

McNary Fisheries Compensation Committee Conference Call Meeting

Friday, June 21, 2019 2pm

Call in Number: 1-971-256-0996 , passcode: 148967

Updated 6/17/19

Attending: Brandon R-Yakama, RD N-USFWS, Blaine P-CRITFC, Blane B-NMFS, Erick V-ODFW, Rick M-PUD.

1. New Proposals, Extension Request or Final Report Presentations.

- a. Yakama Nation, Scaffold Camp Land Acquisition, #2., Hans Smith.

Rick opened discussion expressing that he thought Accord funds should be used like the first acquisition. He also has concerns about the small size of the parcel, the cost, the nature of the project (land purchase) development of side channel after purchase not certain, and the limited amount of money left in the fund. For those reasons the PUD is leaning toward a NO vote.

Blaine Parker was next and also expressed similar concerns but wanted to hear others before casting a final vote.

Brandon went next and addressed several of our concerns. He started by saying that much restoration occurs on private land w/o purchasing it but sometimes purchase is necessary, and this is one of those cases. Owner not interested in restoration w/o selling.

Secondly, Accord funds don't work well because it takes so long to purchase land with Accord funds and this land owner not willing to wait that long to sell the land. Brandon suggested the Accord funds would be used to develop the 600' side channel and to do the other restoration projects. Brandon said that was basically his call and that he was committed to continue work in this area. He said they have a long term plan for this area which includes buying out the land owners on the opposite bank. Brandon votes to fund the project.

Erick expressed difficulty in finding fault with the project since it is potentially a very positive project but not a good fit for our committee/funds. He doesn't rule out this type of project in the future but right now it isn't a good and he would vote NO.

RD said that just purchasing the land does not increase fish production. He suggested the committee needs to discuss land purchasing and if we should be considering it at all. He also suggested we need to establish whether or not matching funds are a requirement. RD would vote NO at this time.

Blane said that if we start buying land it will eat our fund up quickly. Also, he reiterated that subsequent development is not guaranteed. He would vote No at this time.

Brandon was given a chance to address concerns and said that if the committee decides that it isn't going to consider land purchases that is fine but we should establish that parameter and stick to it. Since we are considering this land purchase he thinks the project is worthwhile because it could benefit steelhead and Chinook and other species. This is a high priority area and we are committed to improving it in the long term.

Blaine P commented that we do need to discuss parameters for considering applications.

Rick mentioned that we have discussed some aspects of funding parameters, such as grant amounts, and decided to leave it wide open. RD reminded us that we did establish some parameters for capital equipment purchases.

Erick agreed that discussing and establishing additional parameters would be a good idea.

This concluded the discussion, Rick reviewed the vote and got no objections.

- b. Yakima Thermal Refuge update. Rick brought this up for discussion but no one had any comments so we will be in favor of the project continuing.

To-do List:

Fill out Vote Record Form

Notify applicant

Type up minutes and distribute

Send vote record form to Blane for signature.

Update tables.