

UPPER COLUMBIA SALMON RECOVERY BOARD
DRAFT MEETING (Webinar) SUMMARY
June 24, 2021

Board Members Present:

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

Staff Present: Melody Kreimes, Sarah Walker, Greer Maier, Tracy Bowerman, Caitlin Vanderpool, Ryan Niemeyer, Nicole Jordan, Alicia Meier

Others Present:

Bonneville Environmental Foundation: Robert Warren; **Bureau of Reclamation:** Steve Kolk; **Cascadia Conservation District:** Ryan Williams; **Cascade Fisheries:** Jason Lundgren, Aaron Rosenblum; **Chelan County Natural Resource Department:** Lisa Dowling, Mike Kaputa; **Congressman Dan Newhouse Staff:** Rachel McClure; **Congresswoman Kim Schrier Staff:** Kelli Scott; **Methow Salmon Recovery Foundation:** John Crandall; **Okanogan Conservation District:** Kimberly Kogler; **RCO:** Rich Innes, Erik Neatherlin; **Senator Patty Murray Staff:** Raquel Crowley; **Senator Maria Cantwell Staff:** Rick Evans, Alexis Gutierrez; **Trout Unlimited:** Kodi Jo Jaspers; **US Fish & Wildlife:** Kate Terrell; **Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife (WDFW):** Chad Jackson; **Yakama Nation:** Brandon Rogers

The hybrid in-person/virtual meeting was called to order at 9:06 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, webinar, and in-person. Melody Kreimes recommended reviewing the agenda and moving any decision-making items before 11:45am when Commissioner Marc Straub will be leaving. No changes were requested.

Commissioner Marc Straub made a motion to approve the June 24, 2021 UCSRB agenda. Chuck Brushwood seconded the motion and all approved. Commissioner Hover was absent.

1. Regular Business

Chair Bugert asked for comments or revisions to the April 22, 2021 UCSRB meeting summary. No comments or revisions were offered, and the minutes were approved.

Chuck Brushwood made a motion to approve the April 22, 2021 UCSRB meeting summary. Commissioner Marc Straub seconded the motion and all approved. Commissioner Hover was absent.

2. Ruckelshaus Center Regional Evaluation Update

Melody reported on discussions with Citizen's Advisory Committees (CAC's), Watershed Action Teams (WAT's), Regional Technical Team (RTT), and Implementation Team (IT) regarding the Regional Evaluation recommendations. All comments and ideas are being compiled and Melody is in active communications with BEF re: potential future actions.

The Directors discussed that they are looking for partner's priority interests for implementing any action items. Some initial items include:

- Elevate conversation with RCO and other funders for adaptive management of projects post construction.
 - ✓ Melody to reach out to Council of Regions and RCO
- Opportunities with Rock Island Dam relicensing (mitigation funds provided to Habitat Trib Committee but no requirement to spend the money). Partners interested in more habitat projects being funded by Trib Committee.
- WATs suggested having an engineer on contract with UCSRB that sponsors could use to help with permitting questions related to project designs.
- CACs like idea of closing the loop with the RTT after ranking is completed.
- CAC and RTT also exploring role a social scientist might play in the region to better understand how to increase landowner support for projects and increase multiple benefits of projects.

Next Steps:

- *Ruckelshaus standing item on Board agendas.*
- *Workshop with all groups RTT, CAC, WAT, SOW for feedback – possibly at September 23, 2021 BOD meeting.*
- *Explore a formal request from UCSRB to NOAA for a Salmon Recovery Staff to follow Lynn Hatcher.*

3. Finance & Operations

Melody and Caitlin gave an overview of the Draft FY22 Budget. The FY22 budget assumes a flat revenue from BPA, Yakama Nation, RCO and Lead Entity and, thus, no need for expense reductions. Final RCO revenue may fluctuate due to final amount of grant money that will roll over to FY22. For FY22, UCSRB will have significantly lower subcontractor costs since work by Pacific Northwest National Laboratory and EcoTrust for Snow2Flow will be complete this fiscal year. The line item expense for an audit (approximately \$20,000) is not included in this year’s budget, as we did not exceed the threshold for expenditures of federal awards that would have required a single audit. Another lower expense is due to Lead Entity Coordinator only working 25 hours per week this fall, increasing to 32 hours in calendar year 2022. Increases in expenses include training (assuming COVID restrictions lift), rent (as we are looking to move at the end of our lease in December), and Board travel to Washington DC for 4 people (assuming COVID restrictions lift). The final draft FY22 budget is \$1,068,555. Other key points include:

- An operating reserve at \$16,000
- Unencumbered funds not reflected, and they are approximately ~\$30,000.
- The Science Conference is scheduled for January 2022 and has a separate budget.

Melody reported on her follow up with the other Regions re: their operating reserve. Only one region, WA Coast, has a written reserve policy but has not been able to fully fund the reserve yet.

Melody reported that the Finance and Executive Committee’s reviewed the FY2022 Draft UCSRB Budget and neither proposed any revisions and recommended the Board approve the budget as drafted.

Next Steps:

- *Melody and Caitlin will work with the Finance Committee to draft a reserve policy for the Board of Directors to consider at the September Board meeting.*

Marc Straub made a motion to approve the FY2022 Draft UCSRB Budget. Chuck Brushwood seconded the motion and all approved. Commissioner Andy Hover was absent.

Overview of Financial Reports

Caitlin next reviewed the financial reports showing we have expended 86% of our revenue for FY21 compared to being 96% through the budget year ending June 30, 2021. A few key highlights from the budget to actual report are payroll is 97% expended, outreach and partner contract expenditures are a little low as final invoices are being entered for payment (except for Trout Unlimited, which has requested a 3 month no-cost extension due to COVID-related delays). Cascade Conservation District and Aspect Consulting are showing as overspent as their budgets do not align with our fiscal year. Training and travel expenses have continued to be underspent, however, staff have been actively searching for trainings as COVID restrictions have guidelines have changed. We are underspent for the year, however, RCO Admin contract has been extended to Sept. 30, 2021 to allow more time to expend funds (~\$120,000) and will allow any unspent funds to roll over into FY 2022.

Profit and loss report overview shows BEF, WA DNR, and RCO LE will be fully expended by the end of the budget year June 30, 2021. YN and BPA grants are on track at 50% expended and halfway through the grant period. UCSRB will be providing additional technical services (through contractors) to fill prioritization gaps, funded by new contract with BPA, which will run from September 2021 to September 2022. The unencumbered funds balance is \$38,457.

Contracting

Melody reviewed the Aspect Consulting Contract for GIS services funded by our RCO grant. The contract runs from July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022 totaling \$18,000.

Commissioner Marc Straub made a motion to approve the Aspect Consulting Contract for \$18,000. Chuck Brushwood seconded the motion and all approved. Commissioner Andy Hover was absent.

Next Melody discussed the RCO Lead Entity (LE) income contract totaling \$137,001 for the period of July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022. The RCO LE contract is state funded and additional federal funding for RCO Admin tasks will be added to this contract in September.

Chuck Brushwood made a motion to approve the RCO LE Income Contract for \$137,001. Commissioner Marc Straub seconded the motion and all approved. Commissioner Andy Hover was absent.

Melody presented sample outreach and Board support contract language for CCNRD and Okanogan County for the Board to review and approve delegating final outreach contracts and approval to the Executive Committee for work that starts in July.

Chuck Brushwood made a motion to approve contract language for outreach and Board support contracts and delegate final approval to the Executive Committee. Commissioner Marc Straub seconded the motion and all approved. Commissioner Andy Hover was absent.

Melody discussed updating the UCSRB Personnel Policies and Procedures Manual to reflect state policy language for annual leave. The correction would change the policy to read:

- No more than 240 hours of annual leave may be carried over from one State biennium to the next accrued.

Commissioner Marc Straub made a motion to approve the corrections to the 2021 UCSRB Personnel Policies and Procedures Manual. Chuck Brushwood seconded the motion and all approved. Commissioner Andy Hover was absent.

Melody gave an overview of the proposed updates to the Accounting Policies and Procedures Manual of the UCSRB that reflect that UCSRB is now subject to State Auditor Office (SAO) audits, as well as Federal audits (when the threshold has been exceeded). State audits will occur every two years starting the Fall of 2022. The revisions include updating all references to audit with audits. The Finance committee reviewed the revisions to the manual and recommended that it be approved.

Chuck Brushwood made a motion to approve the revised Accounting Policies and Procedures Manual of the UCSRB as presented. Commissioner Marc Straub seconded the motion and all approved. Commissioner Andy Hover was absent.

4. Forest Health Update

Sarah Walker gave an update on the North Central Washington Forest Health Collaborative (NCWFHC). With recent changes to NEPA regulations the NCWFHC Steering Committee recognized a lack of process and developed a better way to communicate with the Forest Service before during and after a project. Each project will now have a unique framework and implementation plan for increase scope and scale of projects being completed on Forest Service land. A main concern is Forest Service limitations on staffing and being able to have collaborative members potentially help support forest leadership. There has been recent interest by the Co-Chairs to advocate for more Congressional funding for the OWNF Region 6 to support more staff.

Next Steps:

- Sarah will email Board members Forest Health slide show presentation.

5. Upper Columbia Outreach

Bob Bugert took the opportunity to introduced and welcome Tracy Bowerman the new Lead Entity Coordinator.

UCSRB Communications Overview

Nicole Jordan gave an overview of current communication outreach underway at UCSRB including a re-theme of our website. The first 6 months of 2021 showed the highest visits to the funding opportunities, science programs, Northern Pike, and our podcast pages. There have been five podcasts fully published as of June 2021 which include interviews with project sponsors, regional technical experts and partners. UCSRB is working with Chelan PUD and the Wenatchee Valley River Institute on collaborative outreach on the invasive Northern Pike.

Lead Entity Outreach Updates

John Crandall with the Methow Salmon Recovery Foundation shared the status of their Lead Entity Outreach and Salmon in the classroom education.

- ✓ Salmon in the classroom that combines art, math, science, and public speaking in a 6 week program to Methow Valley 6th graders.
- ✓ Lead Entity Outreach included providing relevant info to the community on the importance of habitat and hatcheries to salmon. Original strategy was to print materials and put in the

community but are not targeting landowners who live next to streams with printed material with a goal to target land owners to help with future outreach.

Kimberly Kogler with the Okanogan Conservation District reviewed outreach they have been working on this year.

- ✓ Student/community outreach with a final product of student made outreach video.
- ✓ Johnson Creek Aquatic habitat restoration went out to 45-50 people

Next Step:

- Nicole to follow up with Kimberly on the student outreach video link once it is posted.

Kodi Jo Jaspers with Trout Unlimited provided an update on Lead Entity outreach.

- ✓ Johnson Creek outreach in Okanogan County was delayed due to COVID and a no-cost extension through September 2021 was approved to continue this work.
- ✓ Beaver restoration projects in Chelan County worked with 13 organizations, 9 land owners, 1000 community members, and 35 hours of volunteer hours to supplement aquatic restoration in Chelan County.
- ✓ 6,600 people were reached on Facebook and Instagram for beaver restoration and conservation during this outreach period.
- ✓ Fall of 2021 plans are for beaver themed hikes, Pybus Farmers Market booth, and Wenatchee Valley History Museum movie showing.

Follow up:

Nicole to talk with Kodi Jo about how to coordinate between conservation focused outreach and non-conservation focused entities, and talk with sponsors about outreach that could be done in Douglas County.

Lisa Dowling with Chelan County Natural Resources Department gave an update on their outreach during FY20-21 and modifications they made to continue outreach virtually through out COVID.

- ✓ Hosted a series of community meetings for project sponsors
- ✓ North 40 Productions video completed – sponsors were able to get their portion of video for outreach needs.
- ✓ Friends of Our Rivers – What’s Happening in Your backyard? A series of virtual community outreach videos that share the collaborative efforts to prioritize, plan, and implement salmon habitat restoration and protection project within the Wenatchee River and its tributaries. Videos are posted on the [County of Chelan, Washington website](#).

6. Public Comments & Questions

There were no public comments. Marc Straub left the meeting at 11:45am

7. Federal Legislative Outreach & Updates

Updates from staff with RCO, Senator Murray, Senator Cantwell, Representative Newhouse and Representative Schrier were provided to the Board that will benefit salmon recovery. Highlights include:

- NOAA received a funding increase of 25%.
- Infrastructure Bill has bipartisan support for a \$1-\$1.5 trillion package vs the larger \$2.2 trillion package which would have more potential benefits to salmon.

- Governor Inslee came out with letter identifying Federal Infrastructure Bill dollars. Salmon recovery is highlighted and included in the request.
- Senator Cantwell asked Congress for a \$5 million increase for the Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund (currently \$65 million).
- Senator Cantwell introduced Surface Transportation Investment Act authorizing \$4 billion over five years for culvert improvements and replacements which could benefit Washington salmon populations.
- Representative Schrier helped introduce the National Prescribed Act of 2021– \$300 million dollar cap for Forest Service and DOI to plan, prepare, and conduct controlled burns on federal, state, and private lands. Bill will be in the senate in October. She discussed this Bill when recently touring the UWPP project landscape.

Follow up:

- *Erik Neatherlin to provide link with NOAA fact report.*
- *RCO to share Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund letter.*
- *Kelli Scott staffer for Representative Schrier will email the National Forest Restoration and Remediation Act for distribution to the Board.*
- *Melody and Rich Innes to coordinate timing for the DC trip.*
- *Board support for a letter in support of Senator Cantwell's Surface Transportation Investment Act. If there is not consensus individual entities can write letters of support.*

8. Wenatchee Alluvial Storage Model

Mike Kaputa with CCNRD asked to postpone this presentation and if time allows to be added to the September Board meeting as he would prefer to give it in-person.

9. Wrap-up and Adjourn Meeting

Chair Bugert thanked everyone for attending the UCSRB virtual meeting and adjourned the meeting. at 1:00 pm. Next Board meeting will be Thursday September 23, 2021