

**SALMON RECOVERY FUNDING BOARD SUMMARIZED MEETING AGENDA AND ACTIONS**  
**December 3, 2014**

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<b>Item</b>	<b>Formal Action</b>	<b>Follow-up Action</b>
September 2014 Meeting Summary	Decision: APPROVED	No follow-up action requested.
1. Management Report A. Director's Report B. Legislative and Policy Updates C. Performance Update D. Financial Report ( <i>written only</i> )	Briefing	No follow-up action requested.
2. Salmon Recovery Management Report	Briefing	No follow-up action requested.
3. Reports from Partners	Briefing	No follow-up action requested.
4. Department of Fish and Wildlife 21 <sup>st</sup> Century Salmon	Briefing	No follow-up action requested.
5. Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board Proposals for Fire-Impacted Projects	Decision: APPROVED	The board requested to remain apprised of the progress in these restoration efforts.
6. Intensively Monitored Watershed (IMW) Funding Deficit	Briefing	No follow-up action requested.
7. Monitoring Panel: Updated Approach for 2014-15	Briefing	No follow-up action requested.
8. 2014 Grant Round A. Overview B. Slideshow of featured projects proposed for funding C. Review Panel Comments	Briefing	No follow-up action requested.
9. 2014 Grant Round, continued D. Regional Area Comment Period	Briefing	No follow-up action requested.
10. 2014 Grant Round, continued E. Board Funding Decisions	Decision: APPROVED	For the Hood Canal region, the board deferred action on project #14-1334 South Fork Skokomish Canyon Fish Passage Assessment, and held \$175,437 for Hood Canal pending board decisions at the February 2015 meeting, following continuing discussions between the review panel, sponsor, and the regions.
11. Manual 18 Updates Proposed for 2015	Briefing	Staff will present the summary of changes to the board at the February 2015 meeting.
12. Adopt 2015-17 Large Capital Project List for Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR) Program	Decision: APPROVED	No follow-up action requested.

## SALMON RECOVERY FUNDING BOARD SUMMARY MINUTES

**Date:** December 3, 2014

**Place:** Olympia, WA

### Salmon Recovery Funding Board Members Present:

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<b>David Troutt, Chair</b>	Olympia	<b>Carol Smith</b>	Department of Ecology
<b>Nancy Biery</b>	Quilcene	<b>Susan Cierebiej</b>	Department of Transportation
<b>Bob Bugert</b>	Wenatchee	<b>Megan Duffy</b>	Department of Natural Resources
<b>Sam Mace</b>	Spokane	<b>Stu Trefry</b>	Washington State Conservation Commission
<b>Phil Rockefeller</b>	Bainbridge Island		

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**It is intended that this summary be used with the materials provided in advance of the meeting. The Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) retains a recording as the formal record of the meeting.**

### Opening and Welcome

Chair David Troutt called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m. and a quorum was determined. Member Jennifer Quan was excused.

### Agenda adoption

**Moved by:** Member Bugert

**Seconded by:** Member Biery

**Motion:** APPROVED

### August 2014 Meeting Summary Minutes

**Moved by:** Member Bugert

**Seconded by:** Member Biery

**Motion:** APPROVED

### Management and Partner Reports

#### Item 1: Management Report

**Director's Report:** Director Cottingham requested that the board consider changing the October 2015 travel dates from October 14-15 to October 15-16, in order to allow full board participation. Member Smith noted that she may have a conflict on October 16. Director Cottingham suggested holding the meeting on the first day (October 15) and the tour on the second day (October 16), to allow Member Smith to join for the business meeting portion.

Director Cottingham shared that the annual survey will be sent to board members in the next few weeks. The survey questions pertain to board logistics and proceedings, and will be used to improve practices and policies.

Director Cottingham shared news of the recent agreement between RCO and the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) to have them review projects for possible cultural resources

impacts. To cut down on the number and cost of surveys, WSDOT's archaeology staff will review potential projects and provide a recommendation based upon resources and expertise about which sites likely have cultural resources.

**Legislative and Policy Updates:** Wendy Brown, RCO Policy Director, provided an update on preparations for the upcoming legislative session, including an overview of the recent budget submissions. These requests were approved at the August meeting. The Governor's budget is anticipated to be released in mid-December. Additionally, RCO staff will work with the Senate Resources Committee to have all board members confirmed in the 2015 session.

After a brief summary, Ms. Brown explained that presentations throughout the day would provide details on the progress towards policy goals and metrics.

**Performance Report:** Jennifer Masterson, Data and Special Projects Manager, provided an overview of the performance measures for fiscal year 2015. She provided specific information regarding the metrics for removal of fish passage barriers, stream miles made accessible, and management performance measures for SRFB-funded projects. Details are included in the board materials (Item 1C). She concluded by sharing ways that RCO uses the performance data to inform staff and improve business practices.

## **Item 2: Salmon Recovery Management Report**

Tara Galuska, Salmon Section Manager, provided updates on the 2013 and 2014 grant rounds. Details about funded projects, closed projects, and director authority regarding project amendments may be found in the board materials.

**Governor's Salmon Recovery Office (GSRO):** Brian Abbott, Executive Coordinator, provided an update on the salmon recovery communications strategy in three parts. First, GSRO and RCO jointly issued a request for proposals to hire a facilitator for the workgroup. Responses were due in November 2014. From the proposals received, the evaluation team narrowed the candidates to two firms and held interviews last week. Second, Mr. Abbott updated the board on the progress of lead entities in strengthening their unique approaches. Finally, GSRO provided funds to develop visual representation of the network to support the communications strategy.

The 2015 Salmon Recovery conference is scheduled for May 27-29, 2015, in Vancouver, WA. A call for abstracts went out in mid-November. Registration will open after the first of the year. For the upcoming conference, a new approach to recruiting presenters includes an early call for abstracts in order to refine the theme of the conference with supporting presentations. A multi-stakeholder Conference Advisory Committee will frame the agenda, which will likely include plenary sessions covering topics of interest to all. Mr. Abbott offered a position on the Conference Advisory Committee to interested board members. Member Biery volunteered. Director Cottingham also reached out the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board and a representative will join the committee as well. Mr. Abbott also invited interested organization sponsors to contribute, which would be represented at the conference.

The *State of Salmon* report will be released at the end of December and published to <https://data.wa.gov/>. Member Bugert acknowledged the contributions of GSRO staff in completing this work as they continue to collaborate with state agencies, regions, and contractors.

Member Mace inquired about outreach and communication regarding the conference. Mr. Abbott noted that there were 585 attendees last year. Director Cottingham acknowledged Long Live the Kings, a key partner in preparing for and supporting the conference.

### Item 3: Reports from Partners

**Council of Regions Report (COR):** Jeff Breckel, Chair, provided an overview of the current issues facing the Council of Regions. Mr. Breckel touched on regional monitoring needs, the draft bull trout plan coordinated with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), the communications strategy carried out in partnership with Pyramid Communications, partnerships among regions with NOAA pertaining to the 5-year status review, and contributions to the *State of Salmon* report. Details about these issues are covered in the COR report included in the board materials.

Chair Troutt asked about the potential funding strategies for monitoring needs. Mr. Breckel suggested potential funding shifts that would maintain the balances across needs, yet addressing critical monitoring gaps.

Member Bugert expressed interest in the bull trout recovery plan, specifically the potential discrepancies between the individual regional plans and the broader, federal plan. Mr. Breckel explained that next year's regional plan adjustments would use information and support from USFWS to ensure consistency. COR will encourage USFWS to build upon existing regional recovery plans.

Chair Troutt inquired about progress indicators as shared through the NOAA 5-year status review. Mr. Breckel shared that this information is not yet available, but they are looking at status changes within species.

**Washington Salmon Coalition (WSC):** Darcy Batura, Chair, and Amy Hatch-Winecka, Vice Chair, thanked the board for the opportunity to attend. Ms. Batura and Ms. Hatch-Winecka provided a summary of the recent progress of WSC. Issues covered included regional planning meetings, funding priorities and requests, legislative preparations, lead entity transitions, an upcoming retreat for lead entity partners, and the continued work as part of the Salmon Recovery Network. Full details regarding these issues can be found in WSC's report included in the board materials.

Chair Troutt inquired about the discussion regarding large and complex projects, specifically addressing funding gaps and re-adjustments. Ms. Batura explained that this is an issue to address and they may use the South Sound region as an example.

Member Biery asked about the availability of the lead entity guidance manual and advocacy handbook. Ms. Batura stated that each region's manuals should be available by the end of the month. Member Bugert agreed that sharing this with the board would be useful for understanding regional level policies and practices.

**Regional Fisheries Enhancement Groups (RFEGs):** Colleen Thompson, Managing Director, shared information about site tours and community engagement. During this grant cycle, RFEG submitted 43 applications. Ms. Thompson provided an update on the contracting metrics for these and existing projects, information about the Citizen Action Training School (CATS) program, and participation in the Salmon Recovery Network and the Family Fish Forest Passage Program (FFFPP).

**Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR):** Member Megan Duffy reported that the 2015-17 budget has been submitted, an update since September's meeting. She provided details about specific requests for the capital and operating budgets related to salmon recovery. DNR also participated in the budget reduction exercise, which may impact salmon recovery related efforts. Current work focuses on legislative preparations for the upcoming session.

**Washington State Conservation Commission (WSCC):** Member Stu Trefry provided a brief update on the new staff member, Brian Cochrane, who will be the new SRFB representative for the WSCC.

**Northwest Power and Conservation Council (NPCC):** Member Phil Rockefeller shared that the NPCC released a revised version of their fish and wildlife management program. These efforts take into consideration federal law, state fish and wildlife managers, and tribal entities. Member Rockefeller encouraged the board and audience to visit the NPCC website to view the draft recommendations, found at: <https://www.nwcouncil.org/fw/>.

**Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology):** Member Smith shared information about the 15% budget cut identified by Ecology in the next biennium. The reduction comes from diverse funding sources, as the general fund budget does not provide many options. Ecology releases a water quality assessment every few years that shows impaired water bodies, information which can support restoration efforts; the cuts will impact these stream gauging efforts. The current draft of the assessment will be up for public review in February 2015.

**Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT):** Member Cierebiej shared information about WSDOT budget requests that address removal of fish passage barriers. WSDOT partnered with the Methow Salmon Recovery Foundation (MSRF) and the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (RCFB) to support areas impacted by the recent fires in the Upper Columbia region.

**Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW):** Member Jennifer Quan was excused from the meeting; no update for WDFW was provided.

#### **General Public Comment**

No public comment was provided at this time.

#### **Board Business: Briefings**

##### **Item 4: Department of Fish and Wildlife 21<sup>st</sup> Century Salmon**

Jim Scott, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, thanked the board for the opportunity to attend and share this information. Kelly Cunningham and John Long joined Mr. Scott for the presentation, which covered the main points of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Salmon and Steelhead Initiative, the hatchery and fishery reform policy, and progress and partnerships along the way.

Mr. Scott provided an in-depth history of the initiative, beginning as early as 2006 and continuing through the current year. The history included an overview of the development and progress associated with the work and the intended purpose of the initiative. Mr. Scott shared information about the framework design which established an estimated timeline for accomplishing this work. The design is comprised of six outcomes that include general metrics and timelines for evaluating progress and success.

Mr. Cunningham shared information about how the initiative will be carried out in the field, focusing his presentation on hatcheries and fish reform policy. Implementation metrics show steady progress in some areas and compliance gaps in others.

Mr. Long provided a summary of the implementation of mark-selective fisheries, along with current and historical statistics for Endangered Species Act (ESA) measures. The data demonstrates an increased need for monitoring and intensive sampling, as well as the resources to support these efforts.

Mr. Scott addressed the monitoring and performance measures and efforts for fish in/fish out, restoration effectiveness, and continued research. He concluded by highlighting the important role of regional, state, and federal partnerships, including shared goals and advocates at all levels. He emphasized the importance of habitat projects, sampling, long-term monitoring, and progress assessment of salmon recovery goals.

Chair Troutt inquired about how this initiative impacts other WDFW programs. Mr. Scott explained that since multiple programs maintain habitat with different foci, e.g. shellfish, wildlife, etc., the goal of 21<sup>st</sup> Century Salmon is to address these potential overlaps and coordinate solutions for salmon recovery in line with other agency program goals.

Member Bugert asked about the marine survival study and potential causes or mechanisms affecting this work. Mr. Scott deferred the question due to his limited knowledge of the topic.

Director Cottingham noted that RCO funding goes to fish in/fish out and hatchery reform, asking if budget gaps affect these niches. Mr. Scott replied that they use braided funding from federal and state sources.

***Break 11:06 – 11:26 a.m.***

**Board Business: Decisions**

**Item 5: Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board Proposals for Fire-Impacted Projects**

Brian Abbott, GSRO Executive Coordinator, Joy Juelson, Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board (UCSRB), and Chuck Pevin, UCSRB Technical Review Team, presented information regarding a funding proposal for a project in Upper Columbia region. Based on observations during the September meeting in Winthrop, the board requested that RCO staff support UCSRB in preparing a proposal for the December meeting that focuses on salmon recovery in the areas devastated by the fire.

Ms. Juelson provided an overview of the events that impacted Frazer Creek, which is located in the Methow Valley. Mr. Abbott shared details of the state agency response to damage and of the discussions regarding the most effective repair and funding strategies. A number of resources aligned with RCO funding to allow for swift planning and action, including regional resources and engineering expertise. The total cost of the five bridges is approximately \$600,000. In October 2014, the RCO director approved \$250,000 in returned funds for emergency repairs. WSDOT provided RCO \$102,000 in federal emergency funds to assist with four of the five crossings. The fifth site was funded by FFFPP because of its enrollment in the program before the flood event occurred. The remaining funding came from returned funds from other projects within the region.

A number of partners worked collaboratively with GSRO and RCO to assist five landowners with replacement of their stream crossings with bridges. Mr. Abbott shared photos from the Frazer Creek site, demonstrating the progress of efforts on the ground. These five projects will reach completion by mid-December.

Mr. Pevin relayed information from a study submitted by Derek Van Marter, Executive Director of the UCSRB. The UCSRB technical team completed this study on the emergency fire response needed for salmon recovery habitat improvements, which includes prioritization of areas and potential actions to be taken as a result of the August fires. They propose funding a project with approximately \$250,000 in returned funds, which will support the two highest priority culverts. The full study is available in the board materials.

Member Smith asked about other potential barriers that may exist due the damage incurred during the summer fires. Mr. Pevin noted that the priority areas are identified, but he is unaware of other sites that have such severe damage. There may be other less-severely damaged areas, perhaps subject to future floods or landslides, which are not included at this time.

Member Mace inquired whether an assessment of second priority projects has been conducted that may address potential future damage (resulting from weakened structures from the fires). Mr. Pevin explained that the extent of the watershed assessment was limited to the projects that are of highest priority.

Director Cottingham inquired about discussions regarding riparian plantings and sediment control issues. Mr. Pevin replied that these metrics were included in the priority action planning. Although some erosion is expected, the extent of the restoration efforts are still unclear; no further assessment was conducted by either the review team or the project sponsors. Ms. Juelson noted that these projects may come up in the future because it is a topic of concern in the area.

Member Bugert asked about the itemization of costs and funding sources. Mr. Pevin and Ms. Juelson noted that the study found in the board materials includes this information. Director Cottingham explained the current funding strategy for these efforts.

Ms. Juelson highlighted the opportunities for future and/or long-term benefits resulting from these efforts. She noted that the emergency projects encouraged cooperation from landowners and the outlook for restoring fish passage remains positive.

Chair Troutt and Member Bugert both expressed their appreciation and acknowledgement of the efforts to reach these solutions.

**Motion:** Move to approve funding in the amount of \$250,000 for the project identified by the Upper Columbia Fish Recovery Board which would help salmon recover after the catastrophic fires in Okanogan County.

**Moved by:** Member Bugert

**Seconded by:** Member Mace

**Decision:** APPROVED

Member Rockefeller clarified whether the requested \$250,000 is sufficient for the priority sites identified. Ms. Juelson confirmed that the funds should cover the restoration efforts. Member Trefry asked about the potential support from the conservation districts. Ms. Juelson noted that she would follow up on this suggestion.

The board requested to remain apprised of the progress in these restoration efforts.

### **Board Business: Briefings**

#### **Item 6: Intensively Monitored Watershed (IMW) Funding Deficit**

Brian Abbott, GSRO Executive Coordinator, briefed the board on the background behind the gap in IMW funding, a result of the Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF) award. NOAA cannot provide federal funding to one of the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) subcontractors – the Northwest Science Center. The Office of Financial Management advised RCO that stand-alone monitoring projects cannot use capital funds. In September, the board funded the IMWs minus the Northwest Science Center portion and asked staff to develop options. The allocation of \$1,831,515 to three monitoring components left the board's monitoring program under-funded by \$260,000.

GSRO, RCO, and NOAA staff worked together to amend the 2014 PCSRF contract by adding language specific to the Northwest Science Center subcontract with Ecology which would allow the use of PCSRF funds. At this time, staff is waiting for the Northwest Science Center's fiscal managers to accept the amendments.

Mr. Abbott explained three potential options for resolving this funding gap, outlined in detail in the board materials. The board is asked to consider these options, and staff will bring the issue to the February 2015 meeting for a decision. Further clarification on these potential solutions may come forth prior to the next meeting; staff will update the board as needed.

#### **Item 7: Monitoring Contracts (Federal Fiscal Year 2015 Using 2014 PCSRF Funds)**

Dr. Marnie Tyler, Chair of the Salmon Recovery Funding Board Monitoring Panel (monitoring panel), provided an update on recent accomplishments and expected developments in 2015 for practitioners and for the monitoring panel. The monitoring panel finalized reporting templates for inclusion in contracts with monitoring partners, and provided suggestions and edits to Manual 18. The latter contributions are meant to enhance coordination on project development in IMW watersheds.

Dr. Tyler expects to share all developments, including updates to the IMW study plan, on their website. The monitoring panel also encourages practitioners to provide presentations at the Salmon Recovery Conference next May. She concluded by providing an overview of the intended actions for the monitoring panel in 2015, including the adaptive management framework, related protocols, and evaluation criteria.

Chair Troutt thanked Dr. Tyler for the monitoring panel's efforts and contributions. He asked whether future budget requests would reflect the changes in scope/action. Dr. Tyler noted that this was on the radar in September, and currently they are expecting to overcome the shortfalls without intervention from the board.

#### **Lunch 12:15 p.m. – 12:30 p.m.**

*\*The agenda is based on a working lunch.*

#### **Board Business: Decisions**

##### **Item 8A: 2014 Grant Round - Overview**

Tara Galuska, Salmon Section Manager, provided an overview of the 2014 grant round, including the timeline, review process, and decisions brought to the board today. The board will consider each region's list of projects and make funding decisions by regional area. Each region has ten minutes to discuss the project selection process, highlight any issues on their regional lists, present noteworthy projects, and address projects of concern.

Today the board will hear about and decide funding for projects totaling \$18 million from state and federal sources. A summary of the 2014 grant round projects was provided. Ms. Galuska reminded the board of decisions made during the September board meeting to allocate the remaining 2013-15 PSAR funds. The board will also review and approve a project list for Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR) funding for next biennium if the legislature funds PSAR in the 2015-17 budget.

Two projects of concern (POCs) included in the funding tables were submitted to the board. One project is on the lead entity list for Thurston County (Water Resource Inventory Area (WRIA) 13). If the board decides not to approve this project, the lead entity and region's allocation will be reduced by the project amount. The other project is on the Hood Canal Citizen's approved list as an alternate. The region would like to move this project up on the list and is seeking funding approval.

Ms. Galuska also provided an update on the 2014 Salmon Recovery Grant Funding Report (funding report), which was published on November 19, 2014. She explained the report's format and the sections included. If approved, projects listed in the tables will receive PCSRF federal funds or state bond funds.

### **Item 8B: 2014 Grant Round - Presentations of Featured Projects Proposed for Funding**

RCO salmon grants managers presented projects from their respective regions, highlighting the key components, location, salmon recovery related goals, and respective funding requests. Details of each project may be found using PRISM Project Search, with links provided below.

Mike Ramsey presented the featured project from the Hood Canal region, Beards Cove Restoration and Protection (RCO Project [14-1326](#)).

Alice Rubin presented the featured project from the Lower Columbia region, Clear Creek Fish Passage Project (RCO Project [14-1308](#)), as well as the featured project from the Washington Coast region: Delezenne, Creek Fish Passage Restoration (RCO Project [14-1159](#)).

Dave Caudill presented the featured project from the Northeast region, Mill Creek Fish Passage Restoration (RCO Project [12-1625](#)).

Elizabeth Butler presented the featured project from the Puget Sound region, Filucy Bay Estuary Shoreline Protection (RCO Project [14-1946](#)).

Kay Caromile presented the featured project from the Snake region, PA 24 Floodplain and Channel Complexity (RCO Project [14-1900](#)), as well as the featured project from the Middle Columbia region, Naneum-Coleman Fish Passage Projects (RCO Project [14-1215](#)).

Marc Duboiski presented the featured project from the Upper Columbia River region, Silver Side Channel Revival (RCO Project [14-1735](#)).

Member Bugert commended staff for the diversity of sponsors and projects presented.

### **Item 8C: 2014 Grant Round - Review Panel Comments**

Kelley Jorgensen, Review Panel Chair, presented several topics that warrant clarification or policy guidance for future projects. Based on the discussion with the board, the review panel will work with staff to refine policies in Manual 18.

The review panel, with their statewide perspective on projects and the grant round, offered several topics and observations for the board to consider. Ms. Jorgensen briefly explained these issues, detailed in the board materials (Item 8C). She focused on state-wide funding gaps for large, complex multi-phased projects, technology needs, and potential issues with project partners.

Member Cierebiej emphasized that the timelines are critical when partnering with WSDOT, and encouraged early sponsor engagement to ensure full participation. Ms. Jorgensen agreed that sponsor education is needed. Member Cierebiej continued to ask whether consideration of these issues could be included in Manual 18, regarding advance notification to support partnerships. Director Cottingham stated that this is possible and could be modeled after similar language used by the Department of Natural Resources for advance notice. Chair Troutt encouraged WSC involvement in this process.

Ms. Jorgensen provided details on four noteworthy RCO projects:

- 1) Barkley Irrigation Company - Under Pressure ([14-1737](#));
- 2) Kilisut Harbor Restoration ([14-1366](#));
- 3) Lower Dungeness River Floodplain Restoration ([14-1382](#)); and
- 4) Rock Creek Riparian Easement ([14-1857](#)).

Chair Troutt raised concern around the high volume of conditioned projects. Ms. Jorgensen explained that conditions relate to project complexity and/or sponsors who are not fully prepared or equipped to address large challenges. She added that conditions allow an opportunity to find solutions with sponsors while moving forward on projects. Chair Troutt asked if this adds a significant amount of time. Ms. Jorgensen explained that the process includes a few hours for extra review, sometimes a site visit; this does not create a significant time draw.

Member Trefry asked whether panel members are allowed to independently address questions for sponsors. He receives comments indicating that members are subject to frequent and overwhelming questions, which may not allow adequate time for a response. Ms. Jorgensen conceded that as sponsors prepare and submit applications the process often involves rushed efforts and many questions. She noted that multiple opportunities exist for sponsors to address review panel concerns. The review panel provides feedback on initial site visits, within two weeks of the visit, and after the review panel meets in early fall. The purpose is to consolidate and streamline while balancing individual needs.

#### **Item 9: 2014 Grant Round, continued / Regional Area Comment Period**

Each region presented in turn as ordered on the agenda, highlighting issues on their regional lists and some of their outstanding projects. Regions had the opportunity to address “projects of concern” that remain on their lists.

**Alex Conley and Darcy Batura, Yakima Basin Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board, and Greg Schuler, Klickitat Lead Entity.** Greg revisited the 2013 lead entity list of ranked projects with respective funding requests, highlighted other funding sources, and discussed areas that needed to meet steelhead spatial structure standards. They then presented the new 2014 list, noting the alternate projects and challenges faced in ranking the projects.

**Miles Batchelder, Washington Coast Sustainable Salmon Partnership,** offered the board the opportunity to ask any questions regarding their submitted regional list. He noted that progress continues towards barrier removal, pointing out the Schweickert Farm project in the Chehalis Basin (RCO Project [14-1719](#)). The agricultural partnerships are proving to be successful, promoting opportunities for new farmer education and engagement. Mr. Batchelder also shared information about Delezenne Creek (RCO Project [14-1159](#)), noting that comments from the review panel were helpful and ultimately changed the sponsor’s approach to restoration planning.

**Joy Juelson and Chuck Pevin, Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board,** explained the challenges imposed by the regional fires to project implementation. The shared several maps demonstrating the geographic distribution of projects in relation to the fire damage incurred. Ms. Juelson shared information on the varied funding sources for projects submitted by the region, and provided some details on projects of note. She concluded with a drone video of the restoration efforts occurring in the area.

**John Foltz, Snake River Salmon Recovery Board,** thanked the board for their support and opened the floor for questions. Member Mace clarified the location of one project located on a tributary to the Snake River which supports steelhead-spawning habitat.

**Jeanette Dorner, Puget Sound Partnership,** was joined by five of her colleagues. She expressed her appreciation of the board’s support, guidance, and communication to keep valuable science based projects moving forward. Amy Hatch-Winecka provided details on projects in Thurston County and related activities along the Deschutes River. The team addressed the region’s project of concern, the Pioneer Park Restoration Preliminary Designs (RCO Project [14-1405](#)), noting that it could provide an opportunity for sediment reduction, wetland reconnection, anadromous fish spawning habitat, and education within the watershed. Lance Winecka provided information about the preliminary design

process and intended scope of work, noting the review panel's concerns for public safety. Mr. Winecka indicated that the Pioneer Park project would integrate stable log structures and qualified engineering designs that address concerns. He emphasized the Mashel River Restoration Assessment (RCO Project [06-2206](#)), which installed similar LWD structures.

Chair Troutt invited Kelley Jorgensen and other review panel members to address their concerns related to the Pioneer Park project. Ms. Jorgensen shared concerns regarding public safety issues associated with the project design. She emphasized softer engineering approaches and safety component issues around placement of large woody debris. Dr. Marnie Tyler expressed concerns about funding a design project with public funding that may never reach construction.

Member Duffy asked about the Tumwater City Council input regarding safety concerns. Although the concerns have been noted for several years, the City Council and the review panel feel that a subcommittee could be established to address concerns and continue moving the project forward.

Chair Troutt suggested further collaboration amongst the review panel, the regional team, and the City Council. Member Smith asked about the plans for community outreach and awareness, especially at times of low summer flows when public use will be peaking. Mr. Winecka discussed this issue with the engineers and shared ways that the sponsor's plan to limit structural hazards (such as large woody debris) during these times.

Member Rockefeller asked whether the sponsor or Manual 18 addresses avoiding creation of attractive nuisances. Ms. Galuska confirmed that Manual 18 does not include such criteria, however, Dr. Marnie Tyler indicated that the manual does have language regarding "projects sited improperly."

Director Cottingham shared that RCO is advised not to engage in projects that leave the agency open to liability, even though the structure would be owned by the City of Tumwater.

Member Mace asked if guidance or parallels could be drawn from other structures built in white water areas. Kelley Jorgensen replied that structures are designed to address hydraulic features and impacts.

**Todd Anderson, Northeast Washington**, provided a brief update for the Pend Oreille region. He thanked the board and Dave Caudill for the work in the region to recover native fish species. Funds from SRFB grants support implementation of important projects in critical habitat areas.

**Jeff Breckel, Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board**, provided an update of the history of the region's participation in salmon recovery, overcoming challenges, budget cuts and restrictions, and coming together to support common goals. Despite being spread thin, the region continues to implement Tier I projects to work towards delisting of salmon species.

**Scott Brewer, Hood Canal Coordinating Council**, introduced the members of his team and provided background on the lead entity and region. He addressed the region's project of concern, asking the board to consider the alternate motion provided to the board for this decision (Motion 5, included in the board materials). Jeanette Dorner noted policy concerns with the project and also encouraged consideration of the alternate motion. She suggested that funding decisions be delayed to the February 2015 meeting, adding that NOAA would be willing to submit a letter of support to the board regarding this project.

Chair Troutt requested that Kelley Jorgensen and the review panel address these concerns and support the region through this process.

Member Duffy asked for clarification on RCW 77.85.050, specifically whether the statute permits a lead

entity to adjust the prioritization of projects. Brian Abbott stated that the board could direct funds to the project because it is on the ranked list. Director Cottingham explained the recommendations and considerations that the lead entities and board are responsible for following. Member Duffy stated that she has concerns about revising the citizen list and encouraged the board to look at the statute carefully.

**Break 3:17 – 3:30 p.m.**

**Item 10: 2014 Grant Round, continued**

Chair Troutt requested that the board consider the motions, addressing any public comment as each region is presented.

**Yakima Region**

**Motion:** Move to approve \$1,776,600\* for projects and project alternates in the Yakima Mid-Columbia Region, as listed in Attachment 8 of the 2014 Salmon Recovery Grant Funding Report, dated December 3, 2014.

*\*Note – not part of motion: this includes one project for the Klickitat Lead Entity totaling \$516,162.*

**Moved by:** Member Biery

**Seconded by:** Member Rockefeller

**Decision:** APPROVED

**Washington Coast Region**

**Motion:** Move to approve \$1,620,000 for projects and project alternates in the Coastal Region, as listed in Attachment 8 of the 2014 Salmon Recovery Grant Funding Report, dated December 3, 2014.

**Moved by:** Member Bugert

**Seconded by:** Member Mace

**Decision:** APPROVED

**Upper Columbia Region**

**Motion:** Move to approve \$1,953,000 for projects and project alternates in the Upper Columbia Region, as listed in Attachment 8 of the 2014 Salmon Recovery Grant Funding Report, dated December 3, 2014.

**Moved by:** Member Rockefeller

**Seconded by:** Member Biery

**Decision:** APPROVED

**Snake River Region**

**Motion:** Move to approve \$1,598,400 for projects and project alternates in the Snake River Region, as listed in Attachment 8 of the 2014 Salmon Recovery Grant Funding Report, dated December 3, 2014.

**Moved by:** Member Mace

**Seconded by:** Member Bugert

**Decision:** APPROVED

**Puget Sound**

Chair Troutt commented on the approach used to address project concerns. He highlighted the importance of having all partners on board as the project moves forward, including engagement of the review panel. Member Rockefeller made a motion for the second alternate motion presented.

Member Bugert stated that he is prepared to vote against the motion, considering the previous discussion regarding unresolved concerns. For future projects, concerns should be addressed thoroughly, including personal injury protection and limiting the liability for the city, the project sponsors involved, and the

board. Chair Troutt noted that such discussions are appropriate during the planning and design phases, and should lead up to the project decisions. Member Rockefeller expressed concerns that the Legislature would not be able to easily address liability concerns, but requested a way to move forward with preliminary designs that better informs the board and involved parties. Member Smith added that the sponsors have already scaled back from the original project scope, and this reduced risk should be considered.

Member Bugert asked whether alternatives that address personal injury concerns would be included should the project design be funded. Mr. Winecka affirmed, stating that these discussions are underway and engineering considerations are being evaluated. Ms. Hatch-Winecka added that the design process is iterative, meaning that as feedback is provided it would be incorporated in the planning phases before a draft is presented.

**Motion:** Move to approve \$6,795,035 in SRFB funds for projects and project alternates in the Puget Sound Region, as listed in Attachment 5 of the 2014 Salmon Recovery Grant Funding Report, dated December 3, 2014, including funding for project #14-1405, Pioneer Park Restoration Preliminary Design, a project of concern.

**Moved by:** Member Rockefeller

**Seconded by:** Member Mace

**Decision:** APPROVED

#### Northeast

**Motion:** Move to approve \$360,000 for projects in the Northeast Region, as listed in Attachment 8 of the 2014 Salmon Recovery Grant Funding Report, dated December 3, 2014.

**Moved by:** Member Bugert

**Seconded by:** Member Rockefeller

**Decision:** APPROVED

#### Lower Columbia

**Motion:** Move to approve \$2,700,000 for projects and project alternates in the Lower Columbia Region, as listed in Attachment 8 of the 2014 Salmon Recovery Grant Funding Report, dated December 3, 2014.

**Moved by:** Member Bugert

**Seconded by:** Member Biery

**Decision:** APPROVED

#### Hood Canal

**Motion:** Move to approve \$1,019,728 in SRFB funds for projects # 4, 6 and 8 and project alternates, except for project #13, in the Hood Canal Region, as listed in Attachment 8 of the 2014 Salmon Recovery Grant Funding Report, dated December 3, 2014. Defer action on project # 13 and hold \$175,437 for Hood Canal pending board decisions at the February 2015 meeting, following continuing discussions between the review panel, sponsor, and the regions.

**Moved by:** Member Biery

**Seconded by:** Member Rockefeller

**Decision:** APPROVED

## **Board Business: Briefings**

### **Item 11: Manual 18 Updates Proposed for 2015**

Tara Galuska, Salmon Section Manager, shared that a public survey is available that captures information about adaptive management and improved process measures. There is another survey available to the public regarding the 2014 grant round process, data from which will support updates and suggestions for the 2015 grant round.

Kat Moore, Senior Outdoor Grants Manager, summarized the proposed administrative revisions to *Salmon Recovery Grants Manual 18: Policies and Project Selection*. Final revisions and updates to the manual will be brought to the board at the February meeting, just prior to the start of the 2015 grant round.

RCO staff plan to make some administrative updates and minor policy clarifications to Manual 18, including the following:

1. Updated 2015 grant schedule.
2. New guidance on riparian buffers as recommended at the June 2014 board meeting.
3. New cost estimate templates for restoration, planning, and acquisition projects as guidance for applicants.
4. Updated project proposal to include more detailed information on a project's goals and objectives.
5. New PRISM-based submittal process for the lead entity's ranked project lists.

Staff sent out an initial request to lead entities and regions for their comments and feedback on improvements to the 2015 manual. Staff held informal discussions with stakeholders about the proposed changes. Lead entities, regions, and other stakeholders may comment on the proposed changes after today's board meeting.

Brian Abbott, GSRO Executive Coordinator, reminded the board that in March the monitoring sub-committee recommended that allowing monitoring to be an eligible project type should be considered. It was suggested that GSRO work with regional organizations to define specific monitoring activities that could receive funds.

Mr. Abbott outlined several components of the concept for monitoring related to delisting. Staff recommends that the board focus potential eligibility in regional areas that are close to de-listing certain listed stocks. It should not be a requirement for regions to monitor; rather, it should be up to each region to decide if they want to take advantage of available but limited monitoring resources. For monitoring projects, staff recommends that the board's monitoring panel review the stated objectives in the regional proposal(s) for consistency. The board could provide guidance in order to bring back fully developed eligibility language in February for inclusion in Manual 18. Mr. Abbott asked the board for guidance regarding the proposed recommendations.

Member Smith requested that the guidance for monitoring and delisting provided to sponsors be clear and easily understood. Chair Troutt stated that given the regions resources, they would work to evaluate project balance in order to encourage salmon recovery. The discussion should revolve around needs and reaching delisting objectives, not capping monitoring funds. Mr. Abbott informed the board that regions continue to discuss available funding options.

Member Bugert asked whether the Viable Salmon Population (VSP) needs are consistent across regions. Mr. Abbott clarified that the needs are identified by NOAA, and across regions are unique and vary widely.

GSRO will work with the monitoring panel and bring a proposal to the board in February. Manual 18 will include the guidance for monitoring projects. Mr. Abbott encouraged actively seeking funds to accomplish salmon recovery projects.

**Board Business: Decisions**

**Item 12: 2015-17 PSAR Large Capital Project List**

Tara Galuska, Salmon Section Manager, and Michael Blanton, Puget Sound Partnership, presented information on the 2015-17 Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR) Fund large capital project list and the background behind the decision to recruit, rank, and approve a project list in advance of the legislative session.

The [2014 Salmon Recovery Grant Funding Report](#) provides information in Attachment 6 regarding the recruitment process and the scoring criteria used to rank the large capital project list. PSP coordinates with lead entities and the RCO staff to submit projects. Both PSAR regular and regional large capital projects must meet the same eligibility requirements and go through the same review process as other board-funded projects. Only projects that received a "Clear" or "Conditioned" status from the Salmon Recovery Funding Board Technical Review Panel were submitted for approval. Upon approval of PSAR funds by the 2015 Legislature and the board, the RCO Director will have the authority to enter into agreements for listed.

Director Cottingham noted that the project conditioned by the board in September was included and may need revision. Member Cierebiej clarified that this project may be postponed while WSDOT rearranges their priorities, due to a lack of funding. Unfortunately, the Kilisut project is not high-ranking for WSDOT.

**Motion:** Move to approve the 2015-17 Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration Fund large capital project list as presented in Attachment A, and authorize the RCO Director to enter into project agreements once funding is approved by the Legislature.

**Moved by:** Member Biery

**Seconded by:** Member Bugert

**Decision:** APPROVED

**Closing**

Chair Troutt adjourned the meeting at 4:22 p.m.

**Approved by:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
David Troutt, Chair

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date