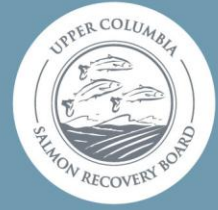


Working to restore viable and sustainable populations of salmon, steelhead and other at-risk species through collaborative, economically sensitive efforts, combined resources, and wise resource management of the Upper Columbia Region.



PRESENTATIONS TO THE OKANOGAN COUNTY CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

June 18, 2024
TwispWorks, Twisp, WA

Attendance:

UCSRB: Ariel Edwards, Gabby Vermeire, Ryan Niemeyer

CAC: Bob M. (remote), Gert. W., Louis S., Larry H., Will K. (NOT PRESENT: Craig N., Sam I.)

RTT: John Crandall

Sponsors: Allie Paris – Trout Unlimited, Kristen Kirkby – Cascade Fisheries, Camden Shaw – MSRF, Grace Watson – MSRF, Jessica Goldberg – MSRF (not a presenter), Bryan – MSRF (not a presenter)

General CAC Business (*capture key discussion points*):

- Review & Approve By-Laws & Conflict of Interest Policy
 - Ariel described the updates to the bylaws. Bob further described the updates made.
 - Louis made a motion to approve the by-laws and conflict of interest policy.
 - Larry seconded.
 - The vote was passed unanimously, including Bob M. who voted remotely.
- Review CAC Scoring Criteria
 - Ariel reviewed the scoring criteria. There were no comments.
 - Ariel reminded the group to get her their scores by noon on Thursday.
- Review 2024 Process/Timeline
 - Ariel reviewed the timeline including the CAC Okanogan meeting as well as the joint meeting.
 - UCSRB staff will send out meeting notes the following Monday for the CAC members to approve.
- Chair Election
 - Bob communicated he has enjoyed being the chair but wanted to pass off the chairmanship. He nominated Will to be the chair.
 - Louis seconded the nomination.
 - The CAC members in attendance voted unanimously to elect Will to be CAC Okanogan chair starting next year.
- Discussion about conflict of interest from Louis and the Methow Riparian Restoration M23R

- The group agreed, since Louis has nothing to gain financially, and he does not meeting the other conflict of interest. The group unanimously agreed that Louis does not have a conflict of interest.

Q&A with RTT member:

- John Crandall shared a bit about some of the projects. He mentioned the Goat and Eight Mile Creek is a new slant on riparian restoration. This project could be a good model as an alternate approach to grazing.
- John discussed how the Goat Creek floodplain reconnection will reconnect a lot of floodplain
- John mentioned the Riparian restoration at M23R is a part of a larger project to add large wood and will provide riparian shading.
- John discussed how Riparian Restoration at Twisp Ponds is a great site and this project and the Habitat Connectivity Improvement at Twisp Ponds are really one project split off into two. The Habitat Connectivity part will help reduce mortality.
- The group additionally discussed the Goat and Eight Mile Creek project, how it will help grazers to customize how they graze. John specifically mentioned on August 31st these cows are not supposed to be grazing in certain areas with Bull Trout habitat, and this technology will allow that to happen.

Goat and Eight Mile Creek Riparian Protection – Alli Pardis, TU

- Q: Will – any baseline from before – what the livestock hoof sheer was on the stream – so you could say you decreased hoof sheer by 500 feet (for example).
 - A: USFS has their “MIMS” program which monitors forest health, so that may recover.
- Q: Will – who is the forest service range con?
 - A: Colby, been here 2 years
- Q: Larry – site tour someone mentioned widening the buffer out beyond 50 feet.
 - A: Allie said they work with the IDT team to expand the buffer in sensitive areas. 50 feet is the minimum. The USFS does have a minimum cows per acre as well.
- Q: Louis – the fence has already been implemented – how is it going?
 - A: The organizations from the fees in the past have not required anything from the permittee, but TU will require the permittee to stay out of the stream and buffer zone. The ranchers love it. The program has been effective. They have not had any predation loss.
- Q: Louis – are you going to monitor where they go or check up on them?
 - A: Allie described how there is an app. They will give Allie a login to the app to be able to ensure compliance.
- Q: Will – are there wolves in this area? There can be a financial loss if the cows are breeding because of the wolves
 - A: There has not been documented predation loss from cows. They are hoping to maybe implement this in the Loup Loup area

Methow at Goat Creek Floodplain Reconnection – Kristen Kirkby, CF

- Q: Louis – is the project going to add a lot of crossings?
 - A: The crossings already exist when flow is high. They are considering things like putting out signs. Methow Trails is less inclined to put in bridges, but these are often un-engineered. But this project would be built for conditions.
- Q: Will – what would large woody debris recruitment be like?
 - A: Up above lost river there are more potential for natural recruitment. Also, the homeowner is working with Sam Israel to do some thinning in the area, potentially use those wood for the project.

Riparian Restoration at M23R - Camden Shaw, MSRF

- Q: How deep is the water (at the 2.4 acre property)?
 - A: 7 feet down.
- Q: Are the planted trees irrigated?
 - A: Yes for 3 years. Typically you need to irrigate for 3 to 5 years.
- Q: Will – has there been any planting success for farming on that land?>
 - A: Soil is too sandy.

Riparian Restoration at Twisp Ponds – Grace Watson, MSRF

- Q: Where does the fill come from?
 - A: Grace - A little bit from the pond dredge. But also from other project sites.
 - A: Bryan – multiple projects we are doing in the next couple years that have a net cut. Permitting agencies want the sediment to stay in the river system. This will provide a win-win.
- Q: Are you monitoring the small culverts or the intakes
 - A: Will discuss in the next project presentation
- Q: Louis commented that it is usually expensive to add fill
 - A: Grace re-iterated the fill was not all the way to the road.
 - A: Jessica Goldberg mentioned that the Twisp Ponds has benefited from three separate acquisition projects funded through this project. One of the earliest projects was to purchase the downstream portion of this project in 2005. These projects are building on successful previous projects.

Habitat Connectivity Improvement at Twisp Ponds – Grace Watson, MSRF

- Q: If the secondary channel you put in activates, how will you know if the primary channel is plugged?
 - A: It will give us leeway. So if one clogs, the other one may not. Grace said they will continue to monitor the site manually.
- Q: Issues with beavers?
 - A: Beavers do not cause as much problems in the channels. It can be a cause of clogging the culverts, but we see the benefit in holding back the water.
 - A: Jessica Goldberg highlighted the match from the tributary committee.

Closing reminders:

- Ariel highlighted that she had sent the RTT scores and will re-send the RTT scores.
- CAC scoring deadlines – email to Ariel by noon on 6/20
 - A picture is fine. If it doesn't work, bring to the firehouse and we can input before the meeting.
- Joint CAC Meeting – 6/20 Chelan, WA (5-8pm)
 - CAC while scoring does not need to worry about which funding pool. CAC members score and rank each project regardless of the funding source. UCSRB staff will separate out the project into General SRFB grant round and the Riparian grant round.
 - Any money not spent in the riparian will roll over. However the general SRFB funds will not roll over.
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Public Comment:

- No public comments
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