

SALMON RECOVERY FUNDING BOARD SUMMARIZED MEETING AGENDA AND ACTIONS

March 16, 2016

Item	Formal Action	Follow-up Action
1. Consent Agenda <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approval of December 9-10, 2015 Meeting Minutes • Snohomish County Beach Nourishment Construction, RCO Project #13-1106 	Decision: Approved	No follow-up action requested.
2. Director's Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Director's Report • Legislative, Budget, and Policy Updates • Performance Update • Financial Report 	Briefings	No follow-up action requested.
3. Salmon Recovery Management Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Governor's Salmon Recovery Office Report • Salmon Recovery Network (SRNet) • Salmon Section Report • Recently Completed Projects 	Briefings	No follow-up action requested.
4. Reports from Partners	Briefings	No follow-up action requested.
5. Funding to be Allocated for the Remainder of the 2015-17 Biennium	Briefing	No follow-up action requested.
6. Projects that Implement the Board's Strategic Plan	Decisions Motion: Move to approve funding for Items 1, 2, 3 (minus the video update, deferred to a later date), 4, and 5, and to defer Item 6 to a later date. Decision: Approved Motion: Move to approve funding to cover the budget shortfall of \$125,992 for Intensively Monitored Watershed (IMW) contracts using funds from the IMW treatment category (\$2 million for 2016, thus leaving an IMW restoration treatment program balance of \$1,874,008 for the 2016 grant round.) Decision: Approved	No follow-up action requested.

7. The Nature Conservancy Strategic Vision & Salmon Recovery	Briefing	The board invited TNC to participate in SRNet meetings, and RCO will provide a link to the video shared by TNC on the salmon stories website.
8. Washington Administrative Code: Public Hearing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff Briefing • Public Hearing • Board Discussion and Decision 	Resolution: 2016-01 Decision: Approved	Staff will proceed with the formal rule-making process.
9. Proposed New Sections to Washington Administrative Code <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Governor's Salmon Recovery Office • Regional Organizations • Lead Entities • Citizen's Committees 	Briefing	No follow-up action requested.
10. Regional Organization Presentation by Puget Sound	Briefing	No follow-up action requested.
11. Climate and Drought Impacts to Salmon and Recovery Projects	Briefing	No follow-up action requested.

SALMON RECOVERY FUNDING BOARD SUMMARY MINUTES

Date: March 16, 2016

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
Sam Mace	Spokane	Megan Duffy	Department of Natural Resources
Phil Rockefeller	Bainbridge Island	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 9:05 a.m. and welcomed the board, staff, and audience. Staff called roll and a quorum was determined. Member Rockefeller was excused.

Motion: Agenda adoption
Moved by: Member Bob Bugert
Seconded by: Member Nancy Biery
Decision: Approved

Item 1: Consent Agenda

The board reviewed the consent agenda, which included approval of the December 2015 meeting minutes and a request from Snohomish County regarding RCO Project #13-1106.

Motion: Consent Agenda
Moved by: Member Bob Bugert
Seconded by: Member Nancy Biery
Decision: Approved

Management and Partner Reports

Item 2: Management Report

Director's Report: 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. She shared that the State Auditor recently completed their federal funding review, specifically of the Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF); there were no audit findings. Director Cottingham provided a brief update on the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (RCFB) and the Washington Invasive Species Council (WCRI).

Legislative and Policy Updates: Wendy Brown, RCO Policy Director, provided an update on current legislative activity. The regular session ended March 10, and the Governor called a special session to begin the next day, March 11. RCO had three request bills, all of which passed the Legislature: (1) reauthorization of the Washington Invasive Species Council (WISC); 2) extension of the Habitat and Recreation Lands Coordinating Group; and 3) and the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (RCW 79A.15). The Governor vetoed the WISC bill in an effort to force action from the Legislature on the budget.

Other bills related to salmon recovery include HB 2856 (Office of the Chehalis River basin flood risk reduction), EHB 2883 (requirements for state agency reports), SB 6171 (civil penalties for violating the open public meetings act), and SB 6274 (Columbia River recreational salmon and steelhead endorsement program). Ms. Brown concluded by providing an update on the latest changes to RCO's supplemental and capital budget requests as they affects salmon.

Item 3: Salmon Recovery Management Report

Governor's Salmon Recovery Office (GSRO): Kaleen Cottingham, RCO Director, provided an update on behalf of GSRO. She summarized the temporary assignments for GSRO staff during the Executive Coordinator absence. Other updates included information about SRNet stakeholders who continue to focus on statewide salmon recovery funding, policy issues, and advancing SRNet goals; an upcoming delegation to Washington, D.C. in April to advocate for salmon funding in Washington; an update regarding a funding shortfall identified in the Intensively Monitored Watershed (IMW) program; and the latest information regarding coordinated grants efforts as part of Results Washington. The board discussed the background and potential solutions to the IMW monitoring shortfall; a decision will be made as part of Items 5 and 6.

Director Cottingham shared that the Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF) application was submitted by the deadline on March 4, and summarized the priorities included as part of the application package. Additional information was provided on the updates to the State of the Salmon report, with a

targeted deadline of December 2016. The team working on updating the Habitat Work Schedule continues to coordinate data and work with partners. Director Cottingham concluded by sharing an update regarding the Monitoring Panel.

Salmon Grant Management Report: Tara Galuska, Salmon Section Manager, provided a brief update on the 2016 grant round, which began on February 12, 2016, and will include PSAR and PSAR Large Capital projects for the 2017-19 biennium. Salmon staff published Manual 18 on the RCO Web site, lead entities scheduled their project site visits, RCO staff conducted an application workshop webinar March 8, 2016, and the Salmon Recovery Funding Board Technical Review Panel (review panel) held their kickoff meeting March 15. As of March 14, sponsors submitted 120 applications, with a final due date of August 12, 2016. Ms. Galuska concluded with an update on the Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program and the Family Forest Fish Passage Program.

Recently Completed Projects: Salmon Outdoor Grant Managers Elizabeth Butler, Mike Ramsey, and Kat Moore shared information with the board regarding three recently closed RCO Projects: 1) #[13-1166](#), Lower Wallace River Conservation Area; 2) #[12-1368](#), Skokomish Car Removal and Riparian Restoration; and 3) #[15-1053](#), Dungeness River Railroad Reach Floodplain Restoration.

Item 4: Reports from Partners

Council of Regions Report (Council): Jeff Breckel, Chair of the Council of Regions, provided information on initiatives regarding communicating salmon recovery efforts more broadly, continuing to build relationships and trust, and building a coherent salmon story. The Council continues to pursue ways to incorporate climate change science into actionable goals. Mr. Breckel concluded with updates on membership on the Fish Passage Barrier Removal Board.

Washington Salmon Coalition (WSC): Amy Hatch-Winecka and John Foltz, WSC, described the current efforts to coordinate with and support lead entities with project applications, including the recently completed *Lead Entity Reference Guide*. Mr. Foltz summarized the discussions and outcomes from the recent WSC retreat, held in early February. In policy news, WSC continues to reach out to legislators and provided comment regarding the proposed changes to the Washington Administrative Code (WAC). The presentation concluded with project highlights from the Asotin Creek IMW.

Regional Fisheries Enhancement Groups Coalition (RFEG Coalition): Lance Winecka, South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group (SPSSEG) Executive Director, and Dick Wallace, SPSSEG Board Member, provided an update on behalf of the RFEG Coalition. The board received a handout describing the coalition's accomplishments, celebrating 25 years of salmon recovery efforts. Other highlights shared include legislative outreach, communication efforts regarding salmon recovery, and coordinated efforts with SRNet and the board's technical review panel. Mr. Winecka and Mr. Wallace responded to board comments regarding RFEGC's youth outreach and engaging volunteer efforts.

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW): Member Neatherlin provided an update on behalf of WDFW. As part of the Washington's Wild Future initiative, Member Neatherlin shared that the board could host a briefing on the initiative if there is sufficient interest. Member Neatherlin summarized agency priorities for salmon recovery and outcomes from the recent legislative session. Three initiatives in progress include a salmon license plate, a geographic overview of salmon recovery efforts in Washington, and the marine Salish Sea project.

Washington State Conservation Commission (WSCC): Member Cochrane summarized his recent efforts in coordination with the Washington Department of Ecology regarding agricultural buffers. Using data from his agency, he modeled project cost units in order to understand project barriers and accomplishments through a cost-benefit analysis.

Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT): Member Cierebiej shared information about WSDOT's budget outcomes from the recent legislative session and progress in meeting the injunction requirements for removing fish passage barriers.

Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology): Member Smith provided an update on the Ecology budget outlook considering the recent legislative session. Highlights included ways to minimize costs and streamline the agency budget. Member Smith shared a report released by Ecology several weeks ago related to climate change and predicted impacts on groundwater. The report will be available online.

Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR): Member Duffy shared information about DNR's budget outcomes from the recent legislative session, highlighting budget asks centering on wildfire management needs and describing potential impacts from several budget provisos.

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

Break 11:00 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.

Board Business: Briefings

Item 5: Funding to be Allocated for the Remainder of 2015-17 Biennium

Kaleen Cottingham, RCO Director, and Tara Galuska, Salmon Section Manager, provided information on the projected budget available for fiscal year 2016 and the 2016 grant round. As a result of the discussion held at the December 2015 meeting, staff compiled options to inform the board of available funding (or trade-offs) in order to make the decisions as presented in Memo 6 to fund specific activities that will advance the board's biennial work plan.

Director Cottingham talked the board through the funding chart included in Memo 5 of the board materials, outlining available funding, decisions already made to allocate funding, and the projected funds available for the 2016 grant round and other board activities. Additionally, Director Cottingham outlined options for addressing the IMW monitoring funding shortfall.

Chair Troutt invited public comment and a board discussion of the options set forth for funding decisions.

Public Comment:

Alex Conley, Yakima Basin Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board Executive Director, provided comment on behalf of the Yakima Basin Board advocating for maximized funds in the 2016 grant round. He stated that the Yakima Basin Board asks the board to carefully consider the tradeoffs in these budget decisions and potential impacts on the ground in various regions. Mr. Conley also asked the board to provide clarification regarding budget asks from regions outside of the grant round. Regarding the activities outlined in Item 6, Mr. Conley asked the board to consider deferring, phasing, or scaling activities to minimize the potential cuts to funding for the grant round.

Jeff Breckel, Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board Executive Director, provided comment on behalf of the Lower Columbia Board. He spoke to the 30% reduction in funds for the upcoming grant round and how this will impact projects on the ground, noting that only about one third of projects were funded in the last grant round despite significantly greater funding. Mr. Breckel stated that a further reduction in grant funds would be detrimental to regions with limited access or capacity. He asked the board to carefully consider the current proposed allocation and potential broader impacts. Regarding the IMW shortfall options, Mr. Breckel did not express a preference and stated that the proposal to use funds from the IMW allocation (\$2 million) seems most appropriate.

James White, Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board Operations Manager and Policy Lead, spoke on behalf of the Upper Columbia Board, agreeing with the sentiments of other regions concerning the imbalance of funding and capacity expressed by other regional representatives, which may be disproportionately affected by today's funding decisions. However, Mr. White explained that the issue is not as simple as capacity and alternate funding sources and the board should consider regional needs when addressing concerns of imbalance.

The board agreed that input from the Council of Regions and other stakeholders is necessary for understanding the impact to projects, regions, and other factors that would result from the various funding options.

Board Business: Decision

Item 6: Project to Implement the Board's Strategic Plan

Kaleen Cottingham, RCO Director, summarized six potential board activities included in the 2015-17 Biennial Work Plan and proposed for funding in 2016. The information presented in Memo 5 of the board materials outlined the potential funding capacity for a 2016 grant round and these six activities. The board will need to consider the balance between the funding available, regional input, and activities proposed in the work plan prior to making a decision.

Director Cottingham presented a cost breakdown and brief description of the six proposed activities, including the first phase in exploring a funding strategy, the 2017 Salmon Recovery Conference, the third phase of the SRFB-SRNet Communications Plan, a facilitator for the allocation subcommittee, a facilitator for the board retreat, and an assessment pilot based on the proposal provided by Dr. Phil Roni at the board's December 2015 meeting.

Chair Troutt invited public comment and a board discussion of the options set forth for funding decisions. The board discussed potential tradeoffs regarding deferment of the assessment pilot, updating media costs for the State of Salmon Report, efficiencies for the 2017 conference, and the effectiveness/value of funding various components of the six activities.

Member Biery suggested deferring the video update for the State of Salmon Report until SRNet has streamlined and updated their messaging.

Motion: Move to approve funding for Items 1, 2, 3 (minus the video update, deferred to a later date), 4, and 5, and to defer Item 6 to a later date.

Moved by: Member Bob Bugert

Seconded by: Member Sam Mace

Decision: Approved

Motion: Move to approve funding to cover the budget shortfall of \$125,992 for Intensively Monitored Watershed (IMW) contracts using funds from the IMW treatment category (\$2 million for 2016, thus leaving an IMW restoration treatment program balance of \$1,874,008 for the 2016 grant round.)

Moved by: Member Bob Bugert

Seconded by: Member Nancy Biery

Decision: Approved

Lunch 12:30 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Board Business: Briefing

Item 7: The Nature Conservancy Strategic Vision & Salmon Recovery

Jessie Israel and Garrett Dalan, The Nature Conservancy (TNC), presented information about the mission, goals, and programs carried out by the TNC with regards to Puget Sound recovery efforts, including revitalization of its lands, waters and surrounding cities. Ms. Israel described the Floodplains by Design program which supports incorporation of climate change science, integration of communities, and nature-based solutions in fresh-water systems. Ms. Israel provided information about the Regional Conservation Partnership Program, implemented in the last two years with an agricultural focus. Using the same modeling approach as the Floodplains by Design program, TNC created a cities program focused on stormwater management in urban areas. Mr. Dalan described the marine component of TNC's programs and the broad coalition of community partners in this effort. TNC supports a putting a price on carbon and, in line with this stance, created an emission reductions initiative to pave the way for cleaner cities and promote forest health. Ms. Israel described online tools and reports developed by TNC that support incorporating nature into cities.

**Chair Troutt deferred the remainder of TNC's presentation until after Item 8, due to the scheduled public hearing.*

The board asked Ms. Israel how TNC engages in the lead entity process and incorporates current science. Ms. Israel described TNC's process for determining maximum impact using current data and regional assessment, developing and revising assessment metrics, and iterative processes for consistent application of science and review of projects. TNC strategically uses public and private funding to finance projects and maximize benefit.

Member Biery suggested that a representative from TNC join the next SRNet meeting.

Ms. Israel shared a video created by TNC, accessible via the following link:
<http://www.washingtonnature.org/cities/solvingstormwater>.

Board Business: Decision

Item 8: Washington Administrative Code: Public Hearing

Leslie Connelly, Natural Resource Policy Specialist, presented staff recommendations for proposed amendments to the administrative rules in Title 420 of the Washington Administrative Code (WAC) for the Salmon Recovery Funding Board. Ms. Connelly reviewed the procedures RCO conducted to propose, refine changes, and consulting with lead entities, before proceeding to the public hearing and formal rulemaking process in accordance with the Administrative Procedures Act (APA).

Ms. Connelly provided a summary of the proposed WAC changes, included as Attachment A in Memo 8. The amendments would update and add new definitions, modify grant program requirements, revise public records procedures, and reorganize chapters and update references. Ms. Connelly submitted options for board consideration and adoption.

Public Hearing and Public Comment:

Chair Troutt opened the public hearing and requested public testimony. No further public comment was provided at this time. Chair Troutt closed the public hearing.

Chair Troutt asked Ms. Connelly to summarize the written comments received prior to the board meeting. Ms. Connelly provided Memo 8, Attachment D, which included public comment and staff responses, for board consideration. The board did not recommend or discuss any further changes to the proposed rules.

Motion: Move to approve Resolution 2016-01 as set forth in Memo 8, Attachment E.
Moved by: Member Nancy Biery
Seconded by: Member Sam Mace
Decision: Approved

Board Business: Briefings

Item 9: Proposed New Sections to the Washington Administrative Code

Leslie Connelly, Natural Resource Policy Specialist, presented the preliminary draft proposal to add new sections to Title 420 of the Washington Administrative Code. She indicated that staff collaborated to develop the new sections, and will engage with stakeholders after the initial board review and direction.

Ms. Connelly summarized the purpose of the proposed new administrative rules which would document how a lead entity and/or a regional recovery organization is formed; define roles and responsibilities for lead entities, citizen committees and regional recovery organizations; and identify statutory mandates for the Governor's Salmon Recovery Office (GSRO).

Ms. Connelly described next steps, contingent upon board direction, which would include working with stakeholders, preparing for the next phase of changes, and a schedule for informing the board of staff progress in the rule-making process.

Board Discussion: The board discussed involvement of the lead entities in the rule-making process and details of the proposed rules that may include conflict resolution and coordination between entities. Ms. Connelly suggested that staff identify potential policy suggestions as feedback is solicited, and the board can discuss them during the next meeting. The board also discussed a balance between rule and policy, and non-duplication of the Salmon Recovery Act. Sarah Gage explained the need to provide further guidance on responsibilities for lead entities, which is not as detailed in the current statute.

Public Comment:

Amy Hatch-Winecka, WSC Chair and Deschutes Lead Entity Coordinator, advocated for the proposed new sections to the WAC, explaining that the rules and guidance would provide much needed clarity. She encouraged the board to not delay or defer direction in moving forward with the rule-making process so that lead entities can continue to be involved and provide feedback. She expressed agreement with the proposed new sections as outlined.

Chair Troutt directed staff to work with lead entities to prepare options for board consideration at the next meeting in June 2016.

Break 3:00 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.

Item 10: Regional Organization Presentation by Puget Sound

Jeanette Dorner, Ecosystem and Salmon Recovery Director of the Puget Sound Partnership, presented information about the mission, goals, and structure of the Puget Sound Regional Salmon Recovery Organization. She provided a history and background of the Puget Sound region and creation of the recovery plan; the current status of salmon in the region; the Chinook Plan update and monitoring and adaptive management plan creation; the Steelhead Recovery Plan creation; and the 2016 Action Agenda.

Item 11: Climate and Drought Impacts to Salmon and Recovery Projects

Lara Whitely Binder, University of Washington Climate Impacts Group, and Lynn Helbrecht, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, shared information regarding climate and drought impacts to salmon recovery projects. Ms. Helbrecht shared WDFW's approach to responding to the challenge of climate

change, including how to take emergent science and incorporate it into the agency's core work. Ms. Helbrecht shared lessons learned, how WDFW identifies climate-sensitive decisions and actions, and the process for involving subject matter experts and community representatives. Ms. Helbrecht also shared a presentation regarding incorporating climate change science into culvert design and replacement projects. Ms. Helbrecht's current work at WDFW includes drafting agency policy that addresses climate change and principles for climate-smart conservation.

The board shared the climate change question and data collection efforts to be included as part of the next grant round, and discussed how to track appropriate models, make smarter investments, and how to include adaptive management in recovery plans when current science and research shifts so frequently. Ms. Helbrecht recommended using the stressors identified in each recovery plan that will be exacerbated by climate change, and place more focus on these prevention/mitigation efforts.

Ms. Binder provided an overview of the Climate Impacts group, their mission, goals, and current work. She summarized projected state-wide changes, e.g., reduced snow pack, sea-level rise, peak flow and runoff regime shifts, increased stream temperatures, increased flood risk, increased fire risk, etc., and described the modeling efforts in progress to support strategic decision-making and communicate about the impacts resulting from these changes. The presentation slides will be made available to the public after the meeting. Further information is available for download at <https://cig.uw.edu/>.

Closing

Chair Troutt adjourned the meeting at 5:00 p.m.

The next board meeting is scheduled for June 23, 2016 in Olympia, WA.

Approved by:



David Troutt, Chair

6/23/16

Date