

**Clark Fork Settlement Agreement
Management Committee Meeting Minutes
March 17, 2021
Virtual Meeting
8:30 a.m. (PDT)**

Management Committee Representatives in Attendance

Avista: Nate Hall
Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes: Les Evarts
Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (Idaho DEQ): Kristen Lowell (alternate)
Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG): Chip Corsi
Kalispel Tribe: Joe Maroney
Lake Pend Oreille Idaho Club: Ryan Roslak
Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks (MFWP): Mike Hensler (alternate)
Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation: Valerie Kurth
Montana Department of Environmental Quality (Montana DEQ): Keenan Storrar
Montana State Historic Preservation Office: Jessica Bush
Noxon Cabinet Shoreline Coalition: Rick Robinson
Rock Creek Alliance: Diane Williams
Sanders County Commissioner: Tony Cox
United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS): Kevin Aceituno (alternate)
United States Forest Service, Cabinet Ranger District (USFS): Michael Feiger

Other Attendees:

Avista–Shana Bernall, Heide Evans, Annie Gannon, Bruce Howard, Paul Kusnierz, Sean Moran, Eric Oldenburg, Arthur Potts, Drew Ransom, and Lisa Vollertsen; Avista Grant Writer–Susan Drumheller and Ruth Watkins; IDFG–Matt Corsi and Ken Bouwens; Kaniksu Land Trust–Regan Plumb; Lower Clark Fork Watershed Group–Brita Olson; MFWP–Jason Blakney and Travis Rehm; USFS–Chris Rossel (departed at 11:05 a.m.); USFWS–Cara Christofferson and Ryan Bart

Welcome and Roll Call

Nate Hall welcomed those in attendance to the 54th meeting. The purpose of today’s meeting is to review and approve the 2020 Annual Report budget sheet and 2021 Annual Implementation Plans (AIPs). A quorum was recognized. Hall reviewed housekeeping items.

Hall explained the meeting etiquette, formal decision-making process, and the 30-minute rule. The Management Committee (MC) will be approving several AIPs and the group strives to seek consensus approval. If a vote is needed the procedures will be reviewed at that time. The language for the approval of AIPs will be displayed on the screen for all MC members to view prior to and during decision making. Hall noted that the approval process would be slightly different due to conducting the meeting virtually in that instead of asking for approval from each MC member, he would instead ask if there are any objections. Hearing no objections, the item will be considered approved by consensus.

Final Agenda Review and Approval

Hall reviewed the meeting agenda and reminded members that several informational packets were sent out prior to this meeting. There were no additions or changes to the meeting agenda.

FERC Action Summary

Hall explained that Paragraph 30 of the Clark Fork Settlement Agreement (CFSA) requires Avista to keep the MC informed of license compliance items. There were no FERC actions since the fall MC meeting.

Consent Mail Package Update

- Appendix C–Cabinet Gorge Fish Handling Facility Modifications
- Appendix F5–Idaho Bull Trout Education and Enforcement Officer and Idaho Native Fisheries Education Trailer

Draft 2020 Clark Fork Project Annual Report

The MC members reviewed the annual report budget sheet.

Hall requested consensus approval of the annual report Section 12.1 budget sheet as presented.

The 2020 Annual Report Section 12.1 Budget Sheet was approved by consensus as presented.

Grant Writer Update

Susan Drumheller provided an update and reviewed the grant status report. A total of \$12.86 million in grant funds have been acquired since the beginning of CFSA implementation to support projects. Hall reminded the group that the private grant dollars provided do not take away from Avista's obligation to the CFSA and are a good opportunity to bring in additional resources.

Kaniksu Land Trust Update

Regan Plumb provided an update on the Kaniksu Land Trust activities. In 2020, Pine Street Woods was the star property this year and received ~20,000 visits. Work has continued on a conservation easement for 80-acres adjacent to Pine Street Woods. Michael Feiger requested an off-line update on the East Fork Bull River Easement and the Sanders County initiative.

Cabinet Gorge Dam Fishway

Hall provided an update on the Cabinet Gorge Dam fishway construction project with an anticipated completion date of April/May 2022. The MC members discussed cofferdam repairs, flow, and construction efforts to date.

Cultural Resources Management Group Update

Appendix R: Clark Fork Heritage Resource Program

Lisa Vollertsen gave an update on Appendix R and noted that the Cultural Resources Management Group (CRMG) meeting was held virtually on March 2nd. During this meeting the CRMG reviewed those 2021 project plans that have ground disturbance or the potential to impact cultural/historic resources. The group also reviewed the 2021 Appendix R implementation plan, budget, and Clark Fork Heritage Resource Program project plan. This project plan includes three primary components: annual monitoring of historic and cultural sites, site-specific surveying/monitoring for projects as needed, and implementing the Interpretation and Education Plan for cultural resources.

Hall requested consensus approval of 2021 Appendix R AIP as presented.

The 2021 Appendix R AIP was approved by consensus as presented.

Water Resources Technical Advisory Committee Update

Eric Oldenburg stated the Water Resources Technical Advisory Committee (WRTAC) meeting was held virtually on January 20, 2021.

Appendix A: Idaho Tributary Habitat Acquisition and Fishery Enhancement Program

Oldenburg noted there are eight continuing projects proposed through Appendix A and no new projects this year. Oldenburg provided an update on the Idaho Field Station Construction Project.

Diane Williams asked if Avista is involved in the proposed Trestle Creek Marina project. Hall replied Avista is aware of the project, but not involved with it. Chip Corsi added IDFG is engaged with Bonner County and Army Corps of Engineers on the project. Williams asked how this project correlates to the Trestle Creek Habitat Improvement Project. Ken Bouwens explained the projects are not related and the habitat improvement project is further upstream.

Hall requested consensus approval of 2021 Appendix A AIP as presented.

The 2021 Appendix A AIP was approved by consensus as presented.

Appendix B: Montana Tributary Habitat Acquisition and Recreational Fishery Enhancement Program

Oldenburg explained there are 18 projects proposed within Appendix B and four of those are new projects.

Redd Surveys in Montana Tributaries

Continuing project but proposing to move it from Appendix C to Appendix B; as such the WRTAC ranked the project using the Appendix B criteria. For the past couple of years, we have been trying to tidy up some of our native salmonid monitoring and have them under MFWP's monitoring under Appendix B and this move will finalize that effort.

Sims Meander Stream and Floodplain Restoration Project

Oldenburg summarized the project and noted that physical implementation may or may not be delayed until 2022 based on when NEPA could be finalized. Feiger clarified that it was the Biological Assessment that was the potential bottleneck and replied the USFS is working on remedying those bottlenecks. Aceituno mentioned that the USFWS is working with the USFS to streamline this process. Ruth Watkins requested to be kept in the loop on the project as there are grant funds associated with this project and deadlines. Feiger thanked Watkins and will keep her in the loop on the project. Ryan Roslak asked if the supplies included in the project are for protection of vegetation. Jason Blakney replied yes, revegetation has been successful in the Vermilion drainage and the plan includes protecting those plantings.

Decode the Cabinet

Oldenburg reviewed that this project proposes to collect water samples at 80 sites across the USFS Cabinet Ranger District to evaluate the eDNA as to the presence or absence of nine species including Bull Trout, Westslope Cutthroat Trout, Brook Trout, Brown Trout, Slimy Sculpin, Mountain Whitefish, Western Pearlshell Mussel, Coeur D'Alene Salamander, and the Idaho Giant Salamander. And then to create and maintain a long-term database to house this information.

There has been extensive discussion among the management agencies and Avista regarding this project both prior to and during the WRTAC meeting. Several concerns were raised. The most substantial or overarching concern is that the project lacks a clear goal that is consistent with the goals of Appendix B or the CFSA in general. The nexus with the CFSA would be the native salmonid component; however, it is unclear if this study will provide information we don't already have through the extensive "Native Salmonid Abundance Monitoring Plan" which is the first project plan in this appendix. In addition, if the project did have a clear goal that was consistent with the intent of Appendix B, the project plan still lacks enough detail to be thoroughly vetted. As an example, the project plan doesn't define the sampling streams and locations to allow for thoughtful consideration into where we may or may not have data gaps. Oldenburg noted that at the Aquatic Implementation Team (AIT) level they started working with the Forest Service in mid-November in hopes that they could help tweak the project to help get it to the point where all the stakeholders would be comfortable and support it. That engagement continued through the WRTAC, unfortunately the project plan just didn't get there. Considering those things, numerous

stakeholders felt the WRTAC should recommend the MC not approve this project. However, that was not unanimous, and we need to open it up for discussion today.

Chris Rossel explained the focus will be on every major tributary. He found three streams where fish were not previously and there are holes in the data and will be a long-term study. Rossel provided a summary on the management strategy, project scope, project benefits, and project budget.

Williams asked would the USFS request additional funding annually for the proposed project? Outline the USFS cost-share in the budget? Monitoring sites identified and request funding in the fall? Rossel replied every 5-years for funding, will perform eDNA sampling as part of timber sales and are opportunistic, and this is separate from that as this is a long-term 5-year trend study. The samples can be stored for 10–20 years and can be tested in the future for other species. The USFS in-kind contributions are for equipment around \$2,000 worth. Monitoring sites where samples are collected in mid-July and streams are intermittent, it is difficult to determine locations until the day of sampling. The project could be revised and brought back to the MC in the future, if needed. Williams asked what is the total budget for the project? Rossel noted the project plan budget is \$21,115, equipment is provided by the National Genomics Center, and cost for each site is \$365, with 80 samples anticipated.

Corsi asked what the tie to the CFSA and Native Salmonid Restoration Plan is, as there has been extensive fisheries research in the lower Clark Fork River basin. Rossel replied MFWP and USFS data sets are pretty similar; however, Avista data is not easily accessible. Blakney noted that the MFWP and Avista data is compatible and very accessible. Because of the CFSA we have 20-year data sets for tributaries. Rossel apologized and stated that he had emailed Blakney and had not received a response. Rossel reached out to Sean Moran and received a timely response and information. Oldenburg added Avista data is available and forwarded to the state and to please let him know of any inconsistencies.

Kevin Aceituno stated this project has promise; however, USFWS concerns are that the project plan lacks detail and an approximate framework for sampling areas. Also, the project plan goal of salamanders does not mesh with Appendix B native salmonids. Further refinement is needed.

Mike Hensler agrees with the other concerns. The issue with fisheries information system is not unique or new and reminded everyone to contact the biologist, those data are available, and it takes time to input into the system.

Feiger stated further discussions are needed among the participating agencies. There is room for improvement with this project plan and need for formal conversation on this project or a similar project to move it forward. He asked representatives to have follow-up conversations sooner than later to address the concerns on data access and this project plan.

Hall implemented the 30-minute rule. Hall requested approval of the project plan as presented today.

- Mike Hensler (MFWP)–No
- Kevin Aceituno (USFWS)–No
- Ryan Rosslak (Lake Pend Oreille Idaho Club)–No
- Chip Corsi (IDFG)–No
- Kristen Lowell (Idaho DEQ)–No
- Nate Hall (Avista)–No

Hall stated this project plan will not move forward as presented.

Rossel thanked everyone for their input today and the USFS will continue moving forward with the project outside the CFSA and will work on revising the project plan.

Dreissenid Mussel Sampling on Noxon and Cabinet Gorge

Oldenburg explained the goal of this project is to provide support for the ongoing dreissenid mussel detection efforts by sampling Noxon and Cabinet Gorge reservoirs twice during late July and late August.

Hall requested consensus approval of 2021 Appendix B AIP as presented (decode the Cabinet Project Proposal was not approved per WRTAC recommendation).

The 2021 Appendix B AIP was approved by consensus as presented (decode the Cabinet Project Proposal was not approved per WRTAC recommendation).

Hall explained a project proposal (Appendix B Graves Creek Land Acquisition) was sent out as part of the March 3, 2021 pre-meeting email for MC review. Oldenburg summarized the proposed land acquisition.

Hall requested consensus approval of 2021 Appendix B proposal to purchase 5-acre parcel along Graves Creek.

The 2021 Appendix B proposal to purchase 5-acre parcel along Graves Creek was approved by consensus as presented.

Hall provided an update on another Graves Creek land acquisition due diligence that is ongoing. Oldenburg highlighted the size and conservation value of this parcel with Blakney stating this opportunity is exactly what Appendix B is best used for. A consent mail request will be sent to the MC in the next couple weeks.

Appendix C: Fish Passage/Native Salmonid Restoration Plan

Oldenburg provided an update on three of the eight project plans.

Cabinet Gorge Fish Handling Facility

The contractor is in full swing of constructing the upgrades to the facility. The big changes are getting walls around the facility, adding a third degassing column and head tank for tempered well water, adding additional tank capacity, and adding a small office space and bathroom. We expect to start using the facility at limited capacity in a couple of weeks and construction should be totally complete in early June.

Graves Creek Fish Handling Facility

The need for this facility was in response to increased Bull Trout densities in Graves Creek and associated higher capture rates. If you recall, when the permanent weir trap started fishing in 2013 it roughly tripled our catch rates for juvenile Bull Trout. Those fish grew up in Lake Pend Oreille and Shana's crew has been transporting record numbers of mature fish back to Graves Creek. Now juvenile densities in the system are very high and this facility is in response to the growing need for adequate space and flow for the short-term holding of Bull Trout and to ensure we can work fish up efficiently and ultimately minimize stress on the fish. The facility is almost complete now, we are just waiting on the electrical to be finished and for our tanks to be delivered so we can get the plumbing finished up. Oldenburg expects it to be fully operational by the end of April.

Graves Creek Permanent Weir Trap Enhancements

Fabrication of the trap components started, and the project is on schedule for the in-stream part of the work during the fish window in July and August and operational for the start of the fall trapping season in

early September. With a little luck on the COVID front, perhaps we can do a tour of all these new facilities during the fall meeting.

Hall requested consensus approval of 2021 Appendix C AIP as presented.

The 2021 Appendix C AIP was approved by consensus as presented.

Appendix D: Bull Trout Protection and Public Education Project

Oldenburg provided an overview of Appendix D. Moran is the Program Leader for Appendix D. While some of the projects have been repackaged a bit, nothing new is being proposed for this year.

Oldenburg clarified a couple of items in the AIP summary budget table. The last line item in carryover for -\$100,000. This represents the one-time transfer from Appendix F5 to Appendix D that was approved a couple months ago through consent mail. For the final version, a footnote will be added to ensure this is clearly explained. On a related note, the annual contribution to Appendix D for 2021 was \$182,000; whereas, there were \$166,000 proposed, so Appendix D is “living within its means” so to speak.

Hall requested consensus approval of 2021 Appendix D AIP as presented.

The 2021 Appendix D AIP was approved by consensus as presented.

Appendix E: Watershed Councils Program

The purpose of this program is to facilitate the protection and restoration of tributary stream habitat in the Lake Pend Oreille-Clark Fork River system. Moran is the Program Leader for Appendix E. There are no new proposals within Appendix E so nothing to report in that regard.

Hall requested consensus approval of 2021 Appendix E AIP as presented.

The 2021 Appendix E AIP was approved by consensus as presented.

Appendix F1: Clark Fork River Water Quality Monitoring Program

The purpose of this program is to provide for the systematic, long-term monitoring of nutrients and metals in the lower Clark Fork River. Paul Kusnierz is the Program Leader for appendices F1 through F3. There is nothing new proposed for this year. However, Kusnierz updated the sampling and analysis plan with help from Montana DEQ and the first sampling event is set to occur within the next week.

Hall requested consensus approval of 2021 Appendix F1 AIP as presented.

The 2021 Appendix F1 AIP was approved by consensus as presented.

Appendix F2: Monitoring of Noxon Reservoir Stratification and Mobilization of Sediment
Nutrients/Metals

The purpose of this monitoring program is to collect data concerning the potential for nutrients or metals deposited in Noxon Reservoir sediments to remobilize back into the water column during periods of stratification. There are no changes being proposed for this year, but we do have a contract in place with HydroSolutions to do the sampling if the flow trigger is met in 2021.

Hall requested consensus approval of 2021 Appendix F2 AIP as presented.

The 2021 Appendix F2 AIP was approved by consensus as presented.

Appendix F3: Aquatic Organism Tissue Analysis

The purpose of this measure is to provide a commitment to analyze aquatic organism tissues for the presence of toxic substances. Oldenburg stated that a Mercury Study planned for 2020 did not occur. This was because Noxon and Cabinet Gorge reservoir monitoring was cancelled due to COVID-19 concerns and so we didn't get the fish that were planned to be sampled. This study is planned to be implemented this year.

Hall requested consensus approval of 2021 Appendix F3 AIP as presented.

The 2021 Appendix F3 AIP was approved by consensus as presented.

Appendix F4: Water Quality Protection and Monitoring Plan for Maintenance, Construction, and Emergency Activities

The purpose of this measure is to minimize or eliminate negative effects on water quality and associated resources related to dam maintenance, construction, and emergency activities. Oldenburg is the Program Leader for Appendix F4. Nothing new is proposed for 2021. The big requirement through Appendix F4 is that Avista will enact the Water Quality Protection and Monitoring Plan as needed. Also, of note to the USFS, we have a 4(e) requirement to notify you of activities that could affect recreational use or access and this requirement is covered through Appendix F4.

Regarding operations and the Water Quality Protection and Monitoring Plan, as of right now there is nothing scheduled that would require us to put the plan in action. However, there will likely be the need for a no flow or limited flow event at some point to facilitate removal of the Cabinet Gorge Dam fishway cofferdam and Oldenburg will reach out with more information once he has it.

Hall requested consensus approval of 2021 Appendix F4 AIP as presented.

The 2021 Appendix F4 AIP was approved by consensus as presented.

Appendix F5: Dissolved Gas Supersaturation Control, Mitigation, and Monitoring

The purpose of this measure is to provide for the study, control, mitigation, and monitoring of gas supersaturation and the associated biological resource effects related to spill at Cabinet Gorge and Noxon Rapids dams. Kusnierz and Bouwens are the Program Leaders for Appendix F5. There are 23 projects being proposed and six of these are new projects.

Lake Pend Oreille Bull Trout Population Monitoring and Evaluation

This is a new project for 2021 but combines aspects of projects that have been approved during previous years. There are three major components to this project. The first is to compile and organize Lake Pend Oreille Bull Trout data, the second is to evaluate Bull Trout life history, age and growth, mortality, and recruitment, and the third is to annually update and parameterize the Bull Trout Integrated Population Model. The 2021 request for this project is \$70,000.

Lake Pend Oreille Tributary PIT-Monitoring Station Installation

This is the first of three new proposals related to developing passive integrated transponder (PIT)-monitoring stations in Idaho. These systems have been invaluable both in terms of the applied questions we have been seeking to answer as well as questions we didn't even know we had. Things like in-lake survival estimates, fish straying, migration timing, fish passage concerns, and even identifying mink predation problems. So, I am a big proponent of expanding this capability into other streams where there are important populations we want to monitor.

This project plan is proposing to install PIT-monitoring stations in Trestle, Granite, and South Gold Creeks and we are requesting \$227,000 for that purpose. In Trestle and Granite Creeks this will be a replacement of a much older system; whereas, it will be a completely new installation in Gold Creek.

Lake Pend Oreille Tributary PIT-Monitoring Station Operation and Maintenance

The project plan described previously pays for the purchase and installation of the systems; whereas this one would fund the ongoing operation and maintenance of the system, things like data, electricity, and internet costs. The request is for up to \$36,350; however, \$20,000 of that is contingency dollars for repair/replacement of equipment in case of substantial damage.

Clark Fork River Population Monitoring

This project plan is one aspect of a continuing project, but we are proposing to move the project from Appendix A to Appendix F5. We feel the move is appropriate because the goal of this project is to better understand the presence and movements of numerous fish species in the lower Clark Fork River as opposed to just native salmonids which is the focus of Appendix A. The 2021 request for this project is \$70,300.

Roslak asked if predatory species, Walleye and Lake Trout, are included in the monitoring. Bouwens replied yes, the data collected on salmonids since 1999 and the initial part of this is to analyze the backlog of data. Moving forward conducting broader surveys of other species.

Lower Clark Fork River PIT-Monitoring Station

This is the last PIT-monitoring station being proposed in Appendix F5. The objective of this project is to evaluate the feasibility and hopefully identify a desirable site and configuration for a PIT-monitoring station in the lower Clark Fork River itself. The original impetus for this is that we are going to need a tool to annually identify a sample of adult Bull Trout that we believe are trying to migrate upstream of Cabinet Gorge Dam so that we can accurately estimate the proportion of those fish being captured in the Cabinet Gorge Dam Fishway. We anticipate this will be an important aspect of the Monitoring and Evaluation Plan associated with the trap. As we were talking through this with IDFG, we identified that if we are strategic about this, we may be able to gain a lot more information about the movements of numerous species within the lower river as well. So, this is really a low-cost scoping exercise with the hope that we will be coming back to you to seek your approval on a well-developed plan. The request for this project is \$3,000.

Roslak asked if the PIT arrays would be positioned upstream and downstream of the trap. Oldenburg stated that would be great, but it is not feasible to install that many channel spanning PIT arrays. Hall added PIT arrays will be incorporated into the Cabinet Gorge Dam Fishway structure as well.

Lightning Creek Delta Connectivity Project

New project for 2021, surface flows at the mouth of Lightning Creek where it enters the lower Clark Fork River can periodically get low enough where they are completely subsurface or nearly so. The goal of this project is to enhance connectivity and fish passage from the lower Clark Fork River into Lightning Creek. More specifically, funding to gather information and develop a plan and design to construct an enhanced channel in that area. A secondary goal of this is to develop a strategic plan for the gravel mining that occurs under the railroad bridge that may also help to maintain desirable flows. Seeking the approval of up to \$28,491 to develop construction-ready plans. The hope would be to then seek approval of the physical work itself and to implement in 2022.

Hall requested consensus approval of 2021 Appendix F5 AIP as presented.

The 2021 Appendix F5 AIP was approved by consensus as presented.

Appendix T: Project Operations Package

The purpose of this measure is to mitigate the effects of project operations through the implementation of measures to achieve the goals of enhancing native salmonids and providing recreational fishery opportunities. Oldenburg is the Program Leader for Appendix T. This is where you will find the general operating limits for Noxon Rapids and Cabinet Gorge dams which are related to forebay elevations, draft rates, and minimum flow. There is one new project being proposed through Appendix T this year.

Clark Fork River (Derr Island) Boating Access Site Improvement

The goal of this project is to improve boat access and general navigability on the lower Clark Fork River. There are two components to this project, the first is to complete some upgrades to the access site adjacent to Johnson Creek Road and the Derr Island Bridge. This is phase two of upgrades to this site. In 2020, IDFG and Bonner County constructed a gravel access road and boat launch and did some dredging to make the channel more accessible. The current proposal is to widen 350 feet of Johnson Creek Road to provide additional and safer parking and to have a portable toilet onsite seasonally. This would be collaboratively done by IDFG and Bonner County. The second aspect of this project would be to remove three obsolete pilings from the upstream end of the log boom to facilitate safer downstream navigation of the log boom, primarily for floaters.

Avista questions the appropriateness of using CFSA funding for piling removal aspect of the project because this is Army Corps of Engineers infrastructure. Having said that, the piling removal is a low-cost task and contributes to this great project and Avista will support it.

Hall requested consensus approval of 2021 Appendix T AIP as presented.

The 2021 Appendix T AIP was approved by consensus as presented.

Terrestrial Resources Technical Advisory Committee Update

Arthur Potts provided an update on the Terrestrial Resources Technical Advisory Committee (TRTAC) meeting was held virtually on January 21, 2021.

Appendix G: Implementation of the Land Use Management Plan (LUMP)

Potts provided an overview of the Project Plans.

Administration of the LUMP

The LUMP is due for 5-year update this year.

Monitoring Associated with the LUMP

Robinson asked for an update on tree removal from the large wind event. Potts explained there are areas near golf course and mule pasture and Pilgrim Creek Park in Noxon. Robinson asked if heavy equipment can be used for tree removal at sites. Potts replied the CRMG reviewed the hazard tree removal process and have 30-day review period and will let Robinson know in early/mid-April.

Enforcement Associated with the LUMP

This is an estimated amount and Avista agrees to pay the full amount if more is required to implement this program.

Hall requested consensus approval of 2021 Appendix G AIP as presented.

The 2021 Appendix G AIP was approved by consensus as presented.

Appendix H: Implementation of the Recreation Resource Management Plan (RRMP)

Potts provided an overview of the Project Plans.

RRMP Administration and Resource Integration

The objective of this project is to ensure the coordination of the implementation of the RRMP with other resource programs and recreation resource providers along the Clark Fork Project.

RRMP Recreation Facility Development

Potts reviewed the projects listed in the Recreation Resource Facility Development Plan spreadsheet.

RRMP Monitoring

Recreation site use increased 30% last year. Through monitoring the recreation site use, management activities can be modified as needed, to ensure that appropriate and adequate recreational opportunities and facilities associated with the Clark Fork Project are provided.

Operation and Maintenance

The objective of this project plan is to ensure that recreation opportunities and facilities are operated and maintained in a manner to provide for appropriate, adequate, and safe use.

Interpretation and Education Program

The objective of this project plan is to ensure that the existing information and education materials associated with the Clark Fork Project recreation resources and facilities are maintained. Repair canoe paddle at the Pilgrim Creek Park interpretive teepee kiosk.

Hall requested consensus approval of 2021 Appendix H AIP as presented.

The 2021 Appendix H AIP was approved by consensus as presented.

Appendix I: Implementation of the Aesthetics Management Plan

The purpose of this measure is to provide for the protection and enhancement of aesthetic resources associated with Avista's Clark Fork Projects and to mitigate for project related impacts to those resources through the implementation of the Aesthetics Management Plan. There are no proposed projects for this year. Hall clarified this protection, mitigation, and enhancement measure (PM&E) is addressed through implementation of other PM&Es.

Hall requested consensus approval of 2021 Appendix I AIP as presented.

The 2021 Appendix I AIP was approved by consensus as presented.

Appendix J: Implementation of the Wildlife, Botanical and Wetland Management Plan

The purpose of this resource PM&E is to provide for the organization and presentation of the various wildlife, botanical and wetland management activities and site-specific plans within a single, comprehensive management plan document. There are no specific project plans for 2021. The lands spreadsheet will continue to be updated as needed.

Hall requested consensus approval of 2021 Appendix J AIP as presented.

The 2021 Appendix J AIP was approved by consensus as presented.

Hall sent the lands spreadsheet to the MC with lands protected to date. Those lands that are held by Avista are reviewed by the MC at 10-years and every 5-years after that. One property was up for review last year and needs to be reviewed today, 3-lots at Steep River Ranch Subdivision. Avista is requesting to keep the

ownership under Avista and continue the current management strategy. Oldenburg added the lots were recently consolidated into one lot.

Hall requested consensus approval of Avista to continue to own and manage the Graves Creek Steep River Ranch Subdivision parcels.

Avista ownership and management of the Graves Creek Steep River Ranch Subdivision parcels was approved by consensus as presented.

Appendix K: Wildlife Habitat Acquisition, Enhancement and Management Program

The purpose of this program is to mitigate for the potential effects to wildlife resources and habitat due to the continued operation of the Clark Fork Project. The program will focus on the types of habitat most significantly affected, such as wetland and riparian habitat.

Operation and Maintenance of Acquired Property and Contingency Fund

This program is in recognition of the long-term commitment required for the operation and maintenance that comes with purchasing and protecting habitat. These activities include monitoring, weed control, development of infrastructure (roads, parking areas, and fences), vegetation management, enforcement, etc.

Wood Duck Property Re-Vegetation Maintenance

Brita Olson provided an update on the Wood Duck Property revegetation maintenance project.

Hall requested consensus approval of 2021 Appendix K AIP as presented.

The 2021 Appendix K AIP was approved by consensus as presented.

Appendix L: Back Cottonwood Habitat Protection and Enhancement

The purpose of this measure is to provide for the protection of black cottonwood trees and stands on Avista owned project lands through the development of site-specific management and enhancement plans for three specific cottonwood sites. Efforts in 2021 will focus on the continued protection of black cottonwood stands and trees through the implementation of land use classifications in the LUMP. The site-specific enhancement efforts at Hereford Slough will continue to be monitored to determine response and implement additional management efforts as needed.

Hall requested consensus approval of 2021 Appendix L AIP as presented.

The 2021 Appendix L AIP was approved by consensus as presented.

Appendix M: Wetland Protection and Enhancement Program

The purpose of this measure is to provide for the protection of wetlands occurring on Avista owned project lands, and for the evaluation and potential enhancement of selected wetland areas. The overall goal is to ensure no net loss of wetlands, or of wetland function and values in certain high-priority wetland areas while also evaluating opportunities for enhancements. Continue to develop wetland enhancement plan for the Twin Creek area. Bouwens provided an update on the Twin Creek wetland enhancement plan.

Hall requested consensus approval of 2021 Appendix M AIP as presented.

The 2021 Appendix M AIP was approved by consensus as presented.

Appendix P: Forest Habitat Protection and Enhancement

The purpose of this measure is to provide for the protection and enhancement of specific forest wildlife habitat values of certain Avista project lands along the reservoirs.

Hall requested consensus approval of 2021 Appendix P AIP as presented.

The 2021 Appendix P AIP was approved by consensus as presented.

Appendix Q: Reservoir Island Protection

The purpose of this measure is to provide for the protection of islands owned by Avista in the project reservoirs and maintain the wildlife habitat functions of these islands.

Nate Hall briefly dropped off the call due to technical issues. As such Potts asked for MC approval until Hall was able to return to the call.

Potts requested consensus approval of 2021 Appendix Q AIP as presented.

The 2021 Appendix Q AIP was approved by consensus as presented.

Appendix S: Erosion Fund and Shoreline Stabilization Guidelines Program

The purpose of this measure is to provide funds to ameliorate adverse impacts to resources of interest caused by the continued operation of the Clark Fork Projects. Resources of interest include important cultural or natural resources, and private or public property not covered by applicable easements.

Continue to evaluate and provide technical assistance for an erosion control project being undertaken by an adjacent landowner on Noxon Reservoir (Vermilion Point Area). The ability to complete this project depends upon the adjacent landowner's availability. Potts also mentioned early talks with another adjacent landowner along Blue Slide Road near Thompson Falls.

Potts requested consensus approval of 2021 Appendix S AIP as presented.

The 2021 Appendix S AIP was approved by consensus as presented.

Other

Hall thanked all the stakeholders and implementers for their continued efforts on projects.

Select Fall Meeting Date

- September 21 and 22, 2021

Adjourn Meeting

- Meeting was adjourned at 12:05 p.m. (PDT)