



and Associates

PLANNING, LAND USE
AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

Memorandum

Date: May 29, 2014
To: Project Management Team, Shoreline Master Program Updates
From: Bill Stalzer, Project Team Leader
Re: June Monthly Meeting

The primary purposes of the meeting this month are to review the status of the grant budget; discuss continuing issues related to the SMP designation of certain creeks; and discuss the status of the inventory and characterization report. Below is background information on each topic.

Grant Agreement Budget

As is evident on the Grant Budget Status of April 30th sheet, Task 5 is slightly over budget; given that there are still four months to go before this task is completed, the budget deficit for my time will increase. The primary cause of the overrun is the unanticipated work on sorting out the SMP jurisdiction issue for some of the creeks. At the two Regional Working Group meetings, members expressed skepticism not only about the designation of Yellowhawk and Whetstone, but also about Dry Creek. The Watershed Company already has devoted more time to this issue than assumed in their budget. At the meeting I will discuss some options for staying within the available grant funds.

As noted on the bottom line of the 2014 Yearly Hours Budget sheet, my actual hours in 2014 for all tasks are below the budgeted hours. In spite of this, the charges for my time exceed the grant funds available due to the difference between my billing rate and that necessary to accomplish the budgeted hours within an allocated percentage of the grant funds, as we discussed at the December meeting. This is most apparent for the project coordination task on the Grant Budget Status sheet where approximately 67% of the 2-year funds have been expended through April but only 23% of the budgeted time has been used this year.

Yellowhawk, Whetstone Hollow, and Dry Creeks

The SMP designation of these creeks remains an issue. As I stated at our March meeting, Ecology supported The Watershed Company's recommendation that the portion of Yellowhawk Creek from the Walla Walla River to the confluence with Cottonwood Creek be designated a SMP jurisdictional water. Regardless, the DFW representative stated his disagreement with this decision at the recent Regional Working Group meetings and continues to pursue the issue. The issue before the team is whether or not to continue on the present course.

At our March meeting it was the consensus of the team not to pursue the "de-designation" of Whetstone Hollow Creek based on a number of factors. At the Regional Working Group meetings, several members expressed reservations about the SMP designation of the creek. As a result, Ecology has agreed to run an updated model of the stream flows. When I received this information, I directed The Watershed Company to stop work related to this creek. I will discuss options at the meeting.

Dry Creek

Ecology gage data near the crossing of Hwy 125 shows a mean annual flow of 15.5cfs since 2002 which would mean the creek should not be designated. I am in the process of discussing the issue with The Watershed Company and Jaime Short and contacting Regional Working Group members who might have other flow data. I will provide an update at the meeting.

Inventory and Characterization Report

The Regional Working Group comments at the two recent meetings were instrumental in ensuring the accuracy of the report. Due to the additional creek designation research noted above, the preliminary draft report will not be delivered to Ecology by the May 31st deadline. I discussed this issue with Jaimie Short some weeks ago and she agreed to a two-week extension.