

# SALMON RECOVERY FUNDING BOARD SUMMARIZED MEETING AGENDA AND ACTIONS, AUGUST 23, 2012

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## Agenda Items without Formal Action

Item	Follow-up Actions
Item 1: Budget Overview	Decision regarding capacity funding in the PCSRF application to be brought back in September.
Item 7: Liability Legislation	There were no follow-up actions

## Agenda Items with Formal Action

Item	Formal Action	Follow-up Actions
Minutes	Minutes from April 2012 <a href="#">Approved</a>	There were no follow-up actions
Item 2: 2013-15 Funding Requests made by the Board for Inclusion in the RCO's Budget Submittal to the Office of Financial Management	<a href="#">Approved</a> a capital budget request of \$40 million for salmon habitat and restoration grants.  <a href="#">Approved</a> a budget request of \$10 million for the Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program	There were no follow-up actions
Item 3: Funding Requests made by the Department of Natural Resources related to Salmon Recovery	<a href="#">Supported</a> the Department of Natural Resource's capital budget request of \$11.54 million for the Family and Forest Fish Passage Program	There were no follow-up actions
Item 4: Funding Requests made by the Puget Sound Partnership related to Salmon Recovery	<a href="#">Supported</a> the Partnership's capital budget request of \$80 million for salmon habitat and restoration grants in the Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration program  <a href="#">Supported</a> the Partnership's conceptual approach for distribution of grant funds for large projects.	Member Brown asked that the list of large projects be shared with the board.
Item 5: Funding for the Strait of Juan de Fuca Intensively Monitored Watershed	<a href="#">Funded</a> the Strait of Juan de Fuca IMW monitoring effort through June 30, 2013 at a cost of \$206,462 and asked the IMW Steering Committee to discuss and provide recommendations regarding the potential of additional restoration projects.	Staff to present a proposal for using PCSRF monitoring funds for an objective and strategic assessment of how monitoring funds are used

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Item 6: Funding for the Lower  
Columbia Intensively Monitored  
Watershed

Discussion tabled until May 2013

Discussion of whether to  
provide project funding to be  
raised in May 2013.

In preparation, the Lower  
Columbia Fish Recovery  
Board will work with RCO,  
NOAA, and WDFW to  
develop a funding plan for  
the restoration treatments.

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# SALMON RECOVERY FUNDING BOARD SUMMARY MINUTES

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**Date:** August 23, 2012

**Place:** Room 172, Natural Resources Building, Olympia, WA

## Salmon Recovery Funding Board Members Present:

<b>Bud Hover, Chair</b>	Okanogan County	<b>Melissa Gildersleeve</b>	Department of Ecology
<b>Harry Barber</b>	Washougal	<b>Bob Everitt</b>	Department of Fish and Wildlife
<b>Josh Brown</b>	Kitsap County	<b>Carol Smith</b>	Conservation Commission
<b>Phil Rockefeller</b>	NWPCC		
<b>David Troutt</b>	Olympia		

Members Harry Barber and David Troutt participated by phone.

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**It is intended that this summary be used with the notebook provided in advance of the meeting. A recording is retained by RCO as the formal record of meeting.**

## Opening and Welcome

Chair Bud Hover called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m. and a quorum was determined.

**Josh Brown moved to adopt the agenda.**

**Seconded by:** Bud Hover

**Motion:** APPROVED

**Josh Brown moved to adopt the April 2012 minutes.**

**Seconded by:** Phil Rockefeller

**Motion:** APPROVED

## General Public Comment

There was no general public comment.

## Item 1: Budget Overview

Megan Duffy presented the information as presented in the staff memo, explaining that staff was concerned about the competitiveness of the state's PCSRF application with regard to capacity funding. The board will be asked to make a decision on the issue in September. Director Cottingham then described the process and outlook for the state's capital budget.

## Item 2: Salmon Recovery Management Reports

Brian Abbott presented the staff analysis regarding the budget request for the Salmon Recovery Funding Board, as described in the staff memo. He noted that staff tried to strike a balance between the need for projects, the reality of the state budget, and the capacity to complete projects. Staff did not recommend a funding level. Director Cottingham noted the historical appropriation levels, the changes to the debt service calculations, and the need to make a reasonable request. She asked the board to ensure that their request be achievable and respectful of economic situation.

Member Troutt noted that the board needed to ensure that the request would reflect the needs of salmon and advance salmon recovery. He stated that he was in favor of a \$30 million grant round as noted in the memo.

Member Rockefeller asked Director Cottingham if that level can be justified. She stated that she believed that it is consistent with the level indicated by the project lists, but cautioned that the stakeholders who rely on the funding will need to advocate for salmon funding.

**Phil Rockefeller moved to approve a capital budget request of \$40 million for salmon habitat and restoration grants.**

**Seconded by: David Troutt**

**Motion: APPROVED**

Brian Abbott then discussed the request for funding for the Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program (ESRP), as recommended by the Department of Fish and Wildlife. He noted that the Puget Sound Partnership supports the requests and the request is consistent with those in previous biennia.

**Phil Rockefeller moved to approve RCO's capital budget request of \$10 million for the Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program (ESRP), as recommended by the Department of Fish and Wildlife.**

**Seconded by: David Troutt**

**Motion: APPROVED**

#### Item 3: FFFPP Budget Request

Abbott reviewed the Department of Natural Resource's capital budget request of \$11.54 million for the Family and Forest Fish Passage Program (FFFPP). DNR is asking for the board's support of the request, which will fund projects as well as a barrier inventory and landowner outreach.

**Phil Rockefeller moved to support the Department of Natural Resource's capital budget request of \$11.54 million for the Family and Forest Fish Passage Program (FFFPP).**

**Seconded by: Josh Brown**

**Motion: APPROVED**

#### Item 4: Puget Sound Partnership Budget Request

Jeanette Dorner, Puget Sound Partnership, presented information about the Partnership's request for the Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration program, and the new approach they will use for large projects. She explained that \$50 million of the \$80 million request would be allocated to the large project list, which will include projects that are evaluated and prioritized. They are asking for support for the funding request and the approach. Director Cottingham noted that projects would be reviewed by the board's Technical Review Panel. Dorner noted that projects would come to the board in summer 2013, following the early action PSAR process.

Member Brown asked Dorner what types of projects would be funded. She responded that there is a range including nearshore restoration, floodplain levy setbacks, removal of shoreline armoring, key acquisitions, and estuary restoration. The list is not yet complete.

Member Rockefeller asked if the distribution to the large projects happens only if the PSAR amount exceeds \$30 million. Dorner confirmed that he was correct, and noted that they were still determining

how they would proceed if the amount received was less than the amount needed for the top ranked project.

Members cautioned that the request was ambitious, but it was worthwhile to identify the need. Member Brown asked that the list of large projects be shared with the board.

**Josh Brown moved to support the Partnership's capital budget request of \$80 million for salmon habitat and restoration grants in the Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration program.**

**Seconded by: Phil Rockefeller**

**Motion: APPROVED**

**Phil Rockefeller moved to support the Partnership's conceptual approach for distribution of grant funds for large projects.**

**Seconded by: Josh Brown**

**Motion: APPROVED**

Item 5: Strait of Juan de Fuca Intensively Monitored Watershed (IMW) Monitoring:

Megan Duffy provided high-level background information about the Strait of Juan de Fuca IMW and the decision before the board.

Tim Quinn from the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) presented more detailed information about the IMW design, purpose, funding, and scientific review. Quinn explained the importance of IMW to improving the efficacy of projects. He noted that the restoration and monitoring elements are managed and funded separately; this disconnect can be a serious weakness in the ability to assess the effectiveness of the restoration actions. He concluded by noting that there is strong support, and explaining the calculations behind the estimates of 7 to 10 years of post-restoration treatment monitoring to reach conclusions.

Dr. Phil Roni, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), described the restoration treatments and what they are learning in the IMW. The restoration treatments were based on watershed assessments that identified lack of pool habitat, overwinter habitat, and habitat complexity as factors limiting production. He described the restorations that have been implemented, and the information that they are gathering, especially with the advent of PIT tags. He noted that they expect that as the treatments create better overwinter habitat, they expect to see a fish response.

The board noted that there may be a number of other limiting factors. Roni responded that the overall goal is to measure fish response to watershed restoration treatments. The assessments had identified woody debris and overwintering habitat were limiting factors, so restoration work has focused there. However, the fish response is indicating that there may be other limiting factors, indicating that more work may need to be done. The IMW can measure the effect of other treatments, if the lead entity were to fund additional restorations.

Duffy suggested that the board parse this into two questions: (1) should the board continue fund the monitoring through the end of the biennium, and (2) should additional restoration actions be done?

**Phil Rockefeller moved to continue to fund the Strait of Juan de Fuca IMW monitoring effort through June 30, 2013 at a cost of \$206,462 and for the IMW Steering Committee to discuss and provide recommendations regarding potential additional restoration projects.**

**Seconded by: David Troutt**

**Motion: APPROVED**

Director Cottingham suggested that a portion of the remaining fiscal year 2012 PCSRF monitoring funds be used for an objective and strategic assessment of how monitoring funds are used. The assessment would be done through a competitive bid process. The board expressed a desire to have the monitoring be more coordinated with projects. Director Cottingham noted that it also needs to be coordinated with NOAA's priorities. Staff will prepare a proposal for board consideration.

#### Item 6: Lower Columbia IMW Project Funding

Megan Duffy presented the information and options as discussed in the staff memo. Jeff Breckel, Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board, was available to answer questions about the restoration projects. Duffy noted that staff continues to support the recommendation made in June.

Breckel discussed the projects being done by the region and the role of the IMW. He asked the board to be open to contributing funding in the next year, as part of a broader plan that involves NOAA, WDFW, and others. The decision would be made in 2013.

Member Troutt commented that he was not in favor of adjusting the allocation formula. Member Brown noted that he does not want to shift funds from one area to another, but at the same time, they may need to do that to achieve goals. They need a more in-depth discussion about it first. Member Rockefeller agreed, and suggested that the NWPCC also be a partner in the development of the funding strategy for the projects.

Member Gildersleeve asked if landowner willingness would still be an obstacle if they got the money. Breckel said they had done the outreach, but that it would still be a factor.

**Chair Hover suggested that the board table the discussion until May 2013. The board agreed.**

In preparation, the Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board will work with RCO, NOAA, and WDFW to develop a proposed funding plan for the restoration treatments.

#### Public Comment

Cheryl Baumann, LEAG Chair, commented that Options 3 and 6 were of serious concern to the lead entity advisory group because it would move funds from other areas.

Chair Hover noted that a letter was received from Steve Martin, and read the last sentence of the letter.

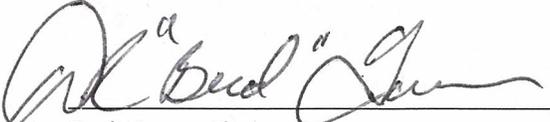
#### Item 7: Liability Legislation

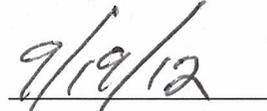
Megan Duffy noted that none of the state agencies will be proposing legislation at this time. The Conservation Districts are expected to develop a draft bill that will be circulated to the state agencies sometime in September.

The board and the Council of Regions recognized the contributions of Megan Duffy who is leaving the Recreation and Conservation Office at the end of August.

Meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Minutes approved by:

  
Bud Hover, Chair

  
Date



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