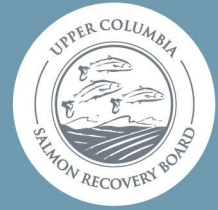


Working to restore viable and sustainable populations of salmon, steelhead and other at-risk species through collaborative, economically sensitive efforts, combined resources, and wise resource management of the Upper Columbia Region.



PRESENTATIONS TO THE OKANOGAN COUNTY CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Upper Columbia Lead Entity

TwispWorks, Twisp, WA
June 25, 2025 ; 5:00 – 8:00 PM

Attendance:

UCSRB: Ariel Edwards, Gabby Vermeire, Ryan Niemeyer

CAC: Will Keller (chair; remote), Larry Hill, Bob Monetta, Louis Sukovaty, Sam Israel

Sponsors: Brent Paul (TU), Kristen Kirkby (CF), Ben Woodworth (YN), Tara Gregg (MSRF), Brian Fisher (MSRF), Jessica Goldberg (MSRF), Chris Johnson (MSRF; remote)

RTT: Tracy Hillman (RTT Chair; remote)

General CAC Business:

- By Laws and Scoring Criteria were reviewed – no questions were posed by members.
- Will Keller agree to remain chair for another year.

Q&A with RTT member:

- Tracy Hillman was the RTT representative available for answering questions on project scoring. He overviewed the RTT summaries and scoring, how the RTT uses the score and standard deviation, and other details. Tracy shared that scoring was smooth this year and there were not any major disagreements about project scoring.
- CAC members asked if there were any trends the RTT was seeing in projects. Tracy noted that in general projects are getting more expensive. This is mainly because projects are getting bigger, and everything is just more expensive these days.
- CAC members asked some specific questions about the budget of the Sugar Riparian project. Tracy Hillman clarified what he could and advised the members to ask the sponsor for details.

Fulton Ditch Irrigation Project – Brent Paul, TU

- Q: How much would the entire project cost?
 - A: The total cost will be about \$6.3 million.
- Q: Has the recharge from the ditch been calculated?

- A: The sponsor was not aware of an exact calculation. It was noted that the ditch does not recharge the Chewuch, as it goes into the groundwater.
- Q: How do the irrigation users feel about the project?
 - A: The response has generally been good. There is an awareness of the potential that their irrigation water will get shut down due to low flows in the Chewuch, so most folks are eager for a solution. There are some outliers who are resistant to pipe, but they are the minority.
- Q: Can you go through the cost breakdown?
 - A: Largest expense is the engineer's time. Next, permitting will also likely be a \$100k expense.
- Q: What is the timeline of the overall project?
 - A: They are likely about three years out from implementation – this is mainly due to funding timelines.

Upper Methow Reassessment & Design – Kristen Kirkby, CF

- Q: The CAC asked about funding possibilities, since the SRFB is limited in assessment funds?
 - A: The sponsor noted that it is hard to rank an assessment compared to a restoration project. In addition, funding for assessments is challenging. Other funding sources (TRIB, BOR, etc), are running out of their allotted assessment funds, or are funding assessment/monitoring projects less.
- Q: What would you expect to find in these reaches?
 - A: There have been wildfires in some of the tributaries to this system. There is also dynamic geomorphology through this area.

Beaver Creek Low Tech Riparian – Ben Woodworth, YN

- Q: Are there beavers here?
 - A: There were beavers at the site for a couple of years, but they ate themselves out of food. Currently beavers are present downstream of the project area.
- Q: Are there conifer plantings planned?
 - A: Yes. The planting plan will be worked through with the landowner (WDFW), but they expect to include ponderosa pine, or other conifers.
- Q: How many structures are being proposed?
 - A: They are targeting about 40 structures.
- Q: What about the wood introduced in 2019?
 - A: A lot of that wood is still there, it is just dry now that there are not beaver dams present. This project plans to install BDAs to mimic the prior impact of beavers.

Sugar Reach Riparian – Tara Gregg, MSRF

- Q: Can you explain the budget and any differences in cost per acre at each site?
 - A: The sponsor said that the Eagle Rock per acreage would be the least expensive since it has already been planted and the first year of maintenance is complete. *The sponsor will follow up with any other clarifications via email.

Upper Methow Salmon Cassel – Brian Fisher, MSRF

- Q: What will the structures look like in the river?
 - A: The designs are generally low profile, which will help them blend into the surroundings. However, to maintain the low profile they are using piles to support. The bank tied structures will also hopefully be camouflaged by revegetation over time.
 - Q: Why are the specific cold water patches being protected in this project so important?
 - A: The goal of this project is not necessarily to “protect” the cold water patches, but to make them more usable by fish. For example, creating scouring pools where the hyporheic flow is coming in will allow for more fish to access that cold water.
 - Q: What techniques are being applied here?
 - A: They are relying on research from a professor at Western Washington University in the Nooksack River, where they have used structures/scour pools to enhance cold water patches.
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Closing reminders:

- CAC scoring deadlines – email to Ariel by Monday 6/30
 - Joint CAC Meeting – 7/1 Chelan, WA (5-8pm)
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Public Comment:

- No public comments