

December 8, 2022

**Draft UCSRB Board of Directors Mtg. Summary
Chelan County Commissioners Hearing Room
9:30 am to 3:30 pm**



Formal Approvals

Item	Action-Decision
Agenda for December 8, 2022 Board of Directors Meeting	Approved with revisions and posted online at: UCSRB Agenda
Summary from September 22, 2022, Board of Directors Meeting	Approved and posted online at: UCSRB Summary
Summary from October 6, 2022, Special Board of Directors Meeting	Approved and posted online: UCSRB Summary
2021 Implementation Schedule and submittal to NOAA	Approved posted online: 2021 Implementation Schedule
Offer to UCSRB staff Section 125 Cafeteria Plan for Health Care Deduction to be pre tax	Approved
BPA income contract for \$179,903	Approved
Colville Confederated Tribe income contract for \$65,000	Approved
Authorize Executive Committee to approve the Yakama Nation income contract when received	Approved
2023 Board of Directors meeting schedule	Approved and posted online at: UCSRB Meetings

Follow-up

Item	Who	Status
UCSRB draft a letter of support to congressional leaders to update the Marine Mammal Protection Act to take into consideration salmon	Amanda Ward	Ready for review/approval at 2/23 Board Meeting
Revise Accounting Manual requirements for the monthly reoccurring HCA payment to have a single signature. Finance Committee to review and provide recommendations for the February Board meeting.	Elaine Sivey	Ready for 2/9 Finance Committee
Complete and submit forms for Section 125 Cafeteria Plan option	Elaine Sivey	Completed 12/31
Legislative Outreach options: who, when, where, what, and messaging. Executive Committee to review and provide recommendations for the February Board meeting	Amanda Ward and Nicole Jordan	Ready for 2/8 Executive Committee Meeting
Legislative Outreach budget for DC trip	Amanda Ward and Elaine Sivey	Ready for 2/8 Executive Committee Meeting
Add contractual requirements from grants to the Strategic Planning document	Amanda Ward	Ready for 2/22 Strategic Planning Meeting
Brock Hoenes to share workload planning matrix	Tracy Bowerman	Completed
UC/TRIB 2023 SRFB Funding update RTT presentation schedule currently conflicts with NOAA Riverscapes Workshop	Dave Hecker	Completed: updated to 3/29 and 3/30

Welcome and Introductions

Chair Adams welcomed everyone to the meeting at 9:30 am and asked Vice Chair Straub if he would run the meeting since she was joining virtually. Participants introduced themselves. Vice Chair Straub reviewed

the agenda for today's meeting and Amanda request adding a public comment period regarding the 2021 implementation schedule and Section 125 health plan during the finance and operations agenda item.

Andy Hover made a motion to approve the December 8, 2022 agenda, with revisions. Bob Bugert seconded the motion and all approved.

Vice Chair Straub reviewed the September 22, 2022 Board meeting and the October 6, 2022 Special Board meeting draft summaries.

Andy Hover made a motion to approve the September 22, 2022 Board meeting and October 6, 2022 Special Board meeting summaries. Chuck Brushwood seconded the motion and all approved.

1. Science Program Update

Tracy Bowerman gave an overview of the 2021 Annual Report on habitat conditions and fish status and trends. This reports the progress toward recovery for NOAA, partners, and funders. Fish status and trends traced over time through multiple habitats are smolt survival during migration, smolt-to-adult return rates, and escapement estimates. Upper Columbia spring Chinook and steelhead were impacted by a number of downstream migration conditions including below average flows in the mainstem Columbia River, travel times were slower than average, powerhouse encounter rates were moderate-to-high. 2021 yearling outmigration survival was the lowest since 2008 as smolts face many threats including avian predation, fish predation, and powerhouse mortality. Ocean conditions for 2021 were good for salmon. Recent smolt-to-adult returns remained low and adult spawner numbers increased but remain well below recovery goal target.

Mark Sorel with WDFW discussed the Wenatchee River spring Chinook population model results he prepared for the Upper Columbia. The model can be used to develop information to make better decisions with salmon recovery and where to allocate habitat recovery when funding is limited. The model allows for different management strategies based on juvenile life history. Meeting recovery goals may require habitat restoration in natal and downstream habitats and other actions.

Brian Burke with NOAA presented on the ocean conditions and their influence on salmon survival. The first weeks and months are the most sensitive for salmon survival. Ocean survival is the lowest of all the life stages at 1%. If this could be increased to 1.5% it might make a big difference in salmon recovery. Conditions when salmon first enter the ocean largely determine population trends. Marine conditions are in decline:

- marine heat waves getting more frequent and larger and impacting the coast line where juvenile fish first go.
- warmer waters bring other marine fish that salmon have to interact with.
- Increased prey availability
- Increased bird predation

Mitigate for what we can't control and work on what we can. Management actions we can take in fresh water provide a carryover effect in the marine life stage.

Questions:

Q:What is the likelihood changes will be made to the Marine Mammal Protection Act?

A: Need to start a conversation.

Q:What is the role of the UCSRB?

A: Could they write a letter of support to congressional leaders to update the Marine Mammal Protection Act?

Q: Does your model account for different types of restoration?

A: No, next step would be able to predict the actual outcome of a habitat project.

2. Foster Creek

Ryan Lefler with Foster Creek Conservation District reported they received the Department of Ecology's Water Quality Improvement Program grant that UCSRB provided a letter of support for. The watershed restoration work taking place in Foster Creek has been in partnership with Federal, State and local partners on a number of low-tech structures including Beaver Dam Analogs (BDAs), Post-Assisted Log Structures (PALS), rock structures, riparian plantings of trees and shrubs, and targeted riparian grazing to improve water quality, stream flow restoration in the anadromous zone, and improvement of issues of erosion.

Brian Miller with the Colville Confederated Tribes reviewed monitoring data for adult Steelhead in Foster Creek using PIT tag interrogation sites and Redd surveys. Foster Creek is the last tributary below the Chief Joseph Dam so it is difficult to know the origin of the adult spawner. Findings from the monitoring data include spawning distribution is largely dependent on flows, fine sediment deposition reduces spawning in the upper reach, and water temperatures likely an issue for egg-to-fry and juveniles. Recommendations include instream flow and temperature habitat projects, artificial, BDAs, and riparian shade.

Questions:

Q: Would removing the beavers below the barrier dam help the problem?

A: Beavers are a complex issue. Help hold the water longer with slower release.

Q:Is there an opportunity for the toe drain feasibility work to get the toe drain up to the level of Foster Creek?

A: Sounds like an infrastructure project.

Q: Thoughts on why they is a spawn gap in the middle?

A: The middle area is the location of the beaver dam.

Comment: Cascade Fisheries was exploring pumping the dam water upstream to the barrier dam and dam removal. For various reasons those actions seemed infeasible/not fundable.

3. 2021 Implementation Schedule and Annual Report

Tracy Bowerman shared accomplishments and highlights from completed projects in 2021. A total of 31 projects were completed of which 70% were restoration projects, 20% planning/design, and 10% assessment and acquisitions. All 2021 projects occurred within a Tier 1 or Tier 2 Assessment Unit and include a total of 20 acres of habitat protected, 14 miles of stream treated, 13 barriers removed, 30 miles of stream opened, 19 acres of floodplain reconnected, 186 structures placed in channel, 26 beavers relocated, and 2.2 miles of off-channel stream created. Featured projects in each of the 4 subbasins were shared, highlighting work that increased channel complexity, increased water flow and storage.

The Upper Columbia Recovery Plan identifies a number of recovery actions that need to be implemented within the UC Basin. The UCSRB is the coordinating body for the Recovery Plan and strives to implement the plan on a voluntary manner. The updated 2021 implementation schedule provides a method for sequencing actions within and between all sectors as resources are not currently available to implement all of the recovery actions in the near term. The implementation schedule is a living document revised annually by the local habitat groups, the UCSRB and RTT. The total implementation schedule summary from 2023-2026 is close to \$117.8 million for the four subbasins in the UC.

Andy Hover made a motion to approve the 2021 Implementation Schedule and submittal to NOAA. Bob Bugert seconded the motion and all approved.

4. Finance and Operations

Elaine gave an overview of the Budget to Actuals report through October 31, 2022 and includes the cost of the audit. We are on track for being 33% of the way through the FY22-23 Budget period.

The Profit & Loss report shows expenses by grant through October 31, 2022. The majority of TWS grant has been expended as the final Prescribed Fire brochure has been completed. The BEF grant has only incurred a few payroll expenses for preparation for the floodplain workshop. The DNR grant is running a little heavy but is being tracked. YN and BPA grants ended November 30, 2022 and are expected to be fully expended.

The operating reserve shows minimal activity. There were two rebates from UCSRB credit cards totaling \$1,321.67 and a prior year deposit refund for \$50.

State Auditor's Office Update

Elaine reported that the State Auditor's Office completed the 2021 audit and issued an unmodified opinion on the fair presentation of the Board's financial statements in accordance with its regulatory basis of accounting. An adverse opinion was issued as acknowledgement that UCSRB Uses the BARS manual, not GAPP accounting principles. There will be a management audit every three years focused on the efficient spending of funds. The next audit is anticipated to occur in late 2023 and should not impact this fiscal year budget.

Finance Committee Recommendations

Amanda shared the recommendation from the Finance Committee to look into payment of the Health Care Authority (HCA) reoccurring monthly bill (~\$10,600), which currently requires a double signature on the check. UCSRB policy is for a double signature on expenses greater than \$10,000. The Board discussed they are comfortable with the HCA reoccurring monthly payment to have one signature and the ED has approval to update the Accounting Manual language and bring it to the February Board meeting for approval. Until the new language is approved the HCA monthly check will continue to require double signature.

Section 125 IRS Cafeteria Plan

Elaine recommends UCSRB switch from making after tax health care payments to a Section 125 Cafeteria Plan, which will allow employees to use pre-tax dollars to fund their health plan contributions. A switch to Section 125 will be a cost savings to employees and UCSRB. Elaine will work with each employee to discuss options.

Andy Hover made a motion to move forward with the plan to offer a Section 125 Cafeteria Plan which moves to pre-tax basis for staff health care. Bob Bugert seconded the motion and all approved.

Executive Committee Recommendations

The Executive Committee recommends the Board discuss legislative outreach for FY2023. A list of opportunities for legislative outreach was presented including meeting one on one in Olympia, UC site tours, Quarterly updates via newsletters to legislators and staffers, DC trip, and coffee dates with legislative staffers. The Board discussed the importance of legislative outreach to bring funding to our region with a clear and consistent message.

- Provide information and engagement on avian predation
- Making sure to bring new elected legislators and their staff up to date on UC salmon recovery
- Forest Service Chief possibly coming to the region for the NCWFHC 10-year anniversary event and CWI
- Utilize staffers for Congresswoman Schrier - Ruby Gaston, Congressman Newhouse - Rachel McClure, and Senator Murray Raquel Crowley

The Board asked staff to look into the following options to move forward with working on the who, what, and messaging to take to the next Executive Committee meeting to provide recommendations for the February Board meeting.

Option 1 Reach out to Congressman Newhouse and Congresswoman Schrier if they see a DC trip for UCSRB being beneficial. If yes, then look at the financial piece and if additional funding will be needed for Executive Director, county and tribal member to travel. Develop talking points for trip.

Option 2 - Ask Congressman Newhouse and Congresswoman Schrier to come here for a focused tour and take the message to DC. Provide an opportunity for local staffers to understand a story of how this impacts a community.

Contract Updates

Amanda reviewed the FY23 contracts with BPA and the Colville Confederated Tribe. The BPA income contract is for \$179,903 for the period of December 1, 2022 to November 30, 2023.

Bob Bugert made a motion to approve the BPA contract for \$179,903. Chuck Brushwood seconded the motion and all approved.

UCSRB is entering a new grant with the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation. The contract is for \$65,000 with a completion date of October 31, 2023. Work under this contract will collect and assemble data on individual stream reaches to fill priority data gaps. The scope of work includes integrating the Okanogan Basin data into the UC prioritization, fill prioritization data gaps via remote sensing, and to integrate new data into Prioritization data sharing and web maps.

Bob Bugert made a motion to approve the Colville Confederated Tribe contract for \$65,000. Andy Hover seconded the motion and all approved.

Amanda Ward and Shannon Adams are currently working on a prorated contract based on last years amount (\$127,056) for the period of December 1, 2022 to February 28, 2023. A second contract will be developed to cover the period of March 1 through November 30, 2023 after Yakama Nation and

BPA have completed their contract negotiations. The Board of Directors authorized the Executive Committee to sign the prorated contract when it is received.

Andy Hover made a motion authorizing the Executive Committee authority to approve and sign the Yakama Nation contract when it's received. Bob Bugert seconded the motion and all approved.

5. Annual Business Meeting

Amanda reviewed the 2023 Board of Directors meeting dates which includes a two day February Board meeting which would include general business on one day and strategic planning on the other. Vice Chair Straub asked if the Board would like to have shorter more frequent meetings. Members agreed the current frequency is ideal as many have to travel long distances to attend in-person meetings. There was agreement that starting the meetings earlier, 9am, might help decrease the feeling of being rushed. Vice Chair Straub offered the use of Douglas County Transportation and Land Services Building for all of the 2023 Board meetings.

Andy Hover made a motion to approve the 2023 Board of Directors meeting schedule as proposed. Chuck Brushwood seconded the motion and all approved.

6. UCSRB Strategic Planning

Amanda shared the draft priorities, goals and objections from the facilitated 12/2 strategic planning session with staff and Andy Hover. Prior to the Board of Directors February strategic planning retreat the UCSRB staff will have an additional facilitated strategic planning session to complete the priorities, goals, and objectives. The Board of Directors provided discussion to staff on:

- Do partners view UCSRB as a repository for data?
- Board direction in how UCSRB moves forward as we are looking at bigger picture multi-year, multi-partner projects.
- Facilitating and coordinating at many levels, helping to coordinate the funding process for multi-year multi partner projects and meeting with key legislative staff/federal agencies to promote what our partners do so well.
- Need to know contractually what we are required to do: Do we have a clear delineation of these and what we have identified in our draft strategic plan?
- Importance of regional meetings and who attends - staff or Board member?
- More communication between ED and Board members on important topics when it's important to have a Board member attend certain meetings or talk with key person.
- Utilize and empower Board members to advocate for UCSRB. Better communication between Board ED and staff. Goal of the ED is to harness the strength in the county and tribe collaboration. ED can attend meetings in lieu of Board members. In the interim the Board will work with Amanda as she is getting more comfortable in her role.
- Letters of support and advocacy statements: Examples - Marine Mammal Protection Act and Northern Pike
- Will you develop an annual work plan from this strategic plan?

7. Lead Entity Update

Dave Hecker shared that out of the four proposals received for the Fall Large Cap grant proposals the Sugar Reach proposal from MSRF was approved and funded at by the Salmon Recovery Funding Board

on December 7, 2022. The project will start in 2023 by opening bids to regional contractors and construction is expected to begin in 2024 and be completed in 2025.

If additional funding is available from the Infrastructure Bill the first alternative project is the Yakama Nation Nason Creek and State Route 207 and second alternative is CCNRD's Icicle Peshastin Irrigation District Instream Flow Project.

Dave shared the draft 2023 SRFB grant round timeline. The timeline is largely the same as the previous year, with the exception of reporting deliverables that have been moved forward by a week. This is to prepare for the potential of an increased number of proposals this grant round, as we are expecting to receive an additional \$1.5 million in rollover funds to bring the available total to \$3 million. This timeframe will allow the RTT adequate time to review the projects prior to the RTT presentations on March 8 and 9, 2023.

Steve Kolk noted that the NOAA Riverscapes Workshop date was changed to March 7, 8, and 9, 2023 which conflicts with the proposed date for the RTT presentations.

8. Public Questions and Discussion

There were no public questions.

9. Chelan County Representation Transition

The UCSRB Board members and staff thanked Bob Bugert for his time, dedication, and passion to salmon recovery during his tenure on the Board and other careers over the past 30 years. The representation transition is on hold until after Shon Smith is in place and the three Commissioners discuss which Board's they will be sitting on. The UCSRB will have CCNRD support during this transition.

10. Wrap-Up and Adjourn Meeting

Vice Chair Straub thanked everyone for attending the UCSRB meeting and adjourned at 3:15m. The next scheduled Board meeting will be February 22, 2023.

Board Members Present:

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

Staff Present: Amanda Ward, Tracy Bowerman, Ryan Niemeyer, Nicole Jordan, Sarah Walker, Elaine Sivey, Dave Hecker, Alicia Meier

Others Present:

BOR: Steve Kolk; **Cascade Fisheries:** Jason Lundgren, Phillip Klenke, Kristen Kirkby; **Colville Confederated Tribes:** Brian Miller; **Douglas County PUD:** Andrew Gingerich; **Foster Creek Conservation District:** Ryan Lefler; **Methow Salmon Recovery Foundation:** John Crandall; **NOAA:** Brian Burke, Jeff Jorgensen; **Okanogan Conservation District:** Chevelle Yeckel; **Representative Newhouse Staff:** Rachel McClure; **Representative Schrier Staff:** Ruby Gaston; **USFWS:** Greg Fraser; **WDFW:** Brock Hoenes, Mark Sorel, Carmen Andonaegui; **Others:** Melody Kreimes