

June 22, 2023

UCSRB Board of Directors Mtg. Summary

Douglas County Transportation & Land Services Building – East Wenatchee, WA

9:00 am to 2:35 pm



Formal Approvals

Item	Action-Decision
Agenda for June 22, 2023 Board of Directors Meeting	Approved and posted online at: UCSRB Agenda
Summary for April 27, 2023 Board of Directors Meeting	Approved and posted online at: UCSRB Summary
Summary for May 18, 2023 Special Board of Directors Meeting	Approved and posted online at: UCSRB Summary
UCSRB Draft FY23-24 Budget	Approved

Welcome and Introductions

Chair Andy Hover welcomed everyone to the meeting at 9:00 am and participants introduced themselves.

1. 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. No requests were noted.

Chuck Brushwood made a motion to approve the June 22, 2023 agenda as presented. Shon Smith seconded the motion and all approved. Shannon Adams and Marc Straub were absent.

The meeting summary from the April 27 Board of Directors meeting was shared. No corrections or updates were noted.

Shon Smith made a motion to approve the April 27th, 2023 Board of Directors meeting summary as presented. Chuck Brushwood seconded the motion and all approved. Shannon Adams and Marc Straub were absent.

The meeting summary from the May 18th Special Board of Directors meeting was shared. No corrections or updates were noted.

Chuck Brushwood made a motion to approve the May 18th, 2023 Special Board of Directors meeting summary. Shon Smith seconded the motion and all approved. Shannon Adams and Marc Straub were absent.

3. UCSRB Program Updates

Amanda Ward presented the key responsibilities of the Science manager as summarized by Tracy Bowerman, exiting Science Manager – last day of employment was June 21, 2023. A list of key deliverables and the associated grants include:

- Review projects and provide feedback on biological benefits – BPA
 - ✓ This work will no longer be done by UCSRB with the current Science Manager transition and a reduction of \$30,000 will be reflected in an amended BPA contract.
- Facilitate Recovery Plan implementation (support to RTT, IT, and WAT's) – RCO Admin
- Annual Implementation Report and Schedule (NOAA and RCO) – YN and RCO Admin
- Curation and dissemination of regional data – CCT, BPA and YN
- Regional science conference – YN
- Manage Salmon Recovery Portal Database – RCO LE

- Coordinate regional monitoring and adaptive management – RCO Admin

Next Amanda reviewed the regional topics of importance outlined by Tracy that include Rock Island Dam relicensing, Columbia Basin Collaborative, Enloe Dam removal, and the NOAA HARP model. The Board noted the importance of staying informed on the issues so they can determine the best approach to engage and add value. Opportunities for engagement on relicensing could be outreach to federal legislators for appropriations. It was noted that each Board member has rights and responsibilities of their agencies and members may not be in consensus on all of these issues.

Nicole Jordon provided an Outreach Program summary for work completed in FY22-23. Workshops and events the UCSRB hosted and participated in:

- Floodplain Workshop
- Lesson's Learned workshop
- Central WA Initiative Roundtable (with the Forest Service and Representative Schrier),
- Pybus University hosting "Under the Rapids" lecture
- Washington Salmon Coalition UC Tours good opportunity for regional communication and legislative help and engagement
- Salmon Festival
- Colville First Salmon Ceremony

Nicole is engaging quarterly with UCUT on the Regional Pike Forum and regularly meeting with Chelan PUD. UCSRB hosted a Northern Pike Partner Event at the Pybus Farmers Market with Chelan PUD, WDFW AIS Unit, The Fishin' Magician, and the WA Invasive Species Council Other highlights include the NCWFHC 10 year anniversary event coordination attended by US Forest Service Chief Randy Moore and the UC reporting for the State of the Salmon in Watersheds with the Governor's Salmon Recovery Office. Newsletters, blogs, and podcasts include:

- The Stream Newsletter
- The Current Newsletter (Geared for Legislative use)
- Fish Factors Mini Series - features threats to salmon populations
- River's Reach

Finally Nicole noted the importance of the LE Outreach grant funding as providing an opportunity to engage with partners and are a connector to UCSRB and the region.

Dave Hecker provided a Lead Entity Summary of the SRFB grant round that had it's final joint Citizen's Advisory Committee project ranking on Tuesday June 20th. The final list has not been made public but will be released next week. The current available SRFB funding for this 2023 grant round is \$3.8 million this is an increase from previous grant rounds of \$2.3 million as it includes an increase in capacity funding and the \$1.4 million carried over from the Large Cap Fall Grant round. Final applications are due on June 26. In July RCO will provide final comments to sponsors on projects and the RTT and CAC will meet to discuss lessons learned during this grant round. There will not be a Fall grant round and Dave will utilize July through September to generate reports and look toward the 2024 grant round and making improvements.

Alicia Meier informed the Board that Sarah Walker, Natural Resource Program Manager, is on sick leave through July 5th.

4. Break

5. Finance & Operations

Elaine Sivey reviewed the financial reports through to April 30, 2023. The budget vs. actual indicates 81% of the anticipated budget has been spent for 83% of the budget period. Payroll is at 80% spent a slight savings due to staff taking paid FMLA. Consultant expenses for BioAnalyst and Aspect were reduced in the FY22-23 budget and expenses were front loaded. Aspect has an additional \$2,000 allocated (budget not amended) from a donation by the Community Foundation of North Central Washington.

The expenditures by grant as of April 30 was presented and reviewed. The contract with Bonneville Environmental Foundation (BEF) is behind on grant expenses and a no cost extension has been requested. The Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) is 30% expended and 42% through the contract period. Colville Confederated Tribes (CCT) is underspent as April was the first month of traction for this new grant. It is expected to get caught up on by June. RCO Admin and LE are expected to be fully expended the end of June without exceeding the grant amount. Yakama Nation is slightly underspent and is expected to be caught up by June.

Operating Reserve activity was displayed and shows unrealized gains and losses of \$733 from the period of July 1, 2022 to April 30, 2023.

The Statement of Financial Position was reviewed and shows UCSRB's total assets as of April 30th of \$265,559 and total liabilities including payroll liabilities of \$201,582. The accrued payroll leave will be going down with Tracy Bowerman's departure.

Elaine discussed the UCSRB Draft FY23-24 budget and the new format that all financial reports moving forward will have. The anticipated income for the July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024 budget is \$1,176,370. This projection includes an increase in RCO funding for capacity and Yakama Nation grants. The BPA Admin grant is projected to decline by \$30,000 for the biological review that will not take place with Tracy's departure. The BEF contract for \$50,000 will need to be flushed out with Robert Warren at the end of the year to see if there are any future funding opportunities. Personnel expenses include 8 staff members, an 8% COLA increase, and increased deferred travel and training over the past two years. Outreach activities anticipate returning Okanogan and Chelan LE outreach funding of \$25,000 to each county and a partnership outreach discretionary to the ED of \$30,000. Other expenses include an audit of \$27,000 and two new computers. The total expenses are \$1,174,356 with and \$2,014 surplus.

- The Board suggested if reductions in expenses are needed the partnership outreach of \$30,000 could be cut.

Shon Smith made a motion to approve the Draft FY23-24 Budget. Chuck Brushwood seconded the motion and all approved. Shannon Adams and Marc Straub were absent.

Amanda reviewed new income contracts approved or amended since the April Board of Directors meeting.

- RCO contract for \$346,000 with a performance period of July 1, 2023 to August 31, 2025. This includes added capacity funding for the Lead Entity and admin work.
- DNR grant for \$50,000 for the next biennium with a performance period of August 1, 2023 to June 30, 2025. There will be upcoming discussions with the NCWFHC Steering Committee to

amend the contract for an alternative facilitator with UCSRB continuing to assist with background work.

- BEF no cost extension from June 14, 2023 to December 31, 2023

Amanda next reported new expense contracts with MSRF for \$10,300 and CCNRD for \$9,270 for WAT facilitation in the Methow and Chelan for the period of March 1, 2023 to February 28, 2024. This work is funded from the Yakama Nation income contract. A new contract with Changing Arc Environmental (Tracy Bowerman) for \$9,900 to help with the Science Manager transition through September 30, 2023.

6. Lunch

7. Partner Round Table

Chair Hover introduced all partners that joined in-person and remotely to the roundtable conversation on current needs, challenges and how UCSRB can better assist them. The Board has felt a disconnect from partners and would like to get a better perspective on how to interact better with support and opportunities for efficiencies. Amanda announced to partners Tracy Bowerman's last day as Science Manager was June 21 and that the position will be filled by Ryan Niemeyer and would appreciate any considerations partners have in specific science needs from this position.

Potential Future Needs from UCSRB

- Access to other funding beyond SRFB
 - ✓ Large infrastructure projects don't fit well within the SRFB grant round. How can we expand to accommodate larger projects?
 - ✓ Funding for partner staff time to write grants
 - ✓ Help coordinate funding. Who funds what?
 - ✓ Would allow for work to get on the ground sooner
 - ✓ More access to Tributary Committee funding
 - ✓ Any opportunities for Federal funding that UCSRB can sub award that does not add another application process for partners?
 - If project has gone through SRFB process and not funded then it could go onto these other potential funding sources.
- SRFB Process Opportunities for Improvement
 - ✓ Efficiencies in SRFB application have UCSRB staff populate biological benefits instead of partners.
 - ✓ Separate track for larger infrastructure projects SRFB should be under \$1.5 million.
 - ✓ Potential to have separate funding for the different projects.
 - ✓ Not a clear way to fund larger projects. If there was better regional funding more potential to compete for federal funding.
 - ✓ Supplemental process for good projects that don't get funded – those projects from each LE could be put on a list to be potentially funded by RCO.
 - ✓ Bring CAC feedback earlier in the process

Project Hurdles

- Coordinated funding
- Permitting is a bottle neck. Uncertain as to where to start streamlining the process for partners. There are many entities involved with multiple rules (example - water quality, fish habitat enhancement, etc.).
 - ✓ UCSRB could help push legislation for Salmon recovery permitting in a different way

- Design process for an average aquatic restoration project goes through at least 4 rounds of review (engineering, geomorphologist, hydrologist, and outside expert reviews (RTT and BPA).
 - ✓ Then goes to permitting where an additional engineer may review and comment. Requests for redesign can occur and create delays.
 - ✓ Projects require on average 8 permits that can take up to 2 years to get.
- Opportunities for removing hurdles
 - ✓ UCSRB reach out to Army Corps and Ecology to have conversation about capacity needs and how to message the importance to legislators
 - ✓ Involve GSRO and Council of Regions (large voice with diverse representation) on permitting issue as a bottle neck to project implementation. Create messaging to state legislators and a strategic plan. Potential pilot project to move forward.
 - ✓ BPA programmatic use the funding to be helpful in these shortfalls. How do you set that up?
 - Challenge with BPA funding is that it is a one year contracting period.
 - ✓ Can there be a total exclusion of habitat projects after project goes through review process verifying quality of project?
 - ✓ 2 year window would help – Conversations have been had with BPA
- Assistance with some of the 2nd Tier smaller items like Community Outreach, maps and data.

Key Support from UCSRB & Other Thoughts

- Appreciate the science work that is made online to partners and hope it will continue.
- UCSRB DC trip schedule meeting with Jamie Pinkham Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works
- The Burden on the CAC to review the projects.
- Outreach and education funding
- Unified regional public outreach messaging. We have not mastered telling our story and this has impacted salmon recovery in the State of WA. Explaining why we are doing it.
 - ✓ key messages for different audiences within the region and then tell everyone's story for community land owner engagement
 - ✓ Use Alex Conley's presentation as an example for UC region story.
- Liability insurance is another issue statewide
 - ✓ GSRO help to step in and take liability?
- Short term goal: Get other regions to identify a set of like issues/problems and then talk about solutions.
- Annually roundtable with partners
- If the IT is reinvented it needs a clear purpose. Tasks could include policy discussions, social component for communication, funding coordination, bottle necks.

8. Public Questions and Comments

No public comments.

9. Wrap-Up and Adjourn Meeting

Chair Hover thanked everyone for attending the UCSRB meeting and adjourned at 2:25pm. The next scheduled Board meeting will be September 28, 2023.

Board Members Present:

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

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

Others Present:

Cascade Fisheries: Jason Lundgren; **Cascadia Conservation District:** Ryan Williams; **Chelan County Natural Resource Department:** Mike Kaputa; **Chelan Douglas Land Trust:** Eunice Youmans, Mickey Fleming; **Colville Confederated Tribes:** Matt Young; **Okanogan Conservation District:** Craig Nelson; **Representative Dan Newhouse Staffer:** Rachel McClure; **Representative Kim Schrier Staffer:** Ruby Gaston; **Trout Unlimited:** Theo Burgoon; **Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife:** Brock Hoenes, Jeremy Cram; **Yakama Nation:** Hans Smith, Brandon Rogers