

Fish Barrier Removal Board – Meeting Notes

Date: April 20, 2021

Place: Online Meeting

Summary: Agenda items with formal action

Item	Formal Action
Meeting notes from March 2021	Approved with correction
Provide additional funding of up to \$248,892.00 to Johnson Creek project at State Street	Approved
Provide additional funding of \$60,000 for Dickerson Creek to Kitsap CD	Approved
Change requirement of coordinating with another barrier look back from 5 to 10 years in Partnership pathway	Approved

Summary: Follow-up actions

Item	Follow-up
Discuss how decisions are made on requests for cost increases	Schedule for upcoming meeting

Welcome/Introductions/Agenda Review: Facilitator Neil Aaland called the meeting to order at 9:00. Tom Jameson introduced new member Tim Ressig, representing the Yakama Nation. Neil called on FBRB members and alternates and asked them to introduce themselves. A quorum was present.

Public Comment: No public comments were received.

Old Business: The meeting notes for the March meeting were approved as corrected (addition of Dave Caudill as attending).

Updates

Tom reviewed the proposed budget. Senate is higher for FBRB projects (\$38,469,000). LEAP lists show what projects are funded in each budget. He noted that the provisos are tasks tacked on to budgets. Money from last biennium was suspended pending financial impacts of Covid-19. He was told in January they could spend the funding. Issued RFQ to hire a firm to help; no firms submitted due to timing. The three tasks were to summarize what was done; develop an outreach plan; and write a final report. There were no applicants. Margen is going to prepare a draft with Tom and Matt helping. Tom plans to ask for an FTE for the upcoming biennium. He also plans to ask for help with finishing the Rulewriting, need to fund a Small Business Economic Impact Statement (SBEIS).

In response to a question, Tom explained the status of culvert inventories. DFW maintains an inventory, there are 15,000 sites in the database. DFW has field crews which are primarily funded by contracts. DOT, AWC, and WSAC all have contracts with DFW to provide 9 field crews.

He was asked about the process of considering cost increases. FBRB mirrors RCO's delegation authority – if less than \$100,000 and 10% or less of total cost, Tom can approve. Otherwise, it comes to the Board for approval. He noted that cost increases are coming more often. He wants to schedule a discussion on handling cost increases at the June meeting. Things to consider include whether it is first come first served or only consider cost increases at certain times of the year. He noted there is no separate funding for cost increases. John Foltz noted that Wendy Brown from RCO had some thoughts on structuring lists,

perhaps we can discuss her ideas. Susan Eugenis noted they try to fund cost increases internally and keep things moving.

Tom mentioned that Neil is retiring at the end of June so there is an RFQQ out for a new facilitator. Due date is April 28; they received a lot of questions about the position. There will be a one month overlap with Neil and the new facilitator. Casey suggested a Board member be included in the review team. Any member interested e-mail Tom and Matt by close of business on Monday, April 26.

Cost increases and change in criteria

- *Johnson Creek and State Street (Okanogan County)*: This was held over from the last meeting. It is in the town of Riverside. The request is for an additional \$248,892; funding is available. An internal DFW staff review is to fund this request. A motion was made to approve the request; passed unanimously.
- *Pilchuck – Catherine Creek*: This is for information only; no Board decision needed. There were design concerns. The whole project is out of phase. Need to complete the design and then stop work until next steps are determined.
- *Dickerson Creek (Chico Creek drainage), partnership pathway project*. Late last week Tom received cost increase letter for \$60,000. Project sponsor is Kitsap CD, request is \$60,000. Tom recommends approval. A motion was made, seconded, and approved for this request.
- *Change in criteria*: Matt gave background on proposal to change from 5-year look back to 10-year look back regarding requirement for coordination with another barrier removal. This is for the Partnership (coordinated) pathway. Staff is recommending this change. Motion made, seconded, and approved to make this change.

Presentation: Near Term Action (NTA) in Puget Sound Action Agenda

Christy Raines and Ryan Gatchell, WDFW, presented this item. A new prioritization tool for the fish passage map has been developed. They provided a powerpoint presentation with more details. Questions and comments:

- Erik Neatherlin asked how this is coordinated with inventory activities? [They are talking with people doing inventories and providing information directly]
- John Foltz asked if the data is exportable? [Yes, data is already available]
- Mary McDonald asked if they are coordinating with DNR on improving stream locations [They are working only with national data; not at this time with DNR]
- Paul Wagner is excited about this additional information

Presentation: Update of “Extinction is Not an Option”

Erik Neatherlin presented this item. This was first adopted in 1999. The overall 1999 strategy will stay in place. They are several additional priorities. Timeline is to have this new version to the Governor’s office by June of this year. He showed a powerpoint presentation with greater details.

Upcoming opportunities for engagement

- Tom noted that several Board members will be meeting with Senator Doug Ericksen in the first week of May. He wants to discuss certain stream crossings.
- Rep. Debra Lekanoff has been nominated as the EPA Region X director
- Erik said that Puget Sound Day in WA DC is this Friday; he also reminded members about the upcoming Salmon Recovery conference April 28-30.

Adjourn: Meeting adjourned at approximately 11:45am.

Next meeting: Tuesday, May 18, 2021 – online meeting

ATTENDANCE

Board Members/Alternates:

Casey Baldwin, The Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation	Matt Curtis, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)
Erik Neatherlin, Governor's Salmon Recovery Office (GSRO)	Paul Wagner, Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT)
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	Mary McDonald, Department of Natural Resources (DNR)

Staff:

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

Others observing:

Andy Obst	Eric Doyle	Steve Helvey
Alice Rubin, Recreation and Conservation Office	Evan Lewis	Steve Hinton
Cade Roler, WSDOT	Heidi Reynolds	Tech support
Cheryl Baumann	Jon Fulton	Theo Burgoon
Christian Berg	Kevin Long, NOSC	Tracy Gilson
Daniel Howe	Mara Zimmerman, Coast Salmon Partnership	Whitney Reynier
Dave Caudill	Matthew Miskovic	Call-in user (1)
Dawn Nolan	Richard Vacirca	