

**April 8, 2010**

## Minutes

**In attendance:** Ric Abbett, Rosendo Guerrero, Bart Madison, Don, Schluter, Paul Sparks, Bob Stroup, Bruce Treichler, Terry Turner, Bob Vadas, Tom Van Gelder, Jim Wilcox

### Current status: WCTU-sanctioned committees

- **Chehalis Basin Flood Control and Hydro** – Ric Abbett
  - Focus: Flood Damage Prevention Strategy – protect human life, safety, health and property
  - Considerable political posturing associated with engineered flood prevention vs restored natural processes, funding, governance, etc.
  - Continue to oppose selection of Lewis County PUD to coordinate studies associated with viability of Lewis County PUD-proposed in-channel water retention facilities
  - Will provide WCTU responses to Earth Economics report and Chehalis Basin Flood Plan once Tom Van Gelder approves them. These were developed by the WCTU Chehalis Basin Flood Control and Hydro Committee with professional support from John Heal (Heal Environmental Consulting)
  - Will evaluate “Ripe and Ready” projects identified by Flood Authority as a means to begin meaningful work immediately.
  - Will meet Monday afternoon with Lewis County Commissioner Ron Averill to begin discussions regarding a Flood Damage Prevention Strategy that will lead to the protection of human life, safety, health and property. (Ric Abbett, Bruce Treichler, Jim Wilcox)
  
- **Climate change** – June 12 seminar – Jim Wilcox
  - Confirmation received from WDFW, UW, US Forest Service, TU and NOAA
  - Additional invitations USGS, Climate Solutions, Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fisheries Commission, WDOE
  - Register early with Tom Van Gelder for Friday evening barbeque (hosted by Icicle Valley TU), Saturday WCTU Spring Meeting and spring Chinook salmon fishing with Icicle Valley TU (limited number of boats)
  
- **Columbia Snake / River salmon restoration** – Sam Mace – not available, no report
  - Discussion regarding proposal to barge juvenile salmon and steelhead down Snake and Columbia instead of utilizing reservoir spilling:
    - Barges opposed based on past experience
    - Wait to see what Judge Redden recommends on this matter
  
- **Elwha River restoration** - Bill Robinson – not available, no report
  - Tom Van Gelder suggested that planning begin for the WCTU Winter Meeting in Seattle where this topic will be featured. Those willing to help

plan this event should contact Tom Van Gelder and coordinate closely with Bill Robinson

- **Hatchery Reform** – Paul Sparks
  - Summary of events associated with the March 27 Wild Steelhead Coalition-hosted Steelhead Summit in Seattle where the focus was on the causes of Infectious haematopoietic necrosis (IHN) and the impacts to wild steelhead.
    - Considerable ongoing effort to ensure that state and federal managed hatcheries in Washington do not infect Washington's remaining wild steelhead with this disease
  - Attended recent Cowlitz River hatchery management presentation in Morton by WDFW and Tacoma City Light
    - Difficult to get a complete understanding of presentations due to the unruly audience
    - Will watch for PowerPoint presentations and other material on the associated website
    - Still evaluating downstream smolt migration options associated with Cowlitz Falls
      - Don Schluter will provide the results of his work at Cowlitz Falls to Paul
    - Expect to begin monthly conference calls associated with the operation of the Cowlitz River hatchery complex (Kate Miller, Brett Swift, Paul Sparks)
  
- **Wild Steelhead Coalition** – Dick Burge not available, no report
  
- **Other: Pacific Smelt listing via ESA** – Bart Madison
  - Brief discussion regarding potential impacts in Puget Sound and coastal rivers