

**Klickitat County Technical Committee**  
**Online via Zoom**  
**April 1, 2021**  
**9:00 AM**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Members Present:** Joe Zendt, Tova Tillinghast, Amber Johnson, Gardner Johnston, Adrienne Grimm, Margaret Neuman, Brady Allen, Diane Hopster, Nate Ulrich, Sharon Frazey, Jill Hardiman, Loren Meagher

**CRC Members Present:** None

**Guests Present:** David Lindley

**Staff Present:** Whitney Reynier

**Call to Order:** Meeting was called to order at 9:02 A.M. Introductions were made.

**Chair-Vice Chair Elections:** Brady made a motion to appoint Joe Zendt as chair. Gardner seconded the motion. Joe accepted and was appointed Chair by consensus. Gardner made a motion to appoint Adrienne Grimm as Vice-Chair. Diane seconded the motion. Adrienne accepted and was appointed Vice-Chair by consensus.

**Handouts**

- Agenda
- 3/4/2021 TC Meeting Minutes
- 2021 SRFB Feedback to Project Sponsors
- 2021 LE Strategy Updates
- Summary of 2021 LE Strategy Changes

**Agenda Review/Approval** – The agenda was accepted as written.

**Minutes Review/Approval** – Tova submitted written edits to add a link to UCD's recorded river restoration webinar under the Committee Roundtable section. Minutes from 3/4/21 with these edits were approved by consensus.

## **Old Business**

***Committee Appointment Updates:*** Whitney shared that all Technical Committee (TC) and Citizens Review Committee (CRC) appointments have been finalized by the Board of County Commissioners. New members to the TC include Nate Ulrich and Sharon Frazey. Adrienne Grimm, although previously appointed to the TC, is now the primary appointee for Yakama Nation Fisheries since David Lindley has stepped down. New appointments to the CRC include Brian Beauluarier of Skookum Resource Management representing Timber and Tim Thompson representing Tribal Fishing. Whitney is working with Loren to recruit a CRC member from the Eastern Klickitat Conservation District.

***Review LE Strategy Updates:*** The TC reviewed and discussed edits made to the Lead Entity. Changes were largely editorial and addressed lingering working edits left from prior strategy revisions.

The TC discussed past difficulties with getting SRFB funding for headwater and spring restoration projects. Although these projects are generally accepted as important to improve downstream flow and temperature regulation, monitoring and documenting effectiveness is difficult, which is reflected by the lack of scientific literature. The TC agreed it is important to include headwater restoration as a prioritized action in the LE strategy even if SRFB doesn't fund these projects, as project sponsors reference the LE Strategy for other grant applications. The TC agreed to search for literature on the subject to include in the strategy, to consider adding a few paragraphs in the strategy about the benefits and constraints of headwater restoration, and to talk with the SRFB about the importance and need for funding these projects.

In reviewing edits to the Quartz Creek section of the matrix, the TC discussed a need to review in the future how actions are prioritized across different reaches in the matrix. For example, how would conservation/protection of a headwater reach be prioritized in comparison to conservation/protection in an anadromous reach. Actions like conservation/protection shouldn't be given a uniform ranking across all reaches. The TC agreed that these discussions could be part of the larger strategy review planned for Fall 2021.

The TC decided by consensus to forward the strategy edits on to the CRC for approval, but asked for Whitney to include some of the above discussion points.

Whitney shared that the CRC is supportive of doing a broader review and strategy revisit, especially once SRFB targeted investment priorities are clear. The TC agreed that late fall to early winter 2021 would be a good timeframe for tackling the review.

## **New Business**

***2021 SRFB Projects Pre-Application Presentations:***

White Salmon River Conservation Assessment – Tova presented this assessment project sponsored by the Underwood Conservation District. This project was submitted as an alternate last year but was not funded. The purpose of the project is to develop an acquisition strategy to facilitate long-term protection and conservation of 200 acres of land owned by PacificCorp along the White Salmon River upstream of Condit Dam. This planning phase is a necessary step before pursuing acquisition. The project area would include 5.4 miles of shoreline, including 2.2 miles along the White Salmon River and 0.5 miles along tributaries Mill and Buck Creeks. These lands face an uncertain future as PacificCorp could divest, as they have done on land near Mill Creek. This is a Tier A reach and habitat conservation/protection is a Tier A action. SRFB request: \$75,249.

Loren and Gardner suggested the project scope could be refined by focusing on lands most at-risk for development and using map products to rule out areas where development is unlikely due to slope, zoning, or other factors.

Nate shared his belief that the most important part of the proposal is to find an interested buyer and to invest in UCD's capacity to cultivate potential future landowners. He expressed concerns that some proposed deliverables can/would change during sale negotiations.

The TC discussed whether this reach could be included in the National Scenic Area or the Wild and Scenic Corridor of the White Salmon River. Both are unlikely.

Upper Rattlesnake Creek Conservation – Nate presented this acquisition project sponsored by the Columbia Land Trust. Rattlesnake Creek is a Tier A reach and conservation/protection is a Priority A action. Primary benefit of this project would be to steelhead, with secondary benefits to chinook and coho. SRFB funds would cover acquisition of 1.15 miles of shoreline and 83 acres of riparian habitat. The total parcel acreage is around 480,000 acres, but might be reduced to 320,000 acres if the parcel above the large falls (impassable to fish) is removed from the proposal. These parcels are owned by SDS and located within larger DNR ownership. Given the pending sale of SDS lands, this acquisition would likely be from future owners. SRFB request: \$295,500.

Lower Snyder Creek Restoration Design – Margaret and David presented this design project sponsored by Mid-Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group in partnership with Yakama Nation Fisheries. This project would develop a conceptual restoration design for the lower 1.1 miles of Snyder Creek, including the Klickitat Mill area and former log yard. There was a SRFB project in the early 2000's that provided fish passage through the site, but the creek is in a cement-lined channel with minimal riparian function. Even in its current state, Snyder Creek supports a higher percentage of outmigrating *O. mykiss* than any other Klickitat River tributary. Snyder Creek is a perennial stream; 93% of it stays wetted throughout the year. This is an opportunity to plan for restoration concurrent with other plans by the County to develop and revitalize the mill site. Involved landowners include Klickitat County, private landowners, and State Parks. Deliverables include conceptual design alternatives and identification of a preferred alternative. SRFB request: \$160,000.

Gardner noted that this project has parallels with revitalization efforts in the City of John Day. There could be significant economic development funds available for the town of Klickitat. Nate suggested that landscape architecture departments at universities might also be interested in this as a studio project.

The TC discussed whether valley toe to valley toe restoration could be included as a design option. Limitations include that there is a multi-use vision for the site to support the town's economy and the creek has to go under the highway.

*Pine Creek Fish Passage Design* – Loren presented this design project sponsored by Eastern Klickitat Conservation District. The project intends to update a conceptual design to provide fish passage at the Pine Creek mouth, which currently blocks 4.5 miles of critical habitat. Species that could benefit are steelhead, chinook and coho. There is interest from the community and from WSDOT. The project will review previous conceptual design work, conduct a site assessment including subsurface analysis, and develop a conceptual design and alternatives analysis. They would then seek funding for additional design development and construction. SRFB request: \$171,000.

Gardner suggested a bridge should be considered as a design alternative, even if it might be cost prohibitive. Joe suggested another design consideration should be to eliminate non-native piscivorous fish habitat and reduce the backwater. David noted, given the anticipated expense of the project, that there are continually questions about what the habitat looks like upstream. Yakama Nation hopes to do some monitoring in 2021.

*Rattlesnake Gulch Restoration* – Margaret and David presented this restoration project sponsored by Mid-Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group in partnership with Yakama Nation Fisheries. Rattlesnake Gulch is a tributary to Swale Creek and contributes important water and sediment. This restoration project would remove three passage barriers, including two culverts and a small dam. The two culverts are ranked as 33% passable based on the state index. The project would also improve floodplain connectivity by removing a small berm. This project would support other lower Swale Creek restoration projects underway by Yakama Nation by connecting additional off-channel tributary habitat. The project was submitted for funding last year for design but was not funded. Since last year, Yakama Nation has worked with a firm to develop a conceptual level design. The most cost-effective design is to install two single span, pre-cast bridges, remove the dam, remove the berm, and add wood. SRFB request: \$110,000.

The TC discussed options to increase the streambed elevation as it is currently incised. They also discussed the timing of this project given other restoration work happening on Swale Creek, but recognized the importance of having a willing landowner.

**Funding Updates:** There is a money coming into the state as a result of COVID stimulus relief packages. Most recent SRFB draft budgets show an additional \$10-15 million for the 21-23 biennium.

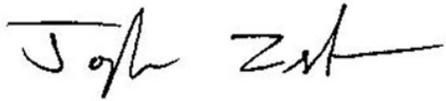
## **Committee Roundtable**

Whitney – the FBRB will have an RFP out in November. Their budget will also likely be higher than last biennium. The TC discussed whether the Spring Creek project might be fundable from this source.

Whitney – Washington’s Salmon Recovery Conference is April 28-30.

**Public Comment** – None

**Adjourn** - The next meeting will be June 10, 2021. The virtual site tour will be May 10, 2021. The meeting was adjourned at 12:06 PM.



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Joe Zendt, Chair

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Date