

**SALMON RECOVERY FUNDING BOARD SUMMARIZED MEETING AGENDA AND ACTIONS**  
**May 6, 2015**

---

<b>Item</b>	<b>Formal Action</b>	<b>Follow-up Action</b>
February 26, 2015 Meeting Summary	Decision: APPROVED	No follow-up action requested.
1. Management Report A. Director's Report B. Legislative and Policy Updates C. Performance Update (written only) D. Financial Report	Briefing	When the Legislature adjourns, decide whether to hold a special board meeting focused on the final budget.
2. Salmon Recovery Management Report A. Governor's Salmon Recovery Office B. Salmon Section Report C. Preview of Lunch Tour to Mission Creek	Briefing	No follow-up action requested.
3. Reports from Partners	Briefing	No follow-up action requested.
4. Project Decisions A. Modify Board Conditions for the Kilisut Harbor Project (RCO # 14-1366)  B. Approve Use of Returned Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR) Funds for Engineering Dungeness Railroad Trail Bridge Replacement (RCO #15-1052)  C. Pre-Approval of "Shovel-ready" PSAR Projects, if any, Contingent on 2015-17 Budget Passage	Decision: APPROVED  Decision: APPROVED  Decision: APPROVED	No follow-up action requested.  No follow-up action requested.  No follow-up action requested.
5. Region and Lead Entity Capacity Funding	Briefing	When the Legislature adjourns, decide whether to hold a special board meeting focused on the final budget.
6. Washington Administrative Code (WAC) Phase II Changes	Briefing	No follow-up action requested.
7. Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) A. Habitat Program Briefing B. Fish Barrier Removal Board Briefing	Briefing	No follow-up action requested.
8. The Salish Sea Marine Survival Project: Summary and Status of Puget Sound Activities	Briefing	No follow-up action requested.
9. Monitoring Panel Update	Briefing	No follow-up action requested.

## SALMON RECOVERY FUNDING BOARD SUMMARY MINUTES

**Date:** May 6, 2015

**Place:** Olympia, WA

### Salmon Recovery Funding Board Members Present:

---

<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>Phil Rockefeller</b>	Bainbridge Island	<b>Brian Cochran</b>	Washington State Conservation Commission
		<b>Erik Neatherlin</b>	Department of Fish and Wildlife

---

**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 9:07 a.m. Chair Troutt commemorated the anniversary of the passing of Billy Frank, noting his contributions to the work of salmon recovery. Roll call determined a quorum. Member Mace was excused. Member Rockefeller joined the meeting in the afternoon.

### Agenda adoption

**Moved by:** Member Bob Bugert

**Seconded by:** Member Nancy Biery

**Motion:** APPROVED

### February 2015 Meeting Summary

**Moved by:** Member Bob Bugert

**Seconded by:** Member Nancy Biery

**Motion:** APPROVED

### Management and Partner Reports

#### Item 1: Management Report

**Director's Report (1A):** Director Cottingham shared information regarding the successful launch of RCO's electronic billing system that will save staff and grant recipients time and money. Mark Jarasitis, RCO Chief Financial Officer, shared more about this launch and the new federal financial requirements as part of his fiscal report (Item 1D).

Director Cottingham provided an update on the recently contracted services for the Habitat Work Schedule, including training and technical support for staff. RCO worked with the US Fish and Wildlife Service to confirm funding for another year.

Director Cottingham provided an update on the Family Forest Fish Passage Program (FFFPP), noting that support and funding are coming in to place for this program as well.

**Legislative and Policy Updates (1B):** Wendy Brown, RCO Policy Director, provided an update on the

current legislative session, in which the regular session ended May 4 without a final budget. Ms. Brown shared information about the proposed budgets from the House, Senate, and the Governor, with a focus on salmon recovery grant programs. RCO is likely to receive two new programs: the Coastal Restoration Program and the Catastrophic Flood Relief Program (mainly for projects in the Chehalis River Basin).

Ms. Brown provided a brief update on several budget provisos provided in both the Senate and House proposed budgets. In the House budget, SRFB funding is partially restricted to a project in Bothell. The Senate budget includes additional restrictions on how to use the money for salmon recovery. These provisos direct or limit the use of Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR) funding for restoration purposes only, therefore not allowing land acquisitions. The budget proviso for the Estuary and Salmon Recovery Program (ESRP) constrains the \$5 million appropriation such that \$2.5 million goes to the Vashon Island conservation initiative of the Vashon-Maury Island Land Trust program (not currently on the ESRP list).

The board discussed the potential outcomes of the budgets and related provisos, noting that the final budget has not yet been released. Chair Troutt spoke about the importance of maintaining focus on salmon recovery, coordinated efforts and outreach, and urged continued communication and messaging with legislative representatives and budget leaders. Member Bugert concurred.

Director Cottingham noted that JLARC has been conducting an audit of public lands, recently releasing a report on the impacts of public land on local economies in April.

Ms. Brown shared information about several programs funded in other agency budget bills, as well as funding for culvert work. She provided an update on several bills that died during session that may have affected salmon recovery efforts. Finally, she noted that board member confirmations were not completed. Should the Legislature not approve a budget by July 1, 2015, Director Cottingham shared that the agency contingency plan would include the suspension of contracts and potential lay-off of staff.

**Financial Report (1D):** Mark Jarasitis, Chief Financial Officer, provided a presentation regarding RCO's financial matters. The overview included guidance on reading and understanding the financial memos provided in the board materials, and the financial statements that are part of the grant process.

Member Bugert commented on the ability of the board to provide additional funding for projects through returned funds. Director Cottingham explained the process whereby returned funds become available after projects close. Mr. Jarasitis noted that within the agency budget, a certain amount is reserved for anticipated cost increases. Staff work throughout the year to identify potential cost increases and allocate funding as needed on a priority basis.

Mr. Jarasitis briefly presented information about the new e-billing process, where all grant sponsors submit electronic billing statements in lieu of a paper process. He provided current statistics and general feedback received on the process thus far.

Finally, Mr. Jarasitis provided an overview of the new federal financial requirements as a result of the new rules (Omni-circular). These rules will apply to funding awarded after December 26, 2014, impacting funding for projects beginning in July 2015. Mr. Jarasitis briefly highlighted several changes that will come as a result, including increased fiscal monitoring and new procurement standards. Staff continues to prepare and coordinate internally to avoid confusion and provide education to sponsors.

Member Duffy inquired about the specifics of increased fiscal monitoring. Mr. Jarasitis explained that as the agency enters a grant round, fiscal staff would conduct a risk analysis of the potential sponsors to know which may need to submit additional documentation.

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

**Governor's Salmon Recovery Office (GSRO):** Brian Abbott, Executive Coordinator, acknowledged Long Live the Kings, Sarah Gage (Program Manager for Lead Entities, GSRO), and board member Nancy Biery for their contributions, support, and efforts in coordinating the 2015 Salmon Recovery Conference. Mr. Abbott provided an update on the conference scheduled for May 27-29 in Vancouver, WA, noting that registration is full and there is a waiting list. Mr. Abbott highlighted the range of topics and speakers who will present, acknowledged the increased financial sponsor support, and thanked the co-hosts WDFW and Long Live the Kings.

Mr. Abbott provided information on the progress of the communications strategy, which led to the formation of the Salmon Recovery Network. The contractor selected to facilitate the network, Triangle Associates, meets regularly to carry the work forward. Member Biery noted that as part of the charter establishing the Salmon Recovery Network, the board needs an alternate member to attend. In order to gain more support for the network from partners, they will host a table at the upcoming conference. Member Biery anticipates bringing recommendations from the group to future board meetings.

Mr. Abbott briefed the board on the current progress of regional communication plans. Pyramid Communications met with several regional organizations around the state to introduce the idea of investing in a communication strategy. The regional organizations are submitting proposals based on region-specific needs.

Mr. Abbott provided an update on the regional organizations' and lead entities' reviews, meetings which documented accomplishments, challenges, and scopes of work for the next biennium. Ms. Gage will meet individually with the lead entities not covered in these regional reviews, i.e., those in the Puget Sound and Coastal Washington regions, and the Klickitat, and Northeast Washington lead entities. These reviews will be completed by the end of 2015.

Mr. Abbott provided information on the Fish Barrier Removal Board (FBR). The FBR is a cooperative effort between state agencies and local tribes working to identify and expedite the development of a statewide fish passage barrier correction strategy. Discussions regarding efficient grant programs and funding remain ongoing. The National Oceanic Atmospheric Association will meet with tribes, GSRO, Puget Sound Partnership, and others partners to determine what "coordinated investment" means to each entity and in each program.

Mr. Abbott provided an update on GSRO's visit to Washington D.C. in April. Staff attended over twenty-two meetings with members, staffers, and federal agency leadership. Staff expressed appreciation to the congressional delegation for their continued support of the Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF) while sharing visible results on funding distribution. The board received a brochure, given to legislative staffers, sharing information on salmon recovery. The Salmon Recovery Conference materials will include the brochure.

**Salmon Grant Management Report:** Tara Galuska, Salmon Section Manager, provided a brief update on the 2014 and 2015 grant rounds. The board materials include details about funded projects, closed projects, director authority regarding project amendments, the Family Forest Fish Passage Program (FFPPP), and the Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program (ESRP).

For the 2015 grant round, the finalized version of Manual 18 and application materials were posted on the RCO website, the technical review panel held their kick-off meeting, lead entities scheduled their project review site visits, and RCO salmon section staff held a successful application workshop on March 16 for new applicants. The application presentation was posted to the [RCO website](#). Chair Troutt acknowledged

the grant management staff and their efforts.

**Lunch Tour Preview:** Ms. Galuska presented information about the Mission Creek Estuary Restoration (RCO [11-1526R](#)), a project funded by the board and the destination for the day's lunch tour near Priest Point Park. The project restored fish and tidal access to Mission Creek and the shoreline surrounding the stream's outlet by removing an embankment, armoring, and a culvert. The Port of Olympia sponsored the project in coordination with the Squaxin Island Tribe.

### **Item 3: Reports from Partners**

**Council of Regions Report (COR):** Jeff Breckel, Chair, highlighted the importance of the communications strategy efforts, sharing that regions reached the funding capacity limit. The enthusiasm and energy drives the work forward, building into the Salmon Recovery Network. Mr. Breckel shared discussions among the regions regarding shared objectives, coordinated efforts, building credibility, and bringing other partners to the table. The Regional Fisheries Enhancement Groups, Washington Salmon Coalition, and the regions are advancing salmon recovery in increasingly coordinated ways. The regions are also focused on the work of the Salmon Recovery Board Monitoring Panel, recommending that the panel meet with users of the monitoring programs to receive additional feedback at the decision-making level. The regions will present a session on monitoring at the Salmon Recovery Conference later this month.

Mr. Breckel shared concerns from the regions regarding the potential budget outcomes this legislative session, including plans to maintain infrastructure and flexible alternatives. Chair Troutt inquired about the regions' efforts to communicate salmon recovery issues in a meaningful way in order to engage managers, legislators, and decision-makers outside of the Columbia River Basin region, in a more statewide approach. Mr. Breckel acknowledged the cross-state efforts carried out by the regions and the sustainable fisheries management plans developing in coordination with WDFW. The upcoming conference may provide an avenue for this work.

Member Bugert encouraged the regions to incorporate issues of global warming/climate change into the broader outreach conducted. He also encouraged that regions become advocates for mitigating potential impacts at the local, state, and federal levels. Member Bugert would like to work with the regions to address these issues.

Director Cottingham proposed a coordinated "Salmon on the Hill" day, in which salmon recovery boards, the Puget Sound Partnership, RCO, GSRO, and other interested parties could advocate on behalf of salmon recovery. Member Biery added the importance of addressing climate change by the regions in letters to legislators; Director Cottingham noted that letters must be addressed to the Office of Financial Management to reach the Legislature, per notice from the Office of the Governor.

The board discussed several options for coordinating these efforts, particularly in the light of climate change issues. A main suggestion included asking regions and lead entities how they adaptively manage their respective recovery plans and five-year status reviews to address climate change, and report to the board at subsequent meetings.

**Washington Salmon Coalition (WSC):** Amy Hatch-Winecka, WSC Vice Chair, provided an update on the current work of the WSC, details of which are included in the board materials (Item 3). Ms. Hatch-Winecka briefly highlighted current site visits, updates to the WSC website in coordination with RCO, an updated Lead Entity Directory, collaborative approaches to legislative outreach, support for continued facilitation funding for WSC (several letters of support are included in the board materials under Item 5), and participation in the Salmon Recovery Network. Ms. Hatch-Winecka also highlighted several staff member changes and provided project updates from across the state.

**Regional Fisheries Enhancement Groups (RFEs):** Colleen Thompson, Managing Director, shared information about recent outreach to legislators, in coordination with Lance Winecka. An executive committee will include Ms. Thompson and Mr. Winecka, scheduled to resume next year. The RFEs and their board of directors intend to convey to legislators the importance of working together to support salmon recovery funding in the budget.

At a past meeting, Chair Troutt requested information about the level of funding in the capital budget that has historically supported the RFEs. Ms. Thompson shared that since 2000, ESRP and FFFPP funding totaled \$67M, including approximately 16% from board funding, which supported 412 projects.

**Board Roundtable and Other Agency Updates:**

*\*Due to time constraints for the scheduled lunch tour, Chair Troutt proposed that the board members provide their respective agency updates upon returning from lunch.*

**General Public Comment**

Jacob Anderson, Klickitat County Lead Entity Coordinator, addressed the board regarding the lead entity's monitoring needs. Klickitat County is not associated with a region and needs guidance from the board on how to proceed in their monitoring efforts. According to the established process, lead entities are asked to coordinate with their respective regions to elevate issues to the Salmon Recovery Funding Board Monitoring Panel and to the board. Director Cottingham responded, stating that she would meet with Mr. Anderson and Dave Caudill, RCO Outdoor Grant Manager, to discuss options for Klickitat County regarding monitoring eligibility.

**Break 10:50 a.m. – 11:05 a.m.**

**Board Business: Decisions**

**Item 4A: Project Decisions: Modify Board Conditions for the Kilisut Harbor Project (RCO #14-1366)**

Mike Ramsey, Salmon Section Outdoor Grant Manager, summarized the sponsor request to revise the condition placed by the Salmon Recovery Funding Board on the Kilisut Harbor Restoration - Construction Phase (RCO Project [14-1366](#)). Mr. Ramsey provided a brief project description, a summary of the current funding for the project, and a summary of the three conditions placed on the project.

The original intent was to require the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) to share in the project costs. The proposed changes in the board's condition (the third condition placed on the project) target the requirement for the sponsor to provide a cost-estimate, allowing the project to move forward without the contributions from WSDOT, considering the court injunction and potential delays. WSDOT did share a letter of support, although funding is not available to provide to the project.

**Motion:**

Move to approve a revised Condition #3 for the Kilisut Harbor Project RCO #14-1366 which removes the requirement that the sponsor must obtain a cost estimate from the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) for WSDOT's share of this fish passage project, but retains obtaining a commitment from WSDOT to provide financial support, in-kind labor, or other expenditures to the project.

**Board Discussion:**

The board discussed potential funding options and reasons for the project's low ranking on WSDOT's funding priorities. Community support indicates that the board should alter the condition language and move the project forward.

**Public Comment:**

Rebecca Benjamin, Executive Director of the North Olympic Salmon Coalition, and Thom Johnson, Environmental Program Manager with the Point No Point Treaty Council, thanked the board for funding the project and considering the condition revision to allow implementation of the project on a realistic timeframe for fish. The sponsor is limited by costs, and will select the most effective method for moving forward based on the decisions of the board and regardless of WSDOT funding contributions.

Chair Troutt advocated moving the project forward with the revised condition.

**Moved by:** Member Nancy Biery

**Seconded by:** Member Bob Bugert

**Motion:** APPROVED

**Item 4B: Project Decisions: Approve Use of Returned Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR) Funds for Engineering the Dungeness River Railroad Trestle Replacement: Design (RCO #15-1052P)**

Kathryn Moore, Salmon Section Senior Outdoor Grant Manager, summarized a request from the Puget Sound Partnership and North Olympic Peninsula Lead Entity to use a portion of their 2011-13 returned Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR) funds for a new 2015 project: the Dungeness River Railroad Trestle Replacement: Design (RCO Project [15-1052P](#)). The project is located at the Dungeness River Railroad Bridge Park in Sequim, Clallam County.

Ms. Moore provided a brief project description, background, and a summary of project funding for the request. The Puget Sound Partnership (PSP) and the North Olympic Peninsula Lead Entity approved the use of these returned funds for the Dungeness project. The Salmon Recovery Funding Board Review Panel (review panel), after visiting the site in March 2015, placed a condition that they must review and approve the preliminary designs before RCO releases funds for completing the final designs. The review panel has since reviewed and approved the request.

The board discussed the funding and timelines associated with the project. The board also addressed the issues of sediment deposition, piling removal and wildlife habitat.

**Motion:**

Move to approve \$172,473 in returned 2011-13 Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR) funds in the Puget Sound Region for the Dungeness River Railroad Trestle Replacement: Design, RCO Project 15-1052P.

**Board Discussion:** No further discussion at this time.

**Public Comment:** No comment provided at this time.

**Moved by:** Member Nancy Biery

**Seconded by:** Member Bob Bugert

**Motion:** APPROVED

**Item 4C: Project Decisions: Pre-Approval of "Time-Sensitive" PSAR Projects, if any, contingent on 2015-17 Budget Passage**

Tara Galuska, Salmon Section Manager, summarized a request from PSP to pre-approve seven PSAR projects in an accelerated grant round, in accordance with Manual 18, Appendix P. Approval is contingent upon the Legislature approving PSAR funding in the capital budget, project review by the Salmon

Recovery Funding Board Technical Review Panel, and lead entity ranking and submittal.

Ms. Galuska explained that, in order to provide flexibility and quickly fund projects ready for construction, the program can approve funds in a summer or fall board meeting. Since no summer board meeting is scheduled this year, the board approval is being requested in advance. With board approval, the RCO Director could enter into project agreements once the Legislature appropriates funds for the PSAR program. The accelerated approval process will minimize duplicative staff work on a small list of ready projects that can be completed or near completion by December 2015.

**Motion:** Approve 2015-17 Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration projects as presented in Item 4C, Attachment A of the board materials, and authorize the RCO Director to enter into project agreements once the projects are reviewed and ranked and funding is appropriated by the Legislature in 2015.

**Board Discussion:** No further discussion at this time.

**Public Comment:** No comment provided at this time.

**Moved by:** Member Bob Bugert

**Seconded by:** Member Nancy Biery

**Motion:** APPROVED

### ***Lunch 11:50 a.m. – 1:35 p.m.***

The board held a lunch tour of the local project, Mission Creek Estuary Restoration (RCO [11-1526R](#)), at 11:50 a.m. and proceeded as indicated on the agenda. Lance Winecka provided an overview of the project onsite. Alex Smith, Port of Olympia Director of Environmental Programs, joined the board for the lunch tour. The lunch and tour concluded at 1:35 p.m. when the board returned to the Natural Resources building and resumed the business portion of the meeting.

### **Item 3: Reports from Partners (continued)**

*\*This item presented partially out of order due to time constraints as noted above.*

Chair Troutt resumed the meeting by inviting the board members to provide their respective agency updates.

**Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology):** Member Smith shared information about marine assessments for water quality and circulation patterns, both vertically (via sea plane) and horizontally (via ferry). The “blob”, a massive warm water body in the Pacific Ocean, has entered Puget Sound, contributing to warmer temperatures and negative shifts in the food web. Dissolved oxygen levels are 5% lower than annual averages, and salinity is increasing due to lessened snow pack melts. Current drought conditions are exacerbating the situation, which is not beneficial for salmon.

**Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW):** Member Neatherlin provided an update on the Puget Sound Nearshore Estuary Restoration Project (PSNERP) and the need to more fully engage legislators. The PSNERP project is regaining momentum and funding is anticipated at the federal level. There is \$800K in the current budget to fund steelhead research in Puget Sound for the next biennium.

**Washington State Conservation Commission (WSCC):** Member Cochrane provided a brief update on a joint venture with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Ecology on riparian easements. The goal is to coordinate fully with partners and determine the most efficient ways to expend funds dedicated to salmon recovery. Funds originate from the Nearshore Estuary Program (NEP), through Ecology and the EPA.

**Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR):** Member Megan Duffy summarized a budget request that may impact project timelines, contingent upon approval by the Legislature. Another bill focused on water structure led to an agency commitment to further research and work.

**Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT):** Member Cierebiej shared information about a recent recognition by the Wildlife Society for habitat connectivity work.

Chari Troutt invited Brian Abbott to the presenter's table to report to the board regarding the Klickitat County/RFEG need for guidance on monitoring in response to Jacob Anderson's comment provided this morning. Mr. Abbott explained that Klickitat County may offer monitoring projects; however, they need to confirm that the species listed fit into the recovery regions within their area. Additionally, Klickitat County needs to coordinate with neighboring regions to ensure their projects align with other regional monitoring efforts.

### **Board Business: Briefing**

#### **Item 5: Region and Lead Entity 2016 Capacity Funding**

Mr. Abbott and Ms. Gage provided an update on the annual capacity funding requests from the Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF). These funds maintain a network of regional organizations and lead entities dedicated to salmon recovery.

Mr. Abbott informed the board that RCO will know the amount of the 2015 PCSRF award by the end of June or the first week of July. The request aims to maintain the current funding level for regions and lead entities.

Mr. Abbott summarized the tables found in the board materials and provided a brief update on current budget predictions. RCO anticipates approximately \$907,229 in general state funds for lead entities, and between \$16.5 (Senate proposal) and \$40 million (House proposal) in capital funds for projects. In the past, RCO used returned funds to make up the reward difference; however, due to reduced federal funding and the commitment to fund Intensively Monitored Watershed (IMW) projects, utilizing return funds for capacity does not represent a sustainable strategy.

If the legislative appropriation and the 2015 PCSRF grant are less than projected, the RCO director will work with the board chair to call a special meeting to decide how to adjust the grant round target. Without a finalized budget, staff cannot provide a clear recommendation.

Mr. Abbott listed specific staff recommendations including:

- Set a target grant round of \$18M for calendar year 2015
- Reserve \$1.83M for IMW projects
- Approve funding for each regional organization and lead entity for fiscal year 2016
- Approve funding for lead entity training and a chairperson (\$12,500)
- Approve \$50,000 in facilitation funding for WSC from 2015 returned capacity funds
- Reserve \$500,000 for project cost increases in state fiscal year 2016, consistent with policies in Manual 18

Mr. Abbott summarized the staff recommendations to the board for decisions today. The board discussed options for postponing some decisions until more budget information is known.

**Motion:** Move to delegate authority to the Recreation and Conservation Office Director to enter in regional and lead entity contracts for a total amount of \$4,568,185, including \$1,689,500 for lead entities and \$2,878,685 for regional organizations, in fiscal year 2016 as set forth in the staff memo; provided, however, that should the Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund award and/or the state general fund appropriation be less than expected, interim funding shall be provided and a special meeting of the board called to decide an alternative approach to capacity funding.

**Board Discussion:** No discussion at this time.

**Public Comment:**

Jeff Breckel, Council of Regions (COR), spoke on behalf of the COR in favor of the staff recommendations presented in the board memo (Item 5). The approvals would contribute to the regions' capacity to maintain essential functions and programs.

**Moved by:** Member Bob Bugert

**Seconded by:** Member Nancy Biery

**Motion:** Approved

**Motion:** Move to set the 2015 grant round target at a minimum of \$18M if supported by the state budget and 2015 Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund award. If either of these funding sources is less than expected, the chair shall call a special meeting of the board to set an alternate funding level for the 2015 grant round.

**Board Discussion:** No discussion at this time.

**Public Comment:** No comment provided at this time.

**Moved by:** Member Nancy Biery

**Seconded by:** Member Bob Bugert

**Motion:** Approved

**Motion:** Move to approve other recommendations set forth in the staff memo, if legislative appropriations are sufficient, including:

- A. Reserve \$1.83 million for Intensively Monitored Watershed projects.
- B. Approve funding for lead entity training and a chairperson (\$12,500).
- C. Approve funding (\$50,000) for facilitation of the Washington Salmon Coalition (from 2015 returned capacity funds).
- D. Reserve \$500,000 to be used for project cost increases in state fiscal year 2016, to be used consistent with policies in Manual 18.

**Board Discussion:** No discussion at this time.

**Public Comment:** No comment provided at this time.

**Moved by:** Member Bob Bugert

**Seconded by:** Member Nancy Biery

**Motion:** Approved

## **Item 6: Washington Administrative Code (WAC) Phase II Changes**

Leslie Connelly, Natural Resource Policy Specialist, summarized the progress made on drafting amendments to Title 420 of the Washington Administrative Code (WAC). Ms. Connelly highlighted the main amendments to the rules, as well as two new definitions for project area and consolidation of the board's duties.

Ms. Connelly presented several scenarios to support a project area definition, explaining alternatives and constraints. The board discussed potential authorities, impacts, and conversion issues, while considering the impact to legal codification. Discussions also centered around landowner perceptions, potential additional costs and needs, and realistic project boundaries and scope. Project definitions may not need a high-level of clarity, but could be defined in respective project agreements to allow for flexibility and adaptation to the unique needs of each project/sponsor.

Ms. Connelly presented several scenarios to support an acquisition definition, explaining alternatives and constraints. The board discussed the need for consistent definitions to support applicant definitions, particularly project types and the term "enhancement" when it does not apply to fish hatchery projects.

Ms. Connelly presented the board authorization under WAC 286-04-020(3). The latter definition focuses on the board's responsibilities in the Salmon Recovery Funding Act, Chapter 77.85 of the Revised Code of Washington (RCW). The board discussed the proposed amendments to the statutory authorities. Ms. Connelly clarified definitions and provided next steps.

Ms. Connelly summarized the finalization process, including a formal public hearing in October and the 2015 WAC amendments schedule. RCO will solicit formal public comment prior to the October meeting in accordance with the Administrative Procedures Act. Before the formal public comment period, RCO will consult with the board, stakeholders, and interested parties on the proposed amendments to get early feedback and comments.

## **Board Business: Briefings**

### **Item 7: Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)**

Jeff Davis, WDFW, provided information about the WDFW Habitat Program. The presentation included an overview of the current program status in light of reduced budget and staff capacity, which now focuses on maintaining the current environmental baselines, staff training, and relationship building with partners. Mr. Davis discussed the main strategic protection priorities, including Priority Habitats and Species, Hydraulic Project Approval, and working lands. Restoration priorities include fish passage, the Estuary and Salmon Recovery Program, the Puget Sound Nearshore Estuary Restoration Project, the Columbia River Memorandum of Agreement (MOA), WDFW lands, and support to the recovery regions.

Member Cierebiej inquired about the strategies employed in agricultural and working lands. Mr. Davis responded, highlighting landowner and related partner needs and perspectives through frequent regional coordination and support.

David Price, WDFW Habitat Program Restoration Division Manager, briefed the board on the purpose and activities of the Fish Barrier Removal Board, providing fish passage barrier definitions and examples. Mr. Price highlighted the positive fish passage work, noting the opening of about 6000 miles of stream to fish. There remain several thousand more barriers to be removed in Washington State.

Established by HB 2251, the Fish Barrier Removal Board includes several agency, local, and tribal members. The conceptual approach is a three-fold pathway, including grants, coordination and mitigation opportunities. Mr. Price focused on the statewide strategy's grant pathway, partners to the FBRB, and local fish barrier efforts in the 2015 legislative session.

Chair Troutt asked about an evaluation system. Mr. Price indicated that work would continue to determine the specific criteria with robust and independent assessment.

***Break 3:45 – 4:00 p.m.***

### **Item 8: The Salish Sea Marine Survival Project: Summary and Status of Puget Sound Activities**

Michael Schmidt, Long Live the Kings, provided summary results from the Salish Sea Marine Survival Project and recent activities. The project tracks Coho, Chinook, and Steelhead and the primary factors affecting marine survival while the species migrate through the Salish Sea environment. One of the main objectives of the project is to advance wild salmon recovery and sustainable fisheries. Mr. Schmidt discussed the key drivers affecting marine survival, and whether these drivers can be mitigated or prevented, or whether species/processes must adapt to new conditions. Mr. Schmidt provided an update on the current research status in each of the key driving areas: bottom-up processes, top-down processes, and trends/modeling. The presentation concluded with an update on funding status.

Neala Kendall, WDFW, shared information about wild versus hatchery steelhead smolt survival trends in the Puget Sound. These trends are compared to areas outside of Puget Sound, including the Strait of Juan de Fuca, the Pacific Coast, and the Lower Columbia River. Ms. Kendall shared information regarding juvenile mortality rates from river mouths to the Strait of Juan de Fuca, with an approximate 80% mortality in Puget Sound in 2-3 weeks. Ultimately, the further into Puget Sound that fish go the less likely they are to survive. It remains unclear whether the rates are the result of predator-prey interactions or poor fish conditions. Studies included top predator assessment, environmental indicators impacting survival and mortality, and population genetics modeling. Harbor seals studies were highlighted and compared to survival rates of steelhead smolts. Fish health data is studied to determine the role of fish condition in marine survival rates.

Chair Troutt commented on the information provided, acknowledging the benefit of the research provided. Member Neatherlin expressed gratitude to Long Live the Kings for their data and contributions.

### **Item 9: Monitoring Panel Update**

Mr. Abbott and Keith Dublanica, GSRO Science Coordinator, provided an overview of how the Salmon Recovery Funding Board Monitoring Panel (monitoring panel) will evaluate components of the board's monitoring program. The monitoring panel held a workshop on March 30, 2015 with investigators and practitioners.

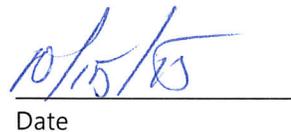
The monitoring panel will prepare funding recommendations and an adaptive management framework for the October 2015 meeting. The monitoring panel will receive the information from the practitioners in July and will begin the process of evaluating and drafting recommendations. This is the first year in which the monitoring panel is developing recommendations for the board, thus the exact format and scope of the recommendations are currently unknown. The monitoring panel will finalize recommendations by September 2015.

### **Closing**

The next board meeting is scheduled for October 15-16, 2015 in La Conner, WA. Chair Troutt adjourned the meeting at 4:24 p.m.

### **Approved by:**

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

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date