

UPPER COLUMBIA SALMON RECOVERY BOARD
DRAFT MEETING (Webinar) SUMMARY
April 22, 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; **Bureau of Reclamation:** Steve Kolk; **Cascade Conservation District:** Ryan Williams, Elizabeth Jackson, Mary Sutton Carruthers; **Cascade Fisheries:** Kristen Kirkby, Jason Lundgren; **Chelan County:** Ally Lutes; **Congresswoman Kim Schrier Staff:** Kelli Scott; **Methow Restoration Council:** John Crandall; **Ruckelshaus Center:** Molly Stenovec, Phyllis Schilman, Chris Page, Maggie Counihan; **TRIB Committee/RTT:** Tracy Hillman; **Trout Unlimited:** Lisa Pelly; **US Fish & Wildlife:** Kate Terrell; **Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife (WDFW):** Carmen Andonaequi, Graham Simon, Charles Snow; **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 February 25, 2021 UCSRB meeting summary. Melody noted a few corrections to the finance and operations section of the meeting summary that were shared with the group. No other comments or revisions were offered, and the minutes were approved with corrections.

Commissioner Andy Hover made a motion to approve the February 25, 2021 UCSRB meeting summary with corrections. Shannon Adams seconded the motion and all approved.

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

Molly Stenovec introduced the Ruckelshaus Center Evaluation Team and reviewed the scope, purpose, and finding of the Regional Evaluation. The themes, recommendations and key actions are based on 58 interviews with regional stakeholders. In general, partners are committed to continuing this work, trust and social capital is high, and the community lead approach remains key to fulfilling salmon recovery. The findings also point to some areas of improvement.

The UCSRB Directors/staff and workshop participants asked clarifying questions of the Ruckelshaus team and discussed several recommendations and key action items. Directors then participants considered how the discussion about the Regional Evaluation would continue throughout the region. UCSRB staff will work on “binning” items related to each of the regional groups: RTT, CACs, WATs and Implementation Team and then discuss relevant sections of the Regional Evaluation with each of these groups. The intent is to gather input from regional partners to identify where there is broad support to move forward/implement key actions and discuss how to do so. As there are many recommendations

in the Regional Evaluation, it is expected there will need to be an ongoing, iterative regional dialogue. UCSRB staff will report back to the UCSRB Directors periodically and when there are any key decision points.

Next Steps:

- *Sponsors, Directors to reach out to Melody with opportunities, comments, thoughts.*
- *Bob and Melody to communicate after meeting to talk about next steps.*

3. Public Questions and Comments

There were no public questions or comments.

4. All-H Integrated Recovery

Bob and Melody strategized recently how to move the All-H discussion forward without numerous additional technical presentations at UCSRB Director meetings. Based on this discussion, Melody and Greer drafted a workplan of All-H topics that were priority for UCSRB Directors and where UCSRB could be positively impactful. Greer vetted draft actions/opportunities related to habitat-hatchery, habitat hydropower and All-H reporting with regional partners to ascertain where there is partner buy-in/support, she drafted the *All-H/Integrated Recovery Actions for UCSRB Engagement with Partners*

UCSRB Directors discussed the action plan and made the following additions:

- Northern Pike Issues monitoring and suppression. Categorize with predator concerns.
- Salmon Recovery above Wells and Chief Joseph. Categorize with All-H integration.
- WDFW on harvest
- Expand out CRITFC's current and future request and regional needs with funding strategies. Melody to send cheat sheet for hatchery rehab.

Commissioner Andy Hover made a motion to adopt the All-H/Integrated Recovery Actions for UCSRB Engagement with Partners with amendments. Commissioner Marc Straub seconded the motion and all approved.

Action Items:

- *Add 4 amended topics to the UCSRB Engagement on Integrated Recovery Actions. (Melody/Greer)*
- *UCSRB staff to inform Board members by email before engaging/progressing in Integrated Recovery Actions with partners. (Melody)*
- *UCSRB staff to draft letter of support for CRITFC on pinniped issue for Board members to get review/ comment/approve by their organization. (Melody)*
- *CRITFC's cheat sheet for hatchery rehab email to Board members. (Melody)*

5. Salmon Recovery funding Board (SRFB) Updates

Chair Bugert thanked Pete Teigen, who will be leaving the end of April, for his work at UCSRB.

Pete Teigen reviewed the SRFB Targeted Investments Policy and the Status of the Regional Monitoring proposals.

Targeted Investments: The Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) developed a policy to seek funding for larger projects that cannot be funded by any one regional allocation (UC receives 10.31% or ~\$1.86 million) and to give the SRFB flexibility to respond to emerging issues. Each region would have the opportunity to submit one project if funding beyond the usual \$18M was obtained in any given year. Priorities of the targeted investments are projects that would focus on:

- Populations approaching recovery,
- Benefiting Southern resident orca (this applies to UC),
- Population at risk (this applies to UC),
- Future threat abatement (could apply to UC), and
- Emergency response (could apply to UC).

Regional Monitoring Proposals: RCO has set a statewide maximum of \$350,000 for monitoring projects. Each region (7 total) could use up to \$50,000 or regions may share their unallocated portion with other regions. This SRFB grant round has 6 proposals for monitoring projects so far for the 2021 grant round. There may be additional funding for monitoring available through return funds and the SRFB will finalize the exact amount at its June 2021 meeting.

UC SRFB Proposal: 15 projects within the UC region have been submitted for a total request of \$3.5 million. Next step is virtual site visits on June 10th and 11th. Final applications due May 28th.

6. BPA Programmatic Project Update

Sarah Walker gave a brief review of the Columbia River System (CRS) Biological Assessment for 2021-2026 which acts as a framework for targeted metrics to be achieved and alignment between long term goals and objectives.

- Changes from the previous 2018-2020 version are flow protected, flow enhanced, entrainment screening, habitat access stream complexity, riparian habitat improved.

The 2021 budget will remain the same as 2020 funding at \$2 million. UCSRB is currently working on the ISRP Categorical Review Report to submit to BPA on May 3, which is a review of the work completed over the last 3 years.

7. Finance & Operations

Caitlin Vanderpool reviewed the financial reports showing we have expended 65% of our revenue for the year given reallocations that were made in Dec. 2020 and Feb. 2021. A few key highlights from the budget to actual report are that outreach and partner contracts are a little low compared to being 80% through the budget year, however Melody has recently communicated with partners and they do expect to expend all funds (except for Trout Unlimited, which has requested a 3 month no-cost extension due to COVID-related delays). Indirect expenses are down due to staff working from home and having lower training and travel expenses. AugustEdge will now be preparing our payroll starting with April. We are underspent for the year, however, RCO Admin contract has been extended already to Sept. 30, 2021 to allow more time to expend funds.

Profit and loss report overview shows that WA DNR and RCO LE will be fully expended by the end of the contract period June 30, 2021. The unencumbered funds have seen no significant change and the net income in reserve is \$37,412. Some of this money will be used for payment of Pete's accrued annual leave.

Executive & Finance Committee Updates

Melody gave an update on the April 7, 2021 Executive Committee (EC) and April 8, 2021 Finance Committee (FC). There were no recommendations to bring to the full Board from either committee.

Contracts

Melody reviewed the RCO Applicant Resolution/Authorization contract that is filled out every year for an authorized representative who will sign RCO contracts. In the event that we need any wet ink signatures, it is helpful to select the Chelan County Commissioner (Commissioner Bugert) as he is the closest to our office.

Commissioner Andy Hover made a motion to approve the RCO Applicant Resolution/Authorization with Commissioner Bob Bugert as the Authorized Rep. Shannon Adams seconded the motion. Commissioner Marc Straub was absent and all approved. Commissioner Hover gave permission to use his signature on this document.

The second item is an amendment, a no cost extension, for Trout Unlimited (TU). The period was extended to September 30, 2021 for Johnson Creek outreach in Okanogan that has been delayed due to COVID.

Commissioner Andy Hover made a motion to approve the no cost extension amendment for Trout Unlimited. Shannon Adams seconded the motion. Commissioner Marc Straub was absent and all approved. Commissioner Bugert gave permission to use his electronic signature on this document.

8. Wrap-up and Adjourn Meeting

Chair Bugert thanked everyone for attending the UCSRB virtual meeting and adjourned the meeting at 1:02 pm.