

Fish Barrier Removal Board – Meeting Notes

Date: May 18, 2021

Place: Online Meeting

Summary: Agenda items with formal action

Item	Formal Action
Meeting notes from April 2021	Approved
Proposal for different sequencing of the Sexton Creek project, including using a temporary roughened channel.	Approved
Sexton Creek cost increase request of \$60,112 and time extension of one year.	Approved
Allow determination of 15% match for Johnson Creek at State Street project to include the other projects along this creek sponsored by Trout Unlimited.	Approved

Summary: Follow-up actions

Item	Follow-up
Discuss how decisions are made on requests for cost increases	Subcommittee meeting will be scheduled for June.

Welcome/Introductions/Agenda Review: Facilitator Neil Aaland called the meeting to order at 9:00. Neil called on FBRB members and alternates and asked them to introduce themselves. A quorum was present. Neil noted an additional item for the agenda – a discussion/action item on match for previously approved project on Johnson Creek in Okanogan County.

Public Comment: No public comments were received.

Old Business: The meeting notes for the April meeting were approved as submitted.

Updates

Budget: The final approved budget for the FBRB is \$26.8 million, which funds the first 21 projects. Projects 22-87 were listed as alternates, which helps with flexibility in funding. 3% of funding goes to RCO for their costs, 4.12% goes to WDFW for their staff work.

Jane Wall: Jane has left WSAC and is going to the County Road Administration Board (CRAB) as their Executive Director.

Facilitation RFQQ: Triangle Associates is the successful bidder. Their contract will start June 1 to allow an overlap with Neil’s last month. They will jointly facilitate the June meeting. Joy Juelson will be the lead facilitator for Triangle.

Proviso: Due date for report to legislature is June 30. Margen Carlsen is going to prepare a draft with Tom and Matt helping. Tom plans to ask for an FTE for the upcoming biennium. He anticipates work on the proviso will go on well into the next biennium. The report will primarily include policy recommendations. Erik asked what level of coordination has/will occur; Tom will get a small group of FBRB members together to discuss. John Foltz noted that more funding will be needed to make progress and suggested that expectation-setting should be a part of this. Carl agrees about funding; we will need to increase the pace. The 2023 session might be the best timing for the funding issue.

Project Issues - Cost increases, time extensions

- *Sexton Creek – consideration for a temporary roughened channel:* Tom explained this project is close to the WSDOT right-of-way (ROW). This adds complexity for the project. The county is proposing a temporary roughened channel be installed. The county would maintain it for five years, then DOT would take over maintenance until such time as they repair their culverts, and the temporary roughened channel will be removed. Tracy Gibson with Snohomish County reviewed the original grant language. They have found that the creek is actually artificial. Culverts under Sexton Road were too high, and the ends of their pipes extend onto DOT ROW. Their options are limited.

John Foltz asked about other options and how long “temporary” would mean. Julie Groebelny said temporary is up to ten years. Tribes support a temporary roughened channel but not a permanent one. Other comments and questions:

- The temporary nature would meet fish passage requirements
- Tom says this is about funding a design for a temporary fix; he supports this
- John asked whether a final design would also be included; Tracy said the phase 2 will be a DOT responsibility
- All groups have agreed on this phased approach to a long term problem

A motion was made to approve this sequencing of the project as presented. The motion was approved.

- *Sexton Creek – cost increase and time extension:* The request is for an additional \$60,192 cost increase and a time extension of one year for the project discussed earlier. Funding is available. It was noted that the Board will be having a discussion in the next several months about future cost increases. Erik Neatherlin wants to participate in the subcommittee discussing this issue. A motion was made to approve a cost increase of \$60,192 and a time extension of one year; the motion was approved.
- *Johnson Creek and State Street (Okanogan County):* Tom explained that the additional \$248,000 approved for this project at the last meeting has resulted in an issue with match requirements. The required match is 15%; this additional funding means the project only has 10.85% of required match. The question: do we approve a match waiver or require them to find the additional funding for match? Marc Duboiski, RCO said options include allowing 10.85% match. A second option is to look at the sponsor’s other projects as a unit. If that is done over four projects along this creek then the match requirement can be met. Board discussion was supportive of this approach.

A motion was made to allow the match to be determined over the projects on this stream sponsored by Trout Unlimited. The motion was approved. This will be added to grant agreements as an amendment.

Upcoming opportunities for engagement

- Tom noted that he and several others met with Senator Erickson in Whatcom County. The Senator had questions about projects and how they helped salmon; he was particularly interested in investing in repairs for dry channels. Matt and Tom think his concerns have been allayed.
- Tom will have a subcommittee meeting in June to discuss issues around cost increases. John Foltz wants to participate. He thinks we need to also reach out to sponsors.

Adjourn: Meeting adjourned at approximately 11:05 am.

Next meeting: Tuesday, June 15, 2021 – online meeting

ATTENDANCE

Board Members/Alternates:

Carl Schroeder, Association of WA Cities	Matt Curtis, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)
Erik Neatherlin, Governor’s Salmon Recovery Office (GSRO)	Joe Shramek, Department of Natural Resources (DNR)
Jeannie Abbott, GSRO	Susan Eugenis, WA State Association of Counties (WSAC) (Cowlitz Co.)
John Foltz, Council of Regions, Snake River Salmon Recovery Board (SRSRB)	Tom Jameson, Chair - WDFW
Tim Ressegiue, Yakama Indian Nation	

Staff:

Adam Fleming	Gabrielle Stilwater
Alison Hart	Julie Groebelny
Dave Collins	Neil Aaland, Facilitator
Dave Caudill, RCO	

Others observing:

Alice Rubin, Recreation and Conservation Office	Evan Lewis	Morgan, Coast Salish Lands
Christian Berg	Gretchen Glaub	Steve Helvey
Daniel Howe	James Blankenbeckler	Theo Burgoon
	John Herrmann	Tracy Gilson
Dawn Nolan	Kevin Long, NOSC	Call-in user (2)
Elena Fernandez	Marc Duboiski, Recreation and Conservation Office	