



Meeting handouts

September 21, 2021

General updates

- Fish passage and screening rulemaking

Board update on project evaluation scoring criteria

- Evaluation scoring criteria

Project cost increase requests

- Revised cost increase course of action

Option to convene policy subcommittee

- Proposal to convene a policy subcommittee
- Subcommittee idea list

Fish Passage Rulemaking Update

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Updates:

- SEPA Process
- Finalize draft language
- Follow and execute Administrative Procedures Act (APA) standards
- Updated Timeline

DNS with Expanded Checklist					
CR-101 filed	CR-101 Published	Publish CR-102	FWC Hearing	File CR-103	Rule Effective Date
6/17/2020	7/1/2020	3/16 to 4/20/2022	4/14 to 6/10/2022	First: 4/20/2022 Last: 10/20/2022	First: 5/21/2022 Last: 11/20/2022



Brian Abbott Fish Barrier Removal Board

2023 - 2025 Grant Program

DRAFT Proposal Scoring Criteria - 180 points possible



Question 1: Is the targeted structure federally owned? (Automatic Eligibility Question)	
Not scored	
Question 2: Is any part of the scope of work included in this application required as mitigation for another project or action or court injunction? E.g. FERC relicensing, Habitat Conservation Plan, legal settlement, culvert injunction, etc. (Automatic Eligibility Question)	
Not scored	
Question 3: Are there total barriers to fish passage downstream of the proposed project? (Automatic Eligibility Question)	
Not scored	
Question 4: Are there anadromous species that currently or historically use the stream where this project is proposed to occur? (Automatic Eligibility Question)	
Not scored	
Question 5: Project description.	
Not scored	
Question 6: Does the proposed fish passage barrier have a FPDSI Site ID?	
Not scored	
Question 7: When was the last barrier evaluation and downstream check conducted for the proposed barrier correction worksite(s)? Please provide an overview of the barrier evaluation and downstream check results (for example: The culvert was evaluated in 2014 and determined to be a 33% passable slope barrier. There are no barriers downstream.)	
Not scored	
Question 8: What is the passability of the existing fish passage barrier?	
10 points possible	
0% passability	10 points
33% passability	7 points
67% passability	3 points
Unknown passability (applicant must demonstrate that the structure is a barrier)	1 point
Question 9: Are there barriers downstream of the proposed project?	
10 points possible	
No downstream barriers	10 points
Single downstream partial barrier (67% or 33% passability)	5 points
More than 1 downstream partial barrier (67% or 33% passability)	0 points
Question 10: How many miles of anadromous salmonid habitat will be made accessible upstream of the targeted fish passage barrier?	
15 points possible (Calculated as upstream miles to first barrier (partial or full))	
0.00 - 0.24 miles	1 point
0.25 - 0.49 miles	2 points
0.50 - 0.74 miles	3 points
0.75 - 0.99 miles	4 points
1.00 - 1.24 miles	5 points

1.24 - 1.49 miles	6 points
1.50 - 1.74 miles	7 points
1.74 - 1.99 miles	8 points
2.00 - 2.99 miles	9 points
3.00 - 3.99 miles	10 points
4.00 - 4.99 miles	11 points
5.00 - 5.99 miles	12 points
6.00 - 7.99 miles	13 points
8.00 - 10.99 miles	14 points
≥ 11.00 miles	15 points
Question 11: For targeted ESU species you listed in the grid above that will benefit from this project, is presence documented or presumed? (Please identify source of this information)	
7 points possible	
Chinook	2 points
Sockeye	1 point
Pink	1 point
Coho	1 point
Steelhead	1 point
Chum	1 point
Question 12: If Chinook are present are the stocks important to Southern Resident Killer Whales (SRKW)? (Source info NOAA paper)	
8 points possible	
Chinook are present, run is important to SRKW	8 points
Chinook are present, but run is not known to be important to SRKW	5 points
Chinook are not present	0 points
Question 13: How does the proposed project contribute to an approved recovery plan? Please note whether it is included in a Lead Entity's workplan or Planned Project Forecast list and provide a letter of support from the local Lead Entity if possible.	
10 points possible	
Specifically called out in Lead Entity's workplan or Planned Project Forecast list	10 points
Specifically called out in another non-ESA salmon recovery related plan (e.g. local planning)	4 points
Project located in a watershed where fish passage is an identified priority in a Lead Entity approved plan	2 point
Question 14: Describe the existing in-stream and riparian habitat condition at the project location as well as downstream and upstream of the project and list expected changes to this condition post-project (describe land use if instream conditions are unknown). Discuss factors related to water quality improvements, access to/creation of viable rearing resources (i.e., prey production/abundance, cover habitat, water temperature), access to suitable spawning gravels, and/or cold water refugia.	
20 points possible	
Two points per beneficial condition. Examples of things that could receive points: Riparian and thermal cover present, beneficial substrates present, instream cover and refugia present, habitat complexity, channel sinuosity, large wood present.	0-20 points

Question 15: The following questions relate to the project design.

- How does the project design meet WDFW's Water Crossing Design Guidelines?
- Will abandonment of the water crossing be considered? Explain answer.
- Will realignment of the road approach and barrier correction be considered to address site constraints of the barrier correction? Explain answer.

10 points possible

Described how project will meet Water Crossing Design Guidance	0-5 points
Proposed project is abandoning a crossing	5 points
Proposed project is realigning to provide full-span structure	3 points
Addressed abandonment/realignment but not appropriate/possible	1 point

Question 16: Describe how the project addresses the anticipated effects of climate change by answering the following:

- How will your project be climate resilient given future conditions?
- How will your project increase habitat and species adaptability?

5 points possible

Described how project addresses future climate change and adaptability	0-5 points
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Question 17: Describe how the project is cost-effective in terms of cost and biological benefit.

10 points possible

Provided project budget is reasonable	2 points
Low cost relative to predicted benefits	4 points
Sponsor has clearly leveraged available resources to reduce costs and maximize benefits	4 points

Question 18: Describe the sponsor's experience managing this type of project and other projects where the sponsor has successfully used a similar approach.

5 points possible

Experienced sponsor with multiple successfully completed restoration projects	5 points
Sponsor with at least one successfully completed restoration project	3 points
New sponsor	1 point

Question 19: Describe the level of readiness of the proposed project.

20 points possible

Landowner willingness	2 points
Completed conceptual or preliminary designs that meet Water Crossing Design Guidelines (WCDG) as verified by TRT.	2 points
Active permit applications or well laid out permit schedule (cultural resources, Corps permits, FPA/HPA, ESA consultation, etc.)	4 points
Resource commitments identified (match)	2 points
Additional points possible for restoration projects (i.e., construction) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 60% to Final Designs • Permits in hand 	5 points 5 points

Question 20: Geographic coordination: Briefly describe other barrier correction or fish habitat restoration projects which have occurred since 2010 or are funded for implementation by 2025.

Provide maps:

- On the same stream as the proposed project.
- Within the same HUC-12 watershed as the proposed project. (See WA HUC watershed layer on DFW barrier mapping tool [Washington State Fish Passage](#))

15 points possible	
Two points for each project on the same stream up to 10 points	0-10 points
One point for each project within the same HUC-12 up to 5 points	0-5 points
Question 21: Organizational coordination: Does your project coordinate with another fish passage project in this watershed by sharing development, funding, or other activities?	
5 points possible	
Yes, to one or more of the above	5 points
Yes, to one of the above	3 points
No	0 points
Question 22: Does the proposed project occur in a designated FBRB Priority Watershed?	
20 points possible	
Project is ranked number 1 in a statewide approved priority watershed	20 points
Project is ranked number 2 in a statewide approved priority watershed	10 points
Project is located in a statewide approved priority watershed	5 points
Project is not in a statewide approved priority watershed	0 Points
Accessibility weighted habitat: To be scored by TRT	
10 points possible	
Points assigned via normalized ranking of habitat gains. Top 10% of projects will receive 10 points, projects in top 11-20% will receive 9 points, 21-30% 8 points, etc.	10 points

Draft FBRB Cost Increase Guidance (Revised 9-20-2021)

Guidance to Project Sponsors and Applicants:

1. The FBRB does not receive additional funds from the legislature for cost increases. As a result, there is no dedicated funding source for cost increase requests which limits opportunities for cost increases. (See FBRB Manual 22, pg. 25).
2. Create construction budgets based on construction year and not on current year costs, plan for increased costs, and develop your budget accordingly.
3. Seek early bids to secure a contractor and get under contract to provide budget certainty by locking in costs.
4. Do not delay project construction as this could lead to increased costs.
5. Get projects under construction so that unknown potential costs can be identified early. Cost increases will likely be more readily available for the earliest requests.
6. Regular communication with your grant manager is important to convey potential issues that could necessitate a cost increase.

FBRB Considerations:

1. Cost increases are considered based on available funding and on a first come first served basis.
2. If the cost increase is under \$100K and/or less than 10% of the amount of funding awarded to the project the Board chair will decide on the request. If a cost increase is greater than \$100K or 10% of the funded amount the Board cost-increase subcommittee will convene to evaluate requests and determine if the request should be put before the Board for a decision. The subcommittee reviews the cost increase request materials and discusses the request with RCO grant managers, the WDFW technical review team, and project sponsor to determine if the request should go the Board or a decision can be made by the subcommittee. If it is determined the request should go to the Board the subcommittee will make a recommendation to the Board for a decision at a regular meeting.

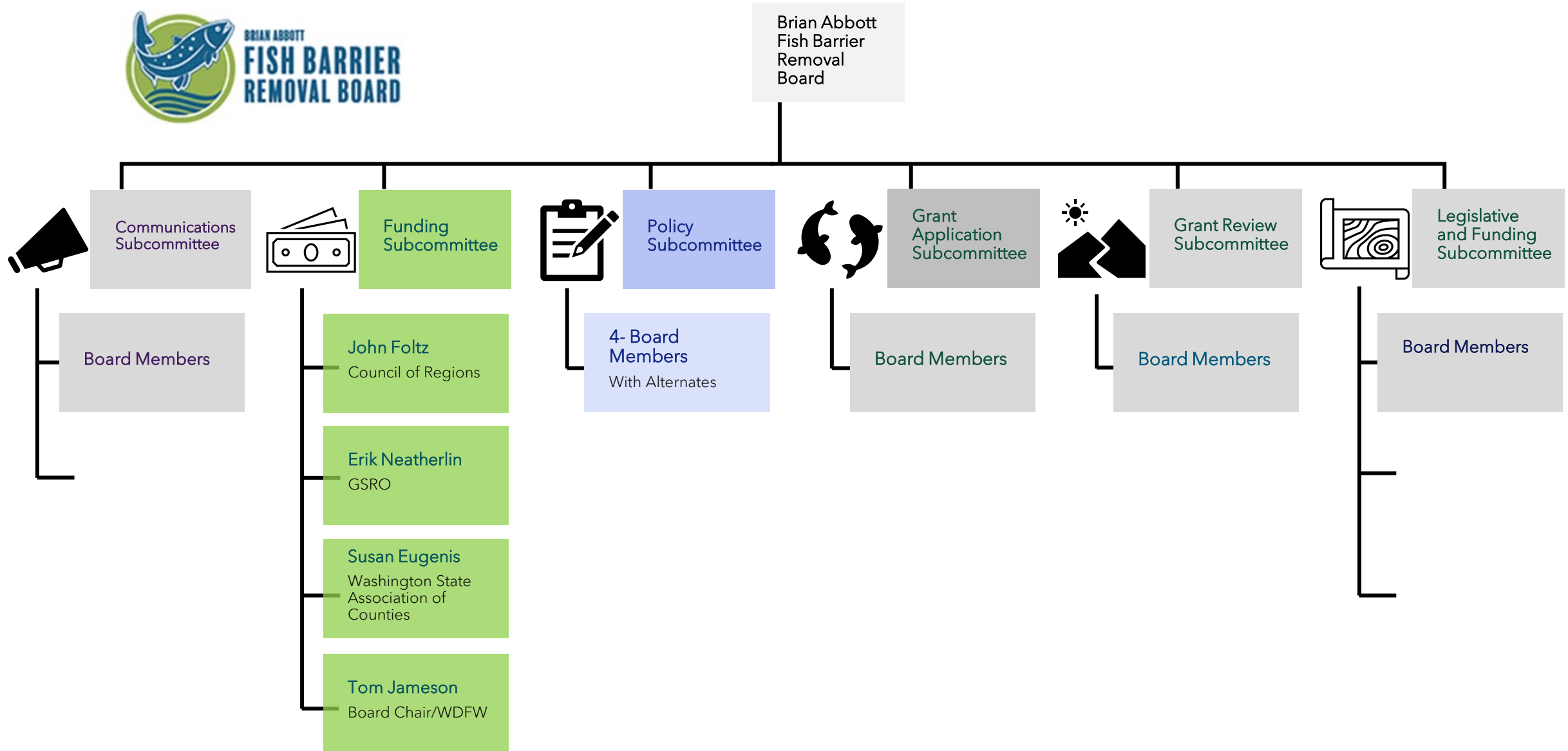
Cost Increase Process:

1. After prior communication with the grant manager (GM) and TRT member assigned to the project, the project sponsor submits a cost increase request form.
2. The project sponsor discusses their need for a cost increase with their grant manager and TRT biologist then submits their request to RCO for consideration.
 - a. If the requested amount is less than \$100k or 10%, the Board Chair can approve the request with Vice-Chair, TRT, and GM support.
 - b. If the cost is greater than \$100k or 10%, it will require Board approval. The request will then go to cost-increase subcommittee for consideration. After the cost-increase subcommittee considers the proposal, a recommendation will be made to the full Board.
3. Grant manager prepares cost-increase request and submits to Board Chair based on the guidance above.
4. Cost-increase subcommittee convenes.

FBRB Cost Increase Strategy Subgroup Meeting COA Recommendations
(Revised v.09.13.21)

- a. The subcommittee includes the chair and/or vice-chair, the GM, members of the TRT, and two to three Board members. Participation by the project sponsor and subcontractors may be required.
- b. The subcommittee will use the following guidance to consider cost increase requests:
 - i. Can the project be phased or scaled?
 - ii. Is the project in design stage or under construction? Priority will be given for construction projects and/or time sensitive needs.
 - iii. Is the cost increase supported by TRT/Grant Manager?
 - iv. Does the cost increase impact the cost-benefit analysis of the project?
 - v. What is the nature and circumstances of the request? Is it situational, an underestimation of project costs, or is it an emergency request?
 - vi. Evaluation of the amount requested against the initial estimate and implement a percentage cap on requests (<50% of initial estimate). If the request is above this cap, the project sponsor needs to consider alternative sources of funding or return for the next grant round to request additional funding as needed.
 - vii. What are the ramifications of denying the cost increase request?
- c. A recommendation will be made to the full Board from the subcommittee with summary supporting justification.

FBRB Subcommittee Structure



Policy Subcommittee Draft Proposal

Purpose: To discuss, review and tee-up policy and procedures for Board decisions

Topics:

Policy issues include topics identified by the Board

- How to handle project cost increases
- Barriers not included in RCWs (e.g., tide gates, off-road barriers)
- Proviso Statewide Strategy and outcomes
- New arising issues

Guidelines:

- Board members will meet and have work sessions as requested by the Board
- Board members will discuss policy issues and bring back recommendations to the full Board for decisions
- Subcommittees will consist of four Board members or less

Next Steps:

- The Board recommended developing two subcommittees:
 - 1) A Proviso subcommittee focused on the Proviso and Statewide Strategy
 - 2) A pop-up policy subcommittee to address policy issues when they arise
- Board support staff will send out a poll to Board gage interest these subcommittees

FBRB Subcommittee Ideas

Policy committee

- Review policy and procedures for board decisions
 - How to handle project cost increases
 - Barriers not included in RCWs (e.g., tide gates, off-road barriers)
 - Proviso outcomes
 - New arising issues

Grant application committee

- Review/update grant application prior to new grant round
- Assist with edits to FBRB grant manual(s)
- Confirm posts on RCO and FBRB websites

Grant review committee

- Board members assign staff from their respective organizations to review grant proposals
- Review and score project proposals
- Coordinate with WDFW on standardizing a process for reviewing applications

Legislative and Funding committee

- Coordinate messaging for all board members
 - Talking points
- Coordinate with member entities to ensure consistent message/legislative ask
- Legislative tours

Outreach committee

- Establish relationships with member entities' communications professionals to highlight board's work
- Drafting promotional messaging for social media
- Brainstorm ideas to elevate the visibility of board's work
 - How can member entities best contribute?
- Coordinate board representation at relevant conferences and events