

January 6, 2010
ENTIAT WATERSHED PLANNING UNIT MEETING MINUTES
Entiat Grange Hall, Entiat, WA

Meeting Attendance: See Attendance List (**Attachment #1**)
See detailed Agenda (**Attachment #2**)
Facilitator / Watershed Coordinator: Mike Rickel
Notes: Heather Java & Nada Wentz

Welcome / Introductions

Mike R: Does anyone have any comments or edits on the October meeting minutes?
Hearing nothing, meeting minutes are finalized.

New Business

- Information from Chelan-Douglas Land Trust, Re: Taxes
- Phil Archibald's retirement, any ideas for gifts to recognize Phil's contribution?

New Business 1

Mike R.: Mickey Fleming is here from the Chelan-Douglas Land Trust. Mike requested that Mickey explain the tax breakdown for properties the land trust obtains.

Mickey F.: Questions were raised at the July meeting about the properties Chelan-Douglas Land Trust owns with SRFB / Trib funds. The questions were about taxes paid on those properties.

The Land Trust is a non-profit entity and is not required to pay taxes, but that is not the approach we have. We have, however, applied for the Public Rating System which is available to any landowner in Chelan County. We applied for that benefit for 3 out of 12 of the properties, with no reduction in taxes for 2009. There are 65 acres newly acquired in addition to the 407 ½ acres already owned by the Land Trust.

Mike R.: For clarification, by and large the majority (90 acres) is still at 50% and the Land Trust could have asked for more but didn't.

Keith Vradenburg: Is the Tye Ranch included in the 90 acres?

Mickey F.: We are looking to do a conservation easement at the Tye Ranch. The property closest to the river would remain undeveloped for habitat. The family would retain rights to the upland portion of the property.

Mike R.: Thank you for the follow up point.

Mickey F.: We are trying to get a balance between helping the community with tax monies, with grants, and with other funding.

New Business 2

Mike R.: A retirement for Phil Archibald and others will be held at the Entiat Grange Hall, next Wednesday. The Planning Unit would like to do something to acknowledge his efforts and support. Suggestions have been bird watching equipment and fishing equipment.

Emily J.: Fishing reels, a selection of flies?

Karen W.: He has supported Columbia Breaks Fire Interpretive Center. Columbia Breaks has a fund raiser of purchasing property/plots, costing about \$25 - \$50 a plot.

Mike R.: We will pass a hat and move forward with purchasing plot(s) from Columbia Breaks and a selection of flies.

After reading through the Agenda, Mike asked if there were any edits or additions to it. Hearing none, the move was made to accept the agenda and move on to the Water Resources portion of the meeting.

Water Resources

- **Status of Ecology's Watershed Planning Budget**

Dave Holland: The current budget with the state has some dramatic cutbacks. The Department of Ecology (DOE) has to plan according to the Governor's proposed budget. The Fiscal Year begins July 1st, and there are no watershed funds available as of that time. There is some money in the account to close out that portion.

No money needs to be returned for Fiscal Year (FY) 2010. FY 11 projects will not have funds. Grants are to be written to that effect.

Mike R.: We were only eligible for FY 10 anyway.

Dave H.: The Phase 4 money was planned early. EWPU and a couple others were only ones that could use up the money. It will be FY 12 before we know if any funding is available at that time. That is what DOE is planning for.

The Legislature may come up with proposals, so we will not know the final budget outcome until March. Some planning units have gotten involved with legislature to restore some of the funding.

Capital Grant is another grant still available and can be used for this biennium.

Mike R.: Landowners changing from surface to wells is considered Capital?

Dave H.: Yes. Those funds are still active and in effect.

Mike R.: Good. We have made a commitment to the landowners and we will be able to honor it since those funds do not look to be in jeopardy.

Dave H.: That is long term.

Mike R.: What about the Admin Support funds?

Dave H.: That is part of the Capital funds, so it is okay. It could be re-arranged and money amount lessened.

Derek Van Marter: How does that affect the EWPU?

Dave H.: Be aware that gages in the Entiat and Wenatchee rivers are all in jeopardy of no more funding as of July 1. DOE can fund some gages, but there will be a major reduction from the current amount. They are doing a statewide study of what gages are to be pulled. I asked them to let me know which gages those will be.

Derek V.: It is counterproductive for water quality to pull the gages. Can you fill in?

Dave H.: There are big concerns over that. I will let you know as soon as I find out which ones will be maintained.

Mike R.: I found it interesting that gages are mixed in to the watershed money.

Karin Whitehall: Is there any funding available for processing the point of diversion with those monies?

Mike R.: It is faster to do the paperwork for that, than to process the application.

Dave H.: Our abilities to process have been slowed way down because of the cuts.

Mike R.: The question you are asking is what is the turn around to be able to use the well? My understanding is that as long as it is on file, you are able to use the well.

Karin W.: Is there some way to make the funding application process faster?

Mike R.: The application process for funding is something to check into.

- [Entiat Basin Gage Efforts and Contract with USGS](#)

Mike R.: USGS folks were contacted about maintaining the gages at Mad River for \$2500. We have funding for the first year. We are working on funding for future years and including Ardenvoir and other places.

Dave H.: It is hard to say at this point. I hope to have a high enough priority to keep some of them. The discussion with DOE to consider keeping gages with outside funding did occur. DOE may not have full time equivalent people (fte) to keep things going.

Mike R.: We have the staff to do it.

Dave H.: I think things can work out if the Planning Unit wants to pursue it.

Mike R.: Look for follow up on this.

Dave H.: There will not be a watershed lead from DOE for a while. Budget cuts have cut my position, so I will be working in a different department.

Habitat

- Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board Update
Update on SRFB/Trib Fund proposal status for 2009
Update on regional project and funding coordination

Derek V.: The Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) and the Tributary Committee (Trib) have combined the funds. SRFB allots money to the Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board (UCSRB) of about \$1.59 million. We asked the Board in Olympia to support this and they agreed. The Trib has a final meeting on January 14th. If all goes well for the final list approval, these 13 projects will move forward. The 2009 Salmon Recovery Funding report is on their website. Thank you to the members of the EWPU for your support with the work.

Each watershed action team is engaged with project funding coordination. Habitat subcommittee is part of that team. There is a certain pot of money, about 20 million. The team is matching up priorities and needs with available funding. Each watershed action team is re-prioritizing what is needed. Updates will be brought to you as they happen. A question is: how do we make sure the IMW works with the 3 year plans?

The yearend meeting was December 13th, with nothing major to report. The Annual meeting in WA DC will be in March, so there will be an update at the April EWPU meeting. UCSRB continues to be held up as a beacon of light, thanks to all involved on the ground.

Hal Hawley: Is the SRFB part of federal and state funding? Do we stand a chance of being shot out of the water?

Derek V.: The State legislature continues to be reduced dramatically, but remain stagnant. The House suggested 50 million. Administration has seen the importance and hope to continue. Keep telling them the success stories. NOAA Fisheries did not accept stimulus funding. If the government goes to national funding instead of local, we could stand to lose a lot of funding.

- Project Status Summary

Mike R.: We are on target for completing the Below the Keystone project. The bidding process for pump installation and hookups will start soon.

Piping was the last portion to complete for the Knapp-Wham Hanan-Detwiler project. Is there anything that the contractors need to address?

Hal H.: Above the Keystone Diversion, how much is coming off the surface water? Is it more or less than the Keystone? If we are taking a lot, then the Entiat will be empty by August.

Mike R.: Gains Ditch, BOR funding surface to wells, and MacKenzie are to do likewise. The third idea is the PUD canal conversion. These three are the main diversions that are in place. Two actively addressing and the PUD is a little farther out.

Derek V.: What is the amount of water to be gained?

Mike R.: Gains Ditch gains 1 cfs, MacKenzie gains 3 cfs, and PUD is about 3 cfs. We are working to continue instream water. Is there any other discussion?

Bob Whitehall: What is the status of the PUD Canal?

Mike R.: We are doing a test well downstream. We are concerned that we will not be able to provide enough water for downstream users from the Milnes, and we are considering back up plans. The SRFB is still considering funding. The Milne well will be the make or break project.

Jon Small: They are drilling now.

Mike R.: When did they get started on that?

Jon S.: About a month ago.

Karin W.: Who is drilling?

Mike R.: A contractor to the PUD which I believe is from the Ellensburg area, but I do not recall the name.

- ISEMP –
Entiat IMW Update
Attachment 3 - Restoration & Monitoring Brochure

Heather: Due to conflicting schedules and limited needs to meet the IMW decided not to meet in January. The group is getting ready to work on the 3 year work plan in order to coordinate on the funding needs for the various restoration efforts in the region. I will pass on the recommendations to Derek and the Entiat Habitat Subcommittee. We are also working with the landowners of the Tyee Ranch area and will have a meeting with them later this month to begin discussing possible river restoration alternatives for that area of the river and the needs they have for the property so that the restoration alternatives are developed accordingly.

Landowner Steering Committee

- Update on November Meeting to Identify Issues
Summary of Meeting with Rollie Schmitten

Mike R.: The Landowner Steering Committee met in late October, after the EWPU October meeting. The Steering Committee focused on water quantity and fish restoration efforts. In addition, the group focused on the point made by Ray about the need to consider tracking other items identified by the group as important (wildlife was the example Ray offered). Better tracking wildlife issues (and issues identified as important by the group when they first began the Coordinated Resource Management effort) and better engagement of other landowners was what the committee wanted to pursue. Wally Schmitten was identified as the person to speak with given his experience and could give us direction as to how to move forward. One item identified as a way to re-engage Entiat landowners was a survey. A survey will be sent out to all landowners to fill out and it will be based on the feedback received in 1994 to a survey when the CRM first started. Maybe there are some new landowners with new interests. A handout of the rough draft was provided and feedback was requested to help engage landowners.

The meeting with Rollie was in the middle of December. Ray Sandidge provided his example. There is a need to identify a contact person with the various agencies when landowners have concerns such as cougar problems. The goal is to get some respectful answers for these problems.

Bob W.: We need to run wildlife issues through a director. Rollie went to the deputy director and agreed to look into developing an advisory committee similar to the regional fish advisory committee. We should have a wildlife committee.

Mike R.: Will this group vote for someone to act on that advisory committee?

Keith V.: Entiat, Methow, Chelan and Wenatchee should meet.

Hal H.: Should we nominate Bob?

Keith V.: They will give us an idea of how many need to be involved.

Bob W.: We should have something going on with this advisory committee by the end of January. I will get together with Rollie.

Mike R.: The impression I got from Rollie was that we would go through the EWPU. It would be good to have a recommendation from the EWPU.

Draft Entiat Landowner Survey (D)
Attachment 4 - Community Assessment Survey

Mike R.: Have folks had a chance to review the survey? We don't need to have all the comments right now. We do need them by the end of January. We typically get better response to surveys when they are sent out in the winter months when not much is going on. I'm offering to take comments for the next 10 days, so please provide any comments by January 15th. We will send out an electronic version to the EWPU and mail out to the landowners via the Entiat Leader in late January.

Are there any comments about rearranging the order in the survey? Should there be multiple choice questions? Human rights and animal rights should be included and we are wondering how best to do that.

Heather J.: A lot of questions were pulled from the original survey. Are there any that should be removed from the survey?

Mike R.: Are folks interested still including fisheries?

Keith V.: It is good to include property rights, farm rights, and agriculture rights. People have gotten in trouble for pulling trees out of the river and putting them in the river. So human rights is good.

Mike R.: Maybe give some examples of human rights.

Heather J.: We're looking for ways to fill this out privately. Where should folks go to drop off the surveys? How about Ardenvoir City Hall?

Mike R.: We will take comments until the 15th. Please take with you and email, call, or mail it in. We want to reflect the Planning Unit's input.

Is there any objection to finalizing the proposed Entiat Landowner Survey and mailing out? *(no objections)*

- Review Outreach Materials
 - IMW Brochure
 - Previous Entiat Leader Inserts & Request for Article Ideas

Attachment 5 - Entiat Leader Insert

Heather J.: Regarding the IMW Brochure - Some comments have been to combine a couple of pages and put more history about the landowners and the EWPU group. I'm looking forward to hearing comments from folks about what needs to be included. The landowners are not comfortable with government run projects. We want folks to know the landowners are the movers in this project.

Mike R.: What is the send out date?

Heather J.: February.

Derek V.: We had some of that information in the Annual Report. Maybe just have some handouts for people?

Heather J.: To add to that, we want to highlight what areas of river will be worked on and when. That way the landowners know where and what work is going on, and help.

Mike R.: Maybe some focused mailings, including the Yakama Nations effort in Reach 3d.

Jon S.: It is pretty typical to create a problem so that there needs to be a solution. Maybe word that differently.

Keith V.: The more we communicate, the better we will do.

Heather J.: Leader inserts every other month, which most of you have seen already. What are the word of mouth comments? Any ideas for the February insert?

Mike R.: Local requests have been for the ability to have better engagement with Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Hal H.: Put it in as 2014 – so much water diverted and so much more for fish and the community.

Heather J.: Information on riparian plant sale for the community to get involved with. I'll work on article developing ideas.

Karin W.: A laundry list of projects being done, how much is done, and what is left to do.

Jon S.: How much difference is there between this and the annual report?

Heather J.: Not that different.

Derek V.: An article of introduction to Heather and what she does could be included.

Heather J.: We did that in the first article.

Derek V.: It would be good to have a picture for recognition with who to talk to in the next article.

Karin W.: We didn't get the insert in the December issue.

Heather J.: Maybe I should check the due date for turning in articles.

Karin W.: Colored inserts always get attention.

Mike R.: we will follow up with the landowners that got their inserts, and those that didn't.

- EWPU Logo Design (D)
Attachment 6 - EWPU Logo Designs

Heather J.: The last insert talked about the new EWPU logo. The first insert asked for logo ideas. No ideas came back. We worked with a designer to develop a logo to give the insert a face. Which logos do you like from these samples?

Derek V.: I like number 3.

Heather J.: These were copied several times, so they are not as crisp as the original. We could tweak the colors a little.

Don Olin: I like number 5, in color. I like the blue water. Could the sheep be changed to a deer?

Mike R.: Are green, white and pewter the colors you want?

Hal H.: If you move the blue down from number 3, and put in a deer instead of the sheep, I'd like that one.

Karin W.: The mountains need to be steeper.

Heather J.: We could have the designer make a new mock up, and bring it to the next meeting.

Karin W.: Could we go to blue?

Mike R.: We have good directions. We will bring back the two ideas for the next meeting. Depending on the designer, we could potentially go out by the end of the month with the survey. If it is not doable, we will bring it to the next EWPU meeting.

Is there any objection to finalizing the proposed EWPU Logo design? *(We are not quite ready for passing the decision. We will wait for the next mock up design.)*

Fisheries Update

- Status of Letter to WDFW
Attachment 7 - Dec. 14, 2009 Entiat River Steelhead Fishery Ltr.

Mike R.: A letter has been written by the Landowner Steering Committee. Bob is trying to get signatures for the letter to WDFW.

Bob W.: We have about 100 signatures.

Mike R.: When should we mail it in?

Bob W.: We wanted to get a response from a couple more places before sending it in.

Mike R.: The intent was to reflect local sentiment. It is appropriate to do this.

Bob W.: We are working on fishing rules for the upper river. The lower part of the river would be catch and release only.

Mike R.: What would the season be?

Bob W.: Bull trout return time, something like the Methow does. We are changing our hatchery over; spawning grounds for natural and extra fish are coming. We need to have places to spawn.

Mike R.: Will they stay?

Bob W.: We have steelhead that go everywhere. It is hard to say. It will take two more years on water in the lower end to know what will happen. We are able to pick up the pit tag fish now, and just getting the science down to know what is happening.

Mike R.: Do you think steelhead stray more than Chinook?

Bob W.: There may be money available through WDFW to provide spawning habitat.

Derek V.: The letter is excellent. Is there a way to quantify some of the profits for businesses with the additional fishing? There is good language, but providing some information for proof would help too.

Bob W.: Right now, WDFW is doing the monitoring. Angling hours, there are quite a few angling hours on the Entiat. It is benefitting the area.

Derek V.: Please send a copy of the letter to me. I'll see that the Board gets a copy too.

Mike R.: I will get it sent to you as well. It would be good to talk to a couple of stores to get a rough idea of their benefits.

Bob W.: We could include fishing hours.

Mike R.: I'd be willing to help edit this based on the feedback for fishing hours.

Bob W.: Who else should get a copy?

Derek V.: NOAA, Chris Petersen and her boss.

Mike R.: Any other comments or discussion?

Craig Eaton: The fish guy across the room. Are there any more maps of fishing areas?

Mike R.: We had input from the PUD and the landowners for language. I apologize that you didn't get a copy. By the time the final copy was finished, the fishing was closed. I will make sure you get the copy.

Update on Possible Realignment of State Natural Resource Agencies

- Review EWPU Recommendations & letter to Governor Gregoire
Attachment 8 - Oct. 27, 2009 Governor Gregoire Ltr.

Mike R.: A copy of the letter sent on behalf of the Planning Unit is being passed around. It took a couple of pages to say what a couple of sentences could have said, but the main idea is requesting the Governor not take away the ability of the community to provide input on how to manage natural resources.

Derek V.: The sense is that there will not be a radical restructuring, just some agency shifting. Complete restructuring would be very costly. They are not making recommendations to restructure right now.

Mike R.: That is my sense as well. The message to convey is "please don't reorganize" at the expense of areas where things are working well currently.

Derek V.: They are making sure of efficiency sharing right now. Restructuring is not moving forward at this time. We are losing ground in resources now. The report has gone to the legislature. The final budget will reflect what their decisions will be. They may do the easy things, like boundaries. It is still a relevant issue to track. The budget issues are uncertain.

Mike R.: Are there any additional discussions or comments?

Derek V.: Did you get a response from the Governor?

Mike R.: No.

- Status Update

Mike R.: The next planning unit meeting is April 7th. You will see a couple of things electronically within the next month. The updated survey will be sent out the week of the 18th and mailed out on the 25th. Please fill out the meeting evaluation before you leave today.

We will pass around the hat for Phil's retirement gift.

Are there any more comments or discussion that was not met at the meeting?

Jon S.: Ray Sandidge was hospitalized with a mild stroke yesterday.

Mike R.: We will send a 'get well' card to him today. Thank you for sharing Jon.

The meeting adjourned at 11:08 a.m.

List of Attachments

Attachment

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