



REGIONAL TECHNICAL TEAM MEETING APRIL MEETING SUMMARY

Date: Wednesday, April 8, 2020

Time: 9:00 AM to 10:30 AM (BPA Targeted Scoring 10:30-12:00 PM)

Location: COVID Webinar

Members Present: Keely Murdoch, John Arterburn, Jeremy Cram, Kate Terrell, Joe Lange, Catherine Willard, Justin Yeager, Brandon Rogers, John Crandall, and Tracy Hillman (Chair).

Others Present: Greer Maier/UCSRB, Pete Teigen/UCSRB, Sarah Walker/UCSRB, Jamie Cleveland/BPA, Joe Conner/BPA, and Tabatha Rood/BPA.

Tracy Hillman welcomed everyone to the meeting and participants introduced themselves.

Members present reviewed and approved the draft agenda. February meeting notes and action items were reviewed and approved. There were no carry-over action items.

UCSRB and RTT Updates

SRFB

Peter Teigen reported that project tours are scheduled for 11-13 May. He said there are three options for tours this year. One option that is being used in other regions is virtual tours, where sponsors share pictures and videos of their project sites. A second option is to conduct tours as in the past; however, this depends on COVID-19 guidelines. The third option is modified tours where just a few RTT members visit sites. Modified tours would include a couple RTT members, the two SRP members, Pete Teigen, and a couple CAC members. The preference of the RTT is to have normal site visits, but given that this is unlikely to happen, the RTT recommended project sponsors prepare virtual tours. There was discussion about what would be included in a virtual tour and how it would differ from the presentations. The thinking is there would be more visuals from on the ground. RTT members offered ideas of what they would like to see including drone footage, pictures, and video from the site. Pete will continue to talk with the RTT, SRP, CAC, and sponsors to figure out what the tours will look like given current COVID-19 issues.

Pete asked if any RTT members will be or could be furloughed as this could affect review of final SRFB applications. If so, members need to let Pete know as soon as possible. Lastly, Pete and Tracy gave a brief update on monitoring projects. With limited funds state-wide, there may not be enough funds available to fund all local monitoring projects. They will update the RTT when they know more about the number of proposals state-wide and the funding request. A number of proposals have been pulled and it looks like there will be around 20 draft proposals submitted this year.

BPA and UCSRB Targeted Solicitation

Sarah Walker gave a brief update on the targeted solicitation. She showed the schedule and talked about how the scoring of proposals today plays into the process. Projects will be selected for funding next week.

There are two targeted projects currently under design that will need RTT review. Jeremy Cram, Brandon Rogers, Justin Yeager, John Crandall, Keely Murdoch, Catherine Willard, Joe Lange, and Tracy Hillman indicated they could review the projects. Greer Maier will send out materials and more information to the group.

Prioritization Process

Greer Maier gave a brief update on the prioritization process. She said we are currently in Step 2 of the process and have completed the first part of Step 2 in prioritizing life stages at the AU scale. The RTT's Prioritization Workgroup met in mid-March and made some progress on deciding the process for the rest of Step 2. UCSRB staff have been compiling Reach Assessment, Level II survey, and EDT source data into a master GIS layer at the reach scale. The PWG is still looking for input from the RTT on the habitat requirements by life stage. This information will be the basis for how habitat data are used in prioritization. That information was sent out to the RTT in March but contact Greer (greer.maier@ucsrb.org) if you would like a copy for review.

The UCSRB, on behalf of the Prioritization Workgroup, will convene watershed prioritization workshops in April and May to discuss comments on life stage priorities (which were originally developed by these groups), refine the reach layer by species within each watershed (e.g., which streams and reaches should be included or excluded), and discuss current data and data sources in each subbasin. The dates for each webinar-based workshop are provided below. If you would like to participate, please contact Greer for login information (greer.maier@ucsrb.org).

Methow- April 20th 9am-1pm
Entiat – April 21st 9am-1pm
Wenatchee- April 27th 9am-1pm
Okanogan- May 5th 9am-1pm

Greer also provided an update on the UW GIS class project. The group is still working on evaluating floodplains and riparian condition using LiDAR and other GIS layers. They are making good progress. UCSRB is also talking with NOAA and other groups about data that the RTT can use to evaluate capacity and floodplains in prioritization.

BPA Targeted Solicitation Scoring

The RTT scored projects submitted to the UCSRB/BPA targeted solicitation in 2020.

Next Meeting

SRFB tours will take place in May instead of a regular RTT meeting.

Carry-Over Agenda Items for Future Meetings:

- Columbia River Treaty - Shane Bickford
- River Health - Joe Wheaton