

September 26, 2024

UCSRB Board of Directors Meeting Summary

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

9:00 am to 3:00 pm



Formal Approvals

Item	Action-Decision
Agenda for September 26, 2024 Board of Directors Meeting	Approved and posted online at: UCSRB Agenda
Summary for June 27, 2024 Board of Directors Meeting	Approved and posted online at: UCSRB Summary
Disbursement summary for June 2024	Approved
Disbursement summary for July 2024	Approved
Disbursement summary for August 2024	Approved
RCO – Amendment 3	Approved
CCNRD – LE Outreach contract 2024-25	Approved
OCD LE Outreach contract 2024-25	Approved

Present: Board Chair Chuck Brushwood (Colville Confederated Tribes), Vice-chair Douglas County Commissioner Marc Straub, Treasurer Chelan County Commissioner Shon Smith, Okanogan County Commissioner Andy Hover, UCSRB Executive Director Amanda Ward, UCSRB staff - Ryan Niemeyer, Ariel Edwards, Julie Foss, Gabby Vermeire, Mike Kaputa (CCNRD), Jason Lundgren (Cascade Fisheries), Tom Dresser (Grant PUD), Andrew Gingerich (Douglas PUD).

Present remotely: Shannon Adams (Yakama Nation), Meghan Camp (UCSRB), [Ruby Gaston \(Office of Rep. Kim Schrier\)](#).

1. Welcome and Introductions

Chair Brushwood welcomed everyone to the meeting at 9:09 am and participants introduced themselves.

2. Regular Business

Chair Brushwood reviewed the agenda for the meeting and asked if there were any corrections or additional items to be added to the agenda.

MS made a motion to approve the September 26, 2024 agenda as amended. Vice Chair Straub seconded the motion and all approved.

The meeting summary from the June 27, 2024 Board of Directors meeting was shared.

Commissioner Hover requested to amend the summary to state that the executive session called for Amanda Ward's performance review was called pursuant to RCW 42.30.110 subsection G. MS made a motion to approve the June 27, 2024 Board of Directors meeting summary as amended. Vice Chair Straub seconded the motion and all approved.

3. Finance and Operations

Finance Manager Julie Foss presented UCSRB's financial reports.

Statement of Financial Position – August 31, 2024

Julie updated the Board that UCSRB is now vouchering on a monthly basis. Because of this, accounts receivable now appears to be more consistent and the UCSRB is generally being paid by income contracts within 30 days of vouchers being submitted. . Beginning with this meeting, she will also provide the Board with a monthly income/revenue summary along with the disbursement summary.

Budget vs. Actual – July 2024 through December 2024

Julie noted that the Budget vs. Actual report was based on RCO’s fiscal calendar since they are our largest source of funding. Per Board feedback at the September Finance Committee meeting, Julie will provide the Board with a 12-month budget at the December Board meeting.

While we stand at 33% of the 6-month budget, Julie noted that an expenditure running ahead of that for Chelan County LE outreach stood at 160.8% of that period’s budget due to invoices paid due in June. Julie added that \$10K of the budget in 2025 would be available for Board outreach activities, including travel to Olympia or Washington D.C.

Current Grant Activity - July 2023 through May 2024

Julie reported on activity in current UCSRB income contracts and grants.

BEF – Not much of this prepaid grant has been expended yet. It will partially go towards funding staff time for planning November’s Permitting Workshop.

BPA – UCSRB is getting up to speed on spending this contract now that Meghan Camp is working full time. Amanda and Meghan met with the BPA team last week to talk about our next contract as the current contract expires at the end of November.

CCT – UCSRB has paid out over \$15k from this contract in subcontracted floodplain work. Ryan will be working to meet the deliverables before the contract expires on October 31.

DNR – This grant supports staff time towards NCWFHC meetings and associated activities. UCSRB and NCWFHC are working to hire a new coordinator for the Collaborative.

RCO Admin/LE – This contract rolled over July 1st. Julie clarified that while UCSRB vouchers admin and LE separately, RCO tracks the two pots of money together to make sure all state funding is spent before federal.

TWS – This grant funds NCWFHC related expenses not included in the DNR contract.

WSU – UCSRB is a subrecipient of this grant that Meghan Camp brought with her when she joined the team. This grant funds Meghan’s activities mapping and protecting rock habitat in the Cascades for preservation of sensitive species and runs through October 2027.

YN – UCSRB is currently vouchering the 23-24 contract for planning its 25th anniversary celebration. The SOW for a new contract has been submitted but has yet to be finalized. The current 6-month contract expires on September 30, 2024.

Operating Reserve Activity

Julie advised that there was little activity in the Operating Reserve besides cashing in UCSRB’s bank points for an Amazon gift card to purchase office supplies.

Disbursement summaries – June, July, and August 2024

Julie presented the disbursement summaries and expenditure details for the past three months, along with the revenue summaries for those three months. The uptick in July disbursements was due to high-dollar subcontract invoices paid out to CCRND and OCD in that month. These expenses have already been reimbursed from vouchering.

Commissioner Hover made a motion to approve the disbursements summaries for June 2024, July 2024, and August 2024 as presented. Vice Chair Straub seconded the motion and all approved.

4. RCO – Amendment 3

Amanda Ward advised that this is a standard amendment to RCO’s biennial grant that adds Year 2 funding towards the UCSRB’s administrative and general operations costs.

Commissioner Hover made a motion to approve the RCO grant amendment. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion and all approved.

5. Contracts

Amanda updated the Board on developments with current income contracts.

USFS/NCWFHC

The US Forest Service has provided a grant of \$20K to go towards funding a facilitator for the NCWFHC.

Commissioner Hover mentioned that Commissioner Branch is resigning from his office, and Okanogan county will need a new representative for the NCWFHC. Commissioner Hover asked if there would be a conflict of interest if he took Commissioner Branch’s place in the Collaborative. The Board agreed there was likely not a conflict of interest as long as Commissioner Hover abstained from UCSRB votes on funding the NCWFHC.

WSU

Amanda described the WSU contract that funds Meghan Camp’s work on the Mapping and Protecting Rock Habitat in The Cascade Mountains for the Conservation of Climate Sensitive Species project. Commissioner Hover said that he was curious about the survey technology used for the project and asked if could it be used in surveys relating to salmon recovery. Meghan said that the project used remote sensing technology that measured substrate size. She said she could see the remote camera technology being used for surveying riparian and stream habitat. She added that the project had a focus on habitat selection analysis and remote sensing, hence its funding provided by NASA.

CCT

Amanda said that she had submitted a draft budget and scope of work for the new contract. Funding from this contract includes support for the NOAA HARP process, planning for the 2026 Science Conference, challenges for SRFB applications, potential for establishing an Entiat/Wenatchee monitoring program, and administration and vouching for the contract.

BPA

Amanda and Meghan met two weeks ago with Tim Hanrahan, the new Upper Columbia River Tributary Habitat Program Leader of the BPA Programmatic. With new staff at both BPA and UCSRB, Amanda believes there may be new opportunities for partnership/collaboration with BPA.

YN

Amanda has submitted a draft scope of work and budget to YN and will coordinate with Shannon Adams to finalize the new contract.

CCNRD – LE Outreach

Amanda asked Chair Brushwood to sign this subcontract funding CCNRD outreach activities at September’s Executive Committee meeting due to CCNRD’s need for these funds to cover activities at the Wenatchee River Salmon Festival the following week. The Board was asked to approve the subcontract.

Vice Chair Straub made a motion to approve the CCNRD Lead Entity Outreach subcontract as presented. Commissioner Hover seconded the motion and all approved.

OCD – LE Outreach

The Board was asked to review and approve the subcontract to fund OCD outreach activities.

Vice Chair Straub made a motion to approve the OCD Lead Entity Outreach subcontract as presented. Commissioner Hover seconded the motion and all approved.

UCSRB small grants

Amanda reported that we had received two applications for the small grants program. CCD’s application was scored and approved for funding by the UCSRB staff, and they will review Cascade Fisheries’ application in the next couple of weeks.

6. Office lease

Amanda updated the Board that she had received new cost estimate of approximately \$100,000 from JDSA for reconfiguration and downsizing UCSRB’s office space. The Board discussed and agreed that the savings once the office was downsized may not be worth the disruption.

Amanda added that downsizing could limit UCSRB’s ability to hire new staff, should there be a future need. For example, a substantial amount of funding has gone towards contracted GIS work over the past 5 years so, potentially, hiring a GIS specialist might be more cost effective. The Board confirmed they would prefer to hold off on changing their lease at this time. Amanda advised the UCSRB has another 2 year option on their current lease and she will continue to explore other potential opportunities during this time.

7. UCSRB 25th Anniversary

Gabby Vermeire updated the Board on planning for UCSRB’s 25th Anniversary. The day’s itinerary will include site visits to the Leavenworth National Fish Hatchery, the Boulder Fields Project site on Icicle Road, lunch and speakers at Sleeping Lady Mountain Resort, followed by site visits to Yakama Nation’s SR 207 project and Cascade Fisheries’ Merrit Oxbow project. Members of the Icicle Working Group will be joining the event’s attendees for lunch at Sleeping Lady and IWG has agreed to cost share for this part of the event. A final agenda will be sent out at the end of this week or early next week.

8. SRFB grant round update

Ariel Edwards updated the Board on funding decisions for the 2024 SRFB grant round, which were announced yesterday. All the projects in the Upper Columbia region were funded, with just one project receiving \$74 less than their total funding request. The 19 projects located in the Methow, Entiat, and Wenatchee subbasins received a total of \$2.89 mil in regular SRFB funds and \$2.46 mil in riparian. 12

projects received regular SFRB funding, and seven received Riparian funding, which did not require a funding match.

All regular SFRB funds were allocated. \$279k of riparian funds remain unallocated but will roll over to next year. Projects requesting Targeted Investment funds from the state were ranked and it is likely the top seven ranked projects will be funded with current Targeted Investment funding. YN's Nason Cr SR 207 project, ranked #8 in the state, and other ranked projects may not receive funding if the Climate Commitment Act is repealed after the vote on initiative 2117 in November's election.

9. BPA update

Meghan Camp provided the Board with the Upper Columbia Programmatic Update. As a reminder, BPA and UCSRB have a funding agreement for non-accord funding.

BPA funded six restoration projects in the Upper Columbia in 2023 for a total of \$4.3 million. These projects included the Upper Wenatchee Floodplain Project, the Chiwawa River culvert replacement project, and the Lower Peshastin Clean up, where Cascade Fisheries is doing lead remediation work.

10. Permitting Workshop

Ryan Niemeyer provided the Board with an update on planning for the Upper Columbia and Yakama Basin Permitting Workshop, to be held on November 12. The workshop, jointly being developed with USFS, is free to attend and will be implementor-focused to provide insight into the permitting process for habitat restoration practitioners.

Ryan took feedback from the WAT's when creating the Workshop agenda. Overall, they wanted to make it applicable to their work, and said there have already been enough step-by-step-based permitting workshops. As a result, the workshop will consist of two case studies, round table discussions, and panels of permitting agency representatives available for questions.

The cost of using the Convention Center was approximately \$3,000 – UCSRB is in cost sharing discussions with the Forest Service.

11. Fish Passage Strategy update

Ryan Niemeyer updated the Board on WDFW fish passage strategy. This comes out of the WA legislature directing WSDOT and the Fish Barrier Removal Board (FBRB) to develop a statewide strategy to prioritize barrier removal projects. This process of developing this strategy includes a science panel, coordination with tribes, and statewide outreach that includes the Salmon Recovery Boards. WDFW are holding a hybrid forum on the process in Wenatchee on October 2.

12. RFEG Federal Funding

Jason Lundgren, Executive Director for Cascade Fisheries, provided an update on federal funding for Regional Fishers Enhancement Groups like CF. He reminded the Board that there were 14 RFEG's in the state, and they receive funding from grants, sport fishing licenses, sale of surplus fish carcasses by WDFW, and \$1.5 million in federal base funding which was divided amongst all 14 RFEGs. As the base funding doesn't go far, the RFEG's have been advocating to increase seed money.

In August, RFEG's were listed in state appropriations bill (now continuing resolution SB 4802) which would increase base funding to \$5 million total from US Fish and Wildlife. Jason emphasized that RFEG's need includes funding to continue their education mission in schools. The RFEG's asked for and received

support for this increase in funding, which has been communicated to the region's congressional delegation.

13. Items for future Board meetings

Because the meeting is running ahead of schedule, Commission Hover suggested moving up the agenda item of opening up the discussion to suggestions for the agenda for future Board meetings. All agreed.

The following topics were introduced as potential items for future meetings:

- Virtual fencing/cattle collaring – what is the scope of these projects? (Commissioner Hover)
- Next meeting with legislators State, early April 2025?
- Board and staff dinner after the December Board meeting?
 - Yes, Amanda will organize at Chateau Faire le Pont Winery

Lunch

Before the presentations from representatives from Douglas and Grant PUD, Commissioner Hover reminded those present why this topic had been introduced. During Ryan Niemeyer's presentation on the findings from the latest UCSRB Annual Report on fish numbers and ocean conditions, he brought up the fact that dams have been increasing spill to increase fish passage. Commissioner Hover had asked if doing so increased total dissolved gas in the water, and asked if there was salmon mortality related to this?

Andrew Gingerich – Douglas PUD – Understanding Total Dissolved Gas Limits and their Impact: the Wells Hydroelectric Project

- Total Dissolved Gas (TDG) – state of Washington has water quality standards related to TDG
 - High concentrations of TDG can lead to Gas Bubble Trauma (GBT/GBD)
 - TDG is created through spillway operations at dams
 - Regulated by WA State Department of Ecology, tribes depending on area
 - Typically, standard is 110%
 - 7Q10 flows – managing river for human health at these levels
 - TDG WQS can be modified if a project ensures fish passage
- “Spill to the gas caps” – can we spill more if it decreases fish mortality?
 - 2020 WQS Modification to improve fish passage
- Effects of high TDG on aquatic life
 - Depth compensation – in rivers, fish are more resilient with regards to GBT compared to lab studies
 - Johnson controls
- TDG standards change at Wells seasonally
- Compliance over the last decade-plus is imperfect but high
- Reasons for optimism including high quality data gathering, allows for modeling and providing operations with great data and direction
- Spilling to the gas caps hasn't appeared to clearly improve instream survival

Tom Dresser – Grant PUD

Previously – spilled a lot of water at Wanapum, Priest Rapids dam to increase fish passage late-90's early 2000's

- Wanapum and PR bypass systems
 - Primary juvenile salmonid and steelhead passage routes
 - Operation based on outmigration timing of fish
 - Wanapum Bypass – estimated survival is >96.2% for multiple species
 - PR Bypass - >99.6 for yearling Chinook and steelhead
- Turbine operations
 - Fish mode – operations range constrained at both Wanapum and PR dams during fish outward migration
- Grant PUD tries to manage to 120% TDG during anadromous fish migration (spring and summer migrates)
- Gas abatement measures
 - Minimizing involuntary spill -
 - Preemptive spill – absorb flow fluctuations from upstream projects
 - Maximize turbine flows
 - Use fish bypasses
 - Alternative spill patterns if involuntary spills still occur
- GPT Biological Monitoring Plan
 - Grant PUD examines native and non-native resident fishes
 - In 2023, a sample of 14 species of fish showed no observed symptoms of GBT
 - 2023 Chelan PUD sampled salmonids and found 0.45% showed signs of GBT; sample of non-salmonids found no signs of GBT
- Hatchery Stewardship

Commissioner Hover asked if County Commissioners could do anything to help increase fish survival from dams? Tom replied that different measures work better in different projects/dam.

13. Items for Future Board meetings (cont.)

The only other idea introduced for future Board meetings was a potential Board member/UCSRB staff dam tour.

Public comments

Chair Brushwood asked if there were any public comments. No public comments were noted.

Adjourn Meeting

Chair Brushwood thanked everyone for attending and the meeting was adjourned at 3:14 pm.

Next scheduled Board meeting – Thursday, December 5, 2024.