



September 13, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Participants met at Zim's Hot Springs for a BBQ and Water Quality Symposium gathering state, county, and federal agencies together with landowners to connect funding opportunities with private restoration projects. Captured minutes are from speaker presentations and group discussions. To view photos of the meeting and review copies of grant resources provided by agencies, please visit <https://littlesalmonriverwatershedcollaborative.com>.

Participants: Roughly 30 individuals, some did not sign in.

Gary Thompson and Rebecca Levandowski- Red Fish Blue Fish

Nez Perce Tribe: Wes Keller, Keisha Miller, Johanna Stangland, Dale Brown, Emmit Taylor

Randy Fox- ICL

Brian Kennedy- University of Idaho

Kurt Kroll, Al Becker, Kenn Roller, Mike Breyman, Linnea Hall, Stacy LaFay, Vicki Purdy- New Meadows land owners

Jessica Asbill-Case- Bureau of Reclamation

Kiana Ziola and Chase Cusack- IDEQ

Brian Davis- FS- IDL Shared Stewardship

Jason Greenway- FS

Ron Brooks and Madison Gales- NRCS

Kyla Gardner - City of New Meadows

Wendy Green- Adams SWCD, Durena Farr- Valley SWCD

Zim's Hot Springs water quality and restoration opportunities - Wes Keller, Nez Perce Tribe Watershed Division Project Manager and Brian Kennedy, University of Idaho, Professor of Fish Biology and Ecology

- Nez Perce Tribe just completed the second round of planting 500 riparian plants along their section of streambank at the Zims property. There will be 5 years of planting roughly 500 plants a year at Zims. The goal of these efforts is to stabilize stream banks (reducing sediment) providing shade (help with stream temps) and helping to improve overall water quality.
- Riparian vegetation benefits water quality by providing shade, increasing stream complexity from large woody debris, and stabilizing banks through increased root structure.

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LITTLE SALMON RIVER
WATERSHED
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- This watershed is unique with its sandy geology, and large floodplains. If riparian vegetation is removed, streams can easily downcut and become incised, resulting in riparian vegetation unable to reach the water table. So the Tribe is currently planting riparian vegetation very deep (down to 5 feet) to help reach the water table and will install Beaver Dam Analogs (BDA) to raise the water table.
- The 4 C's indicative of a healthy watershed are Cool, Clean, Complex, and Connected. Restoration efforts on the property aim to increase levels of all of these indicators through plantings and BDAs.
- Currently the Little Salmon river near Zims has low stream complexity, elevated temperatures.
- The Tribe also plans to install some exclusion fencing to help protect the plants from natural grazers (deer, beaver) and will remove the fence once plantings become more mature.

Why is riprap not being used to stabilize banks?

- Riprap is effective at protecting structures such as bridges but along stream banks it can cause the stream to accelerate causing downstream bank erosion. Adams County Soil and Water Conservation District used rock barbs and plantings on the Little Weiser to address this issue.

What type of willow plantings are the tribe using?

- The tribe planted Bebb's, Both, Yellow, Coyote and Drummonds willow. They buy mature 5-gallon plants for better survival.

Where will the BDAs be placed at Zims?

- The Tribe is planning 6 BDA's (4 in the main channel and 2 in a side channel). The tribe will monitor success by plant survival studies, drone flights, temperature monitoring and piezometers that measure water table height.

Other restoration techniques discussed by the group:

- Trench planting- Ditch perpendicular to stream planted with willow trimmings resulting in trapped sediment streambank restoration.
- Willow weavings which allow the plant to take the blunt of the erosion rather than the bank.
- Post Assisted Log Structures (PALS) - Large woody debris is placed in a stream to create scouring, pool formation, and habitat for fish

Monitoring



- The Department of Environmental Quality is currently forming plans to collect extensive water quality in the next few years to update the Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs).

Agency Representatives

Department of Environmental Quality - Kiana Ziola and Chase Cusack

- IDEQ would like to promote community science in the Little Salmon Watershed. The goal is to connect individuals living along the Little Salmon River with monitoring efforts on stream health. IDEQ plans to restart a Watershed Advisory Group for the area beginning this spring.
- Nonpoint Source Grants are available for private landowners to conduct restoration projects on their property.

Natural Resource Conservation Service - Ron Brooks and Madison Gales

- The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) grant allocates funds for financial and technical assistance for private landowners to implement conservation practices. The deadline for this year is October 7th.
- Idaho receives \$700-750 k a year divided up between many land uses. A local workgroup open to anyone decides which percentages of the total fund go toward different environmental sectors including irrigation, forest, and restoration. The meeting for this region is October 26th. Participants of LSRWC are encouraged to attend because streambank/wildlife has only received 50-60 thousand (1-2 small projects) in recent years.
- NRCS anticipates EQIP funding increasing in the next few years.

Bureau of Reclamation - Jessica Asbill-Case

- Grants for restoration projects through BOR may only be awarded to tribes and organizations, not to individuals. However, Wes Keller with the Nez Perce Tribe is willing to work with anyone on a grant proposal in the area.
- Applied science grant: technology based tool to help with water monitoring
- Drought resiliency project funding is anticipated to increase in the coming years with new congressional budget delegations.
- Applicants will receive a better score if they are already working with an EQIP.

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Nez Perce Tribe - Wes Keller

- NPT can help write and administer grants for any project that benefits fisheries on the Little Salmon.
- It is important to consider there are many ways to cost share for in kind portions of grants besides financial contributions.

Department of Fish and Game - Jordan Messner

- Fisheries projects have an inherent human element when improving water quality.
- Fish and Game is interested in collaborating on restoration projects on properties.

Adams County Soil and Water Conservation District - Wendy Green

- Assists private landowners in voluntary, non regulatory best management practices .
- Have a engineer provide technical assistance on stream projects at no charge

Valley County SWCD - Durena Farr

- Several projects through 319 grants are currently underway in the county. Recently, they put in 7 river barbs under Kelly's Whitewater Park

Idaho Department of Lands and Forest Service - Brian Davis

- No boundaries forestry: looking at wildland fire mitigation on our lands and private land as well.
- Current Highway 95 corridor project working on fuels mitigation