

UPPER COLUMBIA SALMON RECOVERY BOARD  
DRAFT MEETING (Webinar) SUMMARY  
February 24, 2022

**Board Members Present:**

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

**Staff Present:** Melody Kreimes, Tracy Bowerman, Ryan Niemeyer, Nicole Jordan, Dave Hecker, Sarah Walker, Elaine Sivey, Alicia Meier

**Others Present:**

**Bonneville Power Administration:** Joe Connor; **Cascadia Conservation District:** Ryan Williams, Mark Ingman; **Chelan PUD:** Bill Towey, Catherin Willard; **Confluence Environmental Company:** Eric Doyle; **Okanogan Wenatchee National Forest:** Kristin Bail; **WDFW:** Brock Hoenes, Carmen Andonaegui, Andrew Murdoch

The virtual meeting was called to order at 9:00am by Vice Chair Marc Straub as Chair Bob Bugert was unable to attend.

**Welcome and Introductions**

Vice Chair Straub welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked Melody Kreimes to help with introductions of participants via telephone and webinar. Vice Chair Straub reviewed the draft agenda for today's meeting and Melody Kreimes asked to add review of banking loan documents to the finance and operations agenda item as it came in after the Executive Committee approved the agenda.

*Chuck Brushwood made a motion to approve the February 24, 2022 agenda with the addition of the loan documents. Commissioner Hover seconded the motion and all approved, Chair Bugert was absent.*

**1. Regular Business**

Vice Chair Straub asked for comments or revisions to the December 9, 2021 UCSRB meeting summary. No comments or revisions were offered, and the summary was approved.

*Commissioner Hover made a motion to approve the December 9, 2021 UCSRB meeting summary as presented. Chuck Brushwood seconded the motion and all approved, Chair Bugert was absent.*

**2. All-H Integrated Recovery**

Tracy Bowerman gave an update on the science program (All-H) focusing on juvenile predation and adult pre-spawn mortality, as well as updates on the Enloe Dam removal and Rock Island Dam relicensing.

Juvenile predation of by bird colonies (Caspian terns, California gulls, and double crested cormorants) are having a large impact on Upper Columbia steelhead and spring Chinook smolts. Avian predation can account for up to 50% of Upper Columbia River (UCR) steelhead between Rock Island Dam and McNary Dam, which is greater than direct losses associated with dam passage, fish predation and disease. Avian consumption of 30-50% UCR steelhead smolts and 10-35% of spring Chinook smolts between Rock Island Dam and the Pacific Ocean. Currently the Caspian terns are a protected species under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and have been declining since 2011 but have two breeding sites near Seattle. The challenge is striking a balance between protecting ESA listed steelhead and spring

Chinook and birds protected under the Migratory Bird Act. Deterrents for cormorants and gulls have only resulted in shifting colony locations.

Adult pre-spawn mortality, which occurs after adult fish arrive at their spawning grounds but before reproducing. Factors affecting pre-spawn mortality rates include increased stream temperature, hatchery vs. natural origin fish and fish size. Pacific salmon pre-spawn mortality varies by species but in healthy ecosystems is less than 3% and the current estimate of the Upper Columbia is between 2-50%. To better understand this increased mortality, it will be important to focus on: 1) identifying where/when mortality happens, 2) protecting and restoring cold-water refugia, and 3) climate resilience in restoration. Currently, identifying priority cold-water refugia is on our data gaps list.

Tracy next discussed the status of the Enloe Dam Removal and Rock Island Dam relicensing. NOAA is in the process of doing modeling to identify available habitat for steelhead above Enloe Dam including natural barriers and tributary characteristics. USGS sediment analysis was completed, which resulted in 16 samples that tested high for toxicity levels. Liability issues for the PUD remain an obstacle to removal. The current 2022 WA Senate supplemental capital budget includes a \$250,000 proviso for WDFW to further analyze Enloe Dam removal. WDFW will be meeting with the PUD on 2/28 to discuss what this would look like. The Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill would also help move the Enloe Dam removal forward with potentially \$10 million going towards removal of non-hydropower federal dams. Both will continue to be tracked by UCSRB staff.

The Rock Island Dam license will expire on December 31, 2028. The relicensing process is for 30 to 50 year terms and requires PUD and Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to consult with agencies, tribes, public to identify actions to protect fish/wildlife and to assess environmental impacts of operations on non-salmon species. The first step out of 5 total steps is for 2021-2022 and is to identify primary issues and insight by identifying issues, begin technical working groups, identify information gaps, and develop study plans.

- Opportunity for the Board to identify issues of focus during step 1: Native species protection enhancement of bull trout, lamprey, and white sturgeon. And non-native species education and monitoring which include northern pike, quagga, and zebra mussels.

#### Next Steps:

- Possibly look at supporting/advocating for broader implementation of the US Army Corps of Engineers *Inland Avian Predation Management Plan*.
- Melody Kreimes and Andy Hover to reach out to North Central Washington Chapter of the National Audubon Society. Start communication on what and if they have opposition to the avian predation issue.
- Melody Kreimes and Andy Hover to reach out to Center of Biological Diversity and Conservation Northwest on opposition or issues related to avian predation.
- Tracy to follow up at the April Board meeting on the USGS sediment analysis report and how far up the Enloe the sediment samples were taken.
- Brock Hoenes to communicate with Melody Kreimes after the 2/28 meeting with the PUD possible considering writing a letter to Representative Mike Steele and Senator Brad Hawkins about Enloe Dam removal including concerns the PUD has and what the draw down would look like for WDFW access points above the dam.
- Tracy to follow up on Rock Island Dam relicensing and update the Board when available.
- Any follow-up request for presentations or information with PUD contact Bill Towey, Catherin Willard, or Janel Ulrich

### 3. Virtual Legislative/Agency Meetings

Melody Kreimes discussed options and the importance to remain engaged with State and Federal legislators and agencies on important salmon policies. This will be the third year that UCSRB Board members and staff will not travel to DC and Olympia in May/June to discuss salmon policies for the Upper Columbia. With a short Federal legislative session, ending March 10, there is a need to focus on time sensitive and specifically targeted legislation. Target who the right people are and what the targeted roll out of infrastructure money would be as agencies develop their spend plans with a goal to direct money toward salmon recovery. Melody asked the Board to reach out to her directly on any legislation they would like her to follow-up on.

#### Next Steps:

- *Subcommittee with Melody, Nicole, Chuck and Andy to develop talking points for virtual Federal legislative meeting, targeting our message and determine who we want to meet with.*
- *Andy Hover to reach out to Douglas/Okanogan, 7<sup>th</sup> District Representative Jacqueline Maycumber and Senator Short about upcoming legislation and impacts and importance to the Upper Columbia.*

*Commissioner Hover made a motion to authorize Melody Kreimes to draft a letter to Senator Brad Hawkins and Representative Mike Steele in support of Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill on salmon recovery and email the draft letter to the Board for approval with permission to use Commissioner Hover's signature stamp. Chuck Brushwood seconded the motion and all approved, Chair Bugert was absent.*

### 4. OWNF Discussion

Melody shared a map showing Tier 1 restoration HUC12s locations and that a bulk of these locations are on Okanogan Wenatchee National Forest Service land to get a visual on the importance of working together. Kristin Bail gave an update that the OWNF is still learning and waiting on the latest information on funds associated with the Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill but will allow for additional capacity and help with planning post wildfire work. The OWNF has started the process on what the region would prioritize, large scale treatments with aquatic component, with additional money but nothing for the public is available. National focus is on treatments and addressing the wildfire crisis.

The forest wide Late Successional Reserve (LSR) reports are out of date and the OWNF is looking to contract the work and use the regional office to update the LSR to streamline future NEPA work.

The CFLRP poses a challenging environmental compliance, endangered species, LSR requirements, and a programmatic agreement with state of Washington on heritage requirements. Funding needs to go through a national project approval and currently not sure on the amount or the timing.

Joint Chiefs was not selected for funding but did receive feedback this is the right work to do just need to look at with a different funding, private vs federal.

Joe Connor with BPA explained the roll-out of the \$2 million BPA-OWNF Programmatic agreement to bring regional money to the OWNF. This partnership will expand and accelerate aquatic restoration in the Upper Columbia. Project selection was agreed upon and include floodplain, fish passage, beaver power restoration in the Wenatchee NEPA project area and will include design assistance and design review.

*Discussion:*

- *Virtual legislative timing is ripe to have this conversation as DC is deciding how this money will hit the ground. How can we continue to foster inner agency collaboration? How can we be intentional about this ahead of time? Be able to get answers on what is the plan how are you going to do that, how will it be maintained? Staffing and capacity needs? Where do our partners want to step in?*
- *Can the board be effective in these discussions virtually instead of in person? Make sure the right people are in the room. Are the right leadership there.*

**5. Break**

**6. Lead Entity Updates**

Dave Hecker reviewed the Chelan County Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) nominees and recommendation process that was presented to the Chelan County Commissioners on February 14, 2022. James Johnson was approved as the County Citizens Advisory Committee and Matt Collins as an alternate by the Chelan County Commissioners.

*Commissioner Hover called to approve the nomination of James Johnson to the Chelan County Citizens Advisory Committee member. Chuck Brushwood seconded the motion and all approved, Chair Bugert was absent.*

*Commissioner Hover amended the motion to affirm Matt Collins as the alternative to the Chelan County Citizens Advisory Committee. Chuck Brushwood seconded the motion and all approved, Chair Bugert was absent.*

There was discussion about the Okanogan CAC vacancies and the possibility of someone serving on the committee who does not live within the county. Currently there are two vacancies on the Okanogan CAC with a call for nominations through April 1. A final selection and approval by the Board at the April 21, 2022 Board meeting.

Dave reviewed the SRFB grant round updates. This round will have a shortened timeline by about two weeks due to RCO's need to review and choose a project for the Targeted Investment Funding (\$3.8 million for a single project focusing on Orca recovery).

**7. Finance & Operations**

Melody introduced Elaine Sivey, the Account Manager with UCSRB to the Board. Elaine and Melody reviewed the budget to actuals report showing we have expended 54% of our revenue for FY22 compared to being 67% through the budget year ending June 30, 2022. A few highlights from the budget to actual report are payroll is running approximately \$20,000 short due to burn rates for employees has increased due to adding family members to health care during the open enrollment. Melody noted in December the Board approved amending the budget which reduced the payroll expense line item because the burn rate was low. Melody suggested allocating \$7,000 from the contingency fund and travel fund to payroll expense. Outreach is underspent due to timing of the contract. Travel, training and meeting expenses continue to be underspent and may need to be reviewed to reallocate. The consultant contract for \$55,778 is for follow-up work with Bonneville Environmental Foundation (BEF) on the Ruckelshaus evaluation and implementation work is low as no expenditures have occurred yet.

Next Elaine discussed the profit and loss report showing the seven current grants and the two completed grants with BPA and Yakama Nation. The OCR (contract ends in March) and is on track to being expended. The BPA Tech, RCO Admin, BPA Admin, and Yakama Nation contracts are just beginning. The RCO LE grant is 58% completed and the DNR grant is 47% and both run through June. Finally, the unencumbered profit and loss are at \$33,861 which reflects payroll expenses for leave pay to Greer and Caitlin.

**Next Steps:**

- *Elaine to run numbers of previous years to get a health care line-item percentage for future budgeting. Currently using 6%.*
- *Elaine to ask State Auditor if liability charge goes against operating reserve?*

Melody shared the addition of the Juneteenth holiday to the UCSRB Personnel Manual. This holiday is recognized by the state and UCSRB follows the state calendar.

*Chuck Brushwood made a motion to approve to amend holiday policy adding Juneteenth as a paid holiday in the UCSRB Personnel Manual. Shannon Adams seconded the motion and all approved, Chair Bugert was absent.*

Melody reviewed the revised draft loan documents for a line of credit from North Cascades Banking for the period of February 18, 2022 to February 18, 2024 for up \$75,000 to cover cash flow.

*Commissioner Hover made a motion to approve Corporate Resolution to Borrow Loan document from North Cascades Bank with authorization for chair Bugert to sign. Chuck Brushwood seconded the motion and all approved, Chair Bugert was absent.*

Alicia Meier updated the Board on the new income contract with Yakama Nation for \$127,056 with a period from December 1, 2021 to November 30, 2022. This income contract funds the new Watershed Action Team (WAT) facilitation contracts with Chelan County Natural Resource Department, Wenatchee WAT for \$9,000, Cascade Conservation District, Entiat WAT for \$10,000 and Methow Salmon Recovery Foundation, Methow WAT for \$10,000. The WAT contracts cover the period of December 1, 2021 to November 30, 2022. The final consultant contract is with Foster Creek Conservation District for \$1,280 funded from our RCO Lead Entity contract for outreach work for salmon in the classroom curriculum. This contract runs from January 10, 2022 to June 30, 2022.

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

Melody shared the past Board rotations. Usually, the chair has switched back and forth between county and tribe however, the Charter does not specify that rotation as it doesn't always work out especially with new members coming on board. Melody shared that Chair Bugert would be willing to continue as chair however he will not be seeking re-election for County Commissioner and would only be able to serve through December. Commissioner Hover also expressed his willingness to run for chair. Chuck mentioned that last year during nominations it was a tribes turn to rotate into the chair position but Shannon had declined at that time as she was new to the role and wanted to gain more experience before chairing. She expressed a willingness to serve as chair now.

*Commissioner Hover nominated Shannon Adams as UCSRB Chair, Shannon Adams accepted the nomination and all approved, Commissioner Bugert was absent.*

*Commissioner Hover nominated Marc Straub as UCSRB Vice Chair, Commissioner Straub agreed and all were in favor, Commissioner Bugert was absent.*

*Commissioner Hover nominated Bob Bugert as UCSRB Secretary/Treasurer all were in favor, Commissioner Bugert was absent. At the April 21 Board meeting make sure Bob Bugert agrees to role. If not Chuck Brushwood or Andy Hover are willing to fill the position.*

**9. Executive Director Hiring Status Update**

Marc Straub gave an update on the Executive Director hiring status. There will be a second round of interviews for the top candidates on March 3. Will have an update on status or if there will be a Board decision to hire a new Executive Director at the April 21 Board meeting.

**10. Public Questions and Comments**

There were no public comments.

**11. Wrap-Up and Adjourn Meeting**

Vice Chair Straub thanked everyone for attending the UCSRB virtual meeting and adjourned the meeting at 12:05 pm. Next Board meeting will be Thursday April 21, 2022.