

# SALMON RECOVERY FUNDING BOARD SUMMARIZED MEETING AGENDA AND ACTIONS

June 23, 2016

Item	Formal Action	Follow-up Action
<b>1. Consent Agenda</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• March 16, 2016 Meeting Minutes</li> </ul>	Decision: Approved	No follow-up action requested.
<b>2. Director's Report</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recognition of Jeff Breckel</li> <li>• Director's Report</li> <li>• Legislative, Budget, and Policy Updates</li> <li>• Performance Update (<i>written only</i>)</li> <li>• Financial Report (<i>written only</i>)</li> </ul>	Briefings	No follow-up action requested.
<b>3. Salmon Recovery Management Report</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Governor's Salmon Recovery Office Report               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Lead Entity Operational Reviews</li> <li>- Salmon Recovery Network (SRNet)</li> <li>- Board Work Plan Update                   <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Communication Plan Contracting</li> <li>o State of Salmon</li> <li>o 2017 Salmon Recovery Conference</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>• Salmon Section Report</li> <li>• Recently Completed Projects</li> </ul>	Briefings	No follow-up action requested.
<b>4. Reports from Partners</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Puget Sound Partnership</li> <li>• Council of Regions Report               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Introduce New Regional Directors</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Washington Salmon Coalition Report</li> <li>• Regional Fisheries Enhancement Group Coalition</li> <li>• Board Roundtable: Other Agency Updates               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Columbia Basin Partnership</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Briefings	The WDFW guidelines and recommendations on riparian habitat will be published this summer; Member Neatherlin suggested a briefing to the board on the topic at the September meeting, and a briefing on Steelhead early marine survival research in December.
<b>5. State Conservation Commission's Voluntary Stewardship Program</b>	Briefing	No follow-up action requested.
<b>6. Funding Issues: Short-term and Long-term</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PCSRF Reductions and Impacts for the Current Biennium</li> </ul>	Decision:	<p>The board moved to fund FY 2017 for lead entities and regions as set forth in Item 6, Table 2, Attachments A and B.</p> <p>The board directed staff to conduct an analysis of return funds from lead entity and regional FY 2016 contracts to ascertain funds available to</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Building Budget Requests for the 2017-19 Biennium</li> </ul>	Request for Direction	<p>backfill the \$801,685 contract reductions for FY 2017.</p> <p>Staff was also directed to communicate with lead entities and regions to submit final billing by July 15, in order for staff to conduct analysis by July 31.</p> <p>The board moved to direct GSRO staff to convene a workgroup, consisting of GSRO, two board members (David Troutt and Bob Bugert), regional directors, and two lead entity representatives from the WSC.</p>
<b>7. Monitoring Panel Update: Process and Schedule for Funding Recommendations</b>	Briefing	<p>The board directed monitoring panel staff to make recommendations based on reductions necessitated by the reduced PCSRF award. The monitoring panel will provide recommendations to the board as part of a published report this summer and at the September meeting.</p>
<b>8. Effectiveness Monitoring (Procurement Update)</b>	Briefing	No follow-up action requested.
<b>9. Updates from the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Washington's Wild Future Initiative</li> <li>Fish Passage Barrier Removal Board</li> <li>Updated State Wildlife Action Plan (<i>for salmon</i>)</li> </ul>	Briefing	No follow-up action requested.

## SALMON RECOVERY FUNDING BOARD SUMMARY MINUTES

**Date:** June 23, 2016

**Place:** Natural Resource Building, Room 172, 1111 Washington St SE, Olympia, WA

### Salmon Recovery Funding Board Members:

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

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**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 9:08 a.m. and welcomed the board, staff, and audience. Staff called roll and a quorum was determined. Member Bugert was excused.

**Motion:** Agenda adoption  
**Moved by:** Member Phil Rockefeller  
**Seconded by:** Member Nancy Biery  
**Decision:** Approved

### Item 1: Consent Agenda

The board reviewed the consent agenda, which included approval of the March 16, 2016 meeting minutes.

**Motion:** Consent Agenda  
**Moved by:** Member Nancy Biery  
**Seconded by:** Member Phil Rockefeller  
**Decision:** Approved

### Management and Partner Reports

#### Item 2: Management Report

**Director's Report:** Director Cottingham shared a resolution drafted by RCO on behalf of the board to honor Jeff Breckel for his 18 years of service. Mr. Breckel thanked the board, shared a brief history of his work, and expressed gratitude for the opportunities shared with the board. Member Rockefeller moved to approve the resolution; Member Biery seconded. Motion carried.

**Legislative and Policy Updates:** Wendy Brown, RCO Policy Director, welcomed the new Invasive Species Coordinator, Justin Bush. She then provided an update on the work of the RCO policy team, including developing a new Forestland Preservation Program and figuring out how the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) can support underserved community needs. She concluded by briefly

summarizing the process for preparing budget proposals, on which the board will make decisions at their August meeting.

### **Item 3: Salmon Recovery Management Report**

**Governor's Salmon Recovery Office (GSRO):** Brian Abbott, Executive Coordinator GSRO, invited Salmon Recovery Network (SRNet) members to provide an update on their work and progress. Jeff Breckel, Colleen Thompson, Amy Hatch-Winecka, and Rebecca Benjamin joined him.

The group began by sharing the foundational document, *Extinction is Not an Option*, the statewide strategy to salmon recovery from September 1999, which lays the framework for the bottom-up approach to addressing recovery efforts in Washington State. Mr. Abbott described the process for establishing SRNet. Mr. Abbott explained the process for determining capacity funding needs and the exercise SRNet used to support both the capital and operating budget requests.

Ms. Thompson discussed the impacts to the Regional Fisheries Enhancement Groups (RFEs) program revenue as a result of current budget challenges, and the negative implications at the ground-level for accomplishing respective RFE goals and operational work. She highlighted the positive outcomes of participating on SRNet, including efforts to increase capacity funding and achieve recovery goals.

Mr. Abbott shared information about the capital and operating budget requests from other agencies, particularly Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. He provided suggestions for funding strategies, detailing various program requests, and methods for encouraging support across partners. He concluded by summarizing the budget proposal from SRNet: capacity funding for regions, lead entities, and RFEs at \$1.87 million; capital funding for habitat projects at \$50 million; and support for other salmon related operating and capital funding requests.

Ms. Hatch-Winecka explained the efforts of the Washington Salmon Coalition to partner with the regional organizations to develop budget strategies, implement projects, and demonstrate the strength across the bottom-up framework in Washington. Mr. Breckel discussed the contributions made that support salmon recovery successes and the need to continue advancing this collaborative work.

Mr. Abbott and Director Cottingham responded to board questions about how the budget proposals were formulated, and the inclusion of the RFEs. Jennifer Quan addressed the board regarding WDFW's support of the RFEs and inclusion in their budget requests. Given the salmon focus of the RFEs, both agencies believe that their implementation work warrants fiscal support. Ms. Benjamin added that the recognition of RFEs also underlines the need for sustainability in their program, and the power of messaging and local engagement with legislators.

**Salmon Grant Management Report:** Kat Moore, Salmon Section Senior Grant Manager, provided a brief update on the 2016 grant round, including an update on the Review Panel, Lead Entity site visits, and draft application numbers. RCO anticipates approximately \$13 million for the 2016 grant round, and \$3.7 million for Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR) projects. The grant cycle includes PCSRF, salmon state funding, unobligated 2015-17 PSAR state funding, and developing lists of new projects for the 2017-2019 PSAR budget request. Ms. Moore concluded with an update on the salmon grant administration and the Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program.

**Recently Completed Projects:** Alice Rubin, Salmon Outdoor Grants Manager, presented information about the Elliott Slough Acquisition project (RCO #[13-1033](#)). Marc Duboiski, Salmon Outdoor Grants Manager, presented the Skagit Tier 1 and 2 Floodplain Acquisition projects, two reach-level acquisition grants (RCO Projects #[11-1536](#) and #[11-1683](#)).

#### **Item 4: Reports from Partners**

**Puget Sound Partnership (PSP):** Sheida Sahandy, Laura Blackmore, and Martha Kongsgaard addressed the board regarding the recent reduction in staff and capacity at PSP, resulting budget impacts, and strategies for moving forward. Ms. Sahandy described the steps for 2015 and 2016 to address the budget imbalance; this phased approach involves staffing needs, legislative strategies, and decision management frameworks. She clarified that PSP mission and goals remain the same despite these setbacks, and communication about these changes continues to be a priority.

Ms. Blackmore described the ongoing successes of PSP, including improved coordination, establishment of the Salmon Science Advisory Group, and updates to the PSAR grant round. PSP intends to make further progress towards their organizational goals by updating their watershed plan, common indicators for measuring recovery efforts, and guidance for how to use these indicators. Ms. Blackmore described PSP's process for leveraging PCSRF funds across program updates and staffing support, and plans for completing the 2016-17 phase of their contract with RCO. She gratefully acknowledged the contributions of Jeanette Dorner in these efforts, who is leaving PSP.

Member Rockefeller acknowledged the budget difficulties that lead entities and regions are facing, and welcomed suggestions for finding efficiencies or other economies of scale. Ms. Blackmore outlined a proposal regarding lead entity consolidation, although this is still in discussion and must come from the lead entity. They continue to explore options locally and are looking for further opportunities to scale back without losing necessary momentum.

The board and PSP staff discussed the opportunities for building on the positive work in place, using SRNet as a partner, and engaging in communication efforts to coordinate and garner further support. Ms. Sahandy described the staffing structure and the re-distribution of responsibilities after the budget reductions, mainly affecting the mid-managerial functions of the agency. Anticipated challenges also include not being able to meet progress and statutory deliverables due to reduced capacity. Member Neatherlin encouraged PSP to communicate about losses to salmon recovery efforts due to the budget reductions as a strategy for gaining legislative support.

**Council of Regions Report (Council):** Jeff Breckel, Chair, introduced each of the new regional organization directors: Jessica Helsley (Washington Coast, replacing Miles Batchelder), Melody Kriemes (Upper Columbia, replacing Derek Van Marter) and Steve Manlow (Lower Columbia, replacing Jeff Breckel). Each provided brief background and thanked the board. Mr. Breckel will continue to work with COR. He concluded by emphasizing the Washington model's importance to salmon recovery.

**Washington Salmon Coalition (WSC):** Amy Hatch-Winecka, WSC Chair, and John Foltz, WSC Vice-Chair, provided an update on the work of WSC during the past quarter, including a lead entity update, information about their annual meeting, new communication and marketing, funding issues, projects completed across the state, and a climate change workshop to be held in September. Details of each activity are outlined in their report in the board materials (Item 4).

**Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology):** Member Smith shared information about a real-time data-collection effort on streamflow and water quality, aiming to report information in a way that is accessible to the public and easily understood. More information about this work can be found at: <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/eap/flow/index.html>.

**Washington State Conservation Commission (WSCC):** Member Cochrane discussed WSCC's proposed budget packages which address a necessary balance between cost and project implementation.

**Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT):** Member Cierebiej shared information about WSDOT's efforts to continue opening up fish passage barriers.

**Northwest Power and Conservation Council (NWPCC):** Member Phil Rockefeller shared information about recovery goals across the Columbia Basin watershed, a collaborative effort to find achievable outcomes for conservation, recovery, and harvest. Member Rockefeller announced his retirement from the NWPCC in July, but he will continue to serve on the Salmon Recovery Funding Board. He shared an opportunity for public participation in developing recovery goals in the Columbia Basin.

**Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW):** Member Neatherlin attended the WSC meeting in early June; he thanked WSC for the opportunity. Member Neatherlin provided information about WDFW staff accomplishments and budget proposals to address capacity. The WDFW guidelines and recommendations on riparian habitat will be published this summer; Member Neatherlin suggested a briefing to the board on the topic at the September meeting, and a briefing on Steelhead early marine survival research in December.

**Break 11:38 a.m. – 11:51 a.m.**

#### **General Public Comment:**

**Jeanette Dorner**, PSP, addressed the board, providing a history of her work, accomplishments, and partnership with the board. She thanked the board for these opportunities and spoke to the positive, supportive salmon community. She commented on the potential impacts of reduced organizational capacity and cautioned the board about further limitations to staff as a significant detriment to achieving salmon recovery goals. She suggested a collaboration among local, state, and federal partners to continue the long-term commitment to consistent, stable funding.

Chair Troutt acknowledged her message and thanked her for her service.

#### **Board Business: Briefings**

##### **Item 5: State Conservation Commission's Voluntary Stewardship Program**

Bill Eller, State Conservation Commission's Director, provided a presentation on the voluntary stewardship program (VSP), available on the [WSCC website](#). He began with a history of the development and creation of the VSP program. WSCC administers funds for counties to develop watershed-scale plans that will:

- Identify critical areas, resource concerns, and agricultural activities in the critical areas;
- Create a plan for targeted outreach to assist landowners in developing farm plans that address agricultural impacts to critical areas on their property; and
- Identify and maintain economically viable agriculture while protecting and restoring critical areas.

He described the components of the program listed above, including the "five critical areas," the structure for administering funds to participating counties, and role of the VSP technical panel which responsible for reviewing counties' work plans and assessing their viability. He explained the process for implementing work plans, highlighting voluntary participation as a key factor. The SCC is responsible for reporting the progress of the VSP program to the Legislature; further communication is achieved through a periodic VSP newsletter.

Mr. Eller responded to questions about counties that have opted out of the program, alignment with the board grant application and project management processes, and how monitoring is included in respective work plans. The board discussed challenges in tracking and measuring whether goals are met through the monitoring process. Ron Walter, Chelan County Commissioner, explained the steps taken by counties who

have adopted the program in the early stages, challenges and lessons learned, and how incentives are used to encourage landowner participation.

**Lunch 12:25 p.m. – 12:45 p.m.**

### **Board Business: Decision & Request for Direction**

#### **Item 6: Funding Issues: Short-term and Long-term**

Brian Abbott, Executive Coordinator GSRO, and Wendy Brown, RCO Policy Director, summarized the funding issues resulting from the reduced Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF) award and implications for RCO's 2017-19 capital and operating budget proposals. RCO will receive an \$18.5 million PCSRF award from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association (NOAA); the reduced federal funds will affect the current grant round, the 2017-19 biennial budget request to the Office of Financial Management, and monitoring decisions made in September 2016. Mr. Abbott explained that the board will need to decide how to distribute fiscal year (FY) 2017 capacity funds for regions and lead entities, and discuss how to determine the amount of state funds requested in the operating and capital budget requests. The board must decide on action before the new biennium begins on July 1, 2016.

Mr. Abbott began by providing a breakdown of the budget for the PCSRF grant. In discussing the challenges facing lead entity and regional capacity funding, Mr. Abbott presented short-term funding options as outlined in the board materials (Item 6, Table 1, Page 5). The board discussed the potential for utilizing unspent capacity funds from the current fiscal year, which ends later this month, although it may not cover the full funding shortfall for fiscal year 2017.

Staff recommends that the board approve Option 3, where the board funds capacity at a total of \$3,313,000 from 2016 PCSRF funds and \$453,500 in state general fund lead entity funding for a total of \$3,766,500. Mr. Abbott shared two tables that break down the funding allocations across lead entities and regions (see Item 6, Attachments A and B).

### **Public Comment**

**Paul Ward, Ron Walter, Steve Jenkins, Melody Kreimes, and Joy Juelson**, Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board and Lead Entity Coordinator, addressed the board. Mr. Ward provided some history of the region's work. Ms. Kreimes discussed the region's intent to continue moving forward with their work and the potential impacts of lead entity consolidation. Mr. Walter spoke to similar experiences in the past with budget cuts and staff reductions, relating the actions to the importance of maintaining the "Washington Way" of conducting salmon recovery efforts. He provided specific background and context for the Upper Columbia region, and encouraged the board to begin early engagement with legislative representatives to communicate funding needs. Mr. Jenkins shared a story to highlight the importance of collaboration, communication, and partnerships to promote salmon messaging at the state and federal levels. Ms. Juelson focused her comments on the issue of lead entity consolidation; she encouraged the board to consider requesting other lead entities and regions to consolidate, provided that they are fully supported through the transitional process. She highlighted the benefits, and suggested providing incentives to facilitate streamlining and add efficiencies. Mr. Ward concurred, requesting some guidance from the board in this capacity. The board was reminded of their commitment to insulate consolidated lead entities from further budget cuts.

**Jeff Breckel**, Council of Regions and Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board, and regional organization directors, **Steve Martin, Scott Brewer, Jessica Helsley, Melody Kreimes, Darcy Batura, and Jeanette Dorner**, addressed the board regarding the reduced funding and impacts to capacity. Mr. Breckel reiterated the sentiments and options presented in their letter to board, included in the board materials (see Correspondence). Primarily, their request included a deferment of any funding decision, a work group

formulated to address these issues, and contract extension for regional organizations that hold current funding in place through August.

The board responded to their proposal, with differing perspectives on short-term versus long-term impacts of funding contracts at the current level, given the current budget situation. Further suggestions included communicating with NOAA about the matching funds leveraged with the PSCRF award.

Chair Troutt suggested using SRNet as the focal point through which consistent, firm messaging would be shared most effectively.

**Jessica Helsley**, representing the Washington Coast Sustainable Salmon Partnership, addressed the board regarding impacts to Pacific salmon, acknowledging Washington's salmon recovery efforts. She read an excerpt from the Washington Coast recovery plan and shared comments received at a citizen committee meeting of the lead entity. The lead entity request involved deferring a decision until a solution can be found that does not negatively impact staffing or progress in salmon recovery goals.

Ms. Helsley also provided comment on behalf of the North Pacific Coast Lead Entity. Her comments focused on streamlining and efficiencies, and suggested using a collaborative workgroup to determine the best approach moving forward.

**Amy Hatch-Winecka**, Washington Salmon Coalition, **Joy Jueslon**, UCSRB, **John Fultz**, WSC, **Jason Mulvihill-Kuntz**, WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Manager, and **Doug Osterman**, WRIA 9 Salmon Recovery Manager, addressed the board as lead entity coordinators. Ms. Hatch-Winecka reiterated the options put forth in their written comment to the board (see Correspondence, board materials). Their request included a deferment of any funding decision until the August meeting, a work group formulated to address these issues, contract extensions that hold current funding in place through August, and continued communication with NOAA about the importance of PSCRF and how it supports leveraging funds for projects and capacity. Mr. Mulvihill-Kuntz echoed these comments. Mr. Osterman commented on his letter submitted this morning (WRIA 9), emphasizing the communication impacts resulting from reduced support and the perspective of other partners in the work.

**Jeanette Dorner** and **Laura Blackmore**, Puget Sound Partnership, described the impacts to staff capacity and related work that would not be funded based on the current PSCRF reductions. Ms. Blackmore spoke to PSP's support for lobbying efforts at the federal level. Ms. Dorner commented further on lead entity consolidation impact.

**Dawn Pucci**, Island County Lead Entity Coordinator, spoke from the perspective an entity with limited staff and capacity prior to the funding reductions.

Chair Troutt suggested forming a committee to determine alternative solutions prior to the August meeting. If consensus is not reached, the board would discuss the issue further at the August meeting.

Member Rockefeller suggested that the board carry forward current capacity funding level (FY 2016) on a monthly basis through July 2016 subject to certain expectations. Further, regions meet via workgroup to collaborate on FY 2017 recommendations beyond July. If none arise, RCO would allocate the remaining FY 17 dollars on a prorated basis. A regional workgroup would report to RCO by July 31. By mid-July, regions and lead entities would report unspent capacity funds (submit billing) and begin discussions of cost-saving measures, i.e. consolidation, and report to RCO by July 31 and continue to meet and submit information in time for RCO to address PSCRF reductions.

Member Biery suggested that recommendations for possible consolidation be made by the end of the year. The board discussed the challenges and opportunities involved for various lead entities, leaning towards cost-efficiencies and streamlining (versus consolidation). Suggestions included moving more of the PCSRF application into priority one categories, or leveraging match funds.

Mr. Abbott built upon Member Rockefeller suggestion, reformulating his proposal to include changes that allow RCO until July 31 or early August to determine the amount of unspent capacity funding; ask lead entities (specifically PSP) for capacity balances that can be spent in other areas.

**Motion:** Move to fund FY 2017 for lead entities and regions as set forth in Item 6, Table 2, Attachments A and B.

**Moved by:** Member Phil Rockefeller

**Seconded by:** Member Sam Mace

**Decision:** Approved

The board directed staff to conduct an analysis of return funds from lead entity and regional FY 2016 contracts to ascertain funds available to backfill the \$801,685 contract reductions for FY 2017. Return funds include PCSRF and in the Puget Sound region, PSAR capacity. Staff was also directed to communicate with lead entities and regions to submit final billing by July 15, in order for staff to conduct analysis by July 31.

**Motion:** Move to direct GSRO staff to convene a workgroup, consisting of GSRO, two board members (David Troutt and Bob Bugert), regional directors, and two lead entity representatives from the WSC. The goal of this workgroup is to provide a recommendation to the board by August 11 regarding allocation of unspent FY 2016 capacity funds to meet the budget shortfalls to the extent possible, with guidance to prioritize funding for the Upper Columbia lead entity (\$32,257), and then to the facilitation of the Washington Salmon Coalition (\$35,000). The board also directed the workgroup to continue to identify short term and long term streamlining and cost-saving opportunities for the coming year and into the next biennium, and to report back at the board meetings in September and December.

**Moved by:** Member Phil Rockefeller

**Seconded by:** Member Nancy Biery

**Decision:** Approved

***Break 2:45 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.***

Ms. Brown summarized guidance provided by the Office of Financial Management (OFM), a timeline for preparing and submitting RCO's capital and operating budget requests and options for each budget proposal as outlined in the board materials (Item 6).

Director Cottingham encouraged lead entities to enter projects in Habitat Work Schedule as a communication mechanism. Member Cochrane commented further on the options presented, addressing capacity funding, consistent messaging to funders, prioritization, and funding allocation. The board discussed further strategies for communication, engaging legislators, and collaborating or unifying across agencies versus issuing individual needs and messaging. Chair Troutt suggested calling on COR to support building the operating and capital budget requests.

## **Board Business: Briefing**

### **Item 7: Monitoring Panel Update: Process and Schedule for Funding Recommendations**

Keith Dublanica, GSRO Science Coordinator, and Dr. Marnie Tyler, Monitoring Panel Chair, outlined the monitoring panel process to develop project recommendations and a schedule leading up to the board's funding decisions at the September 2016. Dr. Tyler shared that Pete Bisson will assume the role of chair.

Dr. Tyler reviewed the 2016 and 2017 monitoring panel schedule; the 2017 schedule would accommodate the field season, better align contract timing, present recommendations to the board in June, and fund projects in September. The September 2016 monitoring funding decision requests include Intensively Monitored Watersheds, project effectiveness monitoring, and status and trends monitoring. The proposed 2017 schedule would allow for early decisions on monitoring projects.

Member Smith agreed with moving the decision period for 2017 to June. She asked that the board provide direction to the monitoring panel to prioritize funding across all projects and draft recommendations that fit the current budget scenario. Dr. Tyler clarified that the purpose of the prioritization exercise would be to identify areas for potential cuts with the least amount of negative impact. Mr. Bisson suggested that, based on the expertise of panel members, the exercise focus on the scientific soundness and quality of the projects, and the board should use this information to make their priority or funding decisions.

The board directed monitoring panel staff to make recommendations based on reductions necessitated by the reduced PCSRF award. The monitoring panel will provide recommendations to the board as part of a published report this summer and at the September meeting.

### **Item 8: Effectiveness Monitoring (Procurement Update)**

Keith Dublanica, GSRO Science Coordinator, reviewed RCO's approach for completing the final 30 months of Phase I project effectiveness monitoring. Tetra Tech Inc. provides ongoing environmental services in support of the board's monitoring program and partners with Natural Systems Design, who provides technical data. Mr. Dublanica indicated that the current Tetra Tech Inc. contract expires October 31, 2016. Based on feedback from the Department of Enterprise Services, RCO is not able to extend or use a sole source contract with Tetra Tech for the remainder of the work. Thus, RCO will open a competitive RFP process to solicit contractors for use of the remaining project effectiveness monitoring funds to complete Phase I work. The new RFP may include a process to examine new components that weren't addressed through the current contract.

### **Item 9: Updates from the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife**

Jennifer Quan and Tom Jameson, WDFW, presented information on Washington's Wild Future Initiative (initiative) and the Fish Passage Barrier Removal Board (FPBR Board).

Ms. Quan summarized information on the initiative from WDFW's spring 2016 progress report. The initiative began with the hiring a new agency director. Due to poor public perception of the agency and continued struggles with the state Legislature, WDFW developed an initiative based on a new way of doing business to develop publicly supported 2017 legislative proposals. Ms. Quan summarized the public response and resulting values, grouped by themes such as recreational opportunities, law enforcement present, simpler rules, clearer communication, habitat restoration, effective land stewardship, conservation for future generations, and youth outreach. From these themes, WDFW developed 2017 goals, an implementation plan, and potential revenue sources. Some of the related salmon recovery actions included in the initiative proposals include support for RFEGs, monitoring, an inventory of high priority fish passage barriers, etc. The proposals also outline new fishing opportunities across the state. Ms. Quan concluded by summarizing next steps. More information available at: <http://wdfw.wa.gov/wildfuture/>.

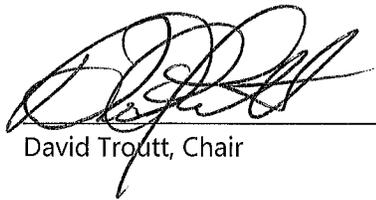
Mr. Jameson is the new Fish Passage and Screening Division Manager in the Habitat Program at WDFW, who will eventually succeed David Price as Chair of the FPBR Board. He provided some details on barrier data collected from fish passage sites across the state; how the Legislature established the FPBR Board (Senate Bill 2SHB 2251); required actions to remove barriers and meet injunction requirements (RCW 77.95.180); funding needs and methods for securing match funds/resources; and current activities including cost estimates, preparing funding packages, arranging legislative tours, communications and messaging, and developing project lists for the 2017-19 and 2019-21 biennia.

Mr. Jameson described the two "pathways" for achieving this work: coordinated, in partnership with local entities and specific stream barriers, and watershed, looking at whole stream reaches and prioritizing barriers with the greatest impact to salmon populations. He responded to board questions about identified barriers, coordinated efforts and funding responsibilities, and incorporating geology into design plans. Member Cochrane suggested incorporating floodplain management design into marketing and communication plans to highlight the habitat benefits provided by the FPBR Board's work.

**Closing**

Chair Troutt adjourned the meeting at 4:25 p.m. The next board meeting is scheduled for August 11, beginning at 9:00 a.m.

Approved by:

  
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David Troutt, Chair

8/11/14  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date