



Marshall Creek Advisory Work Group

12/18/2023

Location/Time of Meeting: Spokane Conservation District (SCD)

4422 E 8th Ave. Spokane Valley, WA

5:00 PM – 6:30 PM, 12/18/2023

Attendees: Walt Edelen(SCD), Heather Nelson, Rick Petersen, Tom Stralser, Robin Holt, Matt Fisher(ECY), Randy Baker(SCD), Bruce Kincaid(CDA Tribe), Gale Fowler, Lunell Haught, Rich Baden, Kile Westerman(WDFW), Eric Allen(SCD), Jacob Taylor(SCD)

5:03PM: The meeting was brought to order on 12/18/2023 at 5:03PM. Introductions were made.

5:13PM: An agenda was available, distributed, and discussed.

5:17PM: A handout regarding ground rules was distributed and discussed. Of note, media outreach shall be made with consent of the whole group and not individual members, each participating entity and landowner shall get only one vote when voting is needed, and meetings are subject to the Open Public Meeting Act.

5:28PM: A rough feasibility outline was presented to attendees prior to the meeting as “homework.” Questions for expectations of a feasibility study were brought to the group and a roundtable discussion followed. Below are the highlighted points from the input provided by the work group members.

1. What does success entail as we reach the final stage?

- That all entities involved accept the plan.
- Cooperation from all involved.
- Flow that reaches the confluence with Hangman.
- Fish passage.
- A maintenance and monitoring plan.
- Senior water rights honored.
- The plan needs to be comprehensive and include all tributaries.
- A near-full understanding of where the water is going and what can be expected from restoration.
- Water temperature improvements.
- The wetland habitat function of the “lake” is maintained.
- Vegetative impediments are managed.

2. What are your 3-4 goals of the study?

- Community engagement and education.
- Establish a historical baseline and possibly identify relic channels within the “lake.”
- Identify the cause(s) of instream flow loss.
- Identify more than one action that can be taken to improve flow.
- Establish estimates of costs for all options.

- Identify immediate and low-cost actions that can be taken.
- Create a timeline.
- Identify what flow rate is acceptable at the confluence.
- Identify the contributions made by aquatic vegetation to flow impediment and transpiration.
- Quantify evaporation loss from “lake.”
- Establish whether restoration efforts will truly restore flow or if the water is no longer available in the system.

6:00-6:07PM: Short break before returning for third question.

3. What could stop us from achieving those goals?

- Lack of landowner and entity cooperation, railroad included.
- Lack of financing.
- Failure to enforce water rights.
- Failure to act within a timely manner.
- Restoration action permitting issues.
- Failure to produce tangible results or the possibility of restoration options not being viable.
- Potential of cultural resources discoveries.
- Continued illegal use or diversion of water within the watershed.
- Long-term solutions take too long to realize results.
- Hydrological assessments are inadequate for properly evaluating conditions.

6:22PM: The feasibility outline provided by Morrison and Maierle was reviewed. Lack of a timeline and cost estimates in the outline were discussed.

6:34PM: Next meeting was set for Monday, January 8th at 5:00PM at SCD.

Homework: Understand Open Public Meeting Act. Walt will send out a short video for all members to review. Work with consultants on an updated feasibility study outline. Make minutes available. Establish agenda for next meeting.

Minutes submitted by Randy Baker (SCD)

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