

April 27, 2023

**Draft UCSRB Board of Directors Mtg. Summary
Chelan County Fire District 1 – Wenatchee, WA
9:00 am to 3:00 pm**



Formal Approvals

Item	Action-Decision
Agenda for April 27, 2023 Board of Directors Meeting	Approved with revisions and posted online at: UCSRB Agenda
Summary from February 22, 2023, Board of Directors Meeting	Approved and posted online at: UCSRB Summary
Summary from February 23, 2023, Board of Directors Meeting	Approved and posted online at: UCSRB Summary
Aspect Consulting Contract Amendment #5	Ratified
Yakama Nation Contract FY23-24 \$157,780	Approved

Welcome and Introductions

Vice Chair Chuck Brushwood welcomed everyone to the meeting at 9:10 am and participants introduced themselves. Board members present, Chuck Brushwood, Shannon Adams, and Shon Smith decided to move forward with the Columbia River Pinniped management update while awaiting the arrival of Chair Andy Hover.

1. Columbia River Pinniped Management Update

Paul Ward, Doug Hatch (CRITFC), Meagan West, and John Edwards (WDFW) presented the current approach on pinniped removal and effectiveness. The sea lion issue in the Columbia River has involved

- Biology: Removal of 378 sea lions since 2008;
- Regulation: 5 applications to NMFS lethal removal;
- Litigation: Four lawsuits filed;
- Legislation: HR 1769 and PL 115-329;
- Teamwork: Northwest Congressional Delegation, USACE, BPA, NMFS, NPCC, IDFG, ODFW, WDFW, Nez Perce Tribe, Umatilla Tribe, Yakama Nation, Warm Springs Tribe and CRITFC.

The Potential Biological Removal (PBR) level is defined as the maximum number of animals that could be removed with no impact on their populations. In this case, the number are Steller Sea Lions = 2,378 and California Sea Lions = 9,200. Under Section 120(f), sea lions are captured in floating traps at Bonneville and Willamette Falls and then humanely euthanized. US Army Corps of Engineering 2021-2022 data shows trends are reversing for Steller Sea Lions at Bonneville due to removals. Future opportunities for management and monitoring include using an integrated approach to understand movement and abundance of sea lions in the Columbia Basin by adding management areas at the Lewis River and Cowlitz River, using boat-based surveys, drone monitoring, and diet analysis. Current funding is \$1.57 million from WDFW, ODFW, IDFG and \$254,593 from CRITFC. The groups are looking to increase this budget to \$5 million to expand their work into the lower Columbia tributaries in an effort to deal with habituation. The goal would be to get this in the Congressional budget so it could be appropriated yearly.

Action Item: Next Steps & Follow up:

- During next DC trip, advocate for federal money to go toward pinniped predation in the Columbia Basin. Agencies can help with planning and materials for the trip.
- Board support for this effort?

- ✓ Relationships with State electives. State funding of \$754,000 was for one year only. Current Chair of Ways & Means is retiring.
- ✓ WDFW legislative request timing and communication
- ✓ Humane society opposes this activity - possible engagement with them on active management. There has been no success with this activity to date.

2. Regular Business

Chair Hover reviewed the agenda for the meeting and asked if there were any corrections or additional items to be added to the agenda. A request to add a recently received contract from Yakama Nation for review and approval was made.

Chuck Brushwood made a motion to approve the April 27, 2023 agenda with the addition of the Yakama Nation contract. Shon Smith seconded the motion and all approved. Marc Straub was absent

Chair Hover noted three items on the consent agenda: (1 & 2) February 22 and 23, 2023 Board meeting draft summaries, and (3) the Executive Committee approved Aspect Consulting contract Amendment #5 for \$38,000.

A discussion on the Executive Committee process of approving contracts as per the Executive Committee Charter and then concurrent Board notification at Board of Directors meeting. It was asked if contracts are reviewed by an attorney. UCSRB expense contracts have been reviewed by an attorney but not income contracts. The Executive Director will be diligent with new income contracts and attorney review.

Shon Smith made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Chuck Brushwood seconded the motion and all approved. Marc Straub was absent.

3. Break

4. Legislative Outreach and Tour

Chair Hover, Shannon Adams, and Amanda Ward gave a debrief of the Olympia Legislative trip that took place on March 22 and 23. Met with Representative Goehner, Representative Steele, Representative Kretz, Representative Maycumber, and Senator Short. For future legislative outreach:

- Better time meeting to coincide with budget cycle (2025 next biennium budget cycle)
- Consistently engage in Olympia to maintain relationships
- Piggy-back trip with other agencies
- Targeted information for state legislative visits (be specific on what we are asking)

Amanda provided an update on the plans, activities, and participants for the Upper Columbia legislative rafting tour scheduled for May 31, 2023. A Western Caucus meeting was recently scheduled for May 31st so many legislators will not be able to attend but many staffers have indicated they will. The Board expressed their desire to continue the planning of the rafting site tour. Amanda and UCSRB staff will work with Colville staff to identify a project site to add to the tour.

Amanda informed the Board that Chief Randy Moore of the USFS will be visiting Wenatchee on 5/23 for the 10-year anniversary of the NCWFHC.

5. Finance & Operations

Elaine Sivey reviewed the financial reports through to February 28, 2023. The budget vs. actual indicates 58% of the anticipated budget has been spent, which aligns with the budget period. Payroll is at 64% spent, which reflects utilization of hourly employee staff time and a heavy workload. Consultant expenses are front loaded so appear to be high.

Current Grant Activity

- BEF contract is 60% expended with 58% of the contract period completed. The remaining balance is \$20,213. BEF can provide a no cost extension if needed.
- The Flood Plain workshop was funded by 3rd party donations.
- BPA Admin contract is 13% expended with 25% of the contract period completed. The remaining balance is \$156,312. No spend down challenges are forecast.
- RCO LE contract was partially spent in the previous fiscal year which is reflected in the 74% expended with 58% of the contract period completed. The remaining balance is \$23,639. This contract is being closely watched and overages are not anticipated.
- RCO Admin is 72% expended with 58% of the contract period completed. The remaining balance is \$123,122. This grant will be tight on current projections.
- DNR is 75% expended with 58% of the contract period completed. The remaining balance is \$7,627.
- YN is 84% expended with 100% of the contract period completed. The remaining balance is \$7,588. We are waiting for partner invoices for work completed during December 2022 and February 2023 to finish vouchering.

Elaine discussed the current operating reserve of donations, credit card rebates, interest income, dividend income and unrealized losses. The current Statement of Financial Position, as reviewed by the Finance Committee, stands at Total Liabilities = \$185,273.76 and total equity = \$145,279.15. Not yet included in the reporting is liability to employees for paid time off (\$62,352). A money market account at Glacier Bank will be set up with the funds withdrawn from the CFNCW.

Elaine reviewed a draft of an operating reserve strategy and the challenges of finding a pathway for building a reserve when UCSRB does not have uncommitted funds. One opportunity is the biennial Science Conference, but UCSRB will be looking for additional grants and fundraising opportunities.

Amanda gave an update on contracts since the February 23, 2023 Board meeting. UCSRB received the Colville Confederated Tribes (CCT) contract for \$65,000 for the period 11/1/2022 through 10/31/2023. This is a new contract that will fund UC Habitat prioritization data gaps. An income contract for \$5,000, received from The Wilderness Society (TWS), will go towards planning for the NCWFHC 10-year anniversary event.

An amendment adding \$38,000 to the expense contract with Aspect Consulting, funded from the CCT income contract, was amended and approved by the Executive Committee. There were also two short expense contracts, funded through the Yakama Nation Contract, for Cascadia Conservation District (CCD) and Methow Salmon Recovery Foundation (MSRF) for WAT facilitation totaling \$2,575 each for the period of December 1, 2022 to February 28, 2023.

Amanda reviewed the new Yakama Nation income contract for \$157,780, an increase of \$30,000 for the period of March 1, 2023 to February 28, 2023. This contract includes outreach and education,

annual reporting and implementation schedule, management and maintenance of the regional database, and watershed coordination.

The Board discussed the UC regional prioritization tool and whether all partners and agencies are utilizing it.

- ✓ Utility of the prioritization data depends on who you talk to. Some suggest what we have is good enough while others want to keep adding data to it.
- ✓ Amanda will continue to reach out to partners and make sure the work we are doing is relative moving forward.

Shon Smith made a motion to approve the Yakama Nation contract for \$157,000. Chuck Brushwood seconded the motion and all approved. Marc Straub was absent.

6. Lunch

7. Implementation Team (IT) Discussion

Amanda discussed the IT origins from the Recovery Plan as an advisory team that consists of 24 voting entities. It was identified in the Ruckelshaus that there is an opportunity to reinvigorate this group since it has lost direction and leadership. Amanda shared the need for an IT as being a guiding group of regional efforts to help guide UCSRB and partners in a strategic approach and adaptive management. The IT could potentially assist to facilitate conversations with Hydro, Hatchery and Harvest. The next steps would be to work with IT members to create better guidelines, and agreed roles and responsibilities.

Board Discussion

- Who has formally been identified as a member of the IT?
- Hard time envisioning the IT being able to do the tasks beyond habitat that are outlined in the Recovery Plan?
- Why isn't the IT functioning?
- How long has it not been functioning?
- What should the IT be doing?
 - ✓ Habitat implementation
 - ✓ Identify issues (regulatory, permitting, landowner issues, engagement with agencies) and helping partners
- UCSRB has no authority over Hydro, Hatchery, Harvest. The NPCC coordinates some of these efforts.
- Is there an opportunity to recreate the goals and roles of the IT.
 - ✓ Track CWI and CFLRP funding
 - ✓ Pros and Cons of IT
 - ✓ Is it the UCSRB's role to enforce the IT's existence? Or can it be independent?
 - ✓ Is there a need for the group?
 - ✓ Relationship to the RTT?

Next Steps, Follow-up, Action Items

The Board would like to hold off on IT restructuring until UCSRB is further along in strategic planning.

8. Lead Entity Update

Dave Hecker gave an update on the SRFB grant round. Funding available to the UC this grant round is \$2.06 million plus the 2022 carry over of \$1.54 million for a total of \$3.6 million. There are 21 project applications for this grant round and site tours will be May 8-10.

Other updates and funding success for the UC region include 4 proposals funded by the Brian Abbott Fish Barrier Removal Board (BAFBRB) and 2 proposals funded through Floodplain by Design.

9. Board Planning

Joyce Garrett discussed the list of priorities that were established during the strategic planning sessions with staff and individual Board members. The Board reviewed the priorities and chose recovery, sustainability, engagement, and leadership. The goals and objectives for each priority were reviewed, discussed and refined. The Board will continue their discussion on goals for the leadership priority at the next planning session to be held on May 18 and facilitated by Joyce.

10. Public Questions and Comments

There were no public questions.

11. Wrap-Up and Adjourn Meeting

Chair Hover thanked everyone for attending the UCSRB meeting and adjourned at 3:08 pm. The next scheduled Board meeting will be June 22, 2023 and a Special Board meeting planning session will be held on May 18, 2023.

Board Members Present:

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

UCSRB Staff Present: Amanda Ward, Ryan Niemeyer, Elaine Sivey, Dave Hecker, Alicia Meier

Others Present:

CRITFIC: Paul Ward, Doug Hatch; **WDFW:** Brock Hoenes, John Edwards, Meagan West; Joyce Garrett