

Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board

July 27, 2018
Board Meeting
Kelso, WA

Draft Minutes
For Approval: October 5, 2018

Present: Taylor Aalvik, Marc Boldt, Tom Linde, Hal Mahnke, Todd Olson, Don Swanson, Olaf Thomason and Dennis Weber.

Absent: Mike Backman, Lee Grose, Richard Mahar, Gary Stamper, Dean Takko and Jade Unger.
Chairman Linde excused the absent members.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Director Manlow recognized Ron Rhew. Mr. Rhew served as on the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) from 2004 to 2018 and as chairman since 2016. The Board presented Mr. Rhew with an engraved pen to commemorate his time on the TAC. Mr. Rhew retired from the USFWS in April.

BUSINESS MEETING

Item #1 Consent Agenda

Board member Weber moved and Board member Boldt second to approve the consent agenda as submitted.

Motion carried.

Item #2 Approval of the CCCWRF Program Guide and Grant Round

Director Manlow presented the item. Pursuant to a negotiated settlement and consent decree in the case of the Rosemere Neighborhood Association et al versus Clark County, the Board receives \$500,000 each year, from 2015 to 2020, to administer a grant program to fund projects that address water quality problems and habitat degradation associated with stormwater runoff in specified areas of Clark County. The Board is also authorized to expend up to \$25,000 each year to administer the program and report to the court and plaintiffs.

The objectives of this program are to:

- Restore sustainable natural watershed processes that will reduce the impact of stormwater on water quality and aquatic habitats;
- Promote community awareness of stormwater impacts and participation in efforts to reduce those impacts;
- Encourage partnerships that will leverage available resources and broaden efforts to address stormwater impacts and management in Clark County; and
- Further the implementation of regional stormwater, watershed, salmon recovery and Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) implementation plans.

Similar to the SRFB grant round, the CCCWRF policies will require that:

- Sponsors meet with staff to discuss their project ideas;
- Site visits be conducted;
- Applicants complete a project tracking record in SalmonPORT;
- Landowner acknowledgement forms be provided for all affected property owners;
- Public comments be considered throughout the grant round;
- The LCFRB approve the ranked list; and,
- If needed the ranked list be remanded back to the Review Committee for further consideration.

Staff is recommending the following changes to the Program Guide:

1. Staff recommend the budget cap per project be raised from \$100,000 back to \$150,000. Sponsors found it difficult to develop and implement projects with the lesser amount. Concerns include the following: projects had to be short-term or cut shorter; projects were less likely to incorporate multiple activities (like education and restoration); and, some sponsors did not feel they could put a worthwhile project forward with the lesser amount and did not apply. Although there may be fewer projects funded, staff believes the projects would be better developed, and have the ability to be developed and implemented over a longer period with integration of multiple practices.
2. Staff recommend approving a minor change in the Program Guide to provide LCFRB staff the ability to approve amendments in the scope of work and budget of a project when the amendment does not result in changes to the deliverables or outcomes of the project.
 - a. Sponsors periodically request small changes to their project budget or scope of work that do not affect the outcomes or deliverables of the project. For example, in a budget amendment, a request may be to move funding from one site to another since one was less expensive than estimated. Currently, the Program Guide states that amendments in the scope of work, budget, or sponsor must be approved by the LCFRB. Staff recommends the following changes to the Program Guide to allow staff to make minor amendments to project contracts that do not change the deliverables or outcomes of the project:

Amendments to the scope of work, budget, or sponsor that would result in changes to the deliverables or outcomes of the project, must be approved by the LCFRB. Amendments for a change in the scope of work, schedule, budget, or milestones that will not result in changes to the deliverables or outcomes of the project will be reviewed by LCFRB staff to determine the nature and risk associated with the change and project delays. An amendment requesting a change may be referred to the Review Committee for consideration and LCFRB for approval if LCFRB staff concludes that the requested change could place successful completion of the project at risk. Sponsors must submit an LCFRB Amendment Request form to the LCFRB for consideration. The revisions will be considered based on the approved scoring criteria and risks to associated delays and will submit recommendations to the LCFRB for consideration. Out of scope work is at risk of not being endorsed or funded.

Questions and comments from the Board:

- Is \$150,000 enough for a sponsor to complete a project? Director Manlow stated yes. After discussions with project sponsors in 2017, sponsors expressed concern that it was difficult to submit a quality project for less than \$100,000.

Board member Boldt moved and Board member Weber second to approve the consent agenda as submitted.

Motion carried.

Item #3 CCCWRF Review Committee Appointments

Director Manlow presented the item.

Board member Aalvik moved and Board member Boldt second to approve the CCCWRF Review Committee Appointments of Chuck Stambaugh-Bowey and Doug Stienbarger.

Motion carried.

Item #4 Allocation of Funds to the Klickitat Lead Entity for Projects in the White Salmon Subbasin

Director Manlow presented the item. It is recommended the Board make up to \$69,930 available for Klickitat County's proposed project in the White Salmon Watershed, and carry remaining funds (\$27,270) from a total 2.7% allocation (\$97,200) forward in the form of an increased allocation to Klickitat County in 2019, subject to the following caveats:

1. Pursuant to Manual 18, Appendix M, Klickitat County must submit answers to the Lead Entity (LE) questions for the Regional Area Summary report by August 15;
2. Klickitat County must coordinate with the LCFRB in responding to comments provided by the SFRB Review Panel; and
3. If the proposed project in the White Salmon is designated as a Project of Concern by the SFRB Review Panel, and is not forwarded to the SFRB for funding, the funds will revert back to the Lower Columbia Region to fund one or more Alternates on the LCFRB's LE project list.

Board member Olson moved and Board member Mahnke second to approve the allocation of funds to the Klickitat Lead Entity.

Motion carried.

Item #5 Approval of the 2018 SFRB Monitoring Ranked Project List

Director Manlow presented the item. It is recommended that the Board adopt the 2018 Lower Columbia Regional Monitoring Project List (Project 18-1583 Lower Columbia Population Performance Tracking/Reporting), and approve its submission to the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) as part of the Region's overall SRFB project list.

In February, the Board authorized making up to ten percent (10%) of the SRFB regional allocation available to fund monitoring-type projects. As noted in the Project Administration Manual (PAM), the intent of the monitoring funds is to address high priority regional monitoring needs and gaps associated with ESA listed salmon and steelhead status with a focus of filling critical one-time funding shortfalls for

an existing monitoring program, or helping to initiate or jump start monitoring that would subsequently be funded by other sources.

As described in the monitoring proposal certification form, this proposal will provide essential data management and reporting efficiencies. Improved management and reporting will increase transparency and consistency in data sharing between WDFW and LCFRB, as well as with other recovery partners. High quality data will help the LCFRB and other recovery partners adaptively manage the recovery plan implementation. Specifically, this monitoring proposal will support more efficient and transparent annual reporting on implementation of the Conservation and Sustainable Fisheries Plan (CSF Plan).

At this writing the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) has set an \$18 million grant round target for the State. The Lower Columbia allocation is 20 percent (\$3.6 million). After deducting the Klickitat County allocation, this would result in up to \$350,280 being designated for monitoring proposals. The current monitoring proposal request is for \$60,205.

The Chair asked that each Board member disclose any conflict of interest. Given Board members positions and work, some of you may already have knowledge of, or some connection to, a proposal. That does not necessarily prevent you from participating. If you do not believe that you can be unbiased, you should excuse yourself from the process. Also, if you stand to gain personally should a proposal be funded, you must advise us and excuse yourself from the process. For the record, each Board member stated:

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|-------------------------|-------------|
| ▪ Board member Aalvik | No conflict |
| ▪ Board member Boldt | No conflict |
| ▪ Board member Linde | No conflict |
| ▪ Board member Mahnke | No conflict |
| ▪ Board member Olson | No conflict |
| ▪ Board member Swanson | No conflict |
| ▪ Board member Thomason | No conflict |
| ▪ Board member Weber | No conflict |

Sponsor Comments: No sponsor comments were offered.

Public Comments: No public comments were offered.

Board member Aalvik moved and Board member Mahnke second to adopt the 2018 Lower Columbia Regional Monitoring Project List (Project 18-1583 Lower Columbia Population Performance Tracking/Reporting), and approve its submission to the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) as part of the Region's overall SRFB project list.

Motion carried.

Item #6 Approval of the 2018 SRFB Habitat Ranked Project List

Director Manlow presented the item.

The Chair asked that each Board members disclosure any conflict of interest. Given Board members positions and work, some of you may already have knowledge of, or some connection to, a proposal. That does not necessarily prevent you from participating. If you do not believe that you can be unbiased, you should excuse yourself from the process. Also, if you stand to gain personally should a proposal is funded, you must advise us and excuse yourself from the process. For the record, each Board member stated:

- Board member Aalvik No conflict
 - Board member Boldt No conflict
 - Board member Linde No conflict
 - Board member Olson No conflict
 - Board member Thomason No conflict
 - Board member Weber No conflict
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- Board member Mahnke noted that he is the Chair of the Board of the Lower Columbia Fish Enhancement Group however he does not stand to gain from any of the proposed projects.
 - Board member Swanson noted that one project is on his parents property but he does not stand to gain personally and has no bias to the project.

Board member Weber moved and Board member Boldt second to adopt the LCFRB Technical Advisory Committee's (TAC) Benefits to Fish scoring assumptions, deliberations and recommended project conditions and to adopt the 2018 Lower Columbia Lead Entity Ranked Project List recommended by the TAC, and approve its submission to the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB).

Motion carried.

Item #7 Appointment of Technical Advisory Committee Chair

Director Manlow presented the item. The by-laws call for the board to appoint a chair for the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC). Randy Sweet served as the LCFRB TAC chair until he retired in 2016. The Board appointed Ron Rhew to chair the TAC in January 2017. However, Ron retired from the US Fish and Wildlife Service in April. Staff notified the TAC and solicited volunteers to serve as chair. In the interim, the TAC's vice chair, Daniel Evans, is currently serving as acting chair. Two members expressed interest in serving in this position – Brett Raunig, WA Department of Ecology (Ecology) and Rudy Salakory, citizen at large (Cowlitz Indian Tribe). Both Brett and Rudy have served on the TAC since early 2017. Staff is recommending Brett Raunig as the chair given his experience with the Board and his core knowledge of how the TAC's work fits into the broader Board's mission.

Comments made by Board members:

- Board member Aalvik asked the following questions regarding process:
 - What led to the staff recommendation and what was the process? Director Manlow referred to skill sets of both candidates, what we need as a TAC chair and serving as an interface between the TAC and Board and the knowledge of different programs.
 - Did the TAC consider submitting a recommendation for chair? No.
 - Was this deliberated with the TAC? No.
 - Is there a voting process? No.

- Board member Aalvik has concerns with staff making the recommendation in absence of a vote. Was Rudy Salakory provided the opportunity to be here today and was he invited? Director Manlow stated we did not invite either candidate.
- Board member Aalvik stated he didn't feel Rudy received a fair handshake in this process. All he did was submit his resume and feels there is some bias as to how this took place and feels Rudy was short changed in this process.
- Board member Aalvik asked if we offered to interview them. He has a problem moving forward with this item and it's clear where his biases are because he (Rudy) works for the Cowlitz Tribe but just reading this, it gave him a sour taste in his mouth.
- Board member Aalvik stated there are two people who wish to be chair so you should leave it open for the Board to consider and vote. He suggested the candidates could be invited to present to the Board and have a secret ballot process to decide.
- Director Manlow made the suggestion to remand item back to the TAC to get a broader vetting and see who they recommend to the Board as chair in order to address Board members Aalvik's concerns. Then when this is brought back to the Board, it will be up to the members how they want to vote on it.

Board member Mahnke moved to recommend the Board appoint Brett Raunig, Ecology representative, as chair of the Board's Technical Advisory Committee (TAC).

No second. Original motion was withdrawn.

Board member Aalvik moved and Board member Grose second to approve the revised motion to remand the appointment of the Technical Advisory Committee chair back to the TAC for their recommendation to the Board and to provide the opportunity for both individuals to present themselves to the Board prior to the Board's deliberation and vote for TAC chair.

Discussion:

Board member Weber asked if the TAC members have a clear understanding of the Conflicts of Interest policy. He suggested the role as chair be clarified regarding voting procedures.

Board Member Mahnke followed up Board member Aalvik's question asking if Rudy was interviewed, he asked if Brett was interviewed. Director Manlow stated no, neither candidate was interviewed.

Director Manlow stated the by-laws do not call for the TAC to nominate a chair. The chair is appointed by the Board and the vice-chair is appointed by the TAC.

Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned 3:40 p.m.

/lc

Approved in Open session on _____

Signed: _____

Tom Linde, Chairman