



Brian Abbott Fish Barrier Removal Board – Draft August 2022 Meeting Notes

Date: August 16, 2022

Time: 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Location: Virtual Meeting

Summary: Formal Actions/Decisions

Item	Formal Action
Meeting notes from July 19, 2022	Approved
FBRB 2023-2025 Ranked List	Approved to send to RCO who will advance it to the Governor’s Office.

Summary: Follow-up Actions

Item	Follow-up
Fall In-Person FBRB Meeting Planning	Triangle will continue to work with John Foltz and the Board on the logistics for the in-person Board meeting from September 28-29, 2022. Triangle will keep the Board informed as logistics and meeting materials are finalized.
Additional Funds to FBRB from Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL)	The Board can track additional funds from the BIL.

Welcome/Introductions/Agenda Review: Triangle Associates facilitator, Joy Juelson, called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Alex Sweetser, Triangle Associates, facilitated introductions with FBRB members and staff. A quorum was present.

Public Comment: One technical question was received, and Board staff will respond to it offline.

Old Business: The meeting notes for the FBRB July 2022 meeting were reviewed by the facilitator. A motion to approve the notes was made by John Foltz, Council of Regions, and seconded by Terra Rentz, Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR). The motion was approved with no objections.

Decision: Board approved the Board July 2022 Meeting Notes.

General Updates:

Update on NOAA Grant Program Application

Joy Juelson, the facilitator, explained that the Board agreed for WDFW staff to develop an application for NOAA’s *Restoring Fish Passage through Barrier Removal* grant program. This proposal contains a bundle of four projects in Lewis County and a bundle of five projects in Kitsap County. Each of these

projects were alternates on the FBRB 2021-2023 Project List and resubmitted for the 2023-2025 FBRB Grant Round.

Chair Tom Jameson and Christy Rains, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), shared that the grant application was completed and submitted to NOAA. They thanked Katrina Simmons, WDFW, who did much of the writing for the proposal.

- In response to a question, Jeannie Abbott, Governor’s Salmon Recovery Office (GSRO), explained applications to NOAA tend to take about three months to process and then there might be questions applicants need to respond to.
- Christy thanked John Foltz for helping gather four letters of support from Regional entities.

Additional FBRB Funds from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL)

Axel Swanson, Washington State Association of Counties (WSAC), explained that one of the new programs from the BIL is the *Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-saving Transportation* (PROTECT) program. This program includes funding for “natural infrastructure that protects and enhances surface transportation assets while improving ecosystem conditions, *including culverts* that ensure adequate flows in rivers and estuarine systems.” The Association of Washington Cities (AWC) and WSAC have requested to the Washington Joint Transportation Committee that three years of PROTECT funding be provided to the FBRB to distribute to local projects through the FBRB’s grant program. AWC and WSAC are awaiting federal guidance to ensure FBRB qualifies for this funding and are drafting a memo to the Governor’s Office. Additional information on the details of the request can be found at the following link: [Joint Transportation Committee Workgroup wraps up state/local split negotiations \(wacities.org\)](https://www.wacities.org/joint-transportation-committee-workgroup-wraps-up-state-local-split-negotiations).

Path forward: The Board can track additional funds from the BIL.

Introduction from Brock Milliern, RCO Policy Director

Brock Milliern introduced himself as the new Policy and Legislative Director for the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) and gave an overview of this professional background. He explained he has worked with the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board, so he is familiar with RCO grant programs, and is still learning all the groups involved on the salmon recovery side of RCO grant programs.

- Chair Jameson noted FBRB’s grant program has been receiving an increased number of cost increase requests for construction projects due to inflation. He explained that FBRB does not have funds set aside for cost increase requests. Instead, they use funds returned for projects that are completed under budget to fund these increases. He requested additional discussions in the future to discuss adding a cost increase line item to FBRB to fund future cost increase requests.

US Forest Service (USFS) Aquatic Organism Passage (AOP) Program

John Foltz explained that Jim Capurso, USFS has been interested in working with the Board and WDFW through a Good Neighbor Agreement. Jim’s \$1 million USFS proposal for barrier removal on or downstream of USFS lands was approved and he is working with sponsors to get the funding under contract. John explained funds would go to projects in the Upper Columbia, which is a priority watershed. The proposal includes \$250k for WDFW to do inventory work in southwest Washington.

- John Foltz offered to answer any Board or sponsor questions in relation to these projects.

Review and Board Decision on the 2023-2025 Ranked List

Chair Jameson, WDFW, explained the origins of the FBRB and provided background for the FBRB's grant program. The chair shared that when the Board was established, it did not have any funding. In 2016, WSAC helped the board receive \$300k to write a request for proposals (RFP) and create a grant program. This is the fourth legislative request from the FBRB and the largest request for funding so far.

He reviewed that the FBRB 2023-2025 Ranked List was scored using the Scoring Criteria the Board approved in September 2021. After the Board approved the criteria, an RFP for grant sponsors was approved and distributed in October 2021. Since the RFP closed in May 2022, WDFW's Technical Review Team (TRT) of biologists have been assessing projects for eligibility and then ranking and scoring the projects using the Board's Scoring Criteria.

Christy Rains, WDFW, gave a presentation on the FBRB 2023-2025 Ranked List and acknowledged all the staff who helped develop the Ranked List. In total, 102 projects were scored and ranked for a total request of \$94 million. She explained that each year, the FBRB's request to the legislature has increased and this is the largest request yet. The full presentation with a full breakdown of the project distribution, ownership, and additional details can be found with the August 2022 meeting materials on FBRB Website: [Brian Abbott Fish Barrier Removal Board | Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife](#)).

Christy explained the Ranked List distributed to Board members does not include administrative fees. A total of 8.9% of admin fees will be added to each project on the list when it is distributed to RCO. These admin fees go to RCO to manage grant applications and to WDFW for technical assistance completed by the TRT, managing the funded projects, and operating the FBRB. Since the entire list may not be funded by the legislature, this ensures the agencies are funded and projects receive the administrative support they need.

Once the list is approved by the Board, it will be advance to RCO. Then, RCO will advance the funding request to the Governor's Office for consideration in the Governor's budget for the next legislative session.

Board Questions and Discussion:

- Christy explained there are ten roughened channel projects. Under WDFW guidance, these projects are eligible for funding with the FBRB even though Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) projects do not use this method. David Collins, WDFW, added that roughened channels are eligible, but their Hydraulic Project Approval (HPA) permits require a monitoring component and additional steps. The Board may want to expand on this topic leading into the next grant round.
- Christy explained some projects within the same watershed were not in sequence on the Ranked List. She noted that Board consideration for including scoring criteria for bundling geographically sequenced projects within a watershed could be a future discussion topic for the Board.
- In response to a question from John Foltz regarding any fatal flaws or concerns about any projects on the Ranked List, Gina Piazza, WDFW explained that for some projects the TRT has identified questions or recommended modifications. However, these can be resolved through site visits or working with sponsors to implement the modifications. Otherwise, there are no technical concerns or fatal flaws with projects on the list at this time.
- The Board discussed adding a minimum score in the Ranked List to maximize Board investments and added it as a potential discussion topic for a future meeting. There was discussion that this has not been an issue in the past because the legislature has decided on this line. David Collins, WDFW, explained all projects on the list have been reviewed and vetted by the TRT. The 102 projects this year are only a small percentage of the barriers statewide and all of these are viable projects. He recommended against a line as it could limit funding future removals.

- In response to a question if RCO is in a position to support the funding of the entire prioritized list, Alice Rubin and Dave Caudill, RCO, explained the entire list will advance within RCO. They gave a tentative yes and will let the Board know if there are any issues around advancing the list.
- Several Board members thanked the TRT, Board staff, and project sponsors for the work they did to identify, submit, and review the projects on the Ranked List.

A motion to approve the FBRB 2023-2025 Ranked List and advance it to RCO was made by Jeannie Abbott, GSRO, and seconded by John Foltz, Council of Regions. The motion was approved with no objections.

Decision: Board approved sending the FBRB 2023-2025 Ranked List to RCO who will advance it to the Governor’s Office.

Discuss Upcoming Opportunities for Engagement

Updates on Fall In-person Board Meeting and Tour in Walla Walla, WA

Joy Juelson and Alex Sweetser noted the in-person Board meeting will be held from September 28-29, 2022 in Walla Walla, WA. Board members were provided information on logistics before the meeting. The first day of the meeting will be an all-day hybrid Board meeting and the second day will be a half-day tour of FBRB projects in Mill Creek organized by John Foltz.

Action Item: Triangle will continue to work with John Foltz and the Board on the logistics for the in-person Board meeting from September 28-29, 2022. Triangle will keep the Board informed as logistics and meeting materials are finalized.

Adjourn: The meeting adjourned early at approximately 11:05 a.m.

Next Meeting: In-person Meeting and Tour in Walla Walla, WA from September 28 – 29

ATTENDANCE

Board Members/Alternates:

Axel Swanson, Washington State Association of Counties	John Foltz, Council of Regions, Snake River Salmon Recovery Board (SRSRB)
Chair Thomas Jameson, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)	Paul Wagner, Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT)
Christy Rains, WDFW	Terra Rentz, Department of Natural Resources (DNR)
Jeannie Abbott, GSRO	Tim Resseguie, Yakima Nation

WDFW, RCO Staff and Triangle Facilitation Team:

Adam Fleming, WDFW	Kaylee Kautz, WDFW
Amber Martens, WDFW	Matthew Curtis, WDFW
Casey Costello, WDFW	Melissa Erkel, WDFW

David Collins, WDFW	Alice Rubin, Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO)
Doris Small, WDFW	Brock Milliern, RCO
Gabrielle Stilwater, WDFW	Dave Caudill, RCO
Gina Piazza, WDFW	Alex Sweetser, Facilitation Support
Jane Atha, WDFW	Joy Juelson, Facilitation Support
Julie Groebelny, WDFW	

Others observing:

Ann Weckback	Evan Lewis	Nathan Villeneuve
Christian Berg	Gray Rand	Mikki Venneman
Damiano Seghetti	Heidi Reynolds	Scot Simpson
Daniel Howe	James Blankenbeckler	Steve Helvey
Dave Jacobs	Jim Heytvelt	Tarelle Osborn
Devin DeBono	John McSherry	Thomas Hanrahan
Don Gourlie	Kevin Long	Tracy Gilson
Elena Fernandez	Mara Zimmerman	Call-in user x5
Emily Derenne	Marcus Storvick	
Eric Mickelson	Natasha Coumou	