

Klickitat County Technical Committee
Online via Zoom
March 4, 2021
9:00 AM

Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Joe Zendt, Tova Tillinghast, Amber Johnson, Gardner Johnston, Adrienne Grimm, Margaret Neuman, Brady Allen, Jill Hardiman, Diane Hopster

CRC Members Present: Will Bowdish

Guests Present: Nate Ulrich, Sharon Frazey, Jake Anderson

Staff Present: Whitney Reynier

Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 9:03 A.M. Introductions of technical committee (TC) members and Whitney Reynier as the new Klickitat County Lead Entity Coordinator were made. There was a quorum established.

Chair-Vice Chair Elections: By consensus the TC decided to defer elections until member appointments are finalized by the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC). Joe will serve as an interim lead and TC representative to the Citizens Review Committee (CRC).

Handouts

- Agenda
- 3/5/2020, 4/9/2020, 6/11/2020 TC Meeting Minutes
- 2021 SRFB Grant Round Timeline
- SRFB Targeted Investment Policy

Agenda Review/Approval - The agenda was accepted as written.

Minutes Review/Approval – Minor edits to the minutes were sent electronically by Margaret in advance of the meeting and reviewed by the TC. Minutes from 3/5/20, 4/9/20, and 6/11/20 with these edits were approved by consensus.

Old Business

Review of Technical Committee Role and Bylaws: Whitney reviewed the role and bylaws of the TC as presented in the Klickitat Lead Entity Strategy. TC members were reminded to review an Open Public Meetings act training video.

Review of 2020 SRFB Grant Round and Projects:

- **Funding:** Whitney reviewed funds received in the 2020 SRFB grant round, including \$105,862 Lower Columbia funds and \$501,125 Mid-Columbia funds. Klickitat LE submitted four projects that received complete funding and two alternate projects which ultimately were not funded in this grant round.
- **Klickitat Canyon Conservation, Phase 3:** Nate shared that the acquisition closed in late July 2020. The project, sponsored by the Columbia Land Trust (CLT), conserved 1.7 miles of mainstem Klickitat River.
- **Klickitat River Floodplain Restoration Stewardship:** Amber shared that planning is underway for this joint WDFW and CLT project. The project will span 4 years. WDFW's reed canary grass assessment will likely start next spring. WDFW is working to resolve some grant agreement issues. Otherwise project is moving forward with CLT mapping weeds in the riparian corridor and WDFW planning to do the same in the wildlife area. They hope to get drones out this spring and could use help with boat-based mapping.
- **Habitat Through Beaver Supplementation:** Margaret shared that project partners are working on the assessment phase. Yakama Nation Fisheries (YNF) is doing further analysis of selected priority streams, including lower Swale Creek and Tepee Creek. Mid-Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group (MCFEG) is looking at other streams to prioritize. They are doing some outreach with landowners with nuisance beavers.

2019 SRFB Project Updates:

- **Forest Road 80 Crossing of Piscoe Creek:** Adrienne shared that this YNF project was completed in October 2020. The project replaced two culverts with a bridge.
- **Fish Passage and Habitat Design on Spring Creek:** Adrienne shared that YNF is working with landowners and Interfluve to review design options. They plan to do a site visit soon. The project was originally slated to end in June 2021 but the deadline was extended due to COVID.

2018 SRFB Project Updates:

- **Lower Buck Creek Habitat Enhancement Design:** Tova shared that this project closed as incomplete due to a lack of full landowner support. There were 3-4 landowners involved, and ultimately a few were hesitant to proceed after seeing design alternatives. It was difficult to fully engage and convey project ideas to

landowners due to COVID. One landowner from the project will be incorporating project recommendations into their stream stewardship and management plan. Remnant project funds had to be returned to the state, although Tova tried to explore options to use the funds elsewhere in the watershed.

- White Salmon Irrigation District Fish Passage and Screening Project: Tova shared this project is complete and was constructed in 2019. They are dialing in system use with the irrigation district and adapting to variables that affect screen flow. UCD will remain available for technical assistance.

New Business

Committee Appointment Process Update: Whitney shared the new appointment process adopted by the BOCC on February 23. Current committee members with expiring terms must apply for reappointment. In the future, public notice will go out 90 days in advance of a term expiring and there will be 21-day application window.

Margaret expressed the need for technical expertise in conservation acquisitions and suggested that a Columbia Land Trust representative join the TC. Nate expressed his interest in joining.

The TC discussed CRC vacancies. Whitney will send out committee member lists to both committees and include links to the BOCC's new appointment policy and application.

5 Year Status Review Update: ESA-listed fish species in the Klickitat LE area are undergoing a 5-year status review. Updates will be released later this year. YNF and several other agencies have submitted data to support the review. Joe said we don't expect major changes in listing status.

2021 SRFB Grant Round and TC Meeting Schedule: Whitney reviewed the grant round schedule and TC meeting dates. Complete applications are due April 21st. The site tour is May 10th. Final applications are due June 28th by 12 PM.

Project and Project Sponsor Solicitation: This grant round has been advertised in the paper; ad ran for two weeks.

Conflict of Interest Reminder: The committee is reminded to disclose any conflict of interest with proposed projects. There is space on the ranking forms to disclose affiliation with projects. The CRC wants TC members to rank all projects, but to remember to rank from technical expertise not organizational affiliation.

Potential Projects for 2021 and Beyond:

- Nate shared a potential CLT acquisition project in upper Rattlesnake Creek, a Tier A stream. They are interested in purchasing three land parcels from SDS located just below the large falls, which would collectively conserve 1.15 stream miles. All parcels have

connectivity with existing DNR conserved property. This would be acquisition only; restoration would be a later phase. The SRFB ask would be around \$250,000 and would represent about 20% of total project cost. They have applied for match funding but it's not secured.

- Tova shared UCD is in early conversations with land owners on Buck Creek and Rattlesnake Creek about potential LWD placement projects.
- Amber shared WDFW may have a Buck Creek project related to an emergency HPA.
- Adrienne shared that YNF is unlikely to have a preferred design selected for Spring Creek by the grant application period.
- Margaret shared that MCFEG and YNF are looking to do a project on Rattlesnake Gulch, a tributary to Swale Creek. They applied for SRFB funding last year and were selected as an alternate. Since then, YNF has hired a consultant to work on a design to address three passage issues and for adding wood.
- Margaret shared that MCFEG and YNF are also brainstorming a project on lower Snyder Creek at the old mill site. Jake shared the County wants to post an RFP for the county portion of the mill property to see what businesses and the community are interested in doing with the parcel. SRFB funds could be used to design fish habitat improvements to complement the RFP and future site development. Margaret is not sure if MCFEG and YNF will have a proposal ready for this grant round.

2021-2022 Grant Round Changes: Whitney shared some minor edits for the 2021 grant round, including increased project application character limits.

Whitney shared updates on the Targeted Investment Policy and appendix planned for Manual 18. The SRFB expects to release a finalized process in April and project targets/budget in June 2021.

The committee discussed how the Lower Columbia and Mid-Columbia Regions are planning to handle the Targeted Investment process and project selection. Gardner will follow up with Whitney on the Lower Columbia process. Whitney will reach out to Alex Conley at the Yakima Board to discuss the Mid-Columbia process. The committee discussed Klickitat LE projects that might be a good fit for targeted investment, like Pine Creek, Snyder Creek, and Spring Creek. They discussed options to leverage other funds to support these large-scale projects.

The committee discussed how the Klickitat LE might consider developing and shifting towards their own more focused funding strategy to develop and fund larger-scale projects with multiple benefits. The committee discussed ways to use current SRFB funding to support larger projects, e.g. funding multiple phases and/or banking money over several years. The committee also agreed on the need to discuss this approach with the CRC, and if the idea advances, to plan for a lead entity update process in the fall.

LE Strategy Updates: Whitney shared planned and in progress updates to the Salmon Recovery Strategy. Updates include minor updates to the matrix to address remnant working edits left over from past strategy revisions, updating committee membership tables, and replacing project list tables with links to the Salmon Recovery Portal.

Committee Roundtable

Whitney recognized Jill, Joe and Margaret for their White Salmon fish recovery presentation.

Margaret shared two upcoming MCFEG Speaker Series presentations on March 10 and 24.

The committee discussed how opinions on priority projects vary between the CRC and TC. The committee discussed the potential need for all CRC and TC members to review the strategy annually, attending each other's committee meetings, sharing regional presentations on fish recovery, and adding more committee meetings annually to create time to review progress on salmon recovery in the lead entity area and discuss emerging priorities together.

Tova shared a UCD webinar that covers river restoration basics that might be useful for committee members to review: <https://www.ucdwa.org/archived-webinars>.

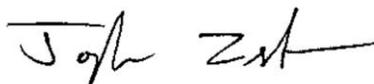
Gardner shared that the NOAA Restoration Center is working on the Hanford Natural Resources Damage Assessment and they are in the early stages of looking for mitigation projects. They are potentially interested in projects along the mainstem Columbia that would benefit Chinook.

Joe shared that YNF is similarly working with the Army Corps to review sediment transport and delta conditions on the Columbia mainstem. The committee discussed opportunities to leverage these types of funds to advance mainstem projects and the need to review how the mainstem fits into the LE strategy.

Sharon will soon be talking to DNR Natural Heritage Council. The Mt. Adams Resource Stewards stewardship crew is coming onboard in March. If people have projects they need help with in late summer please get in touch with Sharon.

Public Comment – None

Adjourn - The next meeting will be April 1, 2021. The meeting was adjourned at 11:43 AM.



Joe Zendt, Chair

4/2/21

Date