

Working to restore viable and sustainable populations of salmon, steelhead and other at-risk species through collaborative, economically sensitive efforts, combined resources, and wise resource management of the Upper Columbia Region.



CHELAN PROJECT RANKING MEETING NOTES
CHELAN COUNTY CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE
THURSDAY, JUNE 23, 2022 5:00-6:20 PM
CAMPBELL'S RESORT, CHELAN WA

- CAC Participants: Alan Schmidt (Acting Chair), Leah Hemberry, Matt Collins, Bruce Merighi (remote), Jim Johnson (remote)
- UCSRB Staff: Melody Kreimes, Tracy Bowerman, Dave Hecker

Alan Schmidt, acting Chelan CAC Chair, convened the meeting at 5:10 pm.

Chair Schmidt welcomed everyone, and introductions were made. The CAC ranking process was reviewed.

The total amount of funding available for this grant round was reviewed. Melody and Tracy noted for the group that any unspent part of the annual \$2,062,000 would not rollover to next year's grant, however any amount of the new funding of \$2,424,352 could be allocated to projects this year and any remaining from the \$2,424,352 would rollover to the 2023 grant round. Prior to the ranking meeting the RCO confirmed that the CAC may label projects as "does not qualify for a funding recommendation" if it chooses to do so. CAC by-laws were reviewed, in particular, the conflict-of-interest policy. Chair Schmidt asked CAC members to declare if they had a conflict of interest with any project, none were declared.

Prior to the meeting, individual CAC members had scored and ranked the projects and submitted those to Dave. Tracy then reviewed the spreadsheet showing each CAC members average scores and ranks for each project, as well as the standard deviation among scores. The RTT scores were also displayed. One CAC member misunderstood the scoring process and did not score three of the projects—the two in the Entiat and the Upper Wenatchee acquisition. This was discussed and it was agreed those cells would remain blank (not listing a zero) so as not to skew the averages. This committee member requested to re-rank his projects, and those ranks were entered directly into the ranked list.

The group reviewed their project rankings as shown on the screen. The group also compared their ranks with the RTT scores and noted that there was good agreement--the six top-ranked projects all received RTT scores in the high 60s and 70s, and the five lower ranked projects received RTT scores <62.

Based on combined Citizen ranks, the initial project order was:

Goodwin Side Channel Design	1
Restore Lower Peshastin Creek	2
Entiat Tributary Baseflow and Habitat Restoration	3
Lower Chiwawa AU, Area D - Preliminary Design	4
Goose Creek Watershed Restoration	5
Upper Wenatchee Acquisition	6
Peshastin RM 4.3 Side Channel - Implementation	7
Entiat 4.6 (1D Reach) Preliminary Design	8
Upper Peshastin Stream and Road Restoration	9
Upper Wenatchee RM 40.5-41.5 Concept Design	10
Peshastin RM 3.2-3.8 Design	11

The list was then sorted by **ranked average**, per request of the CAC, which yielded an almost identical outcome to ranking by score (with the exception of two projects which would change positions if ranked by average score, rather than average rank). There was clear support among all CAC members for the top five projects (these projects were ranked in the top 6 by all members).

CAC members then began discussing the ranked project list, as follows:

A CAC member wanted to ensure the “Peshastin RM 4.3 Side Channel – Implementation” remained above the funding line, because there is so little opportunity to do habitat in the lower Peshastin given the highway location. Another CAC member noted there is one vacation rental along this reach and wondered how easy it would be to get landowner support for construction. Given the varying opinions and concerns expressed by RTT and CAC about stranding, the CAC member that initiated discussion about “Peshastin RM 4.3 Side Channel – Implementation” wanted to ensure the CAC did fund this project. The RTT comments on this project were reviewed and discussed by CAC members. A CAC member echoed the concerns voiced by some RTT members that this project could result in stranding but given the limited habitat available in Peshastin Creek, also understood that the hope of the project was that there would be a greater benefit provided by adding rearing habitat than the detriment of stranding. The project would benefit if the sponsor could demonstrate that the benefit of additional habitat outweighed the risk of stranding.

A CAC member separately posed the question of how challenging it would be to get the multiple landowners on board with the “Entiat 4.6 project (1-D) Preliminary Design”.

A CAC member raised concerns about “Peshastin RM 3.2 – 3.8 Design” project as this is a high recreation area which could reduce the effectiveness. Sponsors might be limited in what they could accomplish in this reach.

A CAC member had some concerns about the “Upper Peshastin Stream and Road Restoration” project as there are many remote property owners and mining lessees that might not support the project or road decommissioning.

Concerns were brought up by a member about “Upper Wenatchee RM 40.5 – 41.5 Conceptual Design” project such that if it was more than only a design project, they (individually) would not support funding it. The member noted access is a significant issue for this project and there was lack of clarity about whether the project could address the temperature issues in the reach and the lack of good off-channel habitat.

The same member also had concerns about the “Goose Creek Watershed Restoration” project. The cost seemed disproportionate for benefit in such a small stream and replacing the upper culvert just for one landowner seemed superfluous. But these concerns were not so great that he would object to funding the projects they (individually) voiced concern about.

A CAC member commented that there weren’t any projects on the list that they (individually) would want to label as “does not qualify for a funding recommendation.” A separate member agreed, while another member was less certain and thought it was worth discussing in more detail.

The member that desired to further discuss the “does not qualify for funding recommendation” status commented that “Peshastin RM 4.3 Side Channel – Implementation” was one project this member may want to label as “does not qualify...” due to the uncertainty about the potential to strand ESA listed fish. A member who was unable to attend, did relay concerns to UCSRB staff in advance of the ranking meeting about this project and their perspective that they may support using the “does not qualify for funding recommendation” status (UCSRB staff directed this member to relay their concerns and thoughts to Chair Schmidt, which they did).

Chair Schmidt asked the group if anyone wanted to label a project as “does not qualify for funding recommendation.” No CAC member wished to label any project accordingly.

UCSRB staff reviewed the process for CAC members to make a motion to move any project up or down on the list. Chair Schmidt then asked the group if anyone had any motions to move projects up or down.

Since “Peshastin RM 4.3 Side Channel – Implementation” was such a high ask (total cost), and the total amount of funding exceeded this year’s total project ask, one member did not want to move this project up or down and was confident it would receive funding, especially given that BPA declined to fund this project.

No motions were made to move any projects up or down and the ranked list was left as is, based on the CAC ranks submitted to UCSRB.

Final Chelan CAC Ranked List:

Goodwin Side Channel Design	1
Restore Lower Peshastin Creek	2
Entiat Tributary Baseflow and Habitat Restoration	3
Lower Chiwawa AU, Area D - Preliminary Design	4

Goose Creek Watershed Restoration	5
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There was no further discussion, and all agreed to approve the final project list.

The Chelan CAC adjourned at 6:25 pm.