



Brian Abbott Fish Barrier Removal Board – October 2024 Meeting Summary

Date: October 1, 2024

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

Location: In-Person/Virtual Hybrid Meeting, Omak Washington

Summary: Formal Actions / Decisions

Item	Formal Action
Board Decision: August 2024 Meeting Notes	Approved
Board Decision: W. Beeville Road Cost Increase Request	Approved

Summary: Follow-up Items and Next Steps

Item	Follow-up
Technical Review Team (TRT) Process Info Session	WDFW will convene an <u>informational session</u> to give an overview of the Technical Review Team (TRT) process and the role of the Board.
Policy Subcommittee – Fish Passage Strategy Implementation	The Policy Subcommittee will convene in October 2024 to brainstorm the role of the Board in implementation of the Strategy now that the formal outreach phase has concluded.
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.
Padden Creek Cost Increase Request (Ongoing)	Cost Increase Subcommittee will work with the project sponsor to increase A&E funding to help reach final design by reallocating their current reward.
2027-2029 Grant Round (Long-term)	The Board will discuss updates to the next grant round RFP based on topics identified by Board staff.
Match Modernization (On Hold)	The Board will continue to monitor the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB)'s implementation of match modernization and consider updating the Board match requirements for future grant rounds.

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. Chair Jameson opened the meeting, which was hosted both in-person and virtually at the 12 Tribes Casino Hotel in Omak, WA and online.

Kate Galambos with Triangle facilitated introductions with Board members and staff. A quorum was present.

Old Business:

Joy reviewed the notes from the August 27, 2024, meeting.

Decision: Approval of August 2024 Meeting Summary

Chair Jameson made a motion to approve the August meeting summary. Erik Neatherlin seconded the motion. With no objections, the August meeting summary was approved.

Public Comment: None

Overview of the Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board's Prioritization Tool- Ryan Niemeyer, Ph.D., Science Program Manager

Joy introduced Ryan Niemeyer, Ph.D., Science Program Manager at Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board as an additional guest for the meeting to help ground the Board and staff in the local context and salmon recovery work.

Ryan gave an overview of the latest work of the Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board (UCSRB) including their update to the Upper Columbia Prioritization Tool. The tool prioritizes the stream reaches in the region by habitat limiting factors for species of concern to inform restoration projects. The region is now working on updating the tool, which was last updated in 2018. John Foltz noted that the UCSRB was a leader in developing prioritization schemas for other groups, including the Yakima Basin Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board.

The tool is available online here: <https://www.ucsrb.org/science-resources/prioritization/>

Update: Board Policy on Funding Projects with Unmet Technical Review Criteria

Facilitator introduced the topic as a policy-level discussion on the role of the Board in the Technical Review Team (TRT) criteria and decision making. The TRT guides the Board with technical expertise. It is important that the Board understands their relationship with the TRT as a recent restoration project highlighted the need for more clarity. Kaylee Kautz, WDFW, spoke to a recent project sponsored by King County that did not meet the TRT and RCO grant requirements. Due to unmet TRT criteria, RCO cannot fund the project, although the sponsor has already initiated construction due to time constraints. This situation is unique and marks the first time RCO has had to deny funding to a project. Kaylee emphasized this as an opportunity for the Board to gain a deeper understanding of the TRT criteria and to consider a policy for future situations.

Questions/Discussion:

- The decision not to fund this project serves as guidance for similar situations going forward.
- The King County project was approved through the hydraulic project approval (HPA). Board members had questions about the difference between the HPA criteria and the TRT criteria.
- RCO Manual 22 outlines the role of the Board in the TRT process.

Path Forward:

- WFDW will organize an informational session to explain the relationship between the TRT process and the HPA.
- The Board will convene a procurement work group to revisit the criteria for evaluating projects.

Decision: Cost Increase Request – W. Beeville Road (21-1489) – John Foltz, RCO

John Foltz, RCO, introduced one cost increase request:

- Sponsor: Trout Unlimited
- \$223,700 request cost increase for design
- Cost increase due to inflation and the unplanned cost of hiring an outside consultant to complete design work.
- John noted that this was a straightforward request and the cost increase subcommittee recommended approval.

Decision: Approval of the W. Beeville Road Cost Increase Request

Erik Neatherlin made a motion to approve the cost increase request for W. Beeville Road. Chair Jameson seconded the motion. The motion to approve the \$223,700 cost increase for the W. Beeville Road project, based on the subcommittee's recommendation, carried.

Discussion: Publication of Draft Fish Passage Prioritization Strategy –Jane Atha, WDFW

Jane Atha, WDFW Fish Passage Strategist, presented an update to the Board on the status of the Fish Passage Prioritization Strategy. Jane had presented on the Strategy at previous meetings, most recently on **July 16th**. She provided an overview of the Strategies current status, noting that the draft Strategy is now available for public comment on the [WDFW website](#).

Outreach to date has included:

- Three Tribal Briefings, one in spring 2023 prior to drafting the strategy, and two in July 2024 to during the review of the draft Strategy.
- One briefing to the Council of Regions
- One-on-one meetings with Tribes as requested
- Invitations to all salmon recovery regions for one-on-one meetings with the project team, four regional groups participated.

- Two hybrid forums open to the public; one in Seattle on September 18th, one in Wenatchee on October 2nd.

Chair Jameson noted the intent of the Strategy’s purpose is to inform statewide funding agencies. At this project stage, the Science Panel has recommended a method/tool. Now, the Board will convene a subcommittee (involving the TRT) to review the implementation of the Strategy. The Board could use the Strategy to identify barriers, target inventory work, and coordinate with sponsors.

Questions and Discussion:

- Some Board members voiced concerns that the strategy might promote a top-down approach, where the Board or funding agencies direct sponsors toward specific projects instead of allowing sponsors to propose projects for funding.
- Steve Manlow, Council of Regions, noted that some of the recovery regions have raise significant concerns about how the strategy aligns with federally adopted recovery plans.
- Some Board members suggested characterizing the document as a tool rather than a Strategy to minimize confusion.
 - Jane noted that the first step in developing the strategy is creating the optimization model for statewide application. The second step will be using the tool to identify the areas across the state that require more data, funding, etc.
- Erik Neatherlin, GSRO, emphasized the importance of working collaboratively with Tribes to implement the strategy.
- Board members agreed that the strategy provides an opportunity for agencies and programs to think about how to collaborate moving forward.

Inventory Assessment Interviews – Greer Maier, Governors Salmon Recovery Office

Greer Maier, Science Coordinator GSRO, presented initial findings from interviews with regional salmon recovery organizations. At the spring 2024 Salmon Recovery Board meeting, staff highlighted a need for better understanding of how confident organizations were about their local barrier inventory datasets. Since then, Greer has interviewed 22 Lead Entity representatives.

Initial findings include:

- Most lead entities have robust data, although staff are not confident these data are part of the WDFW Fish Passage and Diversion Screening Inventory (FPDSI) database.
- Most entities are already conducting inventories, and those that are not, would like to

Path Forward: GSRO will provide a more complete update of the inventory assessment interviews at a future Board meeting when they are complete, including a table of results.

Upcoming Opportunities for Engagement

- Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office, Salmon Recovery Conference
 - April 28-30, 2025
 - Early Bird Registration: January 6 – February 9, 2025*
 - Standard Registration: February 10 – April 7, 2025*

Other Updates

- **Chair Jameson's Update on Fish Passage Rulemaking:** Chair Jameson provided an update on the final rulemaking process for fish passage. WDFW anticipates that rulemaking will take place in early 2025.
- **Legislative Engagement Opportunities**
Once the ranked list is submitted to the legislature, there will be further opportunities for engagement.

Wrap Up

Next Meeting: The October 14th FBRB meeting was cancelled following this meeting. The next FBRB meeting is scheduled for November 19th virtually.

Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m. The Board moved to site tours in Riverside, Washington.

ATTENDANCE

Board Members/Alternates:

April Magrane, Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT)	Erik Neatherlin, Governor's Salmon Recovery Office (GSRO)
Carl Schroeder, Association of Washington Cities (AWC)	Steve Manlow, Council of Regions
Chair Thomas Jameson, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)	Susan Eugenis, Washington State Association of Counties (WSAC)
John Box, Colville Tribes	Tim Resseguie, Yakima Nation
Susan Kanzler, Washington State Department of Transportation	Axel Swanson, WSAC
Kaylee Kautz, WDFW	Karen Zirkle, Washington Department of Natural Resources
Jeannie Abbott, GSRO	

WDFW, RCO Staff and Triangle Facilitation Team:

Casey Costello, WDFW	Molly Borgaard, WDFW
Daniel Coffman, WDFW	Alice Rubin, Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO)
David Collins, WDFW	Christy Rains, RCO
Timothy Young, WDFW	Kate Galambos, Facilitation Support
Joel Ingram, WDFW	Joy Juelson, Facilitation Support
Josh Lambert, RCO	Christy Rains, RCO
Alice Rubin, RCO	John Foltz, RCO
Gabrielle Stilwater, WDFW	David Collins, WDFW
Jane Atha, WDFW	Samual Harris, WDFW

Others observing:

Brett Swift	Ryan Niemeyer	Brett DeMond
Greer Maier		