

SALMON RECOVERY FUNDING BOARD SUMMARIZED MEETING AGENDA AND ACTIONS, SEPTEMBER 19-20, 2012

Agenda Items without Formal Action

Item	Follow-up Actions
Item 3: Reports from Partners	No follow-up requested.
Item 5: Sharing Information about Salmon Recovery	Provide follow-up report in December.
Item 6: Follow-up Regarding Puget Sound Action Agenda	No follow-up requested.
Item 7: Discussion with Review Panel Chair on Topics of Interest	Topics to be presented for decision in December.
Item 8: Preview of Project Tour	No follow-up requested

Agenda Items with Formal Action

Item	Formal Action	Follow-up Actions
Minutes	Minutes from August 2012 Approved	There were no follow-up actions.
Item 1: Directors Report	Service Resolutions for Sara LaBorde, Megan Duffy, and Steve McLellan Approved	There were no follow-up actions.
Item 2: Salmon Recovery Management Reports	Request for board approval of funds for video component of <i>State of the Salmon in Watersheds</i> report Approved	There were no follow-up actions.
Item 4: Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund	Recommendation to move capacity budget requests to annual basis Approved	There were no follow-up actions.

SALMON RECOVERY FUNDING BOARD SUMMARY MINUTES

Date: September 19, 2012

Place: Red Lion Hotel, Port Angeles, WA

Salmon Recovery Funding Board Members Present:

Bud Hover, Chair	Okanogan County	Bob Everitt	Department of Fish and Wildlife
Harry Barber	Washougal	Carol Smith	Conservation Commission
Josh Brown	Kitsap County	Mike Barber	Department of Transportation
Phil Rockefeller	NWPCC		
David Troutt	Olympia		

Bob Everitt arrived at 12:35. Carol Smith arrived at 1:45 p.m.
Melissa Gildersleeve and Craig Partridge were excused.

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

Lower Elwha S'Klallam Tribe Chairwoman Frances Charles welcomed the board to the area. Lower Elwha S'Klallam Tribe River Restoration Manager Robert Elofsen also was in attendance. Port Angeles Mayor Cherie Kidd also welcomed the board.

Chair Bud Hover called the meeting to order at noon and a quorum was determined. Director Kaleen Cottingham noted the following additions to the agenda:

- Service resolutions for staff and former board member Sara LaBorde
- Request for board approval for an RFP for a video component of the *State of the Salmon in Watersheds* report

Phil Rockefeller moved to adopt the agenda.

Seconded by: Harry Barber

Motion: APPROVED

Josh Brown moved to adopt the August 2012 minutes.

Seconded by: Phil Rockefeller

Motion: APPROVED

Item 1: Management Reports

Director Cottingham presented information about federal funding for Habitat Work Schedule, noting that it is more difficult to secure funding since Congressman Norm Dicks has retired. One option would be to move to a state-owned system rather than proprietary software. She noted that Nona Snell had been hired as the new policy director/legislative liaison. She also discussed the approach she plans to take with regard to the future in the Governor's Salmon Recovery Office. Director Cottingham noted the request to recognize the service of Sara LaBorde, Megan Duffy, and Steve McLellan.

Josh Brown moved to adopt the service resolutions for Sara LaBorde, Megan Duffy, and Steve McLellan.

Seconded by: David Troutt

Motion: APPROVED

Steve McLellan noted that the 2013-15 budget request had been submitted for the Recreation and Conservation Office and its boards, and discussed the revenue forecasts. He also noted that the liability legislation is still under discussion by stakeholders. He noted that the legislation's proponents need to be more specific about how the proposal would affect the ability of sponsors to proceed with salmon recovery projects.

Item 2: Salmon Recovery Management Reports

Director Cottingham presented information from the Governor's Salmon Recovery Office, as described in the staff memo. Brian Abbott then presented the grant management report, as described in the staff memo, noting in particular the next steps in the 2012 grant cycle.

Abbott explained the request for board approval of up to \$32,000 in returned funds from the Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF) for a video component of the *State of the Salmon in Watersheds* report. A handout was provided to the board explaining the purpose of the request. Abbott showed two similar videos done by the Bonneville Power Administration.

Board members asked about the number of Web hits that staff anticipated, and if staff was asking for enough money. Director Cottingham responded that there were about 261,000 hits to the RCO Web in fiscal year 2012. Abbott noted that the funds requested would be enough to get started. Member David Troutt asked how this would be coordinated with other similar efforts, and recommended that it be more focused on the voice of the landowner and to also include a state of urgency. Abbott clarified that the examples were intended to show the quality, not the messaging. Chair Hover noted that the Upper Columbia Region produced a video, and it has been useful and been received well. He suggested that progress was just as important as urgency for messaging.

Josh Brown moved to approve the use of up to \$32,000 in PCSRF returned funds for a video component of the *State of the Salmon in Watersheds* report.

Seconded by: David Troutt

Motion: APPROVED

Abbott also showed a video about a beaver reintroduction project in preparation for the discussion with Patty Michak.

Item 3: Reports from Partners

Council of Regions: There was no report, aside from the memo provided in advance of the meeting.

Lead Entity Advisory Group: Cheryl Baumann and Darcy Batura presented information about how LEAG is coordinating to do additional outreach efforts; they are working together statewide to coordinate efforts. Member Phil Rockefeller asked how much work is done by paid staff versus volunteers, and suggested the use of contractors as volunteers. Baumann responded that they use volunteers, but it depends on the scale and degree of work. She also noted that contractors' work is typically captured as

project match. Batura noted that in the Yakima Region, they are exploring the use of curriculum developed by Cooperative Extension for use with their volunteers.

Regional Fisheries Enhancement Groups: Jason Lundgren presented an overview of the groups' history, funding, and accomplishments statewide. Rebecca Benjamin discussed the various types and scales of projects done by the groups.

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW): Member Bob Everitt reported that the supplemental budget had \$42 million for the hatchery program. WDFW has several actions moving forward for the hatchery reform program. He also noted that WDFW protected the salmon recovery portions of its general funds as well as it could in its budget request for 2013-15. The agency is recruiting to fill the vacancy left by Sara LaBorde as the Special Assistant for Salmon Recovery. He noted the negative impact of wolf issues and fires on agency resources.

Department of Transportation (DOT): Member Mike Barber reported that they are working on 20 fish passage projects: 7 are done, 13 are in progress. Member Rockefeller asked if the department has a plan to deal with culverts. Member M. Barber responded that the agency is trying to maintain funding of about \$24 million per biennium. It still is waiting for the final judgment in the court case that Rockefeller referenced. The fish passage program predates the lawsuit, and DOT has increased the funding over time.

Conservation Commission: Member Carol Smith noted that they were fully funded for Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP), so districts are busy with new riparian restoration projects. They also received \$5 million for water quality improvement projects. The commission is focused on 2013-15 budget.

General Public Comment

There was no general public comment.

Item 4: Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund

Brian Abbott explained the information as presented in the staff memo, reminding the board that Megan Duffy had presented the background at the August meeting. He explained that staff believes that the application for federal funds will be more competitive if funding for regional organizations and lead entities is requested annually rather than biennially.

Chair Hover noted that he was concerned that the regions still be able to contract for two years. Abbott responded that they could set the contracts for two years. Member Troutt asked if, aside from the contract issue, if there were other disadvantages. Abbott said there were not, but there was more uncertainty because of the budget climate. Member Rockefeller asked if the proposal affected the state budget request; Director Cottingham responded that RCO already had to estimate what would be received in the second year of the biennium for federal funds.

Phil Rockefeller moved to approve that capacity funding should be requested and allocated annually.

Seconded by: David Troutt

Motion: APPROVED

Item 5: Sharing Information about Salmon Recovery

Eric Neatherlin and Brodie Cox from the WDFW presented an overview and demonstration of the SCoRE Web site. They noted that SCoRE streamlined the delivery of the information and provided greater transparency and accountability. They demonstrated a number of ways that SCoRE provides data. They noted that the second phase will provide maps and other advance presentation tools.

Board members asked a variety of questions about how the data are exchanged, linked to other agency Web sites, and kept current to ensure consistency. They noted that it is difficult to use data from multiple agencies. Members also were concerned about whether WDFW had adequate staffing to keep the data updated; Neatherlin stated that they were designed to keep it updated with the data they could collect. Member Rockefeller noted that predation and invasive species were missing from the data set. Neatherlin responded that the issues are not captured unless they are limiting factors in the recovery plans; he could see adding them in the future. The board also asked questions about how SCoRE will collect and present data about harvest, and how WDFW is working with tribal co-managers.

Jennifer Johnson presented a preview of the State of the Salmon in Watersheds Web site, which will be launched in December. She noted that the content was still in development, and that she was presenting only the navigation at this time. She described how the site would provide different levels of information for different users. Johnson showed how the data would be shown at the statewide and regional levels, highlighting water quality and fish abundance, and how it links to the original source data. Director Cottingham noted that there would be a printable executive summary with statewide conclusions.

Director Cottingham noted that the goal is to make it interactive in the future, but that this is a good first step. Chair Hover clarified that this sets the stage for easier updates in the future. Board members commended Johnson for her work. Member Troutt asked if there had been any discussions about VSP parameters other than abundance. Johnson responded that the data were under discussion, but that she did not know what they would be able to do with this release. Member Troutt suggested including – at minimum – a mention of the other parameters. Director Cottingham noted that they would link to other reports that mention the parameters. Board members also suggested it would be helpful to see implementation of Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) under the water quality section and information about in-stream flows.

Item 6: Follow up Regarding the Puget Sound Action Agenda

Jeannette Dorner from the Puget Sound Partnership presented an update on the *Action Agenda*, which was approved in August. She explained the objectives and the development process, including stakeholders and the management boards for the Partnership. Dorner explained how the *Action Agenda* is organized, as well as the strategic initiatives, near-term actions, and ongoing actions. She presented the vital signs wheel and described the development of milestones, targets, and interim targets for the indicators. Dorner noted that salmon recovery is a strategic initiative, and discussed the efforts to align the work of the Partnership's salmon recovery team so that the *Action Agenda* and recovery plan would be coordinated. She also explained the role of the local integrating organizations and lead entities.

Board members discussed the Partnership's role as a body to facilitate discussions and provide a forum for setting priorities and direction, rather than as a regulatory agency or an entity that takes action itself. Member Troutt noted that the Partnership's role is to facilitate discussions, not do the work themselves. Member Rockefeller noted that the purpose was to align behaviors and actions; that has been the result of the Partnership. He stated that the *Action Agenda* provides an agreed-upon list of prioritized actions

and a mechanism for aligning the budget with priorities. Director Cottingham noted that salmon recovery is now truly integrated into this *Action Agenda*, as compared to previous versions.

Dorner highlighted the work in the Nisqually as an example of how the Partnership can facilitate the work and bring funding to the table for salmon recovery. She also noted that the Recovery Council will be having a retreat with the Watershed Councils to identify and find ways to overcome barriers.

Board members suggested that the Partnership be better able to explain the return on investment and how the agency has improved the effectiveness of efforts to recover Puget Sound. Member Brown encouraged the Partnership to focus on things that they can achieve and provide some results.

Item 7: Discussion with the Review Panel Chair of Topics of Interest

Brian Abbott noted that the board typically discusses topics of interest at the December meeting. This year, staff decided it would be more effective to have the discussions more often so that they could get a better sense of the board's interest and policy direction.

The board then discussed the following topics with Review Panel Chair Patty Michak: knotweed control, beaver reintroduction, and bank stabilization. Michak gave an overview of each topic, as presented in the board memo, followed by discussion with the board. Michak said that the Review Panel would come back in December with recommended language for Manual 18.

Knotweed control: Member Smith stated that the policy should address all invasive species. Member H. Barber stated that he does not think it is appropriate for salmon dollars, and is concerned that others may back away from funding if the board starts funding it. Chair Hover was concerned about it turning into a maintenance program, rather than a project-by-project situation. Member Troutt asked that the policy provide guidelines, but not be too prescriptive; he believes that getting rid of knotweed is a good goal, and other partners might not have the funds to do it. Board members noted that landowners need an incentive approach to deal with it because it is a Class B weed. Member Rockefeller noted that they should think about how to use the funds strategically, for example, setting a bar at which it makes sense to use funds for knotweed.

Beaver reintroduction: Michak explained that they need to provide guidance and metrics in Manual 18. Member Troutt asked if the projects had been identified in the three-year work plans or recovery plans. Michak said that she had seen them in the three-year work plans, but was not sure if they were in the recovery plans specifically. Board members expressed concern that we be sure that these are high priority projects, and ensure that there are good sideboards on these projects.

Bank stabilization: Michak noted that they need language to clarify when it is appropriate to include bank stabilization in a project. Member Troutt noted that it will be difficult to provide this kind of guidance.

Public Comment:

Jeannette Dorner, PSP: Dorner noted that there had been a decline in funding to the state Department of Agriculture for knotweed control. For bank stabilization, many project sponsors find that landowners want projects that have multiple benefits; stabilization can be one of those benefits. The more narrowly funds are defined, the more difficult it is for sponsors.

Item 8: Preview of Project Tour

Cheryl Baumann presented an overview of the North Olympic Peninsula Lead Entity. Tara Galuska previewed the project tour for Thursday, September 20, including a video about the removal of the Elwha dams. The video observes the 1-year anniversary of the removal.

Meeting adjourned at 5:37 p.m.

Date: September 20, 2012

Place: Clallam County, WA

Salmon Recovery Funding Board Members Present:

Harry Barber

Washougal

Josh Brown

Kitsap County

Phil Rockefeller

NWPCC

David Troutt

Olympia

Bob Everitt

Department of Fish and Wildlife

Carol Smith

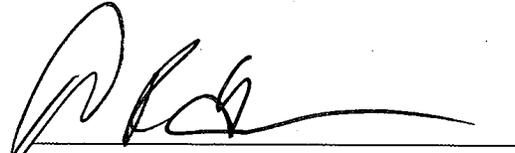
Conservation Commission

Mike Barber

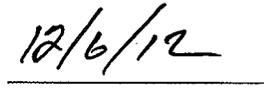
Department of Transportation

Board members participated in a tour of projects from 8:00 a.m. until 3:30 p.m.

Minutes approved by:



Bud Hover, Chair



Date