the status of all project implementation. Projects are now grouped for easier tracking. Cynthia walked through the budget request items, questions were raised and discussed along the way, then she asked for approval of the full set or exceptions at the end.

## Questions/Discussion

1. A suggestion was made to revise the instream flow subcommittee to review projects for prioritizing and location of instream benefits - looking at the fate of approved water.
2. Conservation and efficiencies – approval contingent on reforming a subgroup (instream flow subcommittee) to discuss streamflow.
3. Alluvial Water Storage – Jeff Dengel has concerns about approving this allocation before a presentation on how these projects would be implemented in the Icicle. WDFW has a policy on these types of projects. Lisa Pelly has questions as well. Funding can be allocated in OCR contract contingent on IWG approval in the upcoming months.

***Icicle Work Group Decision:*** Approved all budget items, with contingencies described above. Cynthia will schedule a meeting on the alluvial aquifer storage projects for interested IWG members.

## **Project Updates**

As time on the agenda is limited and several updates have already been covered, the IWG skipped these short updates.

## **Public Comment**

1. Mark Hersch – would like to hear about summer streamflow and lake releases and an Eightmile Lake update. Tony – released water from all lakes this year. Instream flow was very low before releases were made. At Eightmile Lake, they completed geotechnical drilling and found no liquefiable material which is very good. Bill Gale – released snow lake like normal. Collected data to create a standard curve on the new valve. Data is being analyzed now.
2. Melissa – Work continues on the draft Eightmile EIS. Planning to release for public comment this winter.
3. Cynthia – The IWG was working on updating the operating procedures before Covid, but that effort has stalled during the pandemic and the need to do remote meetings. We would like to send the updated draft out for review at the next Steering Committee and then bring to the IWG in January for review. Approval would be scheduled at the following IWG meeting, likely in April.

## **Upcoming Meetings**

- Next Steering Committee Meeting is December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021.
- Next IWG Meeting is January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2022.