



## **UCSRB MEETING**

Douglas County Transportation & Land Services Office  
140 19<sup>th</sup> Street NW A  
East Wenatchee, WA 98802

Thursday, February 28, 2019  
10:00 AM – 3:00 PM

## **MEETING MINUTES**

### **Board Members Present:**

Andy Hover, Chair, Okanogan County  
Chuck Brushwood, Director, Colville Tribes  
Marc Straub, Director, Douglas County

### **Staff Present:**

Melody Kreimes, Executive Director  
Shawn Hunstock, Finance Manager  
Greer Maier, Science Program Manager  
Pete Teigen, Natural Resources Coordinator  
Sarah Walker, Natural Resource Program Manager  
Barbara Carrillo, Communications & Outreach Coordinator  
Tayna Russell, Program Assistant

Others Present: Steve Kolk, USBR; Graham Simon, WDFW; Mike Kaputa, CCNRD; Char Schumacher, Okanogan County; Tony Buhr, Wenatchee World; Cody Gillin, Trout Unlimited

Via Phone: Paul Ward, Vice Chair, Yakama Nation; Doug England, Director, Chelan County; Rich Innes, Meridian Institute; Tré Easton, Sen. Patty Murray's office; Wendy Brown, RCO; Tracy Hillman, BioAnalysts, Inc.; Joe Connor, BPA; Jamie Cleveland, BPA

The meeting was called to order at 10:16 AM by Chair Andy Hover.

### **Welcome and Introductions**

Chair Hover welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked for introductions.

#### **1. Review December 13, 2018 UCSRB Draft Meeting Summary**

Chair Hover asked for comments or additions to the December 13, 2018 UCSRB meeting summary and there were none.

*Commissioner England made a motion to approve the December 13, 2018 UCSRB meeting summary as presented. Chuck Brushwood seconded the motion and all approved.*

#### **2. Welcome New UCSRB Director**

Chair Hover introduced the new Douglas County representative Commissioner Marc Straub to the group. Melody Kreimes reviewed the UCSRB's structure and operations for

Commissioner Straub. Chair Hover described UCSRB's role in the region and discussed the Board's perspectives on recovery efforts. Chair Hover asked Vice Chair Paul Ward to give his perspective on this entity and how he's seen it over the past 20+ years. Paul defined the Board as a collaborative model made up of 3 counties and 2 tribes. UCSRB was the first recovery plan in the region with a specific geographic basis. Vice Chair Ward stressed the importance of collaborative decision-making concerning salmon recovery. Chuck Brushwood then talked about his time on the Board and his 10 years with the Colvilles. Chuck echoed Vice Chair Ward's sentiment about the importance of a collaborative effort, adding that it's important for the tribes and counties to come together to try to find ways our communities can prosper and limit the adverse impacts on ESA listed species. Chair Hover then spoke briefly about his 2 years on the board and went over the history of Okanogan County's presence on the Board.

### **3. UCSRB Selection of 2019 Officers**

Chair Hover announced the rotation of officers for 2019 and called for nominations. Chuck Brushwood was selected as Chair, Doug England as Vice Chair, Paul Ward as Secretary/Treasurer, Paul Ward and Marc Straub as Finance Committee.

*Commissioner Hover made a motion to approve the rotation of officers as outlined. Paul Ward seconded the motion and all approved.*

Newly selected Chair, Chuck Brushwood, then announced that he would be adding a last-minute item to the agenda and gave Mike Kaputa of Chelan County Natural Resource Department (CCNRD) ten minutes for a presentation on a ten-year plan for Icicle Creek. CCNRD has been working with partners in the Icicle Workgroup for the last 6 years in creating a strategy to improve instream flow in the Icicle. Mike is relying on Icicle Irrigation District to come up with a plan on their end, as well as City of Leavenworth and Leavenworth National Fish Hatchery. A restoration project is also proposed at Eight-Mile Lake because of potential for catastrophic dam failure. Several additional improvements were proposed in the Preferred Alternative 1. These improvements would yield a total estimated increase streamflow of 89 cfs in the Icicle. The total cost of the ten-year plan is estimated at \$82 million. Mike says this plan would make Icicle Creek climate-change resilient and meet all guidelines.

### **4. 2019 Legislative & Agency Outreach Planning**

Tré Easton discussed the President's budget request, which is due March 11<sup>th</sup>. Tré said it will likely have a \$0 budget for Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF), so it is always valuable to request and support our legislators for getting PCSRF back in the budget. Last year, PCSRF was increased from \$65 million to \$70 million. Melody asked Tré's thoughts on the passage of pinniped legislation. Tré said the big question now is implementation and legislators will be tracking progress, so this is another good discussion topic. Regarding forest health issues, important to acknowledge with legislators the USFS fire-borrowing fix (effective 2020) and provisions in the Farm Bill for proactive forest management.

Wendy Brown discussed with the group Governor Inslee's 2019-21 budget, specifically concerning orca and salmon recovery. Wendy said there are three key problems impacting the health of orcas: lack of food, toxins in the water and noise disturbance from boats and other vessels. Wendy pointed out there is money in the budget to address each of these factors. Wendy said there are other salmon bills, but the big focus is now on WSDOT culvert

replacements, specifically in the injunction area (generally those surrounding the Puget Sound). Commissioner Hover asked Wendy about SB 5824, regarding funding efforts to increase salmon populations. Wendy said SB 5824 did not get a hearing. Wendy added, Governor Inslee previously had decent salmon numbers in his budget, but the capital budget is now being constricted to school construction, mental health and nursing costs, thus there won't be as much funding for natural resources. For Lead Entity funding currently in Capital Budget has been shifted over to the Operating Budget. Wendy said the important message to WA legislators is to maintain salmon recovery and capacity funding, whether it is in Capital or Operating Budget. **Action Item: Wendy will provide UCSRB with a list of key legislators on budget committees.**

Rich Innes provided an update regarding current legislative activities in Washington, DC. Rich discussed efforts being made by Governors, members of Congress to encourage continued federal investment in the PCSRF. Rich said there seems to be enthusiasm among the five PCSRF states for increasing their ask from \$65 million to \$70 million again this year. This ask will be happening in the next couple of weeks. Rich stressed the importance of UCSRB's role in showing how well funding has been spent in the past. Rich asked the Directors when they will be heading to DC. Melody said it would make the most sense to head to DC separately from the big five-state and Puget Sound group, to make the biggest impact in representing the Upper Columbia region. Rich advised Melody to plan for coming either two weeks before or two weeks after the five-state group is in DC. The Directors discussed who would travel to DC, and Marc Straub and Chuck Brushwood volunteered to go with Melody. Melody informed the Board that there were funds in the budget for a forth person and asked if they would like her to approach the NCWFHC leadership about sending a representative. The Board agreed to invite one NCWFHC representative to join the UCSRB.

## **5. Finance and Operations**

Melody review the proposed revisions to the UCSRB Personnel and Operations Manuals based on recommendations made at the December 2018 Board and January 16 Executive Committee meetings. Section 11.2 of the Personnel Manual on Annual and Medical Leave was revised to be clearer about benefits during unpaid leave. The Purchasing Goods, Services and Equipment section of the Operations Manuals was revised to be consistent with the state RCWs. Paul pointed out that we have a mix of state and federal dollars for managing procurement and it's important to follow both state and federal guidelines. Melody confirmed that, as revised, we would follow the state's RCWs, which also allow us to be in compliance with the federal CFRs.

*Paul Ward made a motion to approve the Personnel Manual as revised. Commissioner Straub seconded the motion and all approved.*

*Paul Ward made a motion to approve the Operations Manual as revised. Commissioner Straub seconded the motion and all approved.*

Shawn Hunstock reviewed the Income and Expense Report and Budget vs. Actuals through February 14, 2019.

The Board then discussed the inclusion of an increase in Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) for the Executive Director retroactive to January 2019. A COLA was given to all staff, but Melody sought Commissioner Hover approval for her to receive a COLA also. Since COLA's

for the Executive Director were not spelled out in 2018 Personnel Manual, Commissioner Hover wanted input from other Board members as well. The Board agreed the COLA should apply to the Executive Director's salary effective January 2019. Commissioner Hover emphasized that clarifying language was added to the Personnel Manual so that in the future all staff will be eligible for a COLA if it is in the approved budget and warranted by the Consumer Price Index.

An addition to the agenda was the approval of the Consultant Agreement between the Yakama Nation Tribes and the UCSRB.

*Commissioner Hover made a motion to approve the Consultant Agreement between the Yakama Nation and the UCSRB. Commissioner Straub seconded the motion and all approved. Paul abstained.*

## **6. Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

## **7. Integrated Recovery**

Greer summarized the contents of the final Hydropower Background Summary, including a history of hydropower, overview of hydropower objectives in the Recovery Plan, juvenile and adult survival data from all of the dams from Bonneville to Chief Joseph. Greer asked for comments from PUDs and other agencies in the room. Chelan PUD Lance Keller thanked UCSRB for extending the comment period into 2019 and appreciated all of Greer's work to compile this info and incorporate comments from partners.

The fourth and final background summary on Harvest is already in its beginning stages- data and information compilation. Greer said the Harvest Summary will be a very high-level summary of harvest activities related to Upper Columbia listed stocks and the policy and management frameworks which govern harvest. Commissioner Hover suggested Greer reach out to the coastal tribes, since they're catching Upper Columbia salmonids.

*Commissioner Hover made a motion to adopt the Hydropower Background Summary. Commissioner Straub seconded the motion and all approved.*

## **8. RTT Update**

Tracy Hillman of the Upper Columbia Regional Technical Team (RTT) provided an update on the status of updating the Biological Strategy. Tracy said they are working on developing a revised prioritization strategy and appreciated the support of Greer and Sarah in moving the revisions along. Tracy discussed a 3-step process for prioritization:

- 1) Identify and rank assessment units within each subbasin for restoration and protection.
- 2) Identify and rank action types based on the limiting factors, threats, limiting life stages and geomorphic potential.
- 3) Rank habitat actions based on feasibility.

Tracy said the RTT drives the first two steps and then hands it over to the Watershed Action Teams (WATs) and Implementation Team (IT) to refine and implement the ranking of feasibility (Step Three). The final product will be a list of high priority actions to be implemented within high priority areas of each subbasin. Tracy cautions, the revised prioritization strategy will NOT describe how specific actions will be implemented, that is the role of project sponsors. Results will be contained within GIS. Tracy said Step One is almost complete and anticipates it will be finalized by the end of March or April. Tracy hopes to have Step Two done by end of July or August. Steve Kolk asked for an order of magnitude for the list of priority actions, tens, hundreds? Tracy said probably in the dozens. Tracy added that all possible actions will be listed from highest to lowest priority and the RTT won't know for sure until Step Three is complete. Mike Kaputa asked how the Biological Strategy would actually be used and also expressed concerned about the timeline, which he said would only give sponsors two months to work on the feasibility input needed. Mike also brought up private property concerns. Tracy said Steps One and Two don't need to be complete to start developing the feasibility component. He added, it would be nice to have Step Three done as soon as possible. Tracy said as far as landowner privacy, the landowners aren't being identified, only whether the land is private or public.

## **9. Partner Update: Bureau of Reclamation**

Steve Kolk gave an overview of the Bureau of Reclamation's new approach to project development in the Upper Columbia. Steve said the Bureau is responsible for doing mitigation for some of the affects of dam operations on salmon populations. Steve stressed the importance of maximizing biological benefit, moving away from funding-driven, and instead looking for the best projects (scope-driven). Bureau will fund design of both "mega" and "micro" projects. Engaging co-sponsors early on design iterations/revisions will reduce costs and increase project certainty. Currently, Bureau is working on the Upper Wenatchee and Sugar Levee projects.

## **10. Staff Updates**

Pete Teigen discussed the upcoming Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) grant round, which will be kicked-off on March 13<sup>th</sup>. Draft proposals are due in April and then site visits happen in May. Sponsors refine and submit their proposals at the end of June. RTT scoring and Citizen Advisory Committees (CACs) ranking takes place in July. The State Review & SRFB decisions are submitted September through December. Pete showed a list of the members of the RTT and CACs and announced there is an opening on the Chelan CAC, which UCSRB will need to approve at its April teleconference. One change to the process this year is that there will now be a maximum of \$200,000 that can be allocated for assessment projects that do not include a project design. The RCO Lean Study will result in changes to the SRFB process over the next couple of years, the first being a compression of the grant round in 2020 to be completed by September (instead of December). It's possible that the RCO would also allow regions in the future to conduct a biennial rather than annual grant round.

Sarah Walker described discussions in the Implementation Team and Watershed Action Teams about how those groups see feasibility information being used for prioritizing and sequencing project implementation. Having some way to document or articulate this process, even in how UCSRB staff work with these groups to developing the annual Implementation Schedule, could benefit the region.

Greer gave a brief update on pike, an invasive species in Lake Roosevelt. Huge efforts have been made to gillnet and keep this species from introduction below Chief Joseph dam, as they would consume a great number of UC listed salmonids. The Independent Scientific Advisory Board (ISAB) has been tasked with doing a review of the pike issue, specifically economic impacts threatening recovery and fisheries. The Pacific Northwest Economic Region (PNWER) summit provided more information about pike. Jamie Cleveland, BPA, said BPA is supporting efforts to prevent this. Colville Confederated Tribes has been implementing measures to help control pike populations.

Greer discussed interest expressed by the Regional Technical Team's Monitoring Committee (MADMC) in updating the *Recovery Plan's* Adaptive Management Framework (Appendix Q) and the Monitoring and Evaluation Plan (Appendix P).

### **Adjourn Meeting**

Chair Brushwood thanked everyone for attending and adjourned to the executive session at 3 pm.

### **Summary of Motions**

*Commissioner England made a motion to approve the December 13, 2018 UCSRB meeting summary as presented. Chuck Brushwood seconded the motion and all approved.*

*Commissioner Hover made a motion to approve the rotation of officers as outlined. Paul Ward seconded the motion and all approved.*

*Paul Ward made a motion to approve the Personnel Manual as revised. Commissioner Straub seconded the motion and all approved.*

*Paul Ward made a motion to approve the Operations Manual as revised. Commissioner Straub seconded the motion and all approved.*

*Commissioner Hover made a motion to approve the Consultant Agreement between the Yakama Nation and the UCSRB. Commissioner Straub seconded the motion and all approved. Paul abstained.*

*Commissioner Hover made a motion to adopt the Hydropower Background Summary. Commissioner Straub seconded the motion and all approved.*