



REGIONAL TECHNICAL TEAM MEETING FINAL APRIL MEETING SUMMARY

Date: Wednesday, April 14, 2021

Time: 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Location: Webinar

Members Present: Carlos Polivka, Catherine Willard, Jeremy Cram, Joe Lange, John Crandall, Kate Terrell, Steve Fortney, Tom Kahler, John Arterburn, and Tracy Hillman (Chair)

Others Present: Pete Teigen/UCSRB, Greer Mair/UCSRB, Sarah Walker/UCSRB, Jason Lundgren/CF, MarySutton Carruthers/CCD, Steve Kolk/BOR, Mike Kaputa/CCNRD, and Jamie Cleveland/BPA

Tracy Hillman welcomed everyone to the meeting. Members reviewed and approved the draft agenda. There were no changes to the agenda.

The February meeting summary was reviewed and approved. Tracy reviewed the action items and carry-over action items are listed below.

Carry-over action items:

- Greer Maier will post information and a link to the HSI tool on the UCSRB website.

Agenda Items for Future Meetings:

- EDT Fish Passage Model – John Arterburn
- Big Meadow Fish Passage Project – Jason Lundgren
- Columbia River Treaty – Shane Bickford
- River Health – Joe Wheaton
- Entiat Floodplain Analysis Results – Paul Powers

UCSRB Updates

SRFB 2021 Schedule

Pete Teigen provided the RTT with key dates for the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) 2021 grant round. Those dates are:

- April 21 – Complete applications are due
- May 10-11 – Site visits (virtual)
- May 28 – Final proposals are due
- June 9 – RTT scoring

Pete provided a few updates on proposals since the presentations in March. Pete also let the RTT know that he is leaving UCSRB at the end of April for a new position and will not be leading the rest of the

2021 grant round. UCSRB is in the process of hiring a new Lead Entity Coordinator. RTT members thanked Pete for his support and wished him well in his new job.

FY21 Programmatic Funding Update

Sarah Walker updated the RTT on the status of BPA Programmatic funding for this fiscal year. Because some of the existing projects came in under budget, there is some funding available (up to \$500k) that may be going to new projects. Sarah will keep the RTT updated on programmatic funding.

Barrier Subgroup Update

The regional barrier subgroup met in early February. Since that time, Cascade Fisheries has received funding to update the barrier prioritization tool and is under contract with Aspect Consulting (Robyn Pepin) to update the barrier prioritization tool. Greer Maier will convene the barrier subgroup soon.

Regional Evaluation Update

The Ruckelshaus Center and UCSRB completed their evaluation of our regional salmon recovery process. Tracy Hillman went over some of the key recommendations related to the RTT, and RTT members provided some feedback on recommendations – particularly the recommendation to include a social scientist on the RTT. Tracy encouraged RTT members to participate in the UCSRB workshop on 22 April. Information about the Board meeting is on the UCSRB website.

RTT Membership

Tracy Hillman reached out to some of the RTT members that have not engaged with the RTT for several months. Most of those members want to stay members. Casey Baldwin asked to go on inactive status because of his current workload. Mike Ward has not engaged with the RTT for several years and therefore was removed as a member.

RTT Reach Assessment Guidance

Tracy Hillman worked with UCSRB staff and a subgroup of the RTT on updating the Reach Assessment Guidance document. Tracy reviewed some of the comments and edits received. After reviewing and addressing the few comments, members present approved the guidance document. The final document will be uploaded to the UCSRB website.

Decision Item:

- The RTT approved the Reach Assessment Guidance Document.

Action Items:

- Greer Maier will post the Reach Assessment Guidance document on the UCSRB website and inform the WATs that the document is available.

RTT Prioritization

Greer Maier gave a brief update on prioritization. The Prioritization Workgroup (PWG) met in late March. Updates are summarized below (see PWG meeting summary for more details):

- Data Gaps – UCSRB and Aspect Consulting finished work funded by BPA to use GIS to evaluate floodplain and riparian condition. The project filled key data gaps in Tier 1 watersheds and allows the PWG/RTT to run the prioritization tool in these areas and identify priority reaches

and actions. Another new source of information now included in the tool is WDFW Atlas flow data. These data are used to help rate summer base flows. All new data are now included in the Master data file, and GIS layers are now on the UCSRB data portal. Future runs of the prioritization tool will use the updated data table.

- Reach Rankings – The PWG decided to rank reaches within assessment units into three categories (Rank 1 = Highest Priority, Rank 2 = Middle Priority, and Rank 3 = Lowest Priority). Greer presented the draft criteria for ranking reaches for both restoration and protection actions (see PWG notes for specific ranking methods).
- Bull Trout – The PWG is wrapping up the development of the bull trout life stage reaches and R-code. It should be completed by May and then the PWG will review the results.
- Protection – The R-code has been developed and draft results will be reviewed by the PWG in May.
- Prioritization Web Map – The Prioritization Web Map is live and reflects the most recent results. RTT feedback on the Web Map is appreciated.

There will be a PWG meeting in early May/late April. Tracy will distribute the meeting info to the full RTT when available.

Action Items:

- The PWG will meet in late April/early May to review draft results for Protection, reach rankings, and Okanogan steelhead. Once the PWG approves the results, Greer Maier and Tracy Hillman will provide the results to the RTT for their review and approval.

The next RTT meeting will be May 10-11 for virtual site visits.