

SALMON RECOVERY FUNDING BOARD SUMMARIZED MEETING AGENDA AND ACTIONS
December 9 & 10, 2015

Item	Formal Action	Follow-up Action
October 15-16, 2015 Meeting Minutes	Decision: Approved	No follow-up action requested.
1. Director's Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Director's Report • Legislative, Budget, and Policy Updates • Performance Update (<i>written only</i>) • Financial Report (<i>written only</i>) 	Briefing	No follow-up action requested.
2. Salmon Recovery Management Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Governor's Salmon Recovery Office • Salmon Section Report 	Briefing	No follow-up action requested.
3. Reports from Partners	Briefing	No follow-up action requested.
4. 2015 Grant Round <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Overview B. Slideshow of featured projects proposed for funding C. Review Panel Comments 	Briefing	No follow-up action requested.
4. 2015 Grant Round, continued <ul style="list-style-type: none"> D. Overview of Intensively Monitored Watershed Restoration Treatment Projects 	Decision: Approved	The board moved to approve \$1,663,753 in salmon project funds for five Intensively Monitored Watershed projects, as shown in Item 4D, Attachment A, of the board meeting materials.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> E. Overview of Regional Monitoring Projects 	Briefing	No follow-up action requested.
4. 2015 Grant Round, continued <ul style="list-style-type: none"> F. Regional Area Comment Period to Discuss Project Selection and Projects of Concern 	Briefings	No follow-up action requested.
4. 2015 Grant Round, continued <ul style="list-style-type: none"> G. Board Funding Decisions 	Decision: Approved	The board moved to approve the 2015 Grant Round list of projects for funding.
5. Manual 18 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General Overview of Changes • RMAP Eligibility Policy Change 	Decision: Approved	The board moved to approve RMAP Policy changes.
6. Fish Barrier Removal Board Update from the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	Briefing	No follow-up action requested.
7. Large Capital Projects Proposal 2017-2019	Briefing	No follow-up action requested.
8. Washington Administrative Code Updates	Briefing	No follow-up action requested.

9. Communication Strategy Update	Briefing	No follow-up action requested.
10. Facilitation Contract for Salmon Recovery Network (SRNet) for 2015-17 Biennium	Decision: Approved	
11. Board Strategic Plan Update and New Biennial Workplan	Decision: Approved	Funding decisions postponed until March 2016 meeting
12. Columbia River Update from the Northwest Power and Conservation Council	Briefing	No follow-up action requested.
13. The Nature Conservancy Strategic Vision & Salmon Recovery	Briefing: Postponed	Due to inclement weather preventing the speaker from attending, the board requested that this briefing be moved to the March 2016 meeting.
14. New Ideas for Determining Restoration Needs and Priorities	Briefing	No follow-up action requested.
15. Washington Salmon Coalition Climate Change Proposal	Briefing	No follow-up action requested.

SALMON RECOVERY FUNDING BOARD SUMMARY MINUTES

Date: December 9, 2015

Place: Olympia, WA

Salmon Recovery Funding Board Members:

David Troutt, Chair	Olympia	Carol Smith	Department of Ecology
Nancy Biery	Quilcene	Susan Cierebiej	Department of Transportation
Bob Bugert	Wenatchee	Erik Neatherlin	Department of Fish and Wildlife
Phil Rockefeller	Bainbridge Island	Megan Duffy	Department of Natural Resources
Sam Mace	Spokane	Brian Cochrane	Washington State Conservation Commission

It is intended that this summary be used with the materials provided in advance of the meeting. The Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) retains a recording as the formal record of the meeting.

Opening and Welcome

Chair David Troutt called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m. Staff called roll and determined a quorum. Member Cochrane was excused. Member Bugert arrived mid-morning.

Chair Troutt welcomed the board, staff, and audience; all introduced themselves.

Motion: Agenda adoption
Moved by: Member Sam Mace
Seconded by: Member Nancy Biery
Decision: Approved

Director Cottingham shared an amendment to the state agency partner updates in the October 15-16, 2015 meeting minutes; the board expressed consensus on the change.

Motion: October 2015 Meeting Summary
Moved by: Member Nancy Biery
Seconded by: Member Sam Mace
Decision: Approved as amended

Management and Partner Reports

Item 1: Management Report

Director's Report (1A): Director Cottingham provided an update on several Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) staff changes, including internal promotions, employees that left the agency, and new employees that began working with RCO. She shared that the State Auditor recently completed their federal funding audit, specifically of the Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF); there were no audit findings. She thanked the subcommittee that worked on revisions to the board's strategic plan and biennial work plan, to be presented later in the meeting. Commenting on the 2015 grant round, Director Cottingham expressed appreciation for the hard work of staff, partners, and lead entities.

Legislative and Policy Updates (1B): Wendy Brown, RCO Policy Director, provided a brief update on the Governor's supplemental budget, expected to be released next week. Additionally, she provided an update on three decision packages that RCO submitted for request legislation: 1) reauthorization of the Washington Invasive Species Council (WISC); 2) extension of the Habitat and Recreation Lands Coordinating Group; and 3) a placeholder for any potential statutory changes to the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (RCW 79A.15) that may result from the review process currently underway. The Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) review resulted in eleven recommendations for statutory and board policy changes.

One change affecting the salmon grant programs that board members may hear about includes a new RCO practice of requiring an authorization resolution that sponsors will complete prior to finalizing a project agreement. This process is currently in place for Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (RCFB) programs, and works well to ensure that the governing body receiving funds approves of their staffs' submission of the grant application, as well as to promote legal understanding and obligations.

Item 2: Salmon Recovery Management Report

Governor's Salmon Recovery Office (GSRO): Brian Abbott, Executive Coordinator, introduced Kiri Kreamer, GSRO's Salmon Recovery Data Manager. Ms. Kreamer provided an overview of the Habitat Work Schedule (HWS) history, development, and accomplishments prior to demonstrating the new HWS public site. Navigating through the new site, Ms. Kreamer shared that the redesign focused on usability, making it easier for the public to find projects in a given area and perform queries. Ms. Kreamer concluded by sharing that the monitoring subcommittee continues to work with staff to make improvements to the site.

Chair Troutt suggested adding informational graphics to support the Intensively Monitored Watershed (IMW) project information on the HWS site.

Salmon Grant Management Report: Tara Galuska, Salmon Section Manager, provided a brief update on the 2015 grant round and the riparian buffer discussion. Riparian buffer-width data was included as a project metric for the 2015 grant cycle, and Ms. Galuska provided details on the number of projects for both the 2014 and 2015 application years regarding the number of projects that met the minimum recommended buffer widths. Ms. Galuska summarized the board direction shared at the October 2015 board meeting for the riparian buffer recommendation. Staff will continue to annually monitor the data for trends, as the current data is insufficient to recommend changes from previous board decisions.

Director Cottingham suggested reviewing the projects and recommendations at a later time to inform needed policy decisions. Member Neatherlin encouraged examination individual project details due to the uniqueness of each area; Ms. Galuska agreed, stating that it was built into the application process and PRISM.

Item 3: Reports from Partners

Council of Regions Report (COR): Jeff Breckel, Chair of the COR, provided information on four goals/areas of focus: recovery plan and implementation; communication and coordination; monitoring; and funding. Recovery plan revisions will focus on two issues: the NOAA Columbia Basin partnership and integrating climate change. Mr. Breckel emphasized the need to work with the scientific community on potential climate change impacts, formulate strategies and actions based on that information. Mr. Breckel stressed communications and understanding capacity needs while engaging in salmon recovery. Mr. Breckel stated that the COR attends planning meetings with senior state agency management to determine how to accomplish and coordinate goals. Mr. Breckel indicated that regions evaluated monitoring projects to maximize funds and the large capital project proposal to determine the most effective approach.

Member Rockefeller commented on the letter received from the Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board (LCFRB), included in the board materials, regarding the support of a separate large capital funding proposal. He asked whether this letter reflected the views of the COR. Mr. Breckel indicated that the letter primarily represents the LCFRB perspective.

Member Neatherlin asked about the current status of NOAA's 5-yr status review. Mr. Breckel replied that NOAA met with the Lower Columbia region and WDFW to coordinate, although it is unclear whether other regions have had the opportunity to share input. Member Neatherlin stated that WDFW could help encourage NOAA to provide a draft of the five year status to the regions.

Washington Salmon Coalition (WSC): Amy Hatch-Winecka, WSC Chair, and John Foltz, Vice Chair of WSC, provided an update on the current work of the WSC, details of which are included in the board materials (Item 3). Ms. Hatch-Winecka indicated that lead entities continue to work with SRNet to develop a communications strategy, which includes strengthening relationships and meeting with policy directors from RCO and PSP to further project messages, successes, lessons learned, and multiple benefits. Ms. Hatch-Winecka stated the WSC Legislative Day is scheduled for January 26, 2016, and provided details on next year's retreat and annual meeting in February in La Conner, at which they discuss goals, engaging partners, and build collaborative relationships. Mr. Foltz highlighted project successes for two Washington state lead entities, Klickitat and WRIA 8.

Member Bugert asked about upcoming the legislative event. Ms. Hatch-Winecka explained that the event used to be similar to a science fair, but currently meetings are scheduled, information packets assembled and provided, and citizens are encouraged to provide presentations describing their needs and goals. WSC crafted the Advocacy Workbook to guide this effort, which provides guidance on how to work with the Legislature including the intent of active engagement, appropriate citizen involvement, a program overview, and identification of board chairs.

Chair Troutt commented on new initiatives, concerned that they may not be well-connected; he asked how WSC intends to communicate with other entities to better coordinate their efforts. Ms. Hatch-Winecka explained that WSC continues to use partners to share the salmon message and create connections. Chair Troutt suggested reaching out to The Nature Conservancy representatives, scheduled to present tomorrow (the second day of the meeting).

Regional Fisheries Enhancement Groups Coalition (RFEGs): Colleen Thompson, Managing Director, provided an update on behalf of the RFEG Coalition. Ms. Thompson presented information on the continued work with SRNet on the communication strategy, market research, reaching across policy areas, addressing people's concerns, and how projects benefit local communities. Ms. Thompson emphasized the need for capacity funding to recruit and retain staff, reach out to landowners, secure permits, and match funding.

Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR): Member Duffy stated that DNR continues to correct state uplands fish barriers. In 2016, DNR will correct 2,368 upland barriers. Member Duffy provided an update on the Aquatics Land Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP). After receiving input, DNR made the decision not to move forward with over-water structures and storage. DNR will continue conversations with shellfish growers regarding the Aquatics Land HCP. Member Duffy mentioned that a large focus in the budget included funds for wildfire, prevention, employees, trainings, and communication.

Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology): Member Smith shared information about the Floodplains by Design program. The Floodplains by Design submitted a large floodplain project list for the 2017-19 biennium. Ecology provided guidelines for the project proposals, which are due January 29, 2015. Approximately \$55 million in funding is available for the program. Member Smith also shared information regarding Ecology's goals for the next legislative session, including source and tax revenue implications.

Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT): Member Cierebiej shared information on twelve fish passage projects completed in 2015, opening forty-three miles habitat and correcting five injunction culverts. Member Cierebiej highlighted the Rattlesnake Creek project, a partnered effort between WSDOT, WDFW, and the board that opened nine miles of habitat. WSDOT will correct twenty-one barriers in 2016, all located in injunction areas. WSDOT will wait to hear from the Ninth District court of appeals in regards to the 2013 culvert injunction.

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW): Member Neatherlin provided an update on the efforts to conduct listening sessions for Washington's Wild Future. These listening sessions are intended to provide a forum for public comment that will support WDFW's 2017 legislative agenda. Thus far the sessions are receiving positive feedback and press. Member Neatherlin shared that federal funds continue to decline, and those that support fishing and hatcheries may be leveling out. WDFW is working to secure additional funding sources.

Northwest Power and Conservation Council: Phil Rockefeller, Chair of the North West Power Council indicated that the council will provide a detailed as Item 12 of the agenda for Thursday December 10, 2015.

General Public Comment: *No public comment was provided at this time.*

Break 10:32 a.m. – 10:40 a.m.

Board Business: Decisions

Item 4A: 2015 Grant Round, Overview

Tara Galuska, Salmon Section Manager, provided an overview of the grant funding approval proceedings and decisions presented to the board. Ms. Galuska described the purpose of the 2015 Funding Report, published in December, which serves as the basis for the board's funding decisions. Ms. Galuska provided a brief summary of the 2015 grant round and regional funding requests, including seven PSAR projects that utilized the early action process. For 2015 grant round, \$18 million is available.

Member Bugert asked about the primary funding sources for sponsor match. Ms. Galuska shared that the information is tracked in PRISM, RCO's project database. Historically, the largest fund sources include other grants, cash match, volunteer labor, federal funds, or in-kind staff time. Member Bugert suggested providing this information to encourage additional match options for sponsors and leverage board funding for maximum benefit. Director Cottingham shared that RCO also addresses funding needs with cost increases if the project demonstrates need and criteria.

Item 4B: 2015 Grant Round, Slideshow of Featured Projects Proposed for Funding

Salmon section outdoor grant managers (OGM) updated the board on featured projects from each region that are proposed for funding approval at today's meeting.

Josh Lambert, OGM, presented the Lacamas Creek Side Channel Design Project (RCO #[15-1087](#)) of the Lower Columbia Region, sponsored by the Lewis County Public Works and associated with the Lower Columbia Lead Entity. The project intends to reconnect 1.8 miles of historic side channel, restoring 48 acres of floodplain, enhancing 15 acres of riparian buffer, and creating complex in-stream rearing habitat. The project would benefit fall Chinook, Chum, Winter steelhead, and Coho.

Member Cierebiej asked about ownership of the road and partnership opportunities. Mr. Lambert followed up with the sponsor and indicated the county owns the road.

Marc Duboiski, OGM, presented the Icicle Creek, Boulder Field, Wild Fish to Wilderness Project (RCO #[15-1219](#)), sponsored by Trout Unlimited, in the Upper Columbia Region, and associated with the Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board Lead Entity. The project would open up over 23 miles of Icicle Creek and over 22 miles of tributary spawning and rearing habitat, primarily benefiting steelhead and Bull Trout.

Member Rockefeller asked for clarification on the intended project outcome. Mr. Powers responded that the goal is to increase passage for steelhead and Bull Trout.

Member Duffy expressed concern about historic fish use and the boulders' potential for landslide, specifically asking how the project design intends to address boulder blocking issues. Mr. Duboiski invited the project designer, Pat Powers of Waterfall Consulting, to address the board. He described the road that will be removed (the current U.S. Forest Service road) and the adjacent project site. A boulder pile between the site and the roads will not be disturbed, but are prevented from entering the site (creek). He added that there have been some bull trout observations, but historic use is not known. Spring Chinook redds and a Juvenile Spring Chinook redd have been observed. Chair Troutt indicated that this vetted project could access higher elevation sites and offer refuge for climate change.

Mike Ramsey, OGM, presented the Salmon Creek Bridge, West Uncas Road Project (RCO #[15-1192](#)), sponsored by Jefferson County Public Works, located in the Hood Canal Region, and associated with the Hood Canal Coordinating Council Lead Entity. The project replace a 60 foot long, 15.5 foot wide x 9.5 foot high, corrugated steel pipe arch culvert which is a partial barrier with a 84 foot x 29 foot concrete bridge.

Member Biery commented on the relationships with land owners in the area. Mr. Ramsey responded that increased coordination would support increased project effectiveness, but there is flexibility to move forward and be successful despite some challenges. Mr. Ramsey further explained that the landowner's opposition and other differing perspectives seem to have been resolved in collaboration with the review panel.

Alice Rubin, OGM, presented the Stringer Creek Barrier Correction Project (RCO #15-1047), sponsored by the Pacific County Anglers, located in the Washington Coast Region, and associated with the Pacific County Lead Entity. The project would replace an existing box culvert and "fish ladder" barrier with a new culvert, and create a new 750-foot channel in adjacent sponsor-owned property. The project would benefit Chum, steelhead, Chinook, Coho, and Cutthroat.

Ms. Smith asked if following a historic channel to determine new channel, waterfall engineering did design, not sure of historic but found historic gravels and will place channel accordingly. Chair Troutt – long time since they have applied, good to see them submitting.

Kay Caromile, OGM, presented three projects. First, So Fork Cowiche Floodplain Restoration (RCO Project #15-1181), sponsored by the Mid-Columbia Regional Fisheries Enhancement Group & Yakama Nation, located in the Mid-Columbia Region, and associated with the Yakima Basin Fish & Wildlife Recovery Board. The project will install 800 pieces of wood (>30 structures) along two miles of stream to restore in-channel complexity, reverse channel incision and re-engage the creek with its floodplain. The project would support Mid-Columbia steelhead, Bull Trout, Coho, Chinook, and Cutthroat.

Chair Troutt inquired about the stability of the system and whether the boulders would remain where they were placed. Ms. Caromile confirmed, explaining that the placement was based on where natural structures would accumulate. Member Smith asked whether the restoration method for the riparian area was active or passive. Ms. Caromile indicated the project will wait and see how Cowiche responds, then complete additional riparian enhancement.

Kay Caromile, OGM, presented a second project, Tucannon Salmonid Survival and Habitat Utilization (RCO Project #15-1322), sponsored by WDFW, located in the Snake Region, and associated with the Snake River Salmon Recovery Board Lead Entity. The project would support a two-year study to clarify juvenile spring Chinook & summer steelhead habitat use and movement in the Tucannon River.

Member Bugert asked if the project will address summer low flow and temperature limiting factors. John Foltz stressed the importance of addressing recent pit tag data of juvenile out migration survival of 15%, tracking returning adults.

Kay Caromile, OGM, presented the third project, West Oakland Bay Restoration and Conservation (RCO Project #15-1107), sponsored by Squaxin Island Tribe, Capitol Land Trust, Mason Conservation District, South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group. The project is located in the Puget Sound Region and associated with the Mason, Thurston, Nisqually, Pierce, and West Sound entities. The project would sequence restoration, design, and acquisition activities to stabilize lower Goldsborough Creek and restore and protect Shelton Harbor's shoreline and tidelands. The project would support threatened Chinook, threatened steelhead, Coho, Chum, Cutthroat, forage fish (Sand Lance, Surf Smelt, Herring) and marine invertebrates.

Chair Troutt commented on the project significance and value of collaborative relationships that have supported the work. Member Bugert asked about PSAR opportunities; regional funding allows flexibility that may not be accessed as frequently in other funding sources.

Member Rockefeller asked about project site channel clearing, specifically water velocity and the effect on the channelized creek. Ms. Caromile commented that there are plans to remove steel pipes. Ms. Hatch-Winecka shared that installation of debris is prompted by dam removal and anticipated sediment release. Outreach to land owners is a focus, and continued fish response is expected.

Item 4C: 2015 Grant Round, Review Panel Comments

Tom Slocum, Review Panel Chair, along with panel members Jen O'Neal, Marnie Tyler, Michelle Cramer, and Pat Powers, discussed the Board's evaluation criteria in Manual 18. The panel collectively reviewed 2000 projects from 1999 for certainty of implementation, cost effectiveness, defining measurable objectives (SMART). Mr. Slocum stressed the importance of fee simple ownership, future acquisition funding from the Legislature, and not scaling back or abandoning restoration.

Mr. Slocum provided an example of a withdrawn project (11-1290), with land owner constraints in the contractual language of the easement, preventing the project from moving forward. Mr. Slocum emphasized that easements work, but including fee simple acquisition is important. Director Cottingham stated that the legislature (through the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee) will compare fee simple and other regulatory means as part of one of their studies over the next two years.

Mr. Slocum presented the 2015 noteworthy projects. Mr. Slocum indicated that the Review Panel considers all project phases in terms of cost-effectiveness and cost-benefit quantification. Mr. Slocum stated that feasibility studies build momentum towards construction, and past experience indicates greater benefits to salmon and the lowers the relative cost of the project. Mr. Slocum highlighted the Upper Columbia region as a positive example. The Upper Columbia weighs project ranking with a habitat quantity and quality metric. Mr. Slocum emphasized the benefit of applying the Upper Columbia approach state-wide.

Mr. Slocum discussed the 2015 Project of Concern, the Meadowdale Beach Park & Estuary Restoration Design (RCO #[15-1056](#)) sharing that the majority of the panel members believed the benefit did not outweigh the overall project cost. Mr. Slocum stated the board continues to receive increased funding requests and they must justify the cost of all phases, the importance of project within the region, and the benefits. Mr. Slocum provided the Nason Creek project in Upper Columbia as high-benefit to cost project, in contrast to the Meadowdale project.

Mr. Slocum reviewed language to Manual 18 regarding SMART objectives. Manual 18 contains instructions and application forms for a sponsor to identify clear, measurable, and timely objectives. Mr. Slocum indicated that vague objectives don't produce the best projects; the Review Panel believes that SMART objectives, dialogue, and potentially withholding final payment, would help produce better proposals in the future.

Member Bugert thanked the Review Panel for the big picture overview on cost-effectiveness, and asked if Upper Columbia could share their cost-benefit information. Member Neatherlin encouraged the panel to help sponsors acknowledge mistakes, continue to look at the bigger issues, and support sponsors who think on the larger scale.

Chair Troutt emphasized the need to develop a plan of action on climate change with input from the Review Panel. The Review Panel continues to discuss how climate change relates to moving salmon recovery forward, and will continue to look at how fish adapt, consider projects affects, look at designs and sea level rise, and discuss constraints and issues.

Lunch Break 12:40 - 1:30 p.m.

Brian Abbott, Governor's Salmon Recovery Office Executive Coordinator, provided an update on recent the monitoring contract delays, monitoring subcommittee requests and funding issues. He shared recommended actions for reducing costs, adding more detail to scopes of work, reviewing last year's IMW contracts for potential carry-over funds, requesting additional funding from NOAA.

Member Neatherlin supported the actions taken, noting the importance of the board coordinating with the panel to understand issues and coordinate decisions. Member Smith commented on the importance of removing silos, and taking a broader approach.

Item 4D: 2015 Grant Round, Overview of Intensively Monitored Watershed (IMW) Restoration Treatment Projects

Tara Galuska, Salmon Section Manager, Keith Dublanica, Governor's Salmon Recovery Office, and Dr. Marnie Tyler, Monitoring Panel Chair, presented information about IMW treatment projects that are included in the 2015 grant round. The board approved spending up to \$6 million over three years (with a maximum investment of \$2 million per year) for the Lower Columbia, Straits, and Hood Canal IMW study areas. Regions submitted a total of five projects with a total request of \$1,663,753 in IMW funding.

Chair Troutt commented on the lack of projects in all IMW areas, and asked whether this constituted cause for concern. Dr. Tyler responded that the current research and projects are supported by increased funding, and development is not possible in all areas at this time.

Mr. Abbott expressed concern regarding limited available funds next year, and requested a placeholder that would resolve funding issues while staff continue to find further monetary efficiencies. Mr. Abbott will review last year's IMW contracts for carry-over funds and continue to find other funding sources.

- Motion:** Move to approve \$1,663,753 in salmon project funds for five Intensively Monitored Watershed projects, as shown in Item 4D, Attachment A, of the board meeting materials.
- Moved by:** Member Phil Rockefeller
- Seconded by:** Member Nancy Biery
- Decision:** Approved

Item 4E: 2015 Grant Round, Overview of Regional Monitoring Projects

Mr. Dublanica and Dr. Tyler provided a brief summary of the six regionally-based monitoring proposals submitted in 2015. Dr. Tyler shared that proposed revisions to Manual 18 include asking for more detail in study plans and objectives in order to support a smoother review process. She shared that the intent was for projects to be at the regional scale, not the lead entity scale, so the information ask will be commensurate to the project and scale. This will likely reduce the burden on sponsors to draft a proposal.

Mr. Dublanica presented the regional project list, briefly sharing details about each including sponsorship and funding requests.

Item 4F: 2015 Grant Round, Regional Area Comment Period to Discuss Project Selection and Projects of Concern

Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board: Jeff Breckel, Council of Regions (COR) and Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board Chair, and Karen Adams, COR, highlighted several issues from the 2015 grant round. He shared that the projects submitted totaled several times the funding amount allocated to the region, emphasizing need and interest for funding. He commented on other funding sources as they support leverage of board funding, working with contributors, and supporting projects. He concluded by stating

that the capacity of sponsors to develop and submit projects is limited; funding needs continue to increase.

Northeast Washington: Representatives from the region were not present.

Puget Sound Partnership: Jeanette Dorner, Puget Sound Partnership, Jason Wilkinson, Lead Entity Coordinator, Logan Daniels, Snohomish Parks Engineer, Frank Leonetti and Kathleen Herrmann, Snohomish County, and Todd Zackey, Tulalip Tribes, came forth to represent the WRIA 8 Project of Concern, RCO #15-1056 Meadowdale Beach Park Barrier Removal, as detailed in the [2015 Salmon Recovery Grant Funding Report](#) (page 46).

Ms. Dorner described the project site conditions and limited restoration options. The project is of regional priority, and they are working through challenges with the railroad entity in the area, Burlington Northern. Considering the work put into developing a partnership with the railroad and the funding invested, the lead entity supported the project moving forward.

Mr. Wilkinson added local context, stating that the area is in the top tier of prioritized recovery actions identified in the WRIA 8 Recovery Plan. Other restoration opportunities exist; however, they are limited. He shared the importance of the current project in restoring channel and nearshore processes and the benefits to fish from multiple watersheds.

Ms. Herrmann provided information about the project scope and intended restoration efforts. She added details about the cost considerations, including the total requested amount to support the preliminary design, the total design cost, opportunities for other funding, and the strategies to involve partners. She stressed the importance of the project, commenting on the collaboration efforts entailed to move the work forward. There is strong local and stakeholder support for this project.

Member Bugert commented on the concerns of the railroad, including prevention of delays and liability issues. Ms. Herrmann responded that communications have been ongoing, and the railroad will be providing a sample agreement once they receive the preliminary design. The sponsors are working to inform the railroad of necessary fish windows and other site constraints. Member Bugert asked whether a resolution is anticipated in the short term. Ms. Herrmann shared that the contractor is supportive and able, but work is continuing with the railroad. Mr. Wilkinson added that the project is at the feasibility stage, and the questions and communications are timely in addressing project needs.

Hood Canal Coordinating Council: Alicia Olivas, Lead Entity Coordinator representing the Hood Canal Coordinating Council (HCCC), summarized the development of the HCCC organizational structure, intended to support bottom-up representation of the region. She provided information on the regional guidance for salmon recovery priorities which defines the board and the technical advisory and citizen group roles. The HCCC developed and prioritized strategic actions, identified keystone actions that will be implemented in the next grant round, and assembled a ranked list of projects.

Snake River Salmon Recovery Board: Steve Martin and John Foltz, Snake River Salmon Recovery Board, thanked the board for the opportunity to attend and provide comment. Mr. Foltz shared that the region receives up to 66% in match funding, which is a testament to the process and partners involved. Mr. Foltz thanked the Review Panel, GSRO, and RCO for extending eligibility to IMW and monitoring projects.

Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board

Derek Van Marter, Upper Columbia Salmon Recover Board Executive Director, expressed appreciation to Joy Juelson, the board, RCO grant manager Marc Duboiski, and Brian Abbott. He commented on the

recent trip to Washington, D.C. for the purpose of advocating for PCSRF funding for the state, not just for their region. He added that the UCSRB will continue to provide support and advocacy as needed.

Washington Coast Sustainable Salmon Partnership: Kirsten Harma, Lead Entity Coordinator, thanked the board for their work and efforts.

Yakima Basin Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board

Alex Conley, Yakima Basin Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board, Darcy Batura, Mid-Columbia Lead Entity Coordinator, and Jacob Anderson, Klickitat Lead Entity Coordinator, addressed the board. Mr. Conley described the development of their project list, thanking the board for their efforts in serving regions and projects. Ms. Batura stated the region continues to revise and evaluate the process for improvement. Ms. Batura thanked RCO grant manager Kay Caromile for her support. Ms. Galuska provided clarification on the projects listed in Item 4E, Attachment A of the board materials. RCP Project #15-1296 lists the incorrect name; the 2015 Salmon Recovery Grant Funding Report, Attachment 10, lists the correct name: Assess Salmonid Re-colonization of the White Salmon River.

Item 4G: 2015 Grant Round

Puget Sound

SRFB Funds

Motion: Move to approve \$6,459,773 in SRFB funds for projects and project alternates in the Puget Sound Region, as listed in Attachment 10 of the 2015 Salmon Recovery Grant Funding Report, dated December 9, 2015.

Moved by: Member Bob Bugert

Seconded by: Member Sam Mace

Decision: Approved

PSAR Funds*

Motion: Alternate 1 (*Funds the project of concern*): Move to approve \$18,833,188 in PSAR funds for projects and project alternates in the Puget Sound and Hood Canal Regions, as listed in Attachment 10 of the 2015 Salmon Recovery Grant Funding Report, dated December 9, 2015, including funding for project #15-1056, Meadowdale Beach Park Barrier Removal Design, a project of concern.

***Note** – The PSAR Funding amount does not include \$4,282,770 PSAR funding already approved by the board for early action PSAR projects. Unallocated PSAR funds in the amount of \$3,745,029 will be awarded following the process outlined in Manual 18.

Moved by: Member Bob Bugert, Alternate Option 1

Seconded by: Member Nancy Biery

Decision: Approved

Lower Columbia

Motion: Move to approve \$2,700,000 for projects and project alternates in the Lower Columbia Region, as listed in Attachment 10 of the 2015 Salmon Recovery Grant Funding Report, dated December 9, 2015.

Note: this includes two projects in the Klickitat Lead Entity totaling \$270,000.

Moved by: Member Bob Bugert

Seconded by: Member Sam Mace

Decision: Approved

Northeast

- Motion:** Move to approve \$360,000 for projects in the Northeast Region, as listed in Attachment 10 of the 2015 Salmon Recovery Grant Funding Report, dated December 9, 2015.
- Moved by:** Member Sam Mace
- Seconded by:** Member Nancy Biery
- Decision:** Approved

Hood Canal Region

- Motion:** Move to approve \$1,195,165 in SRFB funds for projects and project alternates in the Hood Canal Region, as listed in the citizen's approved projects list in Attachment 10 of the 2015 Salmon Recovery Grant Funding Report, dated December 9, 2015.
- Moved by:** Member Phil Rockefeller
- Seconded by:** Member Nancy Biery
- Decision:** Approved

Snake River Region

- Motion:** Move to approve \$1,598,400 for projects and project alternates in the Snake River Region, as listed in Attachment 10 of the 2015 Salmon Recovery Grant Funding Report, dated December 9, 2015.
- Moved by:** Member Bob Bugert
- Seconded by:** Member Nancy Biery
- Decision:** Approved

Upper Columbia Region

- Motion:** Move to approve \$1,953,000 for projects and project alternates in the Upper Columbia Region, as listed in Attachment 10 of the 2015 Salmon Recovery Grant Funding Report, dated December 9, 2015.
- *Member Bugert recused himself from the motion.**
- Moved by:** Member Sam Macy
- Seconded by:** Member Phil Rockefeller
- Decision:** Approved, one abstention

Washington Coast Region

- Motion:** Move to approve \$1,620,000 for projects and project alternates in the Coastal Region, as listed in Attachment 10 of the 2015 Salmon Recovery Grant Funding Report, dated December 9, 2015.
- Moved by:** Member Nancy Biery
- Seconded by:** Member Phil Rockefeller
- Decision:** Approved

Mid-Columbia / Yakima Region

- Motion:** Move to approve \$1,776,600* for projects and project alternates in the Yakima Middle Columbia Region, as listed in Attachment 10 of the 2015 Salmon Recovery Grant Funding Report, dated December 9, 2015.
- *Note – this amount includes \$458,267 for two projects in the Klickitat Lead Entity.

Moved by: Member Nancy Biery
Seconded by: Member Sam Mace
Decision: Approved

Break 2:45 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Member Bugert commented on the heavy focus of state level restoration, describing the need for incentives that drive salmon recovery and protection, land acquisition, and refuge habitat at multiple levels in the face of climate change.

Chair Troutt asked if current trends are moving away from these priorities. Amy Hatch-Winecka referenced land acquisitions as an eligible project type, stating that they (acquisitions) need to be a more significant part of salmon recovery efforts. Politics at the local level impact decisions, and lead entities encourage acquisitions differently with a separate process. Mr. Breckel explained that local concerns, private landowners and the cost for habitat protection also impact acquisition decisions. Ms. Dorner spoke to the challenge of timing in acquisitions – identifying priorities before the property becomes available or the grant round process starts can be prohibitive.

Board Business: Briefing

Item 5: Manual 18 Changes for 2015

Kathryn Moore, Salmon Section Grants Manager, presented the proposed administrative revisions and policy changes to the Salmon Recovery Grants Manual 18. Ms. Moore summarized the stakeholder process from which revisions and feedback were gathered; the administrative updates outlined in the board materials; and a proposal for climate change questions to be included in the grant application process.

Ms. Moore outlined four issues for board decisions, including the 2015 grant round timeline, the RMAP criteria alignment, and the timing of the 2016 PSAR funding. The fourth issue regarding a large capital project category will be addressed in Item 7, to be presented later in the meeting.

Ms. Moore provided a brief explanation of additional RMAP criteria for Manual 18. Since the current Manual 18 has an end date of July 1, 2016 for RMAPs and RMAPs have the option for extension, the policy must be addressed. The Review Panel and staff recommends adding the October 20, 2021 date to the RMAP section of Manual 18 and updating the Supplemental Questions. Staff and the board's Review Panel suggested additional criteria for RMAP projects should they remain eligible.

Ms. Moore provided a summary of the 2016 PSAR grant round changes that include how projects are approved. She outlined the proposed process, where PSAR projects would be approved by the board as alternates. Once the PSAR account receives funding, RCO could send out agreements, project contracts in July, rather than December. The process is similar to how large capital projects have been approved in the past.

Motion: Move to approve the policy changes outlined in Item 5, Attachments A-C, of the board meeting materials for incorporation into Manual 18.
Moved by: Member Bob Bugert
Seconded by: Member Nancy Biery
Decision: Approved

Item 6: Fish Barrier Removal Board Update from the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

Mr. Abbott and David Price, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, presented information on the Fish Passage Barrier Removal Board's (fish passage board) current status and direction. Mr. Price began by sharing the importance of fish passage and the history of fish passage efforts in Washington. Currently, the following state agencies participate in addressing barriers to fish passage: the departments of Fish and Wildlife, Transportation and Natural Resources, the Yakama Indian Nation, the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, the Washington State Association of Counties, the Washington Association of Cities, and the Governor's Salmon Recovery Office.

Mr. Price described the goals of the fish passage board and their coordinated approach which involves a holistic, whole-stream view and collaborative partnerships. Mr. Price shared that using the established salmon recovery system is an intentional part of the fish passage board's work. By working with local entities, the fish passage board hopes to create a communication loop, sharing information that helps identify priority projects. The fish passage board will help sponsors with grant execution, streamlining the process as much as possible and by expanding inventories using local protocols.

Mr. Price provided a map of state wide needs for barrier removal. Mr. Price indicated that the fish passage board will develop a portfolio of barriers, screen and vet projects with locals, determine barrier status, create a support network for the projects, and prepare a funding package. The fish passage board adopted all of the salmon recovery region recommendations, and will develop a list of projects for the state 2017-2019 biennium budget request. The capital budget or a special account could fund the grant program designed to assist state agencies, private landowners, tribes, organizations, and volunteer groups with the capacity to undertake fish barrier removal projects. The second option is through the Transportation Improvement Board. The fish passage board would submit a request in August or September 2016.

Mr. Abbott spoke to the importance of having coordinated communications strategies and messaging. He presented a list of communication messages. The fish passage board will work on a communications strategy with Pyramid Communications to develop a message framework that respective board member organizations will use to advocate for additional salmon recovery funding.

Item 7: Large Capital Project Proposal 2017-2019

Leslie Connelly, Natural Resource Policy Specialist, and Brian Abbott provided an update on the proposal to create a grant program category for large capital projects with a statewide competition component. Staff propose naming this large capital grant program "Large-Scale Salmon Recovery Projects." Ms. Connelly summarized the need for such a category, funding allocation suggestions and four alternative approaches. Ms. Connelly shared a proposed implementation timeline that would prepare the board to submit a ranked list as part of a capital budget request next August, 2016.

The board discussed the need for such a project category, and the potential advantages and disadvantages associated with this approach.

Public Comment

Amy Hatch Winecka, Jeff Breckel, Alex Conley, Steve Martin, John Foltz, Derek Van Marter, and Jeanette Dorner provided comment on the Large Capital Project Proposal from the regional and lead entity perspective. The discussion included creating a single request that incorporates large scale projects, the potential loss of current funding, and the potential to create confusion with multiple funding requests. The regions discussed the implementation of large scale projects with the current funding process, the need to demonstrate these projects on the ground to the Legislature, the existing statewide infrastructure

to accomplish large projects, the need for a unified voice to encourage moving salmon recovery forward, and the need for funds to complete projects

Mr. Breckel suggested that SRNet provides a logical place to build the coalition of support. Chair Troutt, Member Biery, and Member Bugert agreed that this approach supports alignment in purpose and is an appropriate approach.

After considering public comment, Chair Troutt directed staff to collaborate with regional representatives on a subcommittee that will develop a strategy and return to the board in March. The subcommittee will work with SRNet to develop uniform messaging, as well as an allocation package which addresses and identifies capacity needs, the current regional allocation, and large capital project proposals.

Closing: Day One

The meeting was adjourned for the day at 5:10 p.m. by Chair Troutt.

SALMON RECOVERY FUNDING BOARD SUMMARY MINUTES

Date: December 10, 2015

Place: Olympia, WA

Salmon Recovery Funding Board Members:

David Troutt, Chair	Olympia	Carol Smith	Department of Ecology
Nancy Biery	Quilcene	Susan Cierebiej	Department of Transportation
Bob Bugert	Wenatchee	Erik Neatherlin	Department of Fish and Wildlife
Phil Rockefeller	Bainbridge Island	Megan Duffy	Department of Natural Resources
Sam Mace	Spokane	Brian Cochran	Washington State Conservation Commission

Opening and Welcome

Chair David Troutt called the meeting to order at 9:09 a.m. Staff called roll and a quorum was determined.

Board Business: Briefing

Item 8: Washington Administrative Code Updates

Leslie Connelly, Natural Resource Policy Specialist, summarized the progress made on drafting amendments to Title 420 of the Washington Administrative Code (WAC). At the October 2015, the board directed staff to continue working with stakeholders to receive feedback, evaluate drafting new sections by the December meeting. Ms. Connelly indicated that in November 2015, staff provided the proposed amendments to lead entities and regional organizations for review and feedback. Due to the short turn-around between the October and December meetings, staff was unable to prepare drafts for new sections about lead entities, regional organizations, and the Governor's Salmon Recovery Office (GSRO). Staff will continue to draft these sections later this winter.

Ms. Connelly provided next steps for staff to revise the draft amendments in preparation for formal rulemaking in February 2016 and filing the Notice of Proposed Rule-making with the Office of the Code

Reviser. The board would conduct a formal public hearing at the March 2016 meeting; then the board would decide based on public comment when to hold a formal rule adoption, perhaps in June 2016, depending on public comment. The board agreed with staff direction.

Item 9: Communications Strategy Update

Brian Abbott provided an update on the communications strategy, including implementation of recommendations and decisions that will be part of discussion later for strategic plan. The communications framework was completed in 2014, and the recommendations are currently being implemented. Outcomes include the development of SRNet, which supports building trust and collaboration among organizations to remove silos. Mr. Abbott provided information on members of SRNet, and shared that the network intends to include NOAA, Conservation Districts (still determining the best representative from these groups, could be WSCC), and a representative from the non-profit sector.

Mr. Abbott presented five proposals for board discussion. For each proposal, staff developed potential timelines, costs, and board actions for each proposal item outlined in the board materials (Item 9). The board discussed each item, particularly the establishment of a funding subcommittee and the potential reduction of grant round funds to administer the communication contract. The board decided to table the discussion until after the presentation for Item 11.

Board Business: Decisions

Item 10: Facilitation Contract for Salmon Recovery Network (SRNet) for 2015-17 Biennium

Mr. Abbott reported on the early success of the contract with Triangle Associates for the facilitation of the Salmon Recovery Network (SRNet). He suggested using \$85,000 of 2015 PCSRF funds to continue the facilitation contract with Triangle Associates, which supports collaboration among salmon recovery partners by coordinating a work group and conducting an annual progress meeting for executive managers to improve communications and efficiencies. SRNet partners agree on the value of reconciling different stories, working together to establish trust, a clear scope and goals, combined funding, and laying the foundation for future work.

- Motion:** Move to approve continuation of the facilitation contract with Triangle Associates through 2017 for up to \$85,000.
- Moved by:** Member Bob Bugert
- Seconded by:** Member Nancy Biery
- Decision:** Approved

Item 11: Board Strategic Plan Update and New Biennial Workplan

Brian Abbott summarized the efforts to review, update, and finalize the Salmon Recovery Funding Board's 2015-2017 Strategic Plan. The plan was last updated in March 2014 based on recommendations from the Stillwater Report that subcommittee members continue to implement. Few changes were made to the Strategic Plan; a deeper discussion of the new biennial work plan will follow. Mr. Abbott walked the board through the draft updates to the Strategic Plan. The board discussed the additions, assessing for appropriateness, fit, and feasibility.

- Motion:** Move to approve the revised Salmon Recovery Funding Board strategic plan as amended, effective December 10, 2015.
- Moved by:** Member Nancy Biery
- Seconded by:** Member Sam Mace
- Decision:** Approved

Next, Mr. Abbot led a discussion of the biennial work plan drafted by the subcommittee. The work presented represents a fuller look at the board's actions, including costs. Typically, the board addresses items individually and the comprehensive approach is new.

Director Cottingham suggested that staff prepare a comprehensive budget overview at the March meeting. The overview could include a budget update for remainder of biennium, including return fund predictions and proposed allocations. At that time, the board could discuss how much will be set aside and understand impacts to other budget needs.

Public Comment:

Alex Conley agreed with the strategy to collaborate funding allocations; additionally, there needs to be clarification on the process for making appeals to the board. He emphasized being strategic with regards to time and project focus, not just with funding. There is limited staff capacity to engage the whole state, and the board needs to balance demands to ensure priorities and capacity are maximized. Mr. Conley emphasized keeping the grant round whole to fully fund grants.

Motion: Move to approve the 2015-2017 Salmon Recovery Funding Board Biennial Work Plan, effective December 10, 2015.

Moved by: Member Bob Bugert

Seconded by: Member Nancy Biery

Decision: Approved

Motion: Move to approve discretionary authority for the RCO Director to allocate up to \$500,000 in return funds for cost increases associated with the grant cycle for awards in 2015.

Moved by: Member Bob Bugert

Seconded by: Member Nancy Biery

Decision: Approved

Break 10:35 – 10:55 a.m.

Item 15: Washington Salmon Coalition Climate Change

**Presented out of order*

Amy Hatch-Winecka, WSC Chair, and John Foltz, Vice Chair of the WSC, presented information on integrating climate change into local salmon recovery plan strategies. Ms. Hatch-Winecka clarified that the information provided is not a proposal, but rather a response to an inquiry from Member Bugert from the May 2015 board meeting regarding how lead entities address climate change in planning and project implementation. Details of the presentation are included on the RCO Web site.

The board discussed climate change including life cycles, fresh water and estuaries, dissolved oxygen, and ocean acidification. The board recognizes local challenges and the capacity of regions to address climate change. The board sees the need to access private sector funding, advocate addressing climate change, look at larger planning efforts, encourage public access to information, utilize current technology, and establish a strategic message with priorities and next steps.

Item 12: Columbia River Update from the Northwest Power and Conservation Council

Brian Abbott introduced Member Phil Rockefeller, Northwest Power and Conservation Council (council), who presented an overview of the salmon restoration initiatives and efforts in the Columbia Basin. Mr. Rockefeller introduced the dynamics and work of the council, including legal framework, stakeholders, and overall vision of the Columbia River Basin ecosystem moving towards sustainable with abundant diverse communities of native fish and wildlife. He emphasized the importance of partnerships, including deference to tribal sovereign nations.

The council seeks to develop and update a strategic plan every five years with a focus on energy efficiency, sustainability, and renewability. The council developed a fish and wildlife program to modify dams for fish movement, address habitat, boost production of fish through hatcheries, and to restore and enhance native endangered/threatened populations. Mr. Rockefeller seeks to coordinate the work of council and the board on issues related to fish survival, restoring ecosystem process, using hatcheries to rebuild runs and support depleted stocks, and recognizing treaty rights.

Mr. Rockefeller indicated that ongoing investments need to adapt based on real-life observations with rigorous scientific process, including recognizing emerging threats, invasive species prevention, climate change impacts, species reintroduction, and improving flood plain habitat. Specific issues to address include inventory of toxicity, status of spring spill program to increase smolt survival, feasibility assessment of salmonid reintroduction above Grand Coulee Dam, the status of the Columbia River Treaty, and an update on the proposed Columbia River Partnership.

The board thanked Member Rockefeller for his continued work. The board will promote Washington's interest in salmon recovery in regards to the Columbia River Treaty. The board will continue to advocate for good science, addressing current biological opinions, and tribal rights.

Item 13: The Nature Conservancy Strategic Vision & Salmon Recovery

Mo McBroom, The Nature Conservancy (TNC), was not able to present due to inclement weather. The board requested that she return to present at the March 2016 meeting.

Break 12:50 p.m. – 1:05 p.m.

Item 14: New Ideas for Determining Restoration Needs and Priorities

Brian Abbott introduced Dr. Phil Roni, Cramer Fish Sciences, who presented ideas for a new approach to determining restoration needs and priorities in watersheds. Several reasons show the need for a new approach, including uncertainty about the true limiting factors in a watershed, the cost and time needed to complete assessments, lack of a one-size-fits-all approach, and the complication of evaluating each watershed assessment tool. Despite significant investments in salmon recovery, it remains unclear whether the right projects are funded in the right places, whether projects will lead to salmon recovery definitively, nor whether projects address limited life stage or habitat. Additionally, it's unclear what each assessment, model or tool will provide, how it will assist restoration efforts, or what step in restoration it will address.

Dr. Roni pointed out that assessing every aspect in a watershed is costly, and often neither feasible or necessary. With existing restoration funding, actions must be taken often before the best solution may be identified. This commonly results in "one-size-fits-all" approaches to restoration and lack of clarity about how to identify top priorities. The effectiveness of restoration projects may fall short for these reasons. To address this issue, he proposed a systematic approach to identify the top two to five assessments needed in each watershed to implement successful salmon habitat restoration projects. The proposed process would involve a screening process identify the key assessments, tools, and data needed to identify the correct and most strategic restoration opportunities; select best methodology once top assessments are

identified; and then write brief strategic assessment plan that documents all restoration steps, processes, necessary data collection, etc. The plan supports completion of priority assessments, receive funding, or release an RFP for top assessments.

Dr. Roni proposed that the board undertake a pilot project for this approach in a recovery area and watershed in the upper Columbia. Mr. Abbott suggested that the board consider this approach and the proposed pilot project. Given the complexity of partners, monitoring programs, data and information, and proposed modeling and monitoring approaches, this step will identify next steps and priorities for salmon recovery in the region.

The board discussed the possibility of adding a project in the Straits of Juan de Fuca to this proposal. The board requested that more information be brought to the March 2016 meeting when a funding decision can be made in coordination with other board priorities. The board would like to see how this strategic approach fits with current regions and their work, how it relates to other investments, and how to determine the assessment and analysis of life stage history in a particular basin.

Closing

Chair Troutt adjourned the meeting at 1:35 p.m. The next board meeting is scheduled for March 16, 2016 in Olympia, WA.

Approved by:



David Troutt, Chair

December 9, 2015

Date