

UPPER COLUMBIA SALMON RECOVERY BOARD
DRAFT MEETING (Webinar) SUMMARY
September 23, 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, Tracy Bowerman, Caitlin Vanderpool, Ryan Niemeyer, Nicole Jordan, Alicia Meier

Others Present:

Bureau of Reclamation: Jeff McLaughlin, Steve Kolk, Amy Whittington; **Cascadia Conservation District:** Ryan Williams, Elizabeth Jackson, Amanda Newell; **Cascade Fisheries:** Jason Lundgren, Jennifer Herdmann, Kristen Kirkby; **Chelan County Natural Resource Department:** Allison Lutes, Mike Kaputa, Bryan Maloney; **Douglas County PUD:** Tom Kahler; **Natural Systems Design:** Susan Dickerson-Lange; **Okanogan Land Trust:** Kate Miller; **Plache & Carr LLP:** Peter Dykstra; **Trout Unlimited:** Kodi Jo Jaspers, Lisa Pelly; **US Fish & Wildlife:** Kate Terrell; **Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife (WDFW):** Carmen Andonaegui, Amanda Barg, Jeff Dengel, Tristan Weiss, Megan Kernan; **Yakama Nation:** Brandon Rogers

The virtual meeting was called to order at 9:02 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. Melody Kreimes recommended adding the following items to the Finance & Operations portion of the agenda:

- Review and Approve JDSA Lease Agreement
- Review and Approve LE Outreach Contracts

Chuck Brushwood made a motion to approve the revised September 23, 2021 UCSRB agenda. Commissioner Andy Hover seconded the motion and all approved.

1. Regular Business

Chair Bugert asked for comments or revisions to the June 24, 2021 UCSRB meeting summary. No comments or revisions were offered, and the minutes were approved.

Commissioner Marc Straub made a motion to approve the June 24, 2021 UCSRB meeting summary. Shannon Adams seconded the motion and all approved.

2. Ruckelshaus Center Regional Evaluation Workshop

Melody reported on continued 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. Based on these discussions a number of priorities have been identified:

- Expansion of all-H integration which is currently underway.
- Greater outreach funding, which UCSRB has already initiated including doubling the outreach grant funding available annually, forming a three-county review committee, and expanding eligibility for proposals beyond SRFB contract holders.

- Funding for post-construction adaptive response for projects, which UCSRB is already discussing with other regions and RCO.
- Reinstatement of NOAA Fisheries salmon recovery coordinator for the region.
- PRCC and Trib Committee funding coordination, which has already begun with both Committees initiating early input to sponsors on project designs with the goal of increasing Committee's interest in ultimately funding project implementation.
- Contract social scientist or economist to consult in the region to better understand and integrate the socioeconomic interests of salmon recovery with the goal of increasing and broadening support for salmon recovery efforts. Currently Hood Canal and Puget Sound salmon recovery organizations utilize social scientists.
- Interest in having an on-call engineer for sponsors to use to explore complexities of permitting around potential project ideas, before sponsors have design contracts in place.
- Continued interest in greater clarity in the role of the Implementation Team (IT) and its relationship to UCSRB, WATs and RTT.

The Directors discussed these ideas and heard from partners. There was still uncertainty for project sponsors about what the role of a socioeconomic specialist would be. The RTT is proceeding with engaging a socioeconomic expert and the CACs were very interested in this, as well. The Directors suggested identifying priorities may require more discussion and strategizing. Some suggested a strategic planning process might be helpful, though Melody pointed out that was, at a high level, what the regional evaluation was—what is working, what are threats or barriers, what improvements could be made, etc. After lengthy discussions, a number of follow up steps and timeline were agreed to.

Next Steps:

In order to refine what UCSRB might move forward and how, the following next steps were agreed to:

- *Melody Kreimes, Bob Bugert, Chuck Brushwood, Robert Warren and possibly Ruckelshaus staff to establish a framework for moving forward with some recommendations from the Regional Evaluation.*
- *A special Board meeting will be held on Nov. 4, 2021 to discuss furthering any items from the Regional Evaluation.*
- *Melody will follow up with Bob and Chuck to coordinate meeting with BEF and Ruckleshaus to discuss.*

3. Break

Bob Bugert took a moment to thank Greer Maier for her 9 years of service at UCSRB and wished her good luck at Triangle Associates.

4. Upper Columbia Outreach

Collaborative Approach to Salmon Recovery Outreach: a collaboration between Cascadia Conservation District (CCD), Cascade Fisheries (CF) and Trout Unlimited (TU) to engage landowners and residents in the Wenatchee and Entiat watersheds. The Cascadia quarterly newsletter published an expanded Spring 2021 issue that went out to 37,000 residents in Chelan County. This issue focused on salmon ecology, habitat and recovery efforts. A photo contest was held for the natural resources stewardship calendar with 300 copies were printed and mailed or available for pick up at Cascadia's office. Landowner outreach was another element and work with ten landowners in high priority watersheds along the Chumstick and Eagle Creek occurred. The last component of this outreach was for a three part webinar series. Due to COVID constraints funding for the workshops was used to purchase a

drone. Many applications for the drone will be beneficial for use in outreach as well as SRFB presentations that have been virtual.

Community Education and Engagement to Support Salmon Recovery: Kristen Kirby with Cascade Fisheries shared the Okanogan school education programs that included fish tanks in classrooms, virtual appearances in classrooms, salmon release, outdoor salmon physiology, and water quality effects on fish in the Pateros, Bridgeport, and Brewster school district. Other community engagement included Hancock Springs community science monitoring program where the community could help in collecting data post construction and restoration work. *State of the Salmon* report focused on the riparian stewardship opportunities was sent to 1000 residents along waterfronts in direct mailings.

This years Outreach is proposing to continue this work by taking the Methow River Habitat Restoration Guide and creating an Okanogan specific edition. Adding an interpretive spawning fish sign at Mack Lloyd Park in Winthrop at the pedestrian bridge.

Salmon in Schools Programs: Jennifer Herdmann with Cascade Fisheries gave an overview of the Chelan and Douglas County school programs completed in 2020-2021 in K-12 classes. The approach was both in-person and online and reached 11,080 students, 164 hours of salmon watershed education, and 506 classroom lessons. This included distributing 100 STEM tool kits for data collection in the White River, a year-round after school watershed exploration, and an 8 day watershed summer camp.

Okanogan Salmon Awareness: Kate Miller with Okanogan Land Trust shared the outreach they completed last year to promote salmon recovery and stream restoration. They worked with two landowners on the Okanogan River planting willows. Additionally, letters were mailed to landowners along 9 Mile Creek with information and resources for conservation easements and habitat restoration to better engagement with landowners. Two free community education events were held in:

- Techniques for salmon recovery was held in January (50 attendees).
- Alexa Whipple of the Methow Beaver Project event held in April.

5. Finance & Operation

Caitlin Vanderpool reviewed the financial reports showing we have expended 23% of our revenue for FY22 compared to being 24% through the budget year ending June 30, 2022. A few key highlights from the budget to actual report are corrections to the appropriate time frame to the ED discretionary and LE outreach that was recorded in July instead of June. The Pacific Northwest National Lab and Ecotrust contracts appear to be expended at a higher rate than where we are in our budget year. This reflects both contracts having been amended with no cost extensions through March 15, 2022. The office equipment line item appears to be a negative balance and is due to a \$492 refund for a desk.

Next Caitlin discussed the profit and loss report showing the five current grants. The OCR (contract ends in March) and RCO Admin (extended to December) grants are nearly expended. BPA and Yakama Nation income contracts run through November and are 70% expended. The RCO LE grant is 17% completed and runs through June. Finally, the unencumbered profit and loss are at \$38,458.

JDSA Lease Agreement

Melody reviewed the lease agreement for UCSRB's new office space at 123 Easy St. in Wenatchee. This lease is for three years with a two-year option for \$3,850 per month (all inclusive). This rate is slightly over budget by \$1,098 through June 30, 2022, which can come out of our operating reserve.

JDSA is allowing us to move in November but will not charge us rent until January. Our current lease at the GoUSA Building expires on December 31.

The Board asked what the process was for looking for space to lease? Melody has kept a list of several locations and rates of office spaces looked at in Wenatchee, East Wenatchee, and Leavenworth over the past year.

Commissioner Marc Straub made a motion to authorize the chair to sign the lease agreement with JDSA. Commissioner Andy Hover seconded the motion and all approved.

Contracting

Melody reviewed 3 income contracts and 4 consultant contracts:

- BPA Technical Services income contract is for \$73,923 with a performance period from 9/15/21 to 9/14/22. This contract is to fill critical data gaps in the UC region's Habitat Prioritization Tool and will be fulfilled primarily by Cramer Fish Sciences and Aspect.

Commissioner Andy Hover made a motion to approve the cooperative agreement between BPA and UCSRB and signed by the Chair. Commissioner Marc Straub seconded the motion and all approved.

- RCO Admin amended income contract is for the addition of \$435,000 with a performance period from 7/1/2021 through 6/30/2023. This is the same amount and terms as in the past.

Commissioner Andy Hover made a motion to approve the amended cooperative agreement between RCO and UCSRB and signed by the Chair. Chuck Brushwood seconded the motion and all approved.

- DNR income contract is for facilitation of the NCWFHC and outreach for \$20,000 with a performance period from 9/23/21 through 6/30/22.

Commissioner Andy Hover made a motion to approve the contract between DNR and UCSRB and signed by the Chair. Commissioner Marc Straub seconded the motion and all approved.

- Amended contract with Aspect Consulting to update the Intrinsic Potential data. The performance period is extended to 9/14/22 with \$14,996 added to the contract for a total contract amount of \$32,996. This contract is funded from our BPA Technical Services income contract and is sole source to Aspect as they have developed and worked on the Prioritization Tool for 2 years and provide a cost savings versus bringing another consultant up to speed.

Commissioner Andy Hover made a motion to approve the amended contract \$14,996 between Aspect Consulting and UCSRB and signed by the Chair. Chuck Brushwood seconded the motion and all approved.

- Cramer Fish Sciences contract for Tier 1 data gaps. The contract is for \$49,843 with a performance period from 9/15/21 to 9/14/22. This contract is funded from the BPA Tech income contract. Two proposals were received for this work and the RTT prioritization workgroup reviewed and recommended Cramer Fish Sciences.

Commissioner Marc Straub made a motion to approve the contract between Cramer Fish Sciences and UCSRB and signed by the Chair. Chuck Brushwood seconded the motion and all approved.

- Cascade Fisheries consultant contract for Lead Entity outreach in Okanogan and Chelan County is for \$29,978 and funded from our RCO Lead Entity income contract. The performance period is from 9/15/21 to 6/30/21.

Chuck Brushwood made a motion to approve the LE outreach contract with Cascade Fisheries and for the chair to sign in the form of approval. Commissioner Andy Hover seconded the motion and all approved.

- Okanogan Conservation District consultant contract for Lead Entity in Okanogan County for \$12,201 and funded from our RCO Lead Entity income contract. The performance period is from 9/15/21 to 6/30/21

Commissioner Andy Hover made a motion to approve the Okanogan Conservation District contract with the Chair to sign. Chuck Brushwood seconded the motion and all approved.

Postpone Science Conference Plans for January 2022

Melody discussed several reasons why we are postponing the January 2022 Science Conference. UCSRB sees the importance of maintaining this as an in-person event and with the continued COVID risks and uncertainties, and Greer's departure, it seemed best to postpone the event. Any down payments made were refundable or deferred.

6. Public Comments & Questions

There were no public comments.

7. Bureau of Reclamation Update

Jeff McLaughlin and Steve Kolk shared the BOR has been working in the Upper Columbia River Basin for 20 years. Currently working with partners (MSRF, TU, CF, Cascadia, Yakama Nation) by providing financial assistance and then working together on project designs. The new changes to the BiOp UC metrics allows the BOR to tune into the UC basin by adding a middle management layer. This will allow the ability to look above the project level coordination with monitoring efforts and a Tributary Technical Team to look at a larger Columbia River lens. Jeff discussed the BOR's support to fund design and technical services, getting projects ready to build but not fund construction. For the Entiat monitoring fish data is being gathered and they purchased a pit tag barge to help gather data.

Next Steps/Follow-up:

- *Continue to have conversations with BOR at future meetings to make sure we are on the same page and resources are being used to the fullest.*
- *Look at opportunities to work together on implementation in Salmon Creek*

8. Integrated Recovery Action Plan

Melody shared the tracking document for opportunities in the Habitat-Hatchery, Habitat-Hydropower, and All-H sectors that includes goals, actions and potential outcomes for the UCSRB Integrated Recovery Action Plan. We have initiated conversations with co-managers and the PUDs about habitat hatchery opportunities. A letter supporting legislative request for CRITFC funding for pinniped management was sent out in July. Also, annual reporting is migrating to an online format to make it more interactive and accessible and will be in place for next year's reporting.

Pending Evaluations of Enloe Dam Removal. RCO has asked what the UCSRB's position is on the Enloe Dam removal. Currently, the UCSRB has not established such a position. The Board wanted to have

some fundamental shared learning to hear Director's organizations perspectives on the Enloe Dam Removal. Colville Confederated Tribes support dam removal but not assisted fish passage over Coyote Falls. Okanogan County is interested in better understanding what the First Nations in Canada think about Enloe Dam removal and is tracking closely what the Okanogan PUD's position is and how it, and rate payers, will be impacted. Chelan and Douglas Counties, and Yakama Nation do not have a position currently and would need additional information to take back to their agencies for further discussion. Lisa Pelly shared information from the Enloe Dam removal workgroup. The workgroup is awaiting study results on dam safety, sediment accumulation and potential steelhead habitat above Enloe Dam. Lisa pointed out both Upper and Lower Similkameen Bands, as well as B.C. government, support Enloe Dam removal and she will forward those letters to UCSRB. NOAA will be finalizing habitat assessments in early to mid-2022. Melody will continue messaging that the Board doesn't not have an opinion on the Enloe Dam removal, Tracy Bowerman will track working group progress, and NOAA and/or working group presentations to the Board will be requested once data are available.

Next Steps/Follow-up:

- *Integrated Recovery Action Plan: Ongoing update at our Board meetings*
- *Revise Habitat-Hydropower Opportunities Action: change "Engagement" on Enloe Dam Removal to "Tracking" and add work with Enloe Dam Removal Workgroup.*
- *Melody and Tracy Bowerman will work with NOAA and Lisa Pelly and Chris Fisher from the workgroup to bring this up at future agenda when the time and data comes up.*
- *Tracy Bowerman to participate in Enloe Dam workgroup meetings.*

9. Wenatchee Alluvial Storage Model

Allison Lutes with CCNRD and Susan Dickerson-Lange with Natural Systems Design discussed the alluvial storage model that the county has been working toward implementing. The County is looking at improving restorable alluvial water storage caused by incision by using a model to help determine areas that have potential for water storage, who owns the land, who to engage, or if there are any infrastructure concerns. A number of pilot projects are underway including Poison Canyon in the Mission watershed on DNR property, Camas Meadows in the Peshastin watershed, and Eagle Creek in the Chumstick watershed on Hampton and Forest Service land.

10. Executive Session – Personnel 2:25pm

Chair Bugert noted the time of 2:25pm and asked the Board to continue with the private executive session and resume the full meeting at 2:55.

Commissioner Andy Hover made a motion to go into executive session with the inclusion of Melody Kreimes not to exceed 20 minutes. Commissioner Marc Straub seconded the motion and all approved.

There was nothing to report from Executive Session.

11. Wrap-up and Adjourn Meeting

Chair Bugert thanked everyone for attending the UCSRB virtual meeting. and adjourned the meeting. at 2:57 pm. Next Board meeting will be Thursday December 9, 2021.

Commissioner Andy Hover made a motion adjourn the meeting. Chuck Brushwood seconded the motion and all approved.