

April 23, 2026

Draft UCSRB Board of Directors Mtg. Summary

Wells Dam – Chelan, WA

9:00 am to 3:00 pm



Formal Approvals

Item	Action-Decision
NO QUORUM PRESENT	

Present: Board Chair Shannon Adams (Yakama Nation), Vice Chair Commissioner Andy Hover (Okanogan County), Treasurer Charles “Chuck” Brushwood (Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation), UCSRB Executive Director Amanda Ward, and UCSRB Staff: Ryan Niemeyer, Shelly McMullen, Leslie Selgestad, Karen Berg

Others present: Steve Kolk (Bureau of Reclamation), Tom Kahler (Senior Fisheries Scientist, Douglas PUD).

Remote: Erik Neatherlin (Director, Governor’s Salmon Recovery Office), Elizabeth Spaulding (Habitat Policy Specialist, Governor’s Salmon Recovery Office).

1. Welcome and Introductions

Chair Adams welcomed everyone to the meeting at 1:05 pm and participants introduced themselves. Board thanked Tom Kahler for the tour of the dam.

2. Regular Business

No quorum present to formally approve April 23, 2026 agenda and February 26, 2026 summary.

3. Public Questions and Comments

Chair Adams asked if there were any public questions or comments. None were noted.

4. Finance and Operations

Accounting Manager Shelly McMullen reviewed the UCSRB financial reports:

Budget vs. Actual

Based on the 12-month budget from January 2026 through December 2026.

- Outreach is well below planned but activities are ramping up.
- Data Collection is over budget – BPA’s Lichen contract, originally expiring 11/30/2025, was extended to 2/28/2026. Invoices expected in the prior budget period were therefore delayed and paid in the first quarter of 2026.
- \$299,738 is held as contingency funds and remain unallocated at this point, due to funding uncertainties

Current Grant Activity

BPA –FY24-26 contract has been spent down. New contract FY26-27 contract is ready to sign.

CTCR –New contract FY26 is now fully executed and underway. Shelly will check on Total Funding Source Award line item and report back to Board.

TWS –TWS has contributed another \$5,000 towards Karen’s wages for NCWFHC facilitation.
DNR – The contract for \$10,000 for NCWFHC activities has been spent down.
RCO LE/Admin – At 8 months into the FY25-27 contracts, on track with 39% of RCO LE funds and 22% of RCO Admin funds spent.
WSU –On track.
YN –FY25-26 contract underway and tracking as expected.
CFNCW – 73% of the \$15,000 awarded has been spent down, funding Karen’s work with NCWFHC.
Icicle Fund – A new award of \$20,000 towards NCWFHC facilitation has no expenses yet.

Statement of Financial Position

As of March 31, 2026. Accrued leave higher than previous year due to larger staff, annual COLA raises and PTO accrued. Taxes accruing and paid quarterly.

Operating Reserve Activity

Reporting January 2026 through March 2026. Operating Reserve Income is at \$22,300.16 after Science Conference and Money Market interest income. Vice Chair Hover asked why there is a difference between that and the \$36,486.43 Net Income line item in the Statement of Financial Position. Shelly will look into that and report back to the Board.

Statement of Activity

Reporting January 2026 through March 2026. No concerns noted.

Disbursement and revenue summaries for January - March 2026

Disbursements January 1 – March 31, 2026 - \$321,666.05
Revenue January 1 – March 31, 2025 - \$313,955.34

Updating Bank Signatories

No quorum present to approve Resolution 26-02 to update bank signatories.

5. Contracts – Status and Updates

CTCR 2026 Contract

The new FY25-26 contract for \$98,104 is now fully executed and underway. Although delayed, the team still expect to complete the deliverable by the close-out date of 10/31/2026.

2026 UCSRB Small Grants

Amanda provided a summary of the FY 2026 awards. The RFP received 5 applications, with a total allocated budget of \$40,000 awarded to fully fund 4 projects and partially fund one:

- Chelan County Natural Resource District – Monitoring winter juvenile fish use in the lower reaches of the Wenatchee River. Fully funded - \$10,000.
- Cascade Fisheries – Project WOW, an all-ages, community-based watershed stewardship and education program. Fully funded - \$9,957.
- Friends of Northwest Hatcheries –Kids in the Creek, a program providing experiential environmental education to high schoolers in order to increase accessibility to salmonid education. Fully funded - \$2,036.
- Trout Unlimited – Methow Steelhead All-H Integration Pilot: Workshop preparation and launch of a collaborative opportunities assessment framework. Fully funded - \$10,000.
- Cascadia Conservation District – Beaver and Stream Health Interpretive Signage in Stormy Preserve. Partially funded - \$8,007.

6. NCWFHC Update

Karen presented an update on the NCWFHC and the need for more cross-collaboration with UCSRB. There is a clear scientific connection between terrestrial and aquatic health. Environmental conditions are changing faster than our systems can respond, and regulatory and funding ‘silos’ slow our response. Integrated treatments outperform isolated actions, both ecologically and financially. Designs that integrate the needs of both healthy rivers and healthy forests lead to improved resilience for salmon recovery, wildfire mitigation, and benefits for local communities.

7. GSRO Update

Erik Neatherlin and Elizabeth Spaulding from the Governor’s Salmon Recovery Office presented an update. Federal PCSRF funding is currently held up at the Department of Commerce but an update is expected in the next week or two. The request for FY26 has increased to \$100 million across states and tribes. GSRO is working with agencies on salmon funding line items. The State budget request for increased Targeted Investment programs funding did not make it. A number of salmon-related budget reductions included reduced funding for RFEGs. Money from the General Fund was put toward CCA funds.

GSRO is working with agencies to consolidate regional and tribal salmon budget priorities to be submitted to the Governor by the end of October 2026. FY2026 will also see considerable legislative turnover, with the loss of a number of key salmon recovery supporters. GSRO is assessing potential new legislative knowledge gaps that might need to be addressed, and how they can help support regional priorities.

GSRO is compiling information now for the 2026 State of Salmon report which will be out by the end of this year. The report helps to elevate regional messages and priorities. A Gaps Analysis will be out in June to assess statewide science gaps and how SRFB can invest its monitoring funds. A Riparian Roundtable will convene to determine language and actions to inform the next biennium.

Chair Adams asked if the state will be covering the gaps left by the federal funding cuts. Erik said that the level of urgency to secure federal funding has increased and that most salmon recovery funds have made it back into the current administration’s budget. At this time, the state has a stronger focus on healthcare and education so it’s important to translate salmon restoration work in a way to increase public knowledge and express to the legislature what the budget cuts mean for both salmon and communities. Ryan asked if GSRO is working to tell the story of the flooding and how restoration work helped salmon

and communities. Erik said that Puget Sound Partnership is working on determining which legislators to target with this message. Vice Chair Hover asked if avian predation is being discussed with legislators. Erik said that the state has funded a study and report on avian predation.

8. Invasive Species Letter

Amanda presented a letter asking legislators to maintain funding for WDFW to continue to mitigate for the potential spread of Zebra and Quagga mussels, an aquatic invasive species identified in ID, into Washington. It was decided that Amanda can sign off on the letter on behalf of the organization.

9. Items for Future Board Meetings

Chuck mentioned three ideas for presentations for future board meetings:

- Updates from partners on outreach and education projects and how we can support them
- A deep dive into hatchery programs in our region
- A high-level overview of watersheds and what challenges and opportunities exist

Chair Adams adjourned the meeting at 2:45 pm.