

Klickitat Citizens Review Committee
Online Meeting via Zoom
Date: 3-18-2021
Time: 7:00 PM

Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Kelly Clothier, Don Starkin, Brian Beaulaurier, Will Bowdish, Marc Harvey, John Jorgenson

Technical Committee: Nate Ulrich, Joe Zendt

Staff Present: Whitney Reynier

Guests: None

Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 7:09 pm. A quorum was not established. Introductions were made.

Handouts

- Agenda
- Meeting Minutes from 7/18/19, 4/30/20, 6/18/20
- 2021 SRFB Grant Round Timeline
- SRFB Targeted Investment Strategy

Agenda Review and Approval – The agenda was approved as written.

Meeting Minutes Review and Approval – There was not a quorum present so meeting minutes were not reviewed.

Old Business

- **Review of Citizens Review Committee Role and Bylaws** – Whitney reviewed how the Klickitat Lead Entity process relates to other salmon recovery efforts at the state and federal level. Whitney reviewed the role of the Citizens Review Committee (CRC) within the lead entity process and its development and use of the Klickitat Lead Entity Salmon Recovery Strategy. Whitney reviewed CRC bylaws and reminded all members to review the Open Public Meetings act training video.
- **Review of 2020 SRFB Grant Round** – In 2020, the Klickitat Lead Entity received \$105,862 from the Lower Columbia, which included some rollover funds, and \$501,125 from the Mid-Columbia. We submitted four projects that received full SRFB funding: Klickitat Canyon Phase III Acquisition, Klickitat River Floodplain Stewardship, Habitat

Through Beaver Supplementation, and Revegetation of the Former Condit Reservoir. We also submitted two alternate projects that ultimately were not funded in this grant round: Rattlesnake Gulch Fish Passage and Restoration Design and the White Salmon Conservation Assessment.

- **Review of Prior SRFB Projects**

Habitat Through Beaver Supplementation (2020) – The first year is an assessment phase. Yakama Nation Fisheries (YNF) and Mid-Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group (MCFEG) are assessing priority streams for beaver release and talking with landowners who have nuisance beavers they want relocated.

Revegetation of the Former Condit Reservoir (2020) – MCFEG is clarifying with the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) whether they need to re-do cultural resource surveys previously completed by another group before they can begin planting.

Klickitat Canyon Phase III Acquisition (2020): Nate shared that the Columbia Land Trust closed on the property acquisition in July 2020, conserving 1.7 miles of the mainstem Klickitat River. This was the final acquisition phase for this area, bringing together and protecting about 30 miles of river corridor from the mouth of the Little Klickitat up to the Yakama Nation reservation.

Klickitat River Floodplain Stewardship (2020): Nate shared that planning for this project is underway. Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), a project partner, is dealing with some administrative delay issues with RCO. Otherwise WDFW and CLT plan to start weed mapping efforts next spring.

Forest Road 80 Crossing of Piscoe Creek (2019): YNF replaced two culverts restricting fish passage with a bridge. Project was completed in October 2020.

Fish Passage on Spring Creek (2019): The project is moving forward. YNF and Inter-fluve are working with private landowners to review different design options that would replace an earthen dam to provide fish passage.

White Salmon Irrigation District Fish Screen (2018): Project is complete and was constructed in 2019. The Underwood Conservation District (UCD) is working with the Irrigation District to refine screen use during different flow levels.

Lower Buck Creek Habitat Design (2018): This project had to close as incomplete. UCD lacked full landowner support in moving forward with project designs that would reconnect floodplain habitat on private land with Buck Creek. COVID made it difficult to fully engage with landowners. Remnant project funds, \$27, 913, had to be returned to the state. Whitney is in conversation with David Caudill at RCO to find out what happens to those funds and whether they can be re-allocated back to the White Salmon basin.

New Business

- **Committee Appointments Update** – Whitney shared the new appointment process adopted by the Board of County Commissioners on February 23 that requires current members to apply for reappointment when their term expires. The BOCC has reviewed applications for members whose terms have currently expired. A resolution finalizing reappointments and new appointments is expected on March 23.

Changes to the CRC include that Jason Moon (Timber) and Ken Bales (Klickitat Land and Natural Resource Committee) have stepped down. Brian Beaulaurier (Timber) and Tim Thompson (Tribal interests) will be appointed. Whitney expects to have 10 CRC members seated this year.

The CRC can have up to 12 members. One position will be held vacant for an eventual appointee from the Klickitat Land and Natural Resources Committee. Whitney asked for recommendations for an additional appointee. Will recommended finding someone to represent the Eastern Conservation District or the eastern part of the County. No one opposed this idea.

Changes to the Technical Committee (TC) include that Sharon Frazey from Mt. Adams Resource Stewards has replaced Jay McLaughlin and Nate Ulrich has been appointed to provide conservation acquisition expertise.

- **2021 SRFB Grant Round Timeline and CRC 2021 Meeting Schedule** – Whitney reviewed the 2021 grant round timeline and CRC meeting schedule. The next two CRC meetings are April 15th and June 18th. The site tour is May 10th.
- **Conflict of Interest Reminder** – Whitney reminded CRC members to disclose any affiliation they have with projects and recuse themselves from scoring that project. TC members score all projects but also disclose any conflict of interests.
- **2021 Funding and Potential Projects** – Whitney shared that this grant round has been advertised in the paper and on the County Natural Resources website. We expect \$97,000 in funding from the Lower Columbia and \$500,000 in funding from the Mid-Columbia.

Nate shared a potential Columbia Land Trust conservation acquisition project for this grant round which would look to conserve several properties currently owned by SDS on Rattlesnake Creek, a tributary to the White Salmon. The project would conserve about one stream mile. Whitney shared that MCFEG and YNF are planning to re-submit the Rattlesnake Gulch project with some slight updates; this project seeks to address three fish passage barriers on private property. Whitney shared other project sponsors are considering projects but have not confirmed whether they will submit for this grant round, including a UCD large woody debris project on Buck and Rattlesnake Creeks, a

WDFW project on Buck Creek, and a MCFEG and YNF design project on Snyder Creek.

- **Discussion about salmon recovery progress locally and state-wide** – Joe reviewed the 5-year status review process for Mid-Columbia steelhead and other federally listed fish species. Every 5 years, NOAA reviews how listed fish stocks are doing to assess progress on their recovery. In the last review in 2015/16, stocks in our area were ranked as still having moderate to high risk of extinction primarily because we didn't know a lot about stock abundance. In the White Salmon, steelhead and coho are returning to tributaries above the former Condit Dam. Klickitat we are close to 1,000 spawners, which is the minimum abundance threshold for that population. Rock Creek has more uncertainty; fish are in the system, but we are getting out-of-basin fish present. Don't expect any major changes in listing status but we now have more information.

Whitney shared the recent 2020 State of Salmon in Watersheds Report from the Governor's Salmon Recovery Office, which highlights how different salmonid species are doing in relation to their federal recovery goals. The need for salmon habitat restoration and protection is still pressing. Continued investment in freshwater projects is really important because salmon are experiencing high mortality in the marine environment. Freshwater projects contribute to more and healthier juvenile salmon, which in turn increases the likelihood of marine survival.

- **2022 Grant Round Changes – Targeted Investment Policy** – Whitney shared updates on the SRFB's recently adopted Targeted Investment Policy, which is intended to fund high impact, expensive projects addressing different SRFB-established priority areas (e.g. species close to recovery, species at critical risk of extinction). Each region is only allowed to submit one project, so any Klickitat LE project would have to be submitted via the regional process. The CRC discussed different projects that might be good candidates for this funding, including restoration of Snyder Creek where it flows through the old Klickitat Mill site, restoration of fish access to Pine Creek, and restoring fish passage on Spring Creek following the current design phase. Whitney is in communication with the Lower and Mid-Columbia boards to better understand their application process. We should know in June whether there will be a targeted investment round next year and what the priority project theme will be. Mid-C steelhead projects might be a good candidate if the SRFB elects to focus on species approaching recovery for their priority.
- **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 and other small editorial changes.

Whitney also expressed the TC's interest in having fall meetings to review the strategy and potentially refine existing project priorities. Marc and Kelly indicated they would be

interested in this process, especially once we know more about the SRFB's Targeted Investment Policy in June.

Committee Member Roundtable – None

Public Comment - None

Adjourn – A motion was made by Kelly Clothier to adjourn at 8:40 PM and the motion was seconded by Marc Harvey.

Meeting was adjourned. The next meeting will be on April 15th at 7:00 PM.



CRC Member

05/27/2021

Date