

# SALMON RECOVERY FUNDING BOARD

## MINUTES - REGULAR MEETING

September 15, 2000

Water Resources Education Center  
Vancouver, Washington

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### **SALMON RECOVERY FUNDING BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

William Ruckelshaus, Chair	Seattle
Larry Cassidy	Vancouver
James Peters	Olympia
John Roskelley	Spokane
Steve Meyer	Executive Director, Conservation Commission
Dan Wrye	Designee, Department of Fish and Wildlife
Shari Shaftlein	Designee, Department of Transportation
Craig Partridge	Designee, Department of Natural Resources
Gerry O'Keefe	Designee, Department of Ecology

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*A tape of the meeting's proceedings is retained by IAC as the formal record of the meeting.*

### **Call to Order**

Chair Ruckelshaus called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m. The agenda was approved.

### **Topic #1: Review and Approval of Minutes**

John Roskelley **moved** to approve the June 20 and 21, 2000 and July 12, 2000 minutes. Jim Peters **seconded** the motion, minutes **approved**.

### **Topic #2: Management and Status Reports**

Director's Report: Director Johnson gave an update on IAC/SRFB activities in the last month. She also noted that RCW 75.46 was recodified to RCW 77.85. Director Johnson handed out a list of all the SRFB funded projects. This report will be used as the base for the SRFB report to Congress and legislature.

Board members were asked to estimate the number of grant applications they believe will be received from lead entities on October 30. The guesses ranged from 150 to 281.

Financial Report: Debra Wilhelmi gave the financial update. Since the July meeting, over \$2.2 million has been paid to sponsors. Jim Skalski is now the OFM budget contact for the Salmon Recovery Funding Board; Jim Cahill has been promoted to Senior Budget Assistant. The Financial Office has been very busy with first year budget close out. (See notebook for details.)

### Project Management Update:

Eric Johnson gave the Grant Project Services Division report. We are interviewing for two new project managers: filling a previous vacancy and to replace Lynn Palensky since Lynn has resigned to go to work for the NWPPC in Vancouver. Eric also reported on the Engineered Log Jam workshop held in conjunction with WDFW and NMFS. A detailed report will be available shortly. (See notebook for details.)

### Legislative Update:

Jim Fox explained that September 15 is the deadline for submitting legislative requests to the Governor. The Board is submitting a letter requesting a time extension.

### Governor's Salmon Recovery Office:

Phil Miller gave the GSRO update, describing the Statewide Watershed Assessment Criteria and Guidelines and how the Comprehensive Watershed Salmon Conservation Planning is working. Dan Wrye, WDFW, asked what the implementation strategy for this plan is. Phil explained that most of the process is already being implemented. Further implementation includes looking for gaps in data, how this process will work with the local watershed groups, and what additional assistance and outreach is needed by the local entities. The long-term goal is to use the salmon conservation plan to develop the salmon recovery plan for NMFS and USFWS. Data management issues are also being looked at. The Salmon and Watershed Information Management (SWIM) project is currently recruiting nationwide for a project manager to improve cross-agency development, use, and access to salmon recovery data. (See notebook for details.)

### **Topic #3: WAC Rules**

The Board adopted Resolution 2000-06 directing staff to proceed with the steps necessary to obtain public comment and develop proposals for SRFB office and administrative rule adoption by the Board in early 2001. Materials will be mailed to interested parties and posted on the Web in the coming weeks.

### **Topic #4: 2<sup>nd</sup> Round Technical Panel**

Jim Kramer and Phil Trask briefed the Board on the status of the Technical Panel meetings with lead entities across the state and thanked Panel members, involved agencies, and agency staff for their hard work and dedication to this process. Without member agency support by dedicating staff to this effort, the Panel would not be as effective as it has been.

The Panel has completed its sixth week of lead entity meetings. By the eighth week, the Panel will have met with twenty-five lead entity groups, traveling to all four corners of the state. The Panel consists of nine experts: Brian Allee, Executive Director, Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Authority; Kevin Bauersfeld, Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife; Tim Beechie, National Marine Fisheries Service; Paul DeVries, Private Consultant with RH2, Inc.; Karl Halupka, US Fish and Wildlife Service; Ken Hammond, Retired Central Washington University Professor; George Pess,

National Marine Fisheries Service; J. Anne Shaffer, Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife; and Carol Smith, Washington State Conservation Commission.

The purpose for these meetings is to clarify the Technical Panel and SRFB requirements and expectations for the Second Round 2000 Grant Cycle, provide SRFB staff and Panel members with information about each lead entity's watershed and project evaluation process, and provide opportunity for feedback about the process prior to list submission on October 30.

To date, common themes arising from the meetings with the lead entity groups are:

- Lead entities are providing a critical link between the habitat needs of fish and the community interests surrounding recovery.
- Lead entities have made significant improvements in developing guiding principles or strategies. The tie between guiding principles/strategies and projects is still developing and stronger linkages may exist in the next grant process. Most of the strategies have a strong technical component, however, fewer address a strategy for building community support.
- Most lead entities have increased their work with project sponsors to improve the quality and types of project proposals. Areas with dedicated resources for landowner outreach have built strong relationships with the local community resulting in better project support.
- Lead entities may benefit from the development of common approaches, guidelines, and technical assistance for monitoring, habitat recovery strategies, setting priorities for fish populations, and project evaluation tools. The ability to understand and quantify the linkages between habitat actions and fish populations is starting to develop. Listed species are often the driver for setting priorities, but also producing benefits for multiple species and ecosystem processes. From a qualitative approach, the lead entities are beginning to look at number of stocks, types of stocks (hatchery vs. wild) and stock status as they prioritize projects and strategize.
- Meetings between the SRFB technical panel and the lead entities are helping both the statewide and local processes. Lead entities are providing an understanding of local conditions and needs. The Panel is providing feedback and sharing creative ideas from other lead entities.

The Technical Panel will complete its first round of visits the first week in October. The second phase of this process will begin after lead entity lists and project applications are submitted on October 30. The second phase will consist of meetings with lead entities to review their project lists and discuss individual projects. After public review and comment, the Technical Panel will submit its recommendations to the SRFB for final funding decisions to be made at the SRFB meeting on January 25 and 26, 2001.

Shari Shafflein, WSDOT, offered to provide training to lead entity groups on ESA related permitting. WSDOT has processed many permits using the programmatic

approach and batch processing. She suggested a facilitated discussion on the topic at one of the upcoming Lead Entity Advisory Group meetings to help facilitate brainstorming options for streamlining the permit process for the SRFB projects.

**Topic #5: LEAG Update**

LEAG spokesperson Jeff Breckel gave an overview of their September 14 meeting. At this meeting the discussion focused on the responsibilities and the functions of lead entities. They also talked about the resources needed to support lead entity functions and how to measure lead entity success in the future. The LEAG plans to complete an assessment of lead entity responsibilities and functions in October. The assessment will then be reviewed by all lead entities in November and a final report will be available to the SRFB in December.

**Topic #6: 2001 Meeting Schedule**

The January 2001 meeting date was approved for January 25 and 26, 2001. The Board will finalize the rest of its 2001 meeting schedule at the October 30 meeting in Clarkston.

**Topic #7: Roles Document**

The Roles document was discussed. Per staff recommendation, it needs to go out for additional review before final adoption at a later meeting.

Jim Fox and Jim Kramer will schedule telephone calls with each of the Board members to review this document, make revisions and additions, and then revise and bring back to the Board for final approval. Steve Meyer will work with Jim Fox to pull together the key themes to get to the Joint Cabinet for the budget discussions.

**Topic #8: EDT Presentation**

Jim Scott (WDFW) and Chip McConnaha (NWPPC) gave a presentation to the Board explaining what EDT is and how it can be used in salmon recovery efforts around the state. Ecosystem Diagnosis and Treatment (EDT) is a method developed to provide a practical, science-based approach for developing and implementing watershed plans. EDT can be used to analyze existing habitat conditions in a watershed and to predict the amount of increase or decrease in numbers of salmon as these habitat conditions are changed. EDT would not replace the need for limiting factors analysis but would be an additional tool that could be used by lead entities to better understand the unique characteristics of their particular watershed.

**Topic #9: Programmatic Updates**

No presentations – information presented in notebook materials only.

**Topic #10: Partner Agency Reports**

No partner agency reports were given at this meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:55 p.m.

SRFB APPROVAL:

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William Ruckelshaus, Chair

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Date

Future Meetings:      October 30-31, 2000 – Clarkston, Quality Inn  
                                 November 30 – December 1, 2000 – Olympia, 172 NRB  
                                 January 25-26, 2001 – Olympia, 172 NRB

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