

ICICLE STRATEGY
Icicle Work Group Meeting Summary
Thursday, July 13, 2023; 10:00am-2:00pm
Confluence Technology Center, Wenatchee

Members/Alternates Present: Melissa Downes, Ecology-OCR; Ryan Williams, Cascadia CD; Lisa Pelly, TU; Theo Burgoon, TU; Shon Smith, Chelan County Commissioner; Erica Taecker, USFS; Nate White, WDFW; Carl Florea, City of Leavenworth; Tom Wachholder, City of Leavenworth; Cory Kamphaus, Yakama Nation; Levi Jantzer, IPID; Mat Maxey, USFWS; Bill Gale, USFWS; Jim Craig, USFWS; Chuck Brushwood, CTCR; Jason Breidert, CTCR; Greg McLaughlin (online), WWT; Dan Church (online), Reclamation

Guests Present: Raquel Crowley (online), Senator Murray's Office; David Ortman (online)

Staff/Consultants Present: Mary Jo Sanborn, Chelan County; Dan Haller, Aspect Consulting; Cynthia Carlstad, NHC; Dave Rice, Anchor QEA; Abby Hendrickson, Chelan County; Andy Dunn, RH2; Adam Miller, Gray & Osborne; Ingrid Eckstrom (online), Ecology-OCR;

Decisions Today

1. Need Next Steps on Instream Flow Rule Amendment Letter
2. Direction to Steering Committee on budget priorities and planning for 2023-2025 Biennium

Introductions / Member Updates

Two member are retiring shortly and this will be their last meeting – Jim Craig, USFWS LNFH; and Lisa Pelly, Trout Unlimited. Members thanked them for shared appreciation for their work in the Icicle.

Administrative Items

Meeting Schedule: Quarterly meetings for IWG have made it hard to track details and stay updated. Steering Committee determined to hold IWG meetings every other month and Steering Committee every other month alternating with IWG. This change will be in effect starting September with a Steering Committee and IWG in October. No August meetings.

CCD/Cascade Fisheries/TU Projects Request for a no cost scope change to work on top two culvert sites, beaver site evaluation approved.

Habitat Assessment (Cramer Fish Sciences) Coordination with YN occurred, Steering Committee advanced to IWG with email approval. Work is being completed this summer.

Reach Assessment (YN) This proposal will come to the Steering Committee in September. This will help prioritize future projects and fill data gaps.

Budget Status: 2021-2123 and 2023-2025

2021-2023 Budget remaining is approximately \$150,000 that has not been allocated. This amount will carry over into the 2023-2025 budget with the 2021-2023 contract ending on October 31st.

2023-2025 OCR Budget for the Icicle is \$5,000,000

Draft funding allocation table from a year ago is a template to start developing a scope of work / budget allocations for 2023-2025. The Steering Committee will make recommendations in September, then IWG can make allocations in October for the new contract to begin November 1st.

Priorities Discussion:

Nate suggested focusing on monitoring and data collection.

- The pit tag array above the boulder field is not operating this year – this is important data and should be working. How can we get this going again to collect data and possibly add another upstream? Determining who is lead on that is important.
- Flow data collection is also important – the biggest data gap is lake release data as flow monitoring is strong in the mainstem.
- There's a need to evaluate the accuracy of Structure 2 flow data at low flow and split data at high flow.
- Check 5-Year Monitoring Plan to see if modifications are needed.

Instream Flow Rule Amendment

At its last meeting, the IWG had agreed to send a letter to Ecology asking about timeline for Ecology to begin working on an instream flow rule amendment for the Wenatchee, and requesting to be put on the schedule while the IWG develops consensus agreement on flow thresholds and implements permanent flow improvements. A draft letter has been circulated and edited by IWG members, but not submitted to Ecology pending the IWG receiving feedback via Tom/Melissa regarding current rulemaking backlog.

Melissa had internal discussions on a rule-making timeline. Dave Christianson's (Water Resources rule-making) input is that they expect to have capacity for the Icicle in beginning in 2026, after streamflow restoration rules are completed. Ecology's preference is for the IWG to submit a letter of consensus on the flow restoration threshold rather than the letter request for a placeholder to begin rule-making. Start-to-finish timeline for rule-making is probably 2 years, however it could be shorter with consensus on the flow threshold.

The group discussed whether to continue developing and sending the placeholder letter. No one advocated continuing with the placeholder letter, and a few IWG members commented that sending such a letter would be contrary to the advice Ecology gave them, and thus would be received negatively by the agency. Instead, the group shifted discussion focus to working on determining the flow improvements needed (cfs) to put a rule amendment in place.

IWG agrees that the need is to agree to what the flow restoration should be and then send that in a letter to Ecology. IWG will shift focus away from placeholder letter to the determining flow restoration thresholds.

Cynthia will establish a small group to work on the flow restoration piece – needs to focus on permanent flow improvement.

City of Leavenworth Source Replacement Feasibility Study and Water System Plan (all see PPTs)

Source Replacement Feasibility Study (Andy Dunn, RH2)

Developing options for full source replacement that meets these goals:

1. Reduce diversion from Icicle Creek.
2. Meet redundancy needs for city's water supply

3. Cannot impair existing water right holders and instream flow rules

Currently working on the hydrologic evaluation of groundwater well logs to determine aquifer characteristics.

Next Steps:

- Incorporate non-hydrogeologic considerations into the mapping.
- Identify Potential Test Well Locations
- Continue to Develop and Populate Well Siting Decision Matrix
- Identify 3 Recommended Test Well Drilling Locations

Discussion:

- Hope to have 3 sites identified within several months
- Threshold for amount of water needed to offset Icicle diversion – need about 1,000+ gpm
- LNFH may have additional well data that is helpful.
- Is the City also looking at additional storage capacity? – Yes, that will be a part of the water system plan update.
- Are you looking at Blackbird Island area? – Yes, there is some limited existing information and they will explore more.

Water System Plan Update – Adam Miller, Gray & Osborn.

Existing plan is from 2018 and is being updated a bit early based on growth needs and a need for updated information. The goal is to have this done by the end of this year.

Result will be a list of improvements needed and will follow DOH 9 Chapter Outline.

Existing Sources:

- Wellfield has three wells on mainstem Wenatchee
- Icicle Creek surface water plant – built in 1970 and needs upgrades

Existing Storage = 1.5 million gallons

- Icicle reservoir (above adventure park)
- Ski Hill reservoir

Analysis tasks include the following:

- Updating hydraulic model – moving from CAD based to GIS based model.
- Updating City Water System Mapping to GIS based map
- Population projections
- Assessing water demand based on peaking factors
- Water Right Evaluation
- Storage Components

Preliminary capital improvement projects include

- Piping between wells and Icicle reservoir are too small, needs replacement
- There are other pipes that are under capacity
- Need an annual program for replacement of old pipes
- Valve testing and replacement
- PRVs need maintenance

- Source reliability – need backup power for all sources
- Water Treatment Plan – need upgrade unless it is replaced with a new source
- Wells need data collection

Questions/Discussion

Lisa Pelly asked why the instream flow rule update is needed if City has enough water?
County needs water very soon. City needs longer term water.

Water Conservation

- There is a conservation/drought plan being done also
- Water Loss – is high right now in the distribution system, likely a result of old pipe. Replacement of old pipes should help reduce loss.
- Just advertised RFP for a water rate study to incentivize reduced use.

Rate Study and Drought/Conservation Plan Updates can be presented together to the IWG in about 6 months.

Short Updates

COIC

2nd Draft ROE comment period ended. Three comment letters were received from: WWT, COIC, YN. All mostly favorable with some suggestions which are being discussed internally. Currently, Ecology does not anticipate needing a 3rd draft, hope to have it resolved within a few weeks. Process would be a final ROE issued, then 30-day appeal period.

SRFB funding request approved for \$750,000. Tributary Committee and PRCC decisions should be made soon, possibly today.

The project will go out to bid this fall. Pump station and screen construction will be done within the instream work window of August 2024.

Eightmile EIS

Draft EIS comment period closed June 5. Just over 6,000 comments received. Approximately 300 were individual letters, the remaining were form letters through organizations. Ecology and consultants are working on a comment response summary. Ecology will integrate the comment response into the final EIS, which they plan to issue by the end of 2023. Federal review is being worked out with USFS.

Website

A draft website will be sent out to IWG members next week. Please review and edit text and things like guiding principle icons so they best match the subject area. Also look at the format of the project page – there is one project listed as an example. Once the headings are finalized, Mary Jo will send a blank form to project sponsors to fill out.

Water Smart Garden / Demonstration Site at Icicle River Middle School

A landscaper is under contract to begin site prep this month with the removal of grass, installation of drip irrigation, and prep for planting. Native, drought tolerant plants will be planted with middle school student in the fall. The overall cost is higher than originally anticipated due to cost increases and the overall project size, however due to delays in other water conservation work it remains within the total task budget.

Public Comment

No public comment

Wrap Up***IWG Decisions***

1. Direction to Steering Committee on Budget Priorities for September –
 - a. Focus on finishing projects that we've started.
 - b. Focus on data collection needs supporting instream flow rule amendment and automation .
2. Instream Flow Rule Amendment – Cynthia will start pulling together a small group to work on flow restoration target for the rule amendment. No letter will be sent now.

Upcoming Meetings:

- Steering Committee on September 14th
- Icicle Work Group on October 12th.