



Brian Abbott Fish Barrier Removal Board – January 2024 Meeting Summary

Date: January 21, 2024

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

Location: Virtual Meeting

Summary: Formal Actions / Decisions

Item	Formal Action
Board Decision: December 2024 Meeting Notes	Approved
Board Decision: Mill Creek Barrier Improvements NE 259 th St-61 st Ave. Cost Increase Request	Approved
Board Decision: Mill Creek Passage Design Colville Cost Increase Request	Approved
Board Decision: Panther Creek Barrier Removal – Talbot Road Cost Increase Request	Not Approved

Summary: Follow-up Items and Next Steps

Item	Follow-up
Policy Subcommittee – Updates to Manual 22	The Policy Subcommittee will continue to meet monthly and provide regular updates to the Board on updates to Manual 22 prior to August 2025 on topics including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project list funding line • Project eligibility requirements • Match requirements (Match modernization)
Cost Increase Subcommittee	Monthly Cost Increase Subcommittee meetings will continue the second Wednesday of the month, 10-11 am.
Match Modernization	Axel and Carl will meet with Chair Jameson to provide a status update of the previous project list and how the Board is ranking and scoring projects for the upcoming project list, including information on the funding line and match modernization.
Fish Passage Strategy – Optimization Model Development (Ongoing)	WDFW staff are moving forward with developing the optimization model in-house with support from Cramer Fish Sciences. WDFW staff will provide updates to the Board regularly.
Funding Status Updates (Ongoing)	WDFW and RCO will keep the Board updated on the status of returned funds. A decision on whether to: 1) retain funds for cost increases, or 2) advance funds to alternates down the ranked project list is anticipated this fall/winter.
2027-2029 Grant Round (Long-term)	The Board will discuss updates to the next grant round RFP based on topics identified by Board staff.

Welcome/Introductions/Agenda Review:

Triangle Associates (Triangle) facilitator, Joy Juelson, called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Chair Thomas Jameson, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), welcomed attendees to the virtual meeting.

Joy, Triangle, facilitated introductions with Board members and staff. A quorum was present.

Old Business:

Kate Galambos, Triangle, reviewed the summary notes from the December 14, 2024, meeting and highlighted decisions and action items.

Decision: Approval of December 14 Meeting Summary

Chair Jameson made a motion to approve the December 14th meeting summary with edits made on the screen to update the cost increase request for Fletcher Bay to \$457,146. John Box seconded the motion. With no objections, the December meeting summary was approved.

Public Comment: None

Upcoming Decisions on the Manual 22 Updates, Kaylee Kautz, WDFW

Kaylee explained the upcoming anticipated decisions for the Board to consider prior to the updates to Manual 22 in August 2025. The Policy Subcommittee will meet over the upcoming months to discuss the following topics, starting with the project list funding line, and will bring recommendations to the Board.

- Project list funding line
- Project eligibility requirements
- Match requirements

Project List Funding Line

Kaylee noted that staff will consider project eligibility requirements in parallel with considering the project list funding line.

Match Modernization

In prior Board conversations regarding match modernization, Board members identified that rural cities and counties are disadvantaged because they do not have the tax revenue to provide match locally. RCO staff have also been gathering data from the 2017-2019 grant round (prior to the match requirement) to inform an updated to Manual 22. Staff will present this data during the February Cost Increase Subcommittee meeting.

The Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRF Board) has implemented match modernization already. John Foltz, RCO, noted key differences between the SRF Board and FBRB:

- SRF Board has federal funding available through NOAA's Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Funding (PCSRF)
- The Board did have access to federal funding through PROTECT (Promotion Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-saving Transportation Program) to fund the 25-27 list. It is unlikely that the Board will have access to federal funds in the future.

- Due to available funding, the Board was able to fund more projects on the 25-27 list. However, in the past, a funding line would have been unnecessary because there was not enough available funding to fund projects lower on the list.
- A project funding line could disadvantage city projects; Chair Jameson noted that Carl Schroader should be part of these conversations to represent the Association of Cities.
- Steve Manlow noted that his region, the Lower Columbia, uses a project funding line and recommended that the Board reach out to other Lead Entities to understand how they use funding lines.

The purpose of Kaylee's update was to prepare the Board; there was no required decision.

Path Forward: The Policy Subcommittee will meet monthly to discuss the topics above and bring recommendations to the Board.

Funding Status Updates

John provided an update to the Board on the status of available funds, including the Climate Commitment Act (CCA) funding. Previously, staff understood that the CCA funding could not be applied to projects that have already received capital funding, which would limit the funding to projects 71-102 on the 23-25 project list. After clarification, RCO now understands that CCA funding can be used for funding cost increase requests that have already received capital funds. The Board now has more flexibility with how use funds and can apply CCA funds to fund cost increase requests for projects that are higher on the list (not just those that are below project 70).

Projects 32-102 on the 23-25 list are eligible for CCA funds. John has not reached out to project sponsors for 101 and 102 due to the size of the requests. John will reach out to these sponsors once he has finished working with sponsors higher on the list.

Path Forward: John will continue to work with project sponsors on the 23-25 to award funding based on the funds made available by the CCA

Cost Increase Requests, John Foltz, RCO

John Foltz provided an overview of two cost increase requests along with the recommendations from the Cost Increase Subcommittee. Additionally, John walked through an additional request for a project RCO offered funding for in December, which the sponsor initially declined.

The Board has sufficient funding available to support all three requests.

- 1. 21-1393 Mill Creek Barrier Improvements NE 259th St.-61st Ave.**
 - a. Sponsor: Clark County
 - b. Requested Cost Increase: \$98,260
 - c. Cost increase largely due to inflation

Decision: Approve 21-1393 Mill Creek Barrier Improvements NE 259th St.-61st Ave. Cost Increase

Steve Manlow made a motion to approve \$98,260 for the Mill Creek improvements cost increase request. Chair Jameson seconded the motion. The cost increase was approved.

- 2. 21-1504 Panther Creek Barrier Removal – Talbot Road**
 - a. Sponsor: City of Renton
 - b. Requested Cost Increase: \$950,000

- c. Cost increase request due to better understanding of the project site based on completion and review of design alternatives.

Decision: Do Not Approve 21-1504 Panther Creek Barrier Removal – Talbot Road Cost Increase

Chair Jameson a motion to waive the requirement of final design for the project sponsor to allow to rescope the project using the existing funding and not approve the cost increase request. The Board will revisit the request at June 2025 cost increase subcommittee meeting. Erik N. seconded the motion to approve.

Additional Request: 21-1433 Mill Creek Passage Design Colville to 3rd

- Sponsor: Tri-State Steelheaders (Salmon Enhancement Group)
- Requested Funding: \$196,000
- The sponsor was initially offered CCA funding and declined. The sponsor returned and asked for funding after further consideration.

Decision: Approval of funding for 21-1433 Mill Creek Passage Design Colville to 3rd

Chair Jameson made a motion to approve funding for project 21-1433 Mill Creek Passage Design Colville to 3rd for \$196,000. Erik seconded the motion. The funding was approved.

Fish Passage Strategy Update, Jane Atha, WDFW

Jane Atha gave a brief update on the status of the Fish Passage Strategy:

- The Fish Passage Strategy project team met with WDFW GIS staff on Friday, January 17 to start developing the optimization model.
- WDFW staff decided to pilot the tool on one watershed – the Stillaguamish – which was chosen because there are two hydrography layers available for the watershed.
- The Strategy has an updated description on how it will be implemented, which reflects the presentation the Board heard from the Fish Passage Prioritization Strategy project team in spring 2024.

Upcoming Opportunities for Engagement, Chair Jameson, WDFW

- Washington Legislative session began on Monday, January 13th. Members identified HB 1288 as a bill to track. The proposed bill aims to amend the priorities of the CCA and does not name the FBRB. See bill information here: [HB 1288 – 2025-26](#)
- Puget Sound Partnership (PSP) hosts a weekly legislative update call on Fridays. See information here: [2025 Legislative Updates](#)
- Yakima Nation is working on a project with NOAA funding with 3 dam diversion projects as pass through projects.
- The Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office, [Salmon Recovery Conference](#) has been cancelled due to the state travel freeze.

Next Meeting: The next FBRB meeting is scheduled for February 18th, virtually.

Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Board Members/Alternates:

Jeannie Abbott, GSRO	Steve Manlow, Council of Regions
Axel Swanson, WA Association of Counties	Susan Eugenis, Cowlitz County
Erik Neatherlin, GSRO	Thomas Jameson, WDFW
John Box, Colville Confederated Tribes	Tim Resseguie, Yakama Nation
Kaylee Kautz, WDFW	Susan Kanzler, WSDOT

WDFW, RCO Staff and Triangle Facilitation Team:

Alice Rubin, RCO	Casey Costello, WDFW
Daniel Coffman, WDFW	Gabrielle Stilwater, WDFW
Jane Atha, WDFW	Christy Rains, RCO
Joel Ingram, WDFW	John Foltz, RCO
Josh Lambert, RCO	Joy Juelson, Triangle Associates
Elizabeth Butler, RCO	Molly Borgaard, WDFW
Tim Young, WDFW	Kate Galambos, Triangle Associates
David Collin, WDFW	Adam Fleming, WDFW

Others observing:

Tracy Gilson	Brett DeMond	Matthew Miskovic
Evan Lewis		