

**Terrestrial Resources Technical Advisory Committee (TRTAC) Meeting Notes**  
**Winter Meeting January 17, 2024**  
**Noxon Multipurpose Room**  
**10:00 a.m. (MST)**

**TRTAC Representatives Attendees:**

Avista –Arthur Potts  
Green Mountain Conservation District (GMCD) – Terry Hightower  
Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG) – Ken Bouwens  
Kootenai Tribe – Scott Soultz (1:00)  
Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks  
Noxon-Cabinet Shoreline Coalition – Rich Reich  
Sanders County Commissioner – Tony Cox  
U.S. Forest Service (USFS) – Caleb Matthew (10:16 conference line)

**Other Attendees:**

Avista – Monica Ott, (conference line) Eric Oldenburg, Paul Kusnierz, Davina Brown, and Lisa Johnson (conference line)  
Avista Grant Writer – Susan Drumheller  
Kootenai Tribe – Brian Bell (1:00)  
Noxon-Cabinet Shoreline Coalition – Chuck Harrington  
Lower Clark Fork Watershed Group – Sarah Busmire  
U.S. Forest Service (USFS) – Ron Torretta (conference line)

**Welcome**

Arthur welcomed those in attendance. The purpose of today’s meeting is to review the draft 2024 Annual Implementation Plans (AIPs), make any necessary corrections, and recommend forwarding them for Management Committee's (MC) review and approval at their upcoming meeting March 12, 2024.

**Other business**

- Hiring 2 seasonal technician for 2024 summer, and camp hosts at RV Park and Finley Flats
- Grant Writer Update (Susan Drumheller)
- The Land Use Subgroup to develop a vegetation management plan for Island Park Subdivision – Potts will reach out to LUSG to initiate discussion in February.
- Working with Kim McMahon on Recreation survey for 2023; will be holding a kick-off meeting with Avista/MT FWP/USFS in early February.
- Property Taxes – utilizing 2023 asset value
- Zach Farley provided an update on the Elk Study.
- Fall Meeting Date set for August 28, 2024

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

1. Administration of the Land Use Management Plan (LUMP)

- a. Five-year update of the LUMP – LUSG will meet in 2024 to discuss updating the LUMP. Proposed meeting date in April after MC. LUSG will also work on developing an FAQ sheet for interested public.
  - b. Avista will replace permit markers at all Rec Permit sites.
- 2. Monitoring Associated with the Land Use Management Plan (LUMP)
- 3. Enforcement Associated with the Land Use Management Plan (LUMP)
  - a. Working with IDFG and Avista legal to issue ban to squatter near fish hatchery.
- 4. Managing Aquatic Invasive Plants on Noxon and Cabinet Gorge Reservoirs
  - a. Request is the same as last year for facilitation and other assistance to the Sanders County Aquatic Invasive Plant Task Force.
- 5. Noxon Rapids Dam Vicinity Hunting Restrictions
  - a. Avista will work with USFS to implement weapons restrictions and notify BNSF that we intend to gate one access road and will coordinate with them to get a lock on the gate.

*With no further discussion, the TRTAC approved forwarding Appendix G as presented to the MC for review and approval.*

#### **Appendix H: Implementation of Recreation Resource Management Plan (RRMP) Management Fund**

- 1. RRMP Administration and Resource Integration
  - a. RRMP Update will be completed in 2024; Pinnacle is finalizing comprehensive survey conducted in 2023.
- 2. RRMP Monitoring
  - a. 2023 Recreation Monitoring Report is available for anyone that would like a copy. Comprehensive Survey Report will be available soon.
- 3. Operation and Maintenance of Recreation Facilities
  - a. Due to policy changes, Avista will hire seasonal position to be detailed to USFS this summer.
  - b. Flat Iron Dredging: planning to dredge in the spring.
- 4. Interpretation and Education Program
  - a. On-going kiosk management

#### **Facility Fund**

- 5. Heron and Cabinet Gorge Repair (Tier 1)
  - a. railing/fence repair.
- 6. North Shore Expansion (Tier 1)
  - a. Appraisal completed. Will continue to work on letter of intent with Bill Nolan, and Master Site plan to implemented at later date.
  - b. Susan Drumheller and Arthur Potts to discuss possible grant offers.
- 7. Thompson Falls State Park Group Shelter (Tier 1)
  - a. Brian Swartz provided an update.
- 8. Supplemental Projects (Tier 2)
  - a. Projects that will be completed if budget, resources, and time allows.
  - b. Unanticipated repair and improvement projects.

*With no further discussion, the TRTAC approved forwarding Appendix H as presented to the MC for review and approval.*

#### **Appendix I: Aesthetics Management Plan**

\*Note that this is a continuing project approved annually and the AIP is the project plan. Compliance is achieved through implementation of the LUMP and RRMP.

- Re-inventory of 41 key viewpoints was conducted in 2023 during the comprehensive rec survey. Pinnacle has finalized the report and the AMP will be updated in 2024. This is a schedule to occur every 5 years; next re-inventory will be in 2028.

*With no further discussion, the TRTAC approved forwarding Appendix I as presented to the MC for review and approval.*

#### **Appendix J: Wildlife, Botanical and Wetland Management Plan**

\*Note that this is a continuing project approved annually and the AIP is the project plan. Compliance is achieved through implementation of the LUMP and RRMP.

- Potts explained that the primary activity under the PM&E is updating the spreadsheet and ensuring the MC is reviewing ownership on a regular basis.
- Bald/Golden Eagle, Peregrine Falcon, and Loon observations can be tracked through this PM&E.

*With no further discussion, the TRTAC approved forwarding Appendix J as presented to the MC for review and approval.*

#### **Appendix K: Wildlife Habitat Acquisition, Enhancement, and Management Program**

1. Operation and Maintenance of Acquired Property and Contingency Fund
  - a. IDFG continues to manage noxious weeds and will continue evaluation potential enhancement projects.
2. Habitat Acquisition and Conservation and Contingency Fund
  - b. Due diligence funding for potential habitat protection. Two potential CE opportunities with KLT in the works.
3. Wood Duck Re-vegetation Maintenance – Sarah Busmire provided an update
  - a. Develop monitoring methods and collect baseline data.
  - b. MCC crew will assist with planting/caging 100 trees.
  - c. Review and finalize Veg. Management Plan.

*With no further discussion, the TRTAC approved forwarding Appendix K as presented to the MC for review and approval.*

#### **Appendix L: Black Cottonwood Habitat Protection and Enhancement**

\*Note that this is a continuing project approved annually and the AIP is the project plan.

- Primary protection is provided through implementation of the LUMP.
- Avista will continue to monitor and if needed repair existing enclosures at Hereford Slough.

*With no further discussion, the TRTAC approved forwarding Appendix L as presented to the MC for review and approval.*

### **Appendix M: Wetlands Protection and Enhancement Program**

\*Note that this is a continuing project approved annually and the AIP is the project plan. Compliance is achieved through implementation of the LUMP and RRMP.

- IDFG will develop a wetland management plan for Twin Creek property.
- Continue to monitor enhancement projects at Hereford Slough, McKay Creek, Finley Flats, and Blacktail Bay/Islands.

*With no further discussion, the TRTAC approved forwarding Appendix M as presented to the MC for review and approval.*

### **Appendix P: Forest Habitat Protection and Enhancement**

1. South Fork Block Management Area Spotted Knapweed Treatment
2. Tuscor Block Management Area Road Development

*With no further discussion, the TRTAC approved forwarding Appendix P as presented to the MC for review and approval.*

### **Appendix Q: Reservoir Island Protection**

\*Note that this is a continuing project approved annually and the AIP is the project plan. This PM&E was developed in recognition of the importance of protecting the Avista owned island habitat along the project area.

- There is no budget associated with this PM&E for 2024, as the activities are covered under the implementation of the LUMP.

*With no further discussion, the TRTAC approved forwarding Appendix Q as presented to the MC for review and approval.*

### **Appendix S: Erosion Fund and Shoreline Stabilization Guidelines**

- There are no project plans associated with this PM&E
- Erosion work at Pilgrim Creek Park was completed in early January 2024.
- Kirby Gulch Shoreline Stabilization

*With no further discussion, the TRTAC approved forwarding Appendix S as presented to the MC for review and approval.*

- Brian Swartz to send out info for NO WAKE restrictions
- Davina and Arthur to send out TRTAC Fall meeting Outlook reminder
- Meeting Adjourned: 1:11 p.m. MST