

**UPPER COLUMBIA SALMON RECOVERY BOARD**  
**DRAFT MEETING (Webinar) SUMMARY**  
**February 25, 2021**

**Board Members Present:**

**Chair, Chelan County:** Bob Bugert; **Vice-Chair, Douglas County:** Marc Straub; **Okanogan County:** Andy Hover; **Yakama Nation:** Shannon Adams; **Colville Confederated Tribes:** Chuck Brushwood

**Staff Present:** Melody Kreimes, Sarah Walker, Greer Maier, Pete Teigen, Caitlin Vanderpool, Ryan Niemeyer, Nicole Jordan, Alicia Meier

**Others Present:**

**Bonneville Environmental Foundation:** Robert Warren; **Cascade Fisheries:** Kristen Kirkby, Jason Lundgren; **Chelan County:** Mike Kaputa; **Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission (CRITFC):** Paul Ward; **Department of Natural Resources (DNR):** Julie Gilling; **Governor’s Salmon Recovery Office:** Erik Neatherlin **NOAA:** Justin Yeager; **Ruckelshaus Center:** Molly Stenovec, Phyllis Schilman, Chris Page, Maggie Counihan; **Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife (WDFW):** Andrew Murdoch, Stephen Pozzaghera; **Yakama Nation:** Brandon Rogers;

The virtual meeting was called to order at 9:01 AM by Chair Bob Bugert.

**Welcome and Introductions**

Chair Bugert welcomed everyone to the meeting and did a roll call on who was present via telephone and webinar.

**1. Regular Business**

Chair Bugert asked for comments or revisions to the December 10, 2020 UCSRB meeting summary. No comments or revisions were offered, and the minutes were approved.

*Chuck Brushwood made a motion to approve the December 10, 2020 UCSRB meeting summary. Commissioner Andy Hover seconded the motion and all approved.*

**2. Ruckelshaus Center Regional Evaluation of Process for Salmon Recovery Plan Implementation**

Molly Stenovec with the Ruckelshaus Center shared the draft outline and organization of the upcoming report that will be available mid-March for “errors and omissions” review to all that were interviewed with a final report distributed by the end of March. Key components of the report will include the evaluation process, key findings and recommendations. Phyllis Schilman shared some of the initial findings from the interviews:

- Need to look at the bigger picture of the Columbia Basin, Ocean, and State land use management.
- Community outreach & education is needed to sustain the work of salmon recovery.
- Organizational tensions are present (objective value structures that seem to be in conflict).
- Collaboration, coordination and competition initial findings related to:
  - ✓ Competitive nature of funding
  - ✓ Tension between structural organization and personality conflicts.
  - ✓ Level of work needed vs. capacity.
  - ✓ Scientific, political and community-based elements of salmon recovery.
  - ✓ Local projects and locally based prioritization vs. regional priorities.

Phyllis then shared a sneak peek of recommendations which included:

- Strengthen collaboration – develop a governance to resolve conflict resolution, ignite roles and responsibilities of organization, neutral entity to facilitate WATs.
- Increase focus on larger more complex projects.
- Reinvention of Implementation Team (IT) structure.
- Enhancing leadership on multiple levels. Clarifying roles:
  - ✓ establish leadership team for RTT's, WAT and IT. Chaired by executive Director meeting twice per year.
  - ✓ Leadership to provide conflict resolution and facilitation to key members.
  - ✓ Clarify and communicate between the entire structure – advocacy.

It was suggested Ruckelshaus review results of the Lean Study which RCO completed a few years ago. A question came up about how Ruckelshaus determines what is hearsay/gossip from truth? Ruckelshaus discussed how they look for common themes within different sectors and the social research methodology used with a structured set of questions.

Ruckelshaus needed additional time to complete interviews and do analysis, so the contract has been extended to May 28, 2021. A draft report will be sent out to all involved in the interviews mid-March for errors and omissions review. A final report will be distributed by the end of March. Ruckelshaus will return to the April 22, 2021 Board of Directors' meeting to review with participants final findings and recommendations. The Directors suggested partners should be notified of this upcoming presentation so they can participate as well.

### **3. Watershed Planning and Water Supply in Water Resource Inventory Area, WRIA 48**

Commissioner Andy Hover updated the Board on domestic water supply issues Okanogan County is facing in Water Resource Inventory Area (WRIA) 48. Within the Urban Growth Boundary there is no municipal water supply availability, thus a moratorium on all new subdivisions. Methow faces many challenges with instream water flow rules, not being able to buy agriculture water rights, water bank, and possible water storage options.

Okanogan County made a formal request to Rep. Keith Goehner for state funding for a WRIA 48 Watershed Plan update. Chuck Brushwood/Colville Confederated Tribe (CCT) participated in the WRIA 49 Plan update and noted there was strong community engagement. CCT could participate and support a similar effort in WRIA 48. New data has been collected and is available to update the plan however it has not been compiled.

Okanogan County may also seek Outreach support from the UCSRB. Melody will follow up with Andy to explore potential funding sources that may support WRIA 48 watershed planning.

### **4. All-H Future Discussion Topics**

Justin Yeager with NMFS and Andrew Murdoch with WDFW discussed All-H areas for the Board to potentially engage in. Jeff Jorgenson with NOAA is working on a life-cycle model but was not available for this meeting and will be rescheduled for April 22<sup>nd</sup>.

- Gaps/Opportunities: Need to reanalyze steelhead with new data, bias on overshooting that are not from Columbia basin.
- Next 5-10 years focus on spring Chinook, juvenile life history in wild and hatchery fish. How important are the mainstem habitats for rearing?
- Need for more studies to figure out large gaps in survival rates at Priest Rapids Dam.

- Implement lessons learned into hatcheries management quickly.
- Dashboard or yearly check-in with community on Tumwater recovery goals.
- Gaps between potential and observed spawning aggregate in the Upper Wenatchee. Need to promote wild use of the mainstem habitat from the lake down to the mouth.
- Reduce predation and increase survival of adults and juveniles.
- Accessing cold water habitat
- Life history diversity may show how fish use reservoir habitats.
- RTT prioritization on habitat restoration will help focus on locations and limiting factors. May need to craft bigger projects and monitor them to see if they are having a positive or negative effect.
- Forest fire impacts is a big area of concern.

Greer Maier gave an overview of potential priorities for the Board to review and suggested the next steps include:

- Jeff Jorgensen to present Life Cycle Model on April 22<sup>nd</sup>.
- Communicate results in a life cycle approach that will give us a list of All-H projects on which UCSRB may be able to have positive influence.

Melody asked how the Board would like to proceed with All-H integration? The Directors will continue to focus on areas where UCSRB Directors have shared zones of interest, like habitat and hatchery projects, and may have influence.

*Follow Up /Action Item:*

- *Greer to update the All-H/Integrated recovery topics.*
- *Andrew Murdoch to share UC Hatchery program reproductive success document*
- *Melody to follow-up with Bob Bugert for strategy moving forward.*

## 5. Bonneville Dam Sea Lion Management

Paul Ward with CRITFC discussed potential NOAA funding requests CRITFC may submit to Congress for sea lion management below Bonneville Dam. Adult spawner losses at Bonneville is heavily impacted by pinniped predation (Stellar and California Sea Lions). The Stellar Sea Lion impact spans across almost all fish runs in the Columbia River. The Endangered Salmon Predation Prevention Act amended the MMPA allowing the removal of sea lions from the Columbia River between the I-205 bridge in Portland and McNary Dam. The removal and disposal of sea lions is expensive and CRITFC is building a funding package for Congress to consider.

CRITFC is taking a similar approach to potential funding request (perhaps stimulus dollars) for hatchery infrastructure rehabilitation.

Paul wanted to bring these two pending requests to the UCSRB to see if it would be interested in communicating with its federal delegates regarding the importance of such requests related to UC salmonid recovery. The Directors agreed these are important topics and can consider a letter of support once the details are available.

*Follow Up /Action Item:*

*Need to be nimble on letter of support. Possibly call a special mid-March meeting of Board members to discuss components of a support letter. All Directors may want to check in with their organizations*

re: support/red flags related to such requests. Paul will coordinate timing with Melody once he knows when such a request will be submitted.

## 6. State Legislative Update

Melody reviewed the following state legislation she and Nicole Jordan are tracking for potential engagement from the UCSRB with any state legislators, as appropriate:

- HB1117 – Promoting salmon recovery through revisions to the state’s comprehensive planning framework
- HB1211 – Salmon safe communities
- HB1372 – Replacing Marcus Whitman statue with one of Billy Frank Jr.
- HB 1382 – Streamlining the environmental permitting process for salmon recovery projects
- HB 1385 – Limiting transfers of water rights out of their original water resource inventory area
- SB 5220 – Concerning the taxation of salmon recovery grants by updating the state business and occupation taxing mechanisms
- SB 5306 – Concerning local salmon habitat recovery planning in critical areas

Julie Gilling with DNR reviewed state legislation that is relevant to the UCSRB’s forest health initiative. HB1168 is DNR’s top priority and includes:

- Wildfire response (\$70.8 million)
- Forest restoration (\$34.5 million + \$1.2 million every two years for workforce training)
- Community resilience (\$19.6 million)
- Dedicated account (\$125 million each biennium) would provide proactive resources for today, long-term investments to fulfill the 20-year forest Health Strategic Plan and Wildland Fire Prevention 10-Year Strategic Plan.

The Directors did not decide on any action/communications regarding any of this legislation. It was suggested any support/action for HB1168 be directed to the NCWFHC.

## 7. Finance & Operations

Melody gave an update on the February 10, 2021 Finance Committee (FC) (it was noted Chuck Brushwood, Treasurer, was unable to attend that FC meeting). The FC looked at the Budget to Actuals and discussed additional reallocation of unspent dollars. The FC recommended reallocating funds to support the RTT request to for data collection related to the CTCR fish passability model for culvert barriers in the Wenatchee and Entiat subbasins. Cascade Fisheries has proposed to complete this work for tier 2 and 3 barriers for \$5,909.

Melody also discussed future State audits for the UCSRB as there was a new finding that we are considered an agency and require an audit by the State Auditor’s Office every two years. The first accountability audit would cover fiscal years 2020 and 2021 and will occur in late 2022.

Caitlin Vanderpool reviewed some key points on the financial reports and we are on track at 65 percent of our budget for payroll. We have reached out to a few of our consultants (Ruckelshaus, Ecotrust, Confluence Environmental, and Aspect Consulting) to submit their invoices, as those are somewhat overdue. The FY22 Yakama Nation and BPA contracts are in place now, and RCO extended its contract with UCSRB through the end of September.

Caitlin then presented a Board budget with approved reallocated money from the December Board meeting (\$21,700 to Ecotrust and \$1,500 for finance consultation) and the remainder of \$18,270 available (from money budgeted for company vehicle, travel, and meeting expenses) for reallocation due to COVID. Melody provided a list of funding needs that could be funded with reallocated monies:

- Data collection for the CTCR fish passability model for culvert barriers in Wenatchee and Entiat subbasins by Cascade Fisheries: Tier 2 barriers = \$1,400 or Tier 2 & 3 barriers = \$5,909 and a task they could complete by June 2021.
- UCSRB Science Conference down payment for FY21 needs (Ravenous Catering, Bantam Design, Pybus Public Market) ~\$5,700.
- Middle Entiat monitoring coordination by CCD. \$2,145 (Melody noted as of this week it appears this is no longer needed as CCNRD will provide the coordination)

*Commissioner Andy Hover made a motion to approve the CTCR fish passability model for Tier 2 & 3 culvert barriers in Entiat and Wenatchee, and the Science Conference be reallocated to the FY20 budget. Chuck Brushwood seconded the motion and all approved.*

Melody discussed updating our North Cascades Bank account signatories by removing Doug England and adding both Bob Bugert and Marc Straub. Karen with North Cascades Bank will send out documents to be signed online to both Commissioners Bugert and Straub.

*Commissioner Andy Hover made a motion to approve removing Doug England from the North Cascades Bank signatory and adding Bob Bugert and Marc Straub. Shannon Adams seconded the motion and all approved.*

Melody reviewed two new partner contracts for WAT facilitation funded from the Yakama Nation income contract:

- Methow Salmon Recovery Foundation (MSRF): For Methow Restoration Council, \$10,000. December 1, 2020 to November 30, 2021.
- Cascadia Conservation District (CCD): Entiat Watershed Action Team, \$12,145 (includes additional money for coordination of Middle Entiat Monitoring. December 1, 2020 to November 30, 2021. At this point, Middle Entiat Monitoring task 4 and 4a should be deleted, as CCNRD plans to complete these tasks. Thus, total contract is reduced to \$10,000.

*Commissioner Andy Hover made a motion to approve the \$10,00 MSRF WAT Contract and Amended CCD WAT contract with the removal of task 4 and 4a and a revised budget of \$10,000. Commissioner Marc Straub seconded the motion and all approved. Chair Bugert gave permission to use his digital signature on both contracts.*

## **8. UCSRB Board of Directors Officer Elections**

Melody reviewed the officer rotations and explained that, generally, the Directors rotate annual chairing from county to tribe, which would put Shannon Adams, Yakama Nation, in line to chair this year. Shannon expressed being new to the Board, she would prefer to postpone stepping into the Chair position until she is more familiar with UCSRB. Commissioner Straub mentioned that Commissioner Bugert just came into role in December and if he were willing to maintain the chair role another year then, he would be willing to continue as the Vice Chair this year and, perhaps, step into the Chair role in 2022. Commissioner Bugert is willing to stay as Chair and Chuck Brushwood is willing to stay in this role as secretary/treasurer.

*Commissioner Hover made a motion to approve Bob Bugert as Chair, Marc Straub as Vice-Chair, and Chuck Brushwood as secretary/treasurer. Shannon Adams seconded the motion and all approved.*

*Commissioner Straub made a motion to approve the Finance Committee members (Andy Hover and Chuck Brushwood). Shannon Adams seconded the motion and all approved.*

**9. Public Questions and Comments**

There were no public questions or comments.

**10. Wrap-up and Adjourn Meeting**

Chair Bugert thanked everyone for attending the UCSRB virtual meeting and adjourned the meeting. at 12:58 pm.