



## Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board

October 4, 2019  
Board Meeting  
Conference Call  
WSDOT Room CR211

Draft Minutes  
For Approval: November 1, 2019

**Present:** Taylor Aalvik, Mike Backman, Paul Greenlee, Lee Grose, Richard Mahar, Hal Mahnke, Todd Olson, Don Swanson, Dennis Weber, and Del Wilson

**Absent:** Gary Medvigy, Gary Stamper, Dean Takko, Olaf Thomason, and Jade Unger, Chairman Olson excused the absent members.

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

**MEMBER REQUEST:** Director Manlow provided an overview of the request. He explained that the Board consists of fifteen voting members, and that each member is on the Board to represent a constituency group, and to bring their ideas efforts, and issues to the Board to support the broader goal of salmon recovery in the region. He explained that staff would like to assist the members in their responsibility to their constituents and start a discussion about Board member engagement and the role of the Board in moving recovery forward.

Mr. Manlow noted that in an effort to provide Board Members the tools they need, staff would like the Board to think about the following questions and bring their answers to report to the Board at the November meeting. Staff is willing to provide any documents or other helpful resources to assist in this request, including providing each Board member with excerpts of the Recovery Plan that identify actions and measures associated with their organizations and constituencies.

1. What is your organization or the people you represent on the Board doing to help with implementation of recovery plan actions, measures, and strategies?
2. What can the LCFRB staff do to help you support implementation?

Chairman Olson suggested adding a third question:

3. What can Board members do to help staff engage toward the mission of the Board?

Comments and suggestions from the Board and staff:

- Board member Wilson stated he would like to see the results of this participation.
- Board member Aalvik asked if staff is hoping to reach individual Board members, and about the products we are looking for. He also inquired about whether Board members had the time to complete the request. Director Manlow suggested that members could use bulleted statements in their responses.
- Board member Backman stated he likes the idea of this and coming together to work through and refine the hard questions.
- Ms. Smee stated she is working on an organizational chart for Board members, as well as individualized binders for each Board member.

- Board member Greenlee stated a binder would be very helpful and asked if it could include grant sources for Cities.
- TAC Chairman Rudy Salakory asked if the state maintains a database on grants that are available. Ms. Smee stated we have a link on our website.

## **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

- The 2019 SRFB Grant Round process is wrapping up. Staff has heard from the SRFB Review Panel and there are a few projects on the ranked list that need additional information. We are working with sponsors to address the feedback by the Review Panel by 10/16/19. Any project not cleared, will be addressed during the 10/22/19 regional meeting in Olympia.
- Staff is preparing for the 2020 SRFB Grant Round which has been compressed based on changes the SRFB made at the statewide level. To accommodate the statewide changes and increase efficiency of our own process, staff will be presenting the Board with recommended updates to the SRFB Grant Manual in November. The changes being proposed will streamline the local review steps and simplify the scoring process.
- The East Fork Lewis watershed land use Program Review is wrapping up. This includes evaluating implementation of various local, state, and federal land use programs within the watershed, in light of recovery plan expectations. The final round of edits are underway and the final report should be published by the end of the year.
- Regarding hatcheries and harvest, we are working to finalize the first annual Conservation Sustainable Fisheries Plan (CSFP) Implementation report, which evaluates implementation of hatchery and harvest reform actions, and how we are doing region-wide at achieving delisting targets.
- Staff is working with the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and a workgroup to develop a Focused Habitat Investment Strategy. This involves rethinking how we allocate funds across the region based on recovery needs, priorities and progress. One of the potential outcomes is to shift a percentage of funds towards the highest priority watersheds.
- Director Manlow thanked the Board for attending the September 6<sup>th</sup> Board meeting, where we heard presentations from WDFW. He noted that if there are other topics the Board would like covered or more information on, we can ask them to present again and for follow-up information. He noted that staff needs input from the Board, asked members to please email any requests or topics.
- The Upper Cowlitz-Cispus Habitat strategy process will be wrapping up by the end of the year. A public workshop was held on 9/24/19 from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. We are honing in on what project to carry forward to design. He noted that it will likely be a private parcel in the Kiona Creek watershed, a site that historically was a great Coho producer. He stated that the workshop was well attended and staff received positive feedback on the effort.
- The LCFRB will host an Office of Financial Management (OFM) tour of salmon recovery projects in the spring, in coordination with sponsors, the GSRO and Coast Region. The OFM is particularly interested in how dollars are leveraged and how they support local economies. Tours have already been attended by OFM in Hood Canal and in the Mid-Columbia. We will likely focus on the Grays and Willapa watersheds.
- At their September meeting the SRFB made a decision to take steps toward a planned multi-year project list, rather than annual lists. They will use the list to support legislative budget requests. From staff prospective, this could be problematic given the nature of habitat restoration work in contrast to infrastructure programs, and this shift also raises questions regarding capacity to generate lists over such a broad area. Staff raised concern that the Lower Columbia has 17

subbasins and we are one Lead Entity compared to other Lead Entities that have only one watershed.

- Chairman Olson asked if the multi-year project list will start in 2020. Director Manlow stated no, the SRFB wants the list for the 21-23 Biennium.
- Board member Greenlee asked for clarification on the SRFB's function.

## **BUSINESS MEETING**

### Item #1 Consent Agenda

Board member Greenlee moved and Board member Wilson seconded to approve the Consent Agenda as submitted. No discussion. Motion carried.
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### Item #2 CCCWRF Opening

Ms. Smee presented the item. She explained that in 2014, Clark County Rosemere Neighborhood Association, Columbia Riverkeepers, and the NW Environmental Defense Center entered into a consent decree agreeing that beginning in 2015, Clark County would provide the Board \$500,000 each year from 2015 through 2020 for water quality enhancement and habitat improvement projects in WRIA 28 and Gee Creek. Ms. Smee noted the funds cannot be used directly for nutrient enhancement or placement of logjams, but could be used for other restoration work within the project area. The Board is authorized to use \$25,000 per year to administer the grant program. The LCFRB is not a party to this legal action and was not involved in the negotiations of the settlement amount.

Ms. Smee stated this is the fifth year of funding for the CCCWRF and the fourth year of soliciting, reviewing and funding projects. Staff in conjunction with the Review Committee (RC) developed recommendations for changes to the Program Guide. The changes are a result of feedback from applicants and lessons learned from previous grant round experiences.

Staff and the Review Committee recommends approving the following changes to the Program Guide:

- All applicants will do a "virtual tour" or presentation instead of a physical site visit.
- There will be one meeting where the applicants provide the presentation and the RC will review and score the projects.
- Individual sponsor meetings with LCFRB staff are not required, but can be requested.
- The RC and LCFRB staff will meet to review scoring criteria, discuss and comment on applications, and provide joint comments to the sponsors before the scoring meeting to give applicants the opportunity to address concerns.
- Sponsors will not be using SalmonPORT, but will complete a spreadsheet with basic project information and appropriate metrics.
- Benefits to fish points have been removed and overall points reduced.

Questions and comments by the Board:

- Board member Weber asked if the Clark County Board members were comfortable with the changes. (Board members Medvigy and Unger were not present at the meeting.)

- Board member Greenlee congratulated staff on adapting recommended changes and making them quickly.

Board member Mahnke moved and Board member Swanson seconded to adopt the 2019 Program Guide and Application Materials for the CCCWRF Program and authorize opening the Grant Round. No discussion. Motion carried.

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

- Ms. Smee stated the interns, Britta Baechler and Jacob Ehlers, will be starting on Monday, October 7<sup>th</sup>. They are scheduled to work up to 15 hours per week.
- The November 1<sup>st</sup> Board meeting will be held in Wahkiakum County in the River Street Room.

At 1:45 p.m. the Board adjourned.

/lc

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

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

Todd Olson, Chairman