

**UPPER COLUMBIA SALMON RECOVERY BOARD**  
**DRAFT MEETING (Webinar) SUMMARY**  
**June 25, 2020**

**Board Members Present:**

**Chair, Chelan County:** Doug England (absent), Bob Bugert (serving as alternate)

**Vice-Chair, Douglas County:** Marc Straub (absent)

**Okanogan County:** Andy Hover, Char Schumacher (serving as alternate for part of meeting)

**Yakama Nation:** Paul Ward

**Colville Confederated Tribes:** Chuck Brushwood

**Staff Present:** Melody Kreimes, Sarah Walker, Caitlin Vanderpool, Alicia Meier, Pete Teigen, Nicole Jordan, Ryan Niemeyer, Greer Maier, Tristan Zucktriegel

**Others Present:**

**WDFW Columbia River Policy Workgroup:** Dave Graybill; **Snake River Salmon Recovery Board:** John Foltz; **Ruckleshaus Center:** Molly Stenovec, Chris Page, Phyllis Schulman; **Bonneville Power**

**Administration (BPA):** Joe Connor, Tabatha Rood, Jamie Cleveland; **NOAA:** Jeromy Jording, Anthony Siniscal, Andrew Murdoch; **Douglas County Public Utility Department (DPUD):** Tom Kahler; **Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife (WDFW):** Graham Simon; **Chelan County:** Mike Kaputa; Dennis Beich; Bob Whitehall;

The virtual meeting was called to order at 9:01 AM by Chair Bob Bugert.

**Welcome and Introductions**

Chair Bugert welcomed everyone to the meeting and did a roll call to ensure a quorum was present via telephone and webinar.

**1. Regular Business**

Chair Bugert asked for comments or revisions to the April 23, 2020 UCSRB meeting summary. No comments or revisions were offered, and the minutes were approved.

*Paul Ward made a motion to approve the April 23, 2020 UCSRB meeting summary. Chuck Brushwood seconded the motion and all approved.*

Chair Bugert asked to amend the agenda to include review and approval of a new RCO Lead Entity contract.

*Paul Ward made a motion to approve the amended agenda. Chuck Brushwood seconded the motion and all approved.*

**2. Financial Operations**

Melody gave a brief overview of the draft budget and how it was created. Caitlin discussed projected revenue, which is higher due to:

- RCO funds not spent due to COVID-19 constraints and allowed to be rolled over to FY2021
- BPA has extra funding for FY2020 to contribute to the Programmatic Admin contract (up to \$200,000 is being proposed) for support work on prioritization.

- Delays in getting contracts with federal consultants funded by our Department of Ecology, OCR income contract, so funding is rolling over from FY20 to FY21.

For projected revenue, in order to be conservative given COVID impacts to funding, the draft budget assumes:

- A 5% decrease and roll over from previous year for RCO Admin and Lead Entity
- A 10% decrease for the FY21 BPA Admin and Yakama Nation contracts

Expenses for FY2021 are slightly higher in some categories and lower in others. The reasons for these changes were discussed in detail. Partner outreach contracts are proposed at the same amounts as last year. The accounting/audit category has decreased by 100 % since UCSRB did not meet the SEFA threshold for federal award expenditures of \$750,000 or greater for the year 2019, thus no federal audit is required (the finance committee reviewed the SEFA and concurred that no audit of calendar year 2019 expenses would be necessary).

*Chuck Brushwood made a motion to approve the FY21 UCSRB draft budget. Paul Ward seconded the motion and all approved.*

### **Contracting**

Melody gave a brief overview of the Aspect Consulting contract. Aspect supports us with developing special analysis (GIS) products and providing GIS services and support as need by staff. Much of the work they support is for the RTT prioritization effort. The contract is for \$24,000 and the period is from July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021.

*Paul Ward made a motion to approve the Aspect Consulting contract. Chuck Brushwood seconded the motion and all approved.*

Next Melody discussed the RCO LEAD Entity Contract amendment (not a new contract since FY21 is in the middle of the biennium) for \$135,000. Recall that the budget assumed a 5% reduction in this contract to be conservative, but the full amount was received.

*Chuck Brushwood made a motion to approve the amended RCO Lead Entity Contract. Char Schumacher seconded the motion and all approved.*

Alicia gave an update on recent contracts that have been amended.

- Department of Ecology contract was increased by \$27,260 to \$285,000. This increase is for a sub-contract with USDA Forest Service Pacific Northwest Research Station (Paul Hessburg) to work on Snow2Fow refinements, upgrades, increased functionality of the tool, and pilot testing. There is no change in the period of the contract. It remains from October 1, 2019 to September 30, 2021.
- Partner Outreach Contracts for Okanogan Land Trust, Chelan County Natural Resource Department, Cascade Fisheries, and Okanogan Conservation District were all extended from June 30, 2020 to June 30, 2021. This is to allow flexibility in completing outreach, which was not implemented due to COVID-19 restrictions.

Caitlin reviewed the financial reports for UCSRB. Most of our grants are currently under spent due to contracts not being billed and funds being rolled over to the new fiscal year. The Nature Conservancy

grant for work with the NCWFHC Joint Task Force is near completion and all the funds will be utilized by June 30, 2020.

Next Caitlin reviewed the Budget to Actual and noted that we are at 72 percent of our budget for total expenses as of June 17, 2020. We are underspent on all line items and our partner contract consultants are under 100% spent due to COVID-19. Payroll expenses are right on target with our budget with about 10 percent of fiscal year 2020 budget remaining.

The Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards (SEFA) was reviewed. The SEFA shows that the threshold of \$750,000 in federal expenditures (not awards) was not met for 2019, thus no federal audit is necessary. Melody noted that UCSRB is being assessed by the State Auditor's Office (SAO) as possibly subject to state audits. If such audits are required, the SAO predicts only needing to audit UCSDRB every 3 years as we typically have federal audits.

#### **UCSRB Finance Committee**

During our April Board meeting, we overlooked consideration of electing new Finance Committee (FC) members. The FC is made up of any two Board members and the Executive Director. Typically, the Treasurer is on the FC, but this is not required. Chuck Brushwood the current Treasurer did participate in the last FC meet and is willing to serve on the Committee. Andy Hover also expressed his willingness to be on the Committee.

*Paul Ward made a motion to approve Chuck Brushwood and Andy Hover as the two board members to serve on the Finance Committee. Bob Bugert seconded the motion and all approved.*

### **3. UCSRB Harvest Background Summary**

Greer reviewed the goals of the UCSRB Integrated Recovery Approach:

- Achieve recovery of Upper Columbia spring Chinook salmon and of Upper Columbia steelhead, which will require coordinated actions in all the management sectors affecting salmon.
- Engage and collaborate with sector managers in finding and implementing solutions to identified issues.

She then provided an overview of the Draft Harvest Background Summary, the technical advisory group members and the review process that has occurred. Key points from this Summary are:

- Many tribal fisheries have declined up to 80% and some have disappeared altogether. Non-tribal fisheries have also declined since their peak in the early 1900's.
- The Columbia River now represents one of the most highly regulated fisheries in the world. Strong limitations have been implemented to limit impacts to ESA species.
- UC spring Chinook and steelhead are part of larger stock groups used for fishery management. Stocks are considered surrogates of the ESU/DPS.
- The number of fish that die as a result of a fishery is greater than the number of fish retained as catch. A large proportion of impacts to UC listed species is from incidental mortality. Only a small proportion is direct harvest
- Treaty commercial and C&S fisheries along with Non-Treaty commercial, recreational, non-treaty tribal, and conservation fisheries contribute to harvest impacts.
- Composite harvest of listed UC spring Chinook = 10-20%.
- Composite harvest of listed UC steelhead = 7-16% (estimated).

Now that all four Background Summaries are complete, UCSRB is at the Integrated Recovery Approach Step 4: UCSRB Issue Focus, in which UCSRB Directors identify any issues on which it would like to focus, engage and collaborate with partners moving forward, and possibly develop a workplan (follow-up or action items) for UCSRB staff. Directors asked Greer to compile a list of such potential topics for the Directors to consider at the September 24, 2020 Board meeting.

*Andy Hover made a motion to approve the Harvest Background Summary. Chuck Brushwood seconded the motion and all approved.<sup>1st</sup>.*

#### **4. Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife (WDFW) Columbia River Policy Workgroup**

Pending Harvest Recommendations from the WDFW Columbia River Policy Workgroup  
Dennis Beich, Bob Whitehall and Dave Graybill joined the meeting to discuss current recommendations of the WDFW Columbia River Policy Workgroup to the WDFW Commission. The recommendations will have an impact on UC spring Chinook (ESA-listed endangered) and steelhead (ESA-listed threatened) as the recommendations include a shift in commercial/recreational fishing allocation from 80%/20% to 70%/30% and allowing the use of gillnets before the run size has been calculated. There is also concern that the recommendation of this workgroup does not contain any language related to recovery of listed salmonids. Melody reviewed a draft letter to the WDFW Commission that the Executive Committee requested for the Board's consideration at today's meeting.

Directors discussed the draft letter and both Yakama Nation and Colville Confederated Tribes representatives stated that they would have to abstain from voting due to their involvement in the U.S. v. Oregon and U.S. v. Washington and their commitments to use those forums for input on any such recommendations. Two county Commissioners Okanogan and Chelan support the letter while Douglas County was absent. Commissioner Hover suggested that since our two tribal representatives are abstaining, this isn't truly a consensus of the UCSRB, and he suggested each county submit their own letter and not have UCSRB submit a letter. The Board agreed not to issue a UCSRB letter. Both Okanogan and Chelan County Commissioners will bring this topic up at their June Commission meetings and asked Melody to forward the text from the draft letter (minus the UCSRB references) to both Counties for reference.

#### **5. Regional Evaluation**

##### **Scope of work and contract development with Ruckelshaus Center**

Melody discussed the opportunity to work with the Ruckelshaus Center, a joint Washington State University and the University of Washington Policy Center, in conducting the UC regional evaluation, which is funded by BEF. A draft scope of work has been sent to Ruckelshaus Center contracting department with work to begin in August or September. The contract budget is yet to be finalized, but BEF is willing to contribute additional, year-two funding to cover the cost of the Ruckelshaus contract.

#### **6. Lead Entity and BPA Programmatic Project Efforts**

##### **Review Planned Project Forecast List**

Pete reviewed the process and reason for developing the Planned Project Forecast List (PPFL). This list is a look forward to next biennium to show legislature and The Governor all the potential projects for 2022-2023 biennium. Pete worked extensively with partners to develop this list, which totals \$25

- \$30 million. This list needs to be further vetted and refined, and Pete expects it to come in closer to \$6.6 million. A final list is submitted in August to RCO.

### **Targeted Investment Policy**

Pete discussed the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) guide to develop a targeted investment policy when funding remains available after grant-round allocations have been made. The regional allocation is awarded each year and has totaled \$1.8 million (10.31% of state allocation) since 2010. A targeted investment is a project that addresses a SRFB-identified priority, e.g., to accelerate progress towards delisting, to address extinction threat. Targeted investment funds may be made available when the annual state allocation is greater than \$18 million. The SRFB identified a list of priorities from which it could choose to target any additional funding. The two priorities that impact our region are the Southern Resident Orca Whale Recovery and populations at risk (spring Chinook) categories.

### **BPA Programmatic Update and Pending FY20 contract amendment (Joe Connor)**

Joe Connor, BPA, discussed that all BPA staff have been working remotely since March 16 with a seamless transition. BPA has been keeping up with partner procurement and accounts payable despite COVID-19. All travel for BPA staff has been suspended indefinitely and he is uncertain when they will be going back into the field. BPA is supporting RTT Prioritization work already, and further support is underway as a contract amendment is being negotiated with BPA and UCSRB staff currently. Other key updates are:

- The next Programmatic administrative contract will look similar to FY2019 levels, as prioritization is nearing completion.
- The Northwest Power and Conservation Council review on anadromous projects is behind schedule due to COVID-19 impacts, currently it is scheduled to be in November 2020, but this date may be pushed out further.
- The Columbia River System Operations draft EIS comment period closed April 13, 2020 and a decision will be released in December 2020.
- The Biological opinion will be released mid-summer.
- At next meeting would be able to give more details.

### **Regional Response to COVID Situation & Project Work**

Sarah gave a brief update on how the region is responding to the current COVID situation. There has been a combination of guidelines being followed by partners including CDC and State guidelines. BPA, Yakama Nation are not able to work in the field currently. However, most projects are continuing on track.

## **7. Public questions or comments.**

Andrew Murdoch wanted to bring up the hatchery and fish reform policy. A new policy is out and will be approved by October. He is encouraging all the Washington Salmon Recovery Boards to reach out to one another for a strong unified approach to help the agency with a policy in how we use hatchery and hatchery fish in recovery efforts in a scientific way.

### **Wrap-up and Adjourn Meeting**

Chair Bugert thanked everyone for attending the UCSRB virtual meeting and adjourned the meeting at 12:29 pm.