



## Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board

July 26, 2019  
Board Meeting  
Lewis County BOCC Hearing Room  
351 NW North Street  
Chehalis, WA 98532

Draft Minutes  
For Approval: September 6, 2019

**Present:** Taylor Aalvik, Mike Backman, Lee Grose, Tom Linde, Richard Mahar, Hal Mahnke, Gary Medvigy, Todd Olson, Don Swanson, Dean Takko, Olaf Thomason, Jade Unger, and Dennis Weber

**Absent:** Gary Stamper, Chairman Linde excused the absent member.

### RECOGNITION OF RETIRING BOARD MEMBER

The Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board presented Chairman Tom Linde with a Resolution to recognize his 17 years of service to the Board. Chairman Linde has served on the Board since 2002 and has been Chairman since 2008. Vice Chairman Todd Olson read the Resolution into the record.

Board member Weber moved and Board member Grose seconded to read the Resolution into the record and to have it signed by all Board members. No discussion.

Motion carried.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** No public comments were given.

### DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- Director Manlow and Ms. Smee attended the SRFB meeting in Yakima on July 10<sup>th</sup>. The SRFB announced that this will be an \$18 million grant round, this is the same amount as last year, with an additional \$6.4 million potentially being allocated toward Focused Investments. Currently the two topics gaining traction are investing species nearest delisting (Hood Canal summer chum, mid-Columbia Steelhead), and supporting projects that benefit orca prey. The funding decision will be made in September.
- The SRFB has also approved a compressed a state grant round schedule for 2020 due to the results of the LEAN study. Some of the changes include earlier site visits in March, requiring complete applications at the time of the site visit, and streamlining the comment process with the state Review Panel. Staff has been working on a draft grant round schedule for next year to accommodate these changes.
- Council of Regions (COR): We are spearheading a coordination effort with the USACE and Ecology to find permit efficiencies for restoration projects.
- WDFW Hatchery Reform Policy: We are tracking hatchery reform policies that could have some major implications for us on the Columbia. The LCFRB's Conservation Sustainable Fisheries Plan (CSFP) is based largely on the state's hatchery reform policy. The state Fish and Wildlife Commission is revisiting the policies related to hatchery reform, and have pulled in the WA State Academy of Sciences to participate in the review. We will be tracking the process closely and engaging as needed.

- Technical Advisory Committee (TAC): Chairman Rudy Salakory is in attendance today to answer any questions from the Board regarding grant round process. Director Manlow announced that TAC Vice Chairman, Brett Raunig, Ecology representative, resigned from the TAC because he took a job with the City of Vancouver. TAC members elected Scott Sebring as the new Vice Chairman.
- Direct Manlow and Mr. Steve West gave a Recovery Plan presentation on Wednesday, July 24<sup>th</sup> to Clark County Public Works as part of a Technical Onboarding program for new county engineers. The County is setting up a training program new staff that will now include Salmon and Watershed Recovery. We are looking to expand the presentations to other Counties and Cities in the region.
- Hydro Issues: Staff is still spending quite a bit of time working with Tacoma Power on Fisheries and Hatcheries Management Plan updates. We are working hard to ensure our recovery plan priorities are accurately reflected and addressed in the update.
- Statewide Issues: One of the items funded during the last legislative session was an update to the Statewide Recovery Strategy. It is now 20 years old and it's time to evaluate what is working and what isn't across the state. Staff will be engaging as part of COR, and independently.

## **BUSINESS MEETING**

### Item #1 Consent Agenda

Board member Weber moved and Board member Medvigy seconded to approve the Consent Agenda as submitted. No discussion.

Motion carried.

### Item #2 Skamania County Citizen Representative

Director Manlow presented the item. He noted that Tom Linde has served on the LCFRB as the Skamania County Citizen Representative since 2002 and as Board Chairman since 2008. In June, Chairman Linde sent an email to staff with his intent to resign from the Board. This allowed time for the Skamania County BOCC to advertise for a replacement, and recommend a new representative. The Skamania County BOCC formerly nominated Mr. Del Wilson for the position. Mr. Wilson served on the Wind River Workgroup from late 2015 through early 2017 and would like the opportunity to represent the citizens of Skamania County. Per the Board's enabling legislation, the appointment of the Citizen Representative is a decision made by the five County Commissioner members of the Board.

Board member Mahar moved and Board member Weber seconded to appointment Mr. Del Wilson to the Board as the Skamania County Citizen Representative. Motion was approved by the County Commissioners.

Chairman Linde exited his seat at the table and invited Board member Wilson to join the members of the Board for the remainder of the meeting. Vice Chair Mr. Olson presided over the Board in the absence of a Chair.

Motion carried.

Item #3 Allocation of Funds to the Klickitat Lead Entity for Projects in the White Salmon Subbasin

Director Manlow presented the item. The SRFB has set the 2019 statewide grant round allocation at \$18 million. The Lower Columbia currently has an allocation of 20% of the state total equaling \$3.6 million. Of the \$3.6 million, 2.7% is allocated to the Klickitat Lead Entity for project in the White Salmon Subbasin. This year their allocation is \$97,200. However, since they did not use all of their allocation last year, they are eligible to receive an additional \$32,962 in carry-over funding from 2018. The Klickitat currently has a proposed project for \$121,500 which will use the majority of their 2019 allocation and they have requested that any unused funding this year be carried over to the 2020 grant round allocation.

Board member Swanson moved and Board member Grose seconded to make up to \$130,162 available for the Klickitat County's proposed project in the White Salmon Watershed and authorize any unused funding this year be carried over to the 2020 grant round allocation. No discussion.

Motion carried.

Item #4 Approval of the 2019 SRFB Habitat Ranked Project List

Director Manlow presented the item. The SRFB has set a statewide grant round at \$18 million. The Lower Columbia regional allocation for this year's projects will be \$3.6 million which equals 20% of the statewide allocation. This amount includes funds that will be allocated to the Klickitat Lead Entity for projects in the White Salmon subbasin per Action Item #3.

Director Manlow stated this action item represents a lot of work by a lot of people and he wanted acknowledge what it takes to put together a project list. The project list is based on our Habitat Strategy which is intended to move the habitat piece of the Recovery Plan forward. He acknowledged the members involved in the process, including TAC members, Board members, County representatives, sponsors, property owners, and staff.

Director Manlow reviewed the process. He noted that the LCFRB uses a two-step application process that requires applicant to submit a draft application for review, prior to a final application. The draft and final applications are reviewed by the LCFRB Technical Advisory Committee (TAC).

He explained that the 2019 grant round was opened at the December 2018 Board meeting. Draft applications were due on March 18, site visits were schedule the last week of April beginning of May, and draft TAC review was held on May 21 and 22, and final applications were due on June 10 and 11. Sponsors submitted 16 draft applications by 7 different sponsor organizations but only 13 projects went forward to final review and scoring. The TAC scored and ranked the projects on July 10 as a recommendation to the Board. He noted that the final ranked list is in the Board binder.

Questions and comments from the Board:

- Board member Weber added information from the Cowlitz County Public Works Department on why funds could not be spent on the Erick Creek project. The large gap got crosswise with the CRAB Board, who provides funds for roads. He explained that because it is such a low utilized

traffic area, it was not a priority and the funds had to be spend on improvements elsewhere. However, it will remain an alternate if additional funds become available.

- Board member Takko stated in reading the narrative, the Erick Creek project only had medium benefits to fish. He questioned why it ranked where it did with only medium benefits. Director Manlow stated this project is in an Intensively Monitored Watershed (IMW) so there is added value. Although it's not a critical project for IMW, the TAC felt it had high fish passage benefits.
- Board member Medvigy asked a general question about process. How would Whipple Creek get on the funding list for next year? Director Manlow stated in general, the projects that rise to the top of the list are the ones that affect the highest priority fish populations and reaches that support those fish. He added that the fish populations in Whipple Creek are generally Contributing or Stabilizing and may not rank high. There are other funding sources available and some of those target Watershed Plan priorities and may be a better fit for the project. Director Manlow added that he is willing to talk with Public Works regarding addition funding sources.

Director Manlow stated we will not know until September if there are any Projects of Concern on our ranked list. We have not received any public comments or appeals at this time. This year we are in an unusual position where we will have a surplus of \$209,265. This is not a position we like to be in because usually we have more projects than available funding. He noted that the Board has a few options to deal with the surplus:

- We could send the funds back to the SRFB to be added to the statewide general pot for cost increases;
- We could potentially increase the scope of existing projects on the ranked list. However, it's too late to work with sponsors in a fair and equitable manner to accomplish this. This would require the TAC to re-score the projects and meet with the Review Panel; and,
- We have been exploring an option with the RCO to have the ability to fund projects in other Lead Entities because we have the ability to share resources. We have been talking with the Directors in the Columbia River Basin (Mid-Columbia, Upper Columbia, and Snake) to identify potential funding gaps for high priority projects. The Mid-Columbia and Upper Columbia Lead Entities have each identified one project that would benefit from additional funds, and the Snake has two projects that need for additional funding.

Questions and comments from the Board:

- Board member asked if the funds could be used to support the sea lion program at Bonneville Dam. Director Manlow stated it would not be an eligible cost for the SRFB.
- Vice Chairman Olson asked if sharing funds have been done in the past or is this new to the SRFB. Director Manlow stated this has been done in the past in Pudget Sound. However, it would be the first time for the Lower Columbia. He added, he has been in contact with RCO and they are comfortable with this approach.

Vice-Chair Olson asked Board members to disclose any conflicts of interest.

- Taylor Aalvik                      No Conflict
- Mike Backman                      No Conflict
- Lee Grose                              No Conflict
- Richard Mahar                      No Conflict
- Hal Mahnke                              No Conflict
- Gary Medvigy                              No Conflict
- Todd Olson                              No Conflict

- Don Swanson                      No Conflict
- Dean Takko                        No Conflict
- Olaf Thomason                    No Conflict
- Jade Unger                         No Conflict
- Dennis Weber                     No Conflict
- Del Wilson                         No Conflict

Comments by TAC Officers:

- Rudy Salakory, Chair of TAC, wanted to inform the Board that if the SRFB assigns a Project of Concern (POC), to any of the projects on the ranked list, then the surplus funds could be more than anticipated. He also noted that if a POC is identified, the TAC is not comfortable challenging the SRFB technical panel on the POC. If we fight and lose, then those funds are also removed from the Board’s allocation.

Comments from Sponsors: None

Comments from the Public:

- Tom Linde, former Chair of the LCFRB, expressed disappointment that the Camp Kalama River Restoration project has not been funded for two years. He stated it is an excellent project for Fall Chinook in a highly visible area and the landowner is willing to give up income property to do the project.

Board member Aalvik moved and Board member Weber seconded to: Adopt the final Benefits to Fish Scoring Assumptions and TAC Deliberations; approve conditioning two proposals (Project ID 19-1225 and 19-1226) for future TAC design when funded; adopt and authorize submission of the TAC recommended ranked project list to the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB); and, authorize the Director to coordinate with other Columbia Basin Lead Entities to allocate any unused funds to high priority projects(s) in their respective areas. No discussion.

Motion carried.

Item #5 Election of Board Chair

Director Manlow presented the item. He noted that due to Tom Linde’s resignation from the Board, a new Chair will need to be elected. Per our enabling legislation, the election of a Board Chair is done by the five County Commissioner’s and the State Legislator on the Board. Ms. Smee stated nominations can be made by any Board member and you may self-nominate.

The Commissioner’s open the nominations:

- Board member Aalvik asked who the longest standing member of the Board is now. Board member Swanson is the longest serving since 2000. Board member Aalvik nominated Board member Swanson. Board member Grose seconded the nomination. Board member Swanson politely declined the nomination to be Chair and withdrew his name from consideration. He added he was a good Board member but did not want to be Chair.
- Board member Swanson nominated Todd Olson.

All five County Commissioner's and the Legislative Representative voted unanimously to elect Todd Olson as Chair.

Roll call vote by the County Commissioner's and Legislative Representative:

- Mike Backman, Wahkiakum County
- Lee Grose for Gary Stamper, Lewis County
- Richard Mahar, Skamania County
- Gary Medvigy, Clark County
- Dennis Weber, Cowlitz County
- Dean Takko, WA State Senate

All members voted yes.

No discussion.

Motion carried.

With the election of Board member Todd Olson as Chair, this will leave a vacancy for Vice-Chair. The Board decided to table the election of Vice-Chair until the next meeting.

At 2:05 p.m. the Board adjourned.

/lc

Approved in open session on \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Todd Olson, Chairman