

Rocky Reach Wildlife Forum (RRWF) Meeting Minutes

Date: October 31, 2013
Time: 9:00 am – 11:30 am
Location: Chelan PUD Headquarters, Wenatchee, WA
2nd Floor Conference Room

Call in number: (509)661-4844, Password is 4000.

Meeting called by: Von Pope, Chelan PUD Type of meeting: RRWF Meeting
Note taker: Deb Bitterman

Attending Representatives

<u>Name</u>	<u>Agency</u>	<u>Phone</u>	<u>Email</u>
Ellis, Erik	BLM	(509) 665-2100	edellis@blm.gov
Lewis, Steve	USFWS	(509) 665-3508 x14	stephen_lewis@fws.gov
Pope, Von	Chelan PUD	(509) 661-4625	von.pope@chelanpud.org

Attending Participants

<u>Name</u>	<u>Agency</u>	<u>Phone</u>	<u>Email</u>
Ranne, Brigitte	USDA-FS	(509) 784-1511	branne@fs.fed.us
McCarty, Jesse	USDA-FS	(509) 784-4630	jmccarty@fs.fed.us
Osborn, Jeff	Chelan PUD	(509) 661-4176	jeff.osborn@chelanpud.org
Cordell-Stine, Kelly	Chelan PUD	(509) 661- 4762	kelly.cordell-stine@chelanpud.org

Meeting Purpose: Meeting of the Rocky Reach Wildlife Forum to continue Rocky Reach license implementation

Minutes

Von Pope welcomed everyone to the Rocky Reach Wildlife (RRWF) meeting and made known that voice recording of the meeting was initiated for note-taking purposes only.

In 2013, consistent with the RRWF proposal, Chelan PUD distributed 12,100 biological control insects to control diffuse knapweed on public lands between the Entiat River and Knapp Coulee within the Rocky Reach Wildlife Area (RRWA). Von Pope noted that due to the government shut down, the 1 October 2013 meeting was canceled, so the RRWF was unable approve payment for work conducted in 2013 via subcontractor through Chelan PUD as scheduled. Therefore, Von e-mailed the RRWF asking for reimbursement approval prior to this October 31, 2013 meeting. E-mail approval was received from the following members (see attached).

- BLM - Erik Ellis
- ALCOA - Bob Huber
- USFWS - Steve Lewis
- WDFW - Ron Fox and Dave Volsen
- USFS – Andrea Lyons

All responses receives supported payment of the invoice.e

While the December 11, 21012 meeting minutes were approved via e-mail in late December of 2012, Von highlighted some of the main points from that meeting. Von shared with the RRWF that the current Rocky Reach Wildlife Habitat Management Plan (RRWHMP) expires September 22, 2015. It was noted that the 2013 RRWHMP does not allow flexibility or contingencies in the event of flood, wildfire, or other unforeseen circumstances. Therefore, the RRWF needs to consider different options to provide potential future flexibility for natural disasters in the 2015 RRWHMP. Von suggested that agencies draft types of projects but not to be too specific as to where implementation of the projects would occur, as this might be a way to build flexibility into the RRWHMP. After further discussion, the RRWF agreed that once the 2015 RRWHMP is drafted, Jeff and Von will contact the FERC to ask for guidance as to the best way to build flexibility into the plan.

Biological Weed Control Presentation:

To help understand the biological weed controls and the projects completed in 2012 and 2013, Dale Whaley from the Washington State University, Douglas County Extension presented “Chelan County PUD Rocky Reach Wildlife Area Biological Weed Control Project 2012-13” PowerPoint to the RRWF. Dale summarized that biological weed control is the intentional use of living organisms to reduce invasive plant density. Bio-controls limit the target plants ability to spread by use of insects that are ecologically desirable with no non-target effects. Biological control insects go through rigorous testing for host specificity prior to being approved for release. Also, the insects are mobile, providing a long-term solution in hard-to-access areas such as the RRWA, and they are cost effective. However, it does take time for the population of the bio-controls to catch up to host species density, so effects are not noticed immediately. In some cases, it can take 4 years or more for biological controls to have a visible effect. Since the post –fire areas around Burch Mountain and Swakane Canyon have a high density of weeds, particularly Dalmatian toadflax. Dale suggested that additional releases in the area treated in 2012 would be beneficial. Dale also thought that seeding the biological weed control areas with native seed mix in 4-5 years would be a good idea to assist the treated areas in outcompeting undesirable vegetation.

Review 2014 Integrated Noxious Weed Plan:

After viewing Dale Whaley’s presentation, the RRWF agreed that additional biological weed control should be implemented in the 2014 Integrated Terrestrial Invasive Plant Control Plan Project Proposal. Von noted that there is roughly \$11,000 available for 2014 projects. Brigitte Ranne of the USFS suggested reseeded should be included in future years for the treated biological weed control areas as recommended by Dale Whaley.

Action Items:

- Von and Jeff will contact FERC and ask their recommendation as to how to build natural disaster response into the 2015 RRWHMP.
- Von will draft an email for approval regarding entering into a contract with Dale Whaley from the WSU Extension for the biological weed control project in 2014.
- 4 November 2013: Von will email a draft 2014 Integrated Terrestrial Invasive Plant Control Plan Project Proposal for review/comments to the RRWF for their review/comments.
- 18 November 2013 RRWF will provide their comments to Von
- Von will talk to Dave Volson regarding his submittal of detail mapping proposal for the 2014 RRWHMP.

Next Steps:

The next RRWF meeting is scheduled for 1 October 2014, 9:00 am – 12:00 noon.

From: [Pope, Von](#)
To: [Bitterman, Deborah](#)
Subject: FW: RRWF meeting and 2013 invoice approval
Date: Monday, November 04, 2013 2:55:29 PM

From: Ellis, Erik [mailto:edellis@blm.gov]
Sent: Monday, October 21, 2013 3:06 PM
To: Pope, Von
Subject: Re: RRWF meeting and 2013 invoice approval

Hey Von

I couldn't access the voting button you mentioned, hopefully you can count this email as a "yes-pay invoice" vote. Also, unfortunately I'll be out next Thursday. I'll see if Molly or Chris can make it. We don't have any BLM proposed projects due to our on-going weeds NEPA issues. I'm meeting with management on Nov 5th to discuss the WHMP.

Thanks

On Thu, Oct 17, 2013 at 4:37 PM, Pope, Von <Von.Pope@chelanpud.org> wrote:
Good Afternoon,

With everyone returning to work, I'd like to reschedule the Rocky Reach Wildlife Forum (RRWF) meeting for 9 am -1130 am on Thursday, October 31 at the Chelan PUD main building. Prior to that, I would like to get approval from the RRWF to pay the attached invoice for the weed control contract completed by the WSU extension and paid for by Chelan PUD per Rocky Reach Integrated Terrestrial Invasive Plant Control Plan (ITIPCP). Please respond using the voting button (next to the reply button) on this e-mail to approve the payment. The agenda for the meeting will remain the same, except the approval to pay the 2013 weed control. Don't forget to bring you proposals for 2014 weed control per the ITIPCP.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Von

Von Pope
Wildlife Programs Manager

From: [Pope, Von](#)
To: ["Huber, Robert D. \(Huber Consulting LLC\)"](#)
Cc: [Bitterman, Deborah](#)
Subject: RE: EXT: RRWF meeting
Date: Wednesday, October 30, 2013 10:16:52 AM

Thanks for your response Bob.

Save travels,

Von

-----Original Message-----

From: Huber, Robert D. (Huber Consulting LLC) [<mailto:Bob.Huber@alcoa.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, October 30, 2013 10:12 AM
To: Pope, Von
Subject: Re: EXT: RRWF meeting

I approve the invoice for payment.
Leaving tomorrow to visit family in CA so I will not attend the RRWF meeting.

Bob Huber
Huber Consulting LLC

> On Oct 30, 2013, at 9:48 AM, "Pope, Von" <Von.Pope@chelanpud.org> wrote:
>
> Hello,
>
> Are you planning to attend the RRWF meeting tomorrow at 9am? I've had limited response to my request to approve the 2013 weed project invoice (only the BLM has sent approval) prior to this meeting. If your recall, the RRWF approved the 2013 weed control project to release biological control insects within the RRWA via contract with WSU Extension. The work has been completed and we need your approval to reimburse the contract cost with RRWF funds.
>
> If you will not be attending the meeting, please let me know and e-mail your approval to pay the attached invoice with RRWF funds.
>
> I hope to see you tomorrow.
>
> Thanks,
>
> Von
>
>
> Von Pope
> Wildlife Programs Manager
> Chelan County PUD
> (509) 661-4625
>
>
>
> <2013_RRWF_Invoice and summary.pdf>

From: [Pope, Von](#)
To: ["Lewis, Stephen"](#)
Cc: [Bitterman, Deborah](#)
Subject: RE: RRWF meeting and 2013 invoice approval
Date: Wednesday, October 30, 2013 2:33:46 PM

Thanks Steve, we'll see you in the morning.

Von

From: Lewis, Stephen [mailto:stephen_lewis@fws.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, October 30, 2013 2:20 PM
To: Pope, Von
Subject: Re: RRWF meeting and 2013 invoice approval

The USFWS approves the 2013 invoice...will be in attendance on Thursday for a portion of the meeting.

S-

On Thu, Oct 17, 2013 at 4:37 PM, Pope, Von <Von.Pope@chelanpud.org> wrote:
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Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Von

Von Pope
Wildlife Programs Manager

From: [Fox, Ron A \(DFW\)](#)
To: [Pope, Von](#); [Volsen, David P \(DFW\)](#)
Cc: [Bitterman, Deborah](#)
Subject: RE: RRWF meeting
Date: Thursday, October 31, 2013 7:15:06 AM

Continue with biocontrol insect releases.

From: Pope, Von [<mailto:Von.Pope@chelanpud.org>]
Sent: Wednesday, October 30, 2013 10:59 AM
To: Volsen, David P (DFW); Fox, Ron A (DFW)
Cc: Bitterman, Deborah
Subject: RE: RRWF meeting

Thank you for your response. Do either of you have any ideas for weed control work with the RRWF funds in 2014?

Von

From: Volsen, David P (DFW) [<mailto:David.Volsen@dfw.wa.gov>]
Sent: Wednesday, October 30, 2013 10:53 AM
To: Fox, Ron A (DFW); Pope, Von
Subject: RE: RRWF meeting

Von,

I may not be able to be at the meeting either, but in talking with Ron we both felt this is a beneficial endeavor, and therefore I support paying the invoice with available funds.

David Volsen

From: Fox, Ron A (DFW)
Sent: Wednesday, October 30, 2013 10:48 AM
To: Pope, Von
Cc: Volsen, David P (DFW)
Subject: RE: RRWF meeting

Von,

I will not be able to attend. We have some weed control burns to complete before the weather turns wet and tomorrow looks like the last best day.

*****I approve the payment of the invoice with RRWF funds.*****

From: Pope, Von [<mailto:Von.Pope@chelanpud.org>]
Sent: Wednesday, October 30, 2013 9:48 AM
To: Volsen, David P (DFW); Fox, Ron A (DFW); Stephen.Lewis@fws.gov; 'Bob Huber'
Cc: mboyter@blm.gov; 'Brigitte M Ranne'; 'Andrea Lyons'
Subject: RRWF meeting

Hello,

Are you planning to attend the RRWF meeting tomorrow at 9am? I've had limited response to my request to approve the 2013 weed project invoice (only the BLM has sent approval) prior to this meeting. If your recall, the

From: [Pope, Von](#)
To: [Bitterman, Deborah](#)
Subject: FW: RRWF meeting
Date: Wednesday, October 30, 2013 10:02:40 AM

From: Lyons, Andrea L -FS [mailto:allyons@fs.fed.us]
Sent: Wednesday, October 30, 2013 9:58 AM
To: Pope, Von
Cc: Ranne, Brigitte M -FS; McCarty, Jesse -FS
Subject: RE: RRWF meeting

Hi Von,

Do you still need Forest Service approval even though we are not voting members? I was not sure on that point. The Forest Service does approve of the work and recommends payment to the contractor. I will not be at the meeting tomorrow but Jesse McCarty will be there. He will be transitioning into my role now that my position as forest bio is official.

Andrea L. Lyons
Forest Wildlife Biologist
Okanogan Wenatchee NF
(509) 664-9232
email: allyons@fs.fed.us

From: Pope, Von [mailto:Von.Pope@chelanpud.org]
Sent: Wednesday, October 30, 2013 9:48 AM
To: 'Volsen, David P (DFW)'; 'Ron Fox'; Stephen.Lewis@fws.gov; 'Bob Huber'
Cc: mboyter@blm.gov; Ranne, Brigitte M -FS; Lyons, Andrea L -FS
Subject: RRWF meeting

Hello,

Are you planning to attend the RRWF meeting tomorrow at 9am? I've had limited response to my request to approve the 2013 weed project invoice (only the BLM has sent approval) prior to this meeting. If you recall, the RRWF approved the 2013 weed control project to release biological control insects within the RRWA via contract with WSU Extension. The work has been completed and we need your approval to reimburse the contract cost with RRWF funds.

If you will not be attending the meeting, please let me know and e-mail your approval to pay the attached invoice with RRWF funds.

I hope to see you tomorrow.

Thanks,

Von

Von Pope
Wildlife Programs Manager
Chelan County PUD