

UCSRB MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, June 20, 2019

Board Members Present: Chuck Brushwood, Chair, Colville Tribes; Bob Bugert for Doug England, Vice Chair, Chelan County; Paul Ward, Yakama Nation; Andy Hover, Okanogan County; Marc Straub, Douglas County

Staff Present: Melody Kreimes, Shawn Hunstock, Greer Maier, Pete Teigen, Sarah Walker, Tayna Russell, Tristan Zuckriegel, Finance Intern

Others Present: Casey Baldwin (CCT), Amanda Barg (WDFW), Ryan Fortier (WDFW), Ritchie Graves (NOAA Fisheries, Phone), Dave Graybill (WDFW Commissioner), Ryan Harnish (PNNL), Tom Kahler (DCPUD), Jason Lundgren (CCFEG), Char Schumacher (OCPUD), Bill Tweit (WDFW),

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 AM by Chair Chuck Brushwood.

Welcome and Introductions (Chair Brushwood)

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

1. Regular Business (Chair Brushwood)

Chair Brushwood asked for comments or additions to the April 25, 2019 UCSRB meeting summary and there were none.

Commissioner Marc Straub motioned to approve the UCSRB meeting summary as drafted. Commissioner Andy Hover seconded the motion and all approved.

2. Finance and Operations (Chair Brushwood, Shawn Hunstock, Melody Kreimes, UCSRB Directors)

Shawn Hunstock provided an overview of the FY2020 Draft Budget and pointed out a \$34,442 deficit. Melody has already worked with staff to reduce the need for contracting, shift staff responsibilities to avoid need to backfill Program Assistant position, reduce training costs, etc. in order to reduce the deficit to \$34,442. Shawn pointed out that UCSRB did not get the National Forest Foundation Grant that we applied for this year, reducing revenue by \$20,000, and Melody noted there were additional internal outreach products in the budget related to the upcoming 20th anniversary celebration and the Jan 2020 Science Conference. Melody continues to seek additional revenue sources.

Shawn introduced three options for balancing the budget for Board consideration. All three options involve elimination of internal UCSRB outreach products (\$9000 reduction). Option 1 also reflects external Outreach contract reductions of \$20,000; option 2 reflects reduction of \$13,500 to Board Support contracts; and Option 3 reflects an \$11,000 reduction in external Outreach contracts and an \$8,000 reduction in UCSRB staff travel. When asked Melody for her preference, she suggested that if the Board chose to make additional internal reductions, she would recommend training over travel reductions, as travel is important in our regional and statewide communication and coordination efforts. Commissioner Bob Bugert said if Chelan County were to take a cut, CCNRD staff would prefer a cut in board support vs. outreach. Both the Finance and Executive Committee did not recommend one option, but rather recommended full Board discussion of these options as such reductions can affect

partners. However, at the Finance Committee Paul Ward suggested perhaps Board Support contracts are no longer needed, as UCSRB is fully staffed now. Melody confirmed that UCSRB staff always reach out to Board members to discuss agendas and help Board members prepare, and could increase such efforts if needed or requested, regardless of the amount of Board Support contracts.

The Board then discussed options and agreed to the following budget reductions for fiscal year 2020:

Yakama Nation Board support contract reduced in full (-\$10,000)
Okanogan County Board support contract reduced by 50% (-\$5,000)
UCSRB ED discretionary outreach eliminated (-\$6,000)
UCSRB 20th anniversary video eliminated (-\$6,000)
UCSRB brochure update eliminated (-\$3,000)
Chelan County Board Support Contract reduced by \$4,442 (-\$4,442)
Total reduction = \$34,442

Paul Ward motioned to approve the revisions to the FY2020 UCSRB Budget. Commissioner Hover seconded the motion and all approved.

Shawn summarized the most recent income and expense report.

Shawn then reviewed the sample contract language and Scopes of Work for representative types of contracts drafted using the contracting template updated by UCSRB attorney and approved by the Board last year. These can be used to develop partner contracts now that the UCSRB has an approved FY2020 budget.

Commissioner Hover motioned to approve the Scopes of Work for representative types of contracts and delegated review and approval of partner contracts to the UCSRB Executive Committee. Commissioner Marc Straub seconded the motion and all approved.

3. Integrated Recovery: Non-Treaty Harvest Allocations (Chair Brushwood, Commissioner Dave Graybill, Bill Tweit)

Bill Tweit (WDFW) gave a presentation on the role of harvest in recovery efforts of Upper Columbia Endangered Species Act (ESA)-listed fish populations, specifically the All-H approach which includes using selective harvest as a tool to manage hatchery fish populations, maintain stakeholder support and provide economic benefits. The history of treaties and the North of Falcon process for setting harvest allocations was reviewed, as were current policy issues. Commissioner Dave Graybill (WDFW) said over 70% of the production of salmon comes from the Upper Columbia and added economic benefits have been over \$70 million because of Upper Columbia activities. WDFW sets allocations with 23 different tribes, some of whom don't always agree. This is one of the biggest challenges of North of Falcon. Another contentious issue is gillnetting. The endorsement program (CRSSE), which was not appropriated by WA legislature this year, funded the federally mandated activities of enforcement on gillnetting.

4. Integrated Recovery: Harvest Background Summary (Chair Brushwood, Maier, Directors)

Greer Maier provided a brief update on the status of the UCSRB Harvest Background Summary. Greer asked if there were any people or topics the Board was interested in seeing included in the Harvest Summary. Paul stressed the importance of including historical baseline data: what fish numbers were historically that have been lost to tribes, levels of

historic tribal harvest; and how hydro production, loss of habitat, culverts, irrigation diversions, recreation, barging, municipal water use, and discharge all impact these historic numbers and harvest. Greer said she would follow up with Paul to make sure she gets these data.

Ryan Harnish (PNNL) presented on the role of spill in fish passage and smolt survival. The US Army Corps of Engineers contracted with PNNL to conduct a system survival study during the 2018 court mandated spill. This monitoring will not be continued beyond 2018. The difference in years 2008, 2012 and 2018, despite differences in spill rates, had very similar survival rates for yearling Chinook salmon. Variability and uncertainty in survival estimates, in turn, will increase the risk of selecting ineffective management approaches. Using acoustic telemetry in addition to use of PIT tags will provide more accurate information to identify relationships between environmental and operational variables and smolt passage/survival. Acoustic telemetry will also provide more accurate information to identify problems or opportunities to improve passage and survival through the hydrosystem, where most management options are implemented. When asked Ryan why they're cutting the study for 2019 and 2020, he responded that was due to reduced funding.

5. Columbia River Power System Biological Opinion (Chair Brushwood, Ritchie Graves)

Ritchie Graves (NOAA Fisheries) gave a presentation on the 2019 CRS Biological Opinion. The BiOp considers the effects of the CRSO and related mitigation programs on 13 species of salmon and steelhead along with other ESA-listed species under NOAA Fisheries' jurisdiction. The 2019 CRSO BiOp is expected to be in place through 2020 or 2021. There will be regional discussion about the RM&E and tributary habitat management. Ritchie then briefly went over the suite of actions in the current BiOp as well as the proposed new action to increase spill during 16 hours of each 24-hour period. This new proposed action is called the Flexible Spill Program. Juvenile survival is a hypothesized benefit of the Flexible Spill Program. Ritchie says it may take 10-12 years to clearly determine the extent to which higher spill improves survival and adult fish returns to the Columbia and Snake Rivers. Ritchie then briefly reviewed the 18 conservation recommendations Federal agencies should carry out for the benefit of threatened and endangered species. Discussion followed.

6. UC Monitoring Plan Update (Chair Brushwood, Kreimes, Maier)

Chair Brushwood discussed the importance of having an updated UC Monitoring and Evaluation Plan as the Action Agencies, NOAA and the Northwest Power and Conservation Council are actively revising the Columbia Basin Research, Monitoring and Evaluation (RM&E) Strategy. Having our needs clearly articulated will allow us to more effectively comment on the Columbia Basin RM&E Strategy once that is released in draft form, and to engage with other partners (e.g. agencies, legislature) on regional monitoring needs. Additionally, if our goal is to ultimately delist spring Chinook and steelhead, we need to have adequate monitoring data to adaptively manage our *Recovery Plan* implementation. Consequently, Greer has been working with the RTT and Monitoring and Data Management Committee (MaDMC) to update the UC Monitoring and Evaluation Plan, which is Appendix P of the *Upper Columbia Spring Chinook Salmon and Steelhead Recovery Plan*. Written in 2008 after the *Recovery Plan* was completed, some of the monitoring data identified have been collected, some have not, and some new data and information needs are now known. The MaDMC has generated a list of key data gaps, which guides sponsors in developing monitoring proposals, but there is very little monitoring funding available annually (2% of our PCSRF allocation) and has an approach for updating the Monitoring and Evaluation Plan with UCSRB staff support. Melody added that any update would be vetted through the region, including the process and revisions, with input solicited from the WATs, IT, etc. If an

update is completed in the coming year, this would also align well with NOAA's 5-year status review, which is underway.

Chair Brushwood asked for Board input on a role for UCSRB to help facilitate such a regional discussion. Commissioner Hover thought there was and asked that the role of pre-project monitoring be considered. Commissioner Bugert added that SRFB is cutting back on funding monitoring and believes getting out ahead of all of these changes and revised strategies is a good idea. Chuck asked for an update at a future UCSRB meeting regarding direction from the MaDMC and RTT Chair on an approach for updating the

7. Staff Updates/Guidance & Feedback from Board (Chair Brushwood, Maier, Sarah Walker, Bob Bugert, Marc Straub, Directors)

Greer reviewed the new data portal now live on www.Ucsrb.org.

Sarah gave an update on the Implementation Team (IT). Over the past few months she has tightened up the membership list and confirmed ongoing participation of members. IT is included in the *Recovery Plan* and continues to work with the IT to confirm and/or update its role in *Recovery Plan* implementation. Sarah asked for any input from the Board on possible improvements to the role of IT. Board members had no suggestions and encouraged staff to continue soliciting such input from the IT.

Sarah then gave a brief update on the NCWFHC. A new supervisor for the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest has been named by the USDA Forest Service. Kristen Bail will take over the position on September 1st, 2019. Sarah also briefly talked about the NCWFHC efforts to send a letter of support to our Congressional delegates re the Secure Rural Schools (SRS) Program. With regard to the NCWFHC Project Workgroup, Sarah said Pete actively worked with the Workgroup and they're coming up with an annual workplan.

Outcomes of DC legislative and agency meetings & discussions-
Melody and the Board discussed outcomes of the DC legislative and agency meetings. All believed it was a very productive trip. Commissioner Bugert added that the forest health discussions were very informative about regional issues and possible tools to address them. Chair Brushwood said he hopes the Board can build upon its success in DC and get elected officials and staffers out in the field to see our projects. Melody brought up the Portland trip and asked the Board their thoughts about the value of going to Portland to talk to our regional contacts at BPA, USFS and NOAA. Commissioner Hover said it's important. Melody said BPA included the Portland trip in the budget. Paul Ward added it's important to work with the agencies here in the region, and save going to Portland for any big, pressing issues. Bob agreed with Paul that there isn't a burning need to go to Portland, liked the idea of getting agency reps from Portland out in the field in the spring. It was agreed UCSRB Directors and staff will not pursue a trip to Portland this year to meet with agencies.

8. Regional Process Review in Coming Year (Chair Brushwood, Kreimes)

Melody said she's hearing from partners about the value of looking at our regional process of *Recovery Plan* implementation and exploring ways we could improve the process, communications and possibly find efficiencies in the multiple meetings held (WATs, IT, RTT, etc.). Steve Kolk had a meeting with WAT leads regarding this recently, and members of the IT also discussed how to reduce redundancies between WATs and IT. Bonneville Environmental Foundation (BEF) is interested in partnering with UCSRB in an effort to evaluate and improve the regional "infrastructure" and Melody is in conversations with BEF

staff regarding possible funding and support. BEF has already provided funding to support the UCSRB staffing of the RTT's Biological Strategy update (after our funding coordination meeting held with partners in August 2018), and this partnership has been most beneficial. Bob mentioned that dialogue with Senator Hawkins would be possible to seek a budget proviso if UCSRB felt that would be valuable also. Paul added that there is so much interest in forest health right now, it would be good to evaluate how best to integrate that work with the aquatic work we've been coordinating for over a decade. Melody asked the Board if they would be interested in participating in key regional dialogue aimed at evaluating the regional processes in place and the Board agreed. Melody will discuss an approach for such a regional evaluation at the next meeting, at which time she will know if BEF funding and partnership is available.

There were no public questions or comments.

Adjourn Meeting

Chair Brushwood thanked everyone for attending the UCSRB meeting and adjourned the meeting at 3:00 pm.

Summary of Motions/Approvals

Commissioner Marc Straub motioned to approve the UCSRB meeting summary as drafted. Commissioner Andy Hover seconded the motion and all approved.

Paul Ward motioned to approve the revisions to the FY2020 UCSRB Budget. Commissioner Hover seconded the motion and all approved.

Commissioner Hover motioned to approve the Scopes of Work for representative types of contracts and delegated review and approval of partner contracts to the UCSRB Executive Committee. Commissioner Marc Straub seconded the motion and all approved.