

UPPER COLUMBIA SALMON RECOVERY BOARD
DRAFT MEETING SUMMARY
Douglas County Transportation and Land Services Building
September 22, 2022

Board Members Present:

Chair, Chelan County: 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, Alicia Meier

Others Present:

BOR: Steve Kolk; **Cascade Conservation District:** Amanda Newell; **Cascade Fisheries:** Jason Lundgren, Jen Herdmann, Kristen Kirkby; **Chelan County Natural Resource Department:** Mike Kaputa; **Methow Salmon Recovery Foundation:** John Crandall, Chris Johnson, Jessica Goldberg; **Okanogan Conservation District:** Kim Kogler; **Representative Schrier Staff:** Ruby Gaston; **USFWS:** Kate Terrell; **WDFW:** Brock Hoenes, Amanda Barg, Carmen Andonaegui; **Yakama Nation:** Ralph Lampman

The meeting was called to order at 10:00am by Chair Shannon Adams.

Welcome and Introductions

Chair Adams welcomed everyone to the meeting and reviewed the agenda for today's meeting and noted the request for adding the Foster Creek letter of support review to the agenda and the need for a break at 1:10 pm for 5 min.

Andy Hover made a motion to approve the September 22 agenda, with revisions. Bob Bugert seconded the motion and all approved.

1. Regular Business

Chair Adams asked for comments or revisions to the June 23, 2022 UCSRB Board meeting summaries.

Marc Straub made a motion to approve the June 23, 2022 Board meeting summary as presented. Bob Bugert seconded the motion and all approved.

2. Central Washington Initiative (CWI) Round Table Update

Sarah Walker and Ruby Gaston gave an overview of the August 16, 2022 Roundtable with Congresswoman Schrier, Regional Forester Glenn Cassamassa, NCWFHC and the Tapash Sustainable Forest Collaborative to discuss needs for the forests landscapes. Key take aways from the meeting were the extensive waste development problem from commercial and non-commercial work and the interest in biochar projects to utilize smaller diameter trees (8"-12"). The importance to continue to look at how to gain economic and recovery needs in the landscape with the local capacity of the county and Forest Service.

Upcoming Event:

Chelan County is hosting a tour on 10/10 from 12pm to pm of the Winton Mill for placement of water tanks for wildfire response. C6 Forest to Farm, Representative Keith Goehner and Senator Brad Hawkins will be attending.

3. Upper Columbia Outreach UCSRB Communication Updates

Nicole Jordan reviewed the communication focus of UCSRB with continued discussions with GSRO on stagnant funding, working to create a handout with main topics for legislative outreach, developing a newsletter for legislative staff for consistent communications throughout the year, social media presence on Facebook, and over 1000 downloads of UCSRB's Podcast, *Rivers Reach*. In lieu of hosting a science conference this year UCSRB is looking at hosting a regional science floodplain workshop that will coincide with a large restoration workshop NOAA is hosting in October.

Follow up & Next Steps

Nicole Jordan and Tracy Bowerman to coordinate talking points on avian predation on salmon for a meeting Andy Hover is having with the NCW Audubon Society on 10/24.

Community Based Outreach in the Methow

John Crandall with MSRF discussed the Methow River cleanup completed by MSRF with outreach funding from FY21-22 UCSRB Budget. This was a river cleanup project which promoted river health, community health and involved children and adults. The project consisted of 50 volunteers and 10 project partners that removed 1,000 pounds of trash from the river. The value for sustainability in having community support is key to successful high level restoration projects.

Okanogan County Storm Drain Marking

Kim Kogler with Okanogan Conservation District (OCD) shared the outreach events they hosted with the outreach funding including storm drain marking events, 5 community events about salmon and water quality with participation from 1,180 community members, and two newsletters. The program marked 99 storm drains in East Omak, Okanogan, and Conconully with the help from 30 children and adult volunteers.

- Kim will share link of completed short videos from students

Collaborative Approach to Salmon Recovery Outreach

Amanda Newell with Cascadia Conservation District (CCD) gave an overview of the work completed with outreach funding with Cascade Fisheries (CF) and Trout Unlimited (TU). CCD published an expanded edition of the Conservation Quarterly Newsletter covering multi-agencies and topics with partners able to submit articles. A webinar series on Salmon Recovery hosted by North Central Regional Library and a water rights guide to educate landowners on Washington Water Rights were also part of the collaborative outreach.

Engaging Okanogan County

Kristen Kirkby with CF shared that the outreach funding went toward printing 1,500 copies of the *Okanogan River Habitat Restoration Guide* (an additional 200 were translated into Spanish), a three-week ecology course for the Independent Learning Center, and an outreach sign at Mack Lloyd Park which is a high use recreation area and spawning area.

Follow up & Next Steps

Nicole Jordan and Alicia Meier to coordinate with Kristen Kirkby at the end of September to get PDF of the Okanogan River Habitat Restoration Guide to distribute to Board Members.

Salmon Recovery Community Engagement, Education and Watershed Stewardship

Jen Herdmann with CF reviewed the work they completed in Chelan and Douglas Counties with the outreach funding. The expansion of project WOW into the East Wenatchee School District and subsequently NOAA awarded a 2-year grant for inclusion of all East Wenatchee Schools, community floodplain restoration with Quincy Innovation Academy, 2,738 stewardship hours of salmon habitat improvement at the Lower Sleepy Hollow Preserve, outreach signage in downtown Wenatchee, Partnership with the Cashmere Library to raise and release salmon, and the printing of the *Wenatchee River Restoration Guide*.

Follow up & Next Steps

Nicole Jordan and Alicia Meier to coordinate with Jen Herdmann at the end of September to get PDF of the Wenatchee River Habitat Restoration Guide to distribute to Board Members.

Community Outreach in Chelan County

Mike Kaputa with Chelan County Natural Resource Department (CCNRD) emphasized the impact of the current year outreach funding gap. This funding allows for community-based meetings where landowners can express interests and concerns, covers salmon recovery work and other natural resource issues and concerns. This funding is critical to keeping up the relationships with the community.

All of the partners that shared their project updates reiterated the importance of outreach funding; the diversity of projects, consistency in year-to-year funding, number of people reached with a small amount of money. These projects targeted on the ground outreach with strong community focus. This funding is critical to keep the relationships with the community.

4. Science Program Updates

Tumwater Dam Update

Tracy Bowerman gave an overview of the Chelan County PUD's outreach survey on Tumwater Dam. The dam is due for improvement repairs but the PUD is willing to removal of the dam. The dam is no longer used for electricity but is now utilized as a fish collection point. The PUD received 121 responses to the survey it sent out and also hosted an open house with ~40 attendees.

Questions:

- Have agencies and tribes formally commented on the removal of the Tumwater Dam?
 - ✓ The Yakama Nation has had internal conversation.
 - ✓ Colville Confederated Tribes have had internal discussion within their Fish and Wildlife program on retaining vs. removal of the Tumwater Dam.

Follow up & Next Steps

Tracy Bowerman to follow up with Alene Underwood with Chelan County PUD. Was "negative impacts" explained in the survey? Provide information to Shannon Adams

Pacific Lamprey Conservation Agreement

Ralph Lampman with Yakama Nation gave brief presentation on the Pacific Lamprey Conservation Initiative (PLCI). This is a collaboration of Native American tribes, federal, state, municipal and local agencies, and non-governmental organizations working to achieve long-term persistence of Pacific Lamprey and their habitats and support traditional tribal use of Pacific Lamprey throughout its

historical range throughout the West Coast of North America. Lamprey are considered to be a keystone species to the tribes. The conservation agreement was first signed in 2012 with 33 signatories and has been revised in 2022 to reflect structural and operational changes. PLCI is seeking additional support through new signatories or letters of support. Pacific Lamprey are not ESA listed so participation is voluntary in the PLCA and legally non-binding.

Questions:

- Are you seeking a letter of support or signatory?
 - ✓ Either
- How is the PLCI funded?
 - ✓ US Fish and Wildlife is the regulatory entity overseeing lamprey recovery
- What is the biggest threat to Pacific Lamprey?
 - ✓ Passage, contaminants and pollutants, invasive predators, ocean impacts

Follow up & Next Steps

The Board of Directors would like more information before making a decision on supporting the PLCI with a letter of support or being a signatory.

- *Tracy Bowerman to develop benefits and risk for being a signatory or letter of support on the Conservation Agreement.*
- *Tracy Bowerman to draft a letter of support for Board of Directors to review at a Special Board meeting.*
- *Alicia Meier to provide additional information from Ralph Lampman on goals of the agreement, other signatories, lamprey projects worked on.*

5. Lead Entity Update

Tracy reviewed the 23rd SRFB grant round which received 14 applications. This year the SRFB grant round received an additional \$2.1 million from RCO for a total of \$4.4 million. A total of 12 projects were funded totaling \$2.9 million with the remaining 2 projects funded by BPA. The funded projects included 7 in the Wenatchee subbasin, 2 in the Entiat subbasin and 3 in the Methow subbasin. A carry over of \$1.5 million will be available for the 24th SRFB grant round.

The new Fall Large Cap SRFB grant round received 4 applications (from CCNRD, MSRF, and YN) for the \$5 million grant. The Regional Technical Team (RTT) has ranked the 4 projects and the joint Citizens Advisory Committees will review and rank the projects on 9/29. The ranked list is due to RCO on 10/1.

6. Prioritization Strategy Step 3 Update

Ryan Niemeyer gave a brief update on the Watershed Program and the continuing work interfacing with the Forest Service.

7. Finance and Operations

Executive and Finance Committee Recommendations

Amanda reviewed the proposed revisions to the Executive Committee Charter to increase the threshold for Executive Committee review and approval from \$10,000 and greater to \$50,000 and greater for income contracts. The \$10,000 threshold would remain the same for professional contracts.

- Correction to professional contract to expense contract

Bob Bugert made a motion to approve the revised Executive Committee charter to increase the threshold for Executive Committee review and approval to \$50,000 and greater for income contracts and \$10,000 and greater for expense contracts. Marc Straub seconded the motion and all approved.

Amanda reviewed the proposed revisions to the UCSRB Bylaws adding language for special meetings and participation options at meetings.

Marc Straub made a motion to approve the revised Bylaws of UCSRB to include Section 7 Special Meetings and Board meeting participation options in Section 9 Attendance of Meetings. Andy Hover seconded the motion and all approved.

Overview of Financial Reports

Elaine gave an overview of the Budget to Actuals report that is through June 30, 2022 which included the final vouchers for June contract, payroll and third-party invoices. There are several line items that are showing as over budget including Outreach, MSRF, PNNL, Aspect, RTT, Arywav, Computer Maintenance, Website Development, Postage, Advertising, Vehicle Lease, Meeting Expenses, and Operating Reserve. Elaine pointed out that there was not a hard June 30, 2021 cutoff for grants which changed the carry over amount for the FY22-23 budget. A total of \$45,720 of the RCO LE grant for FY22 was used in FY21. Amanda and Elaine will be doing a hard cut off on December 31, 2022 and June 30, 2023 to help track this better.

The Finance Committee reviewed the Profit & Loss report. Elaine pointed out that there was not a hard June 30, 2021 cutoff for the RCO LE grant which changed the carry over amount for the FY22-23 budget. A total of \$45,720 of the RCO LE grant for FY22 was used in FY21. Amanda is working with staff on budget tracking to each specific grant and her goal is to have a more transparent process by the end of 2022. Amanda will be looking for smaller project-based grants to help fill the gaps. The following questions were discussed:

The operating reserve activity was shared showing the PTO to Melody Kreimes. Elaine also requested the use of \$7.10 for fees for renewing the line of credit from the operating reserve. Elaine is auditing this account to get the current amount and making sure vacation and sick time are accounted for in the operating reserve.

Follow up & Next Steps

Elaine to confirm what percent of sick leave should be accounted for in the operating reserve.

Andy Hover made a motion to approve use of \$7.10 from the operating reserve for line of credit fees. Bob Bugert seconded the motion and all approved

Overview of FY23 Budget Updates

Elaine gave an overview of the proposed revisions to the FY23 budget. The reduction of the FY22-23 Budget by \$36,276 is proposed in the following line items: personnel, office supplies, office equipment and furniture, legal fees, postpone ESRI licensing, and advertising. There is a \$70,900 gap in our budget due to spending RCO grant money in FY21-22. Amanda is looking for additional grants to fill this gap and diversifying UCSRB's funding.

- Board Direction/Suggestions
 - ✓ Potentially looking at cutting travel and training budget

- ✓ Continued communication with RCO on capacity funding
- ✓ Each project has a percentage of the grant that goes toward Outreach, CAC and RTT
- ✓ These are political issues. Do we hire a lobbyist? Grant money doesn't allow us to lobby but shows the importance of a DC trip. Possibly coordinate UCSRB trip to DC with RCO and GSRO.
- ✓ Diversify funding

Andy Hover made a motion to amend the UCSRB FY22-23 Budget as presented. Chuck Brushwood seconded the motion and all approved

State Auditors Update

The State Auditor's Office has completed the audit for 2021 and found no deficiencies. An exit conference will be scheduled with the Finance Committee in October. There was some discussion of future liabilities to employees for the State Benefit Board Subsidy disclosure.

Review Current North Cascades Bank Signatories

Elaine gave an update to the Board of Directors the current signatories on the North Cascades Bank account: Amanda Ward, Bob Bugert, Marc Straub, and Andy Hover.

Staff Strategic Planning Retreat Update

Amanda Ward shared the initial vision, strength and weaknesses from the first staff strategic planning session held on August 31. The next planning session will be on October 26 from 9am to noon with the full UCSRB staff, Bob Bugert and any other Board members that would like to join.

Next steps would be to answer questions on:

- How we engage with partners?
- How we develop a regional approach.
- What direction does the Board want to go?

Follow up & Next Steps

- *Amanda to send Board of Directors the strategic planning notes from session 1. Schedule another Board member to attend.*
- *Amanda/Board possibly set up a meeting with Kristen Bail, Kari Grover-Wier and Glenn Cassamassa to discuss CWI.*

Contract Update

The Executive Committee approved the RCO amendment #5 income contract of \$435,000. The contract as of August 9, 2022 is at \$1,144,000 and runs through June 30, 2023.

8. Foster Creek Letter of Support

Amanda discussed that Foster Creek Conservation District (FCCD) asked for a letter of support in applying for the Washington Department of Ecology's Water Quality Improvement Program. The proposed project would continue community-based watershed habitat work in Foster Creek, Douglas County. Sedimentation is a limiting factor for salmonid spawning in Foster Creek and this project presents an opportunity to address sediment inputs and continue to gather data to support fish habitat suitability within the Foster Creek watershed.

Follow up & Next Steps

- *Amanda to draft a letter of support for FCCD for the Board to review before the Special Board meeting.*
- *Amanda to invite FCCD to present at a future Board meeting (December or February) and include monitoring data in Foster Creek that the Colville Tribe has collected.*

9. Public Questions and Discussion

There were no public questions.

10. Personnel

Amanda and Elaine had a general discussion with the Board regarding hourly employment matters.

11. Wrap-Up and Adjourn Meeting

Chair Adams thanked everyone for attending the UCSRB meeting at adjourned at 2:45pm. A Special Board meeting will be scheduled in October to review the FCCD and PLCI letters of support. The next scheduled Board meeting will be Thursday December 8, 2022.