

SALMON RECOVERY FUNDING BOARD SUMMARIZED MEETING AGENDA AND ACTIONS, JUNE 7, 2012

Agenda Items without Formal Action

Item	Follow-up Actions
Management Report	There were no follow-up actions
Salmon Recovery Management Reports – Grants	There were no follow-up actions
GSRO Update	There were no follow-up actions
Reports from Partners/State Agency Partner Reports	There were no follow-up actions
Areas of Policy Focus for 2012	There were no follow-up actions

Agenda Items with Formal Action

Item	Formal Action	Follow-up Actions
Minutes	Minutes from December 2011 <u>Approved</u>	None
Efficiencies in Regions	Resolution 2012-01 approving the lead entity consolidation in the Upper Columbia Region <u>Approved</u>	Upper Columbia Region to provide a follow-up report at the end of the year Staff to provide a report to the board about the roles of the technical panels at all levels.
Target Grant Round	Approve a funding target of \$18 million in grant awards for the 2012 grant cycle <u>Approved</u>	Notify regions and lead entities of the target funding levels
2013 Salmon Project Conference	Up to \$63,000 approved for the project conference in May 2013 <u>Approved</u>	Hold project conference in May 2013.
Monitoring Allocations	Fund project effectiveness (\$437,000) and fish and fish out (\$208,000). <u>Approved</u> Delegate authority to the director to enter into contracts <u>Approved</u> Fund Hood Canal IMW (\$368,110) <u>Approved</u>	In August, bring back options for funding IMW-related restoration projects in the Lower Columbia IMW. In August, bring back a recommendation from the IMW Steering Committee regarding whether to continue the Strait of Juan de Fuca IMW.

Fund Skagit IMW (\$246,124).

Approved

Assess Skagit IMW before the 2013 contract discussions.

Approved

Fund in the Lower Columbia IMW for another year(\$446,180)

Approved

Do not fund the Strait of Juan de Fuca IMW.

Failed

Fund the Strait of Juan de Fuca IMW

Failed

Fund the Strait of Juan de Fuca IMW until the next board meeting (about \$200,000) and have the IMW Steering Committee report at the August meeting regarding whether it should be continued.

Approved

Before the contract expires in 2013, bring back an analysis of the Skagit IMW for board consideration of whether to continue it.

SALMON RECOVERY FUNDING BOARD SUMMARY MINUTES

Date: June 7, 2012

Place: Room 172, Natural Resources Building, Olympia, WA

Salmon Recovery Funding Board Members Present:

Bud Hover, Chair	Okanogan County	Mike Barber	Department of Transportation
Harry Barber	Washougal	Melissa Gildersleeve	Department of Ecology
Josh Brown	Kitsap County	Sara LaBorde	Department of Fish and Wildlife
Phil Rockefeller	NWPCC	Craig Partridge	Department of Natural Resources
David Troutt	Olympia	Carol Smith	Conservation Commission

Member Brown left the meeting at about 2 p.m. and was not present during the monitoring discussion.

It is intended that this summary be used with the notebook provided in advance of the meeting. A recording is retained by RCO as the formal record of meeting.

Opening and Welcome

Chair Bud Hover called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m. and a quorum was determined.

David Troutt moved to adopt the agenda.

Seconded by: Josh Brown

Motion: APPROVED

Harry Barber moved to adopt the April 2012 minutes.

Seconded by: Josh Brown

Motion: APPROVED

Management and Partner Reports

Item 1: Management Status Report

Director Cottingham highlighted the following topics:

- An outside group had asked for an audit of the Wiley Slough project; an engineering report will be completed in the next few weeks and she will decide what to do after that.
- The state does not yet know the 2012 federal Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF) award amount. The State Auditor has stated its opinion that the 3 percent PCSRF administration cap should apply to all state agencies; however, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) intends to clarify that the 3 percent cap applies only to the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO).
- Habitat Work Schedule is managed by RCO with funding from the US Fish and Wildlife Service. USFWS is now indicating that this is the last year that they will fund it. A group is working with USFWS to try to retain the funding for HWS.
- Steve McLellan is working on whether it is feasible to address the landowner liability issues legislatively.

Item 2: Salmon Recovery Management Reports

Governor's Salmon Recovery Office (GSRO): Megan Duffy asked Jennifer Johnson to give the board an update on the State of the Salmon Report. Johnson shared a mockup of the anticipated web design and explained how the data would roll up at different levels (e.g., region, lead entity, ESU, population, etc.). They have been working with the Department of Ecology, Washington State Department of Wildlife and the regions on ways to present data. She explained the timeline to the board, noting that they intend to release the report on December 31. Director Cottingham noted that this will be more interactive, and will save printing costs. There will be a printed executive summary, and there will be an ability to print some of the screens.

Member H. Barber asked for a report on the number of hits on the site. He also asked for the report to differentiate between hatchery and wild fish. Member Rockefeller asked if there was any coordination with similar work being done by the Northwest Power and Conservation Council, and offered to put the GSRO in touch with key staff.

Member Troutt asked that the report mention VSP parameters other than abundance, and also suggested that there be an ability to print out information at the watershed level. He concluded by asking if the report could begin to address local threats. Johnson responded that they had asked regions to include that information in their contextual information.

Grant Management:

Brian Abbott, Salmon Section Manager, reviewed the status of several items in the staff memo. He gave an update on the audit done of Sound Salmon Solutions, which is a Regional Fisheries Enhancement Group (RFEG) with seven active RCO grant agreements. He distributed a report of the findings. Chair Hover asked if there was any impropriety with non-board funds. Director Cottingham noted that they are still trying to figure it out; the RFEG has a forensic accountant working with them and they will need to provide significant documentation for future billings. Member H. Barber asked if there were other audits that could have signaled a problem earlier. Abbott noted that they had not reached the RCO threshold of federal funding that would have triggered an audit. H. Barber suggested that the RCO institute simpler audits below the threshold. Member LaBorde noted that the Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) was asking the same questions to strengthen the RFEG program. H. Barber suggested it be discussed by the RFEG coalition.

Grant manager Elizabeth Butler presented a series of Puget Sound Critical Stock projects. Kay Caromile presented the Upper Wapato Reach Restoration (08-1948). Alex Conley, Yakima Basin, spoke about the Upper Wapato Reach Restoration project, the local benefits, and the big picture. Dave Caudill presented the Carpenter Creek Estuary Restoration (10-1898). Members Brown and Rockefeller noted the leadership from the community on this project. Caudill noted that local residents had volunteered to monitor the project for 10 years. Member Laborde explained the history of the funding for the Puget Sound Critical Stock program, and the importance of the three-year workplans and watershed leads for securing the funds.

Policy Development Update:

Megan Duffy and Brian Abbott updated the board on the policy development activities. Duffy presented the first item, allowability of hatchery-related projects. Chair Hover asked if there was any pushback about acclimation ponds. Duffy responded that there is no opposition at this time, but they want to be clear about what will and will not be allowed, versus what is eligible for grant reimbursement. Member Troutt reminded staff to have discussions with the tribes, and thought that any hatchery-related activities should

be explicitly addressed in the recovery plans. Duffy concurred, noting that they will develop a process and policy for the board to approve for Manual 18. For now, the RCO is dealing with requests on a case-by-case basis. Member Gildersleeve encouraged staff to include consideration of impacts to water quality. Member H. Barber noted that they definitions of hatchery projects need to be fairly narrow and tight.

Abbott presented the remaining Tier 1 topics, as described in the staff memo. Member Troutt asked if the recovery plan priority could be brought in from Habitat Work Schedule. Abbott agreed that it could be considered.

Item 3: Partner Reports

Council of Regions Report: Julie Morgan presented the report for Jeff Breckel. She reported that they are meeting with state agencies about progress on the recovery plans.

Lead Entity Advisory Group (LEAG) Report: Cheryl Baumann and Amy Hatch-Winecka presented information about lead entity activities. Hatch-Winecka presented an overview of lead entity investments, in WRIAs 13 and 14. Member H. Barber asked what role the lead entity has in helping sponsors maintain financial controls. Hatch-Winecka responded that she tracks project progress, but doesn't delve into their financial affairs. The lead entity role is to help them ensure that they are budgeting correctly for the projects.

Regional Fisheries Enhancement Groups (RFEGs): Lance Winecka noted that the RFEGs are proposing 37 projects in the current grant round and also are working on several projects to implement the new funding for the Family Forest Fish Passage Program. The Fish and Wildlife Commission and WDFW will help the RFEGs work to secure their federal funding for 2013. WDFW also will continue to implement the egg and carcass program on behalf of the RFEGs.

Winecka also addressed the problems facing Sound Salmon Solutions. WDFW staff will be doing informal audits of each RFEG, and will assess documentation more closely. Member Troutt asked if they are considering lower level voluntary audits. Winecka responded that every group is different and has different levels of sophistication. Member H. Barber asked how many RFEGs meet the \$500,000 threshold for a federal audit. Winecka responded that he would find out, and noted that they may do more training of the RFEG board members about their roles and responsibilities.

State Agency Partners

Mike Barber, Department of Transportation, had no updates to report.

Craig Partridge, Department of Natural Resources, had no updates to report.

Carol Smith, Conservation Commission, gave an update on the CREP program. They have recently lifted the moratorium on new projects. She also discussed the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), which is a nationwide federal program that rents land from farmers to keep it conserved. Another quarter million acres are due to expire in 2013, and we do not know if they will be allowed to re-enroll those lands. The cap is decreasing. They are waiting for the Farm Bill to know what the outcome will be. NRCS has a few million for the Puget Sound program. They are prioritizing culverts, habitat, and manure lagoons.

Melissa Gildersleeve, Department of Ecology, encouraged groups to contact her if they have projects that involve water quality. They are managing a number of EPA and Department of Health grants, and she encouraged applicants to work directly with Ecology staff so that their applications hit the mark.

Sara Laborde, Department of Fish and Wildlife, noted Norm Dicks' efforts on May 8 to keep PCSRF at \$65 million rather than at \$50 million. She received a positive response to the Council of Regions' policy priority document from WDFW's executive leadership.

Phil Rockefeller, Northwest Power and Conservation Council, noted that the council is about to adopt high-level indicators and that they line up nicely with those in the State of the Salmon report. They are working to decide on how much of their resources to dedicate to monitoring.

General Public Comment

There was no general public comment.

Board Briefings

Item 4: Reports on Status of Efficiency Efforts in Regions

Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board:

Julie Morgan and Derek Van Marter of the Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board (UCSRB) presented information about the request to consolidate lead entities. The discussion started a year ago, with concerns about the integrity of the lead entity processes, board discussions about budget cuts, and GSRO activities around ensuring that there were no conflicts of interest. In February, they received a letter from RCO asking for the consolidation. The process moved forward, with the target of completing the consolidation by the end of the year. They are working with citizens' committees and stakeholders to ensure that everyone understands what is being proposed. The UCSRB will report back to the board at the end of the year.

Member H. Barber asked if the particulars had been worked out, and how they would achieve savings. Van Marter responded that they were still working out the details. The focus has been more on the process integrity than on cost savings. Chair Hover noted that it is important to maintain a balance between project funding and the cost of human capacity behind it.

Public Comment

Jason Hatch, Trout Unlimited, thanked the counties for their leadership and stated that this is an opportunity to rethink how they get salmon recovery projects on the ground in a cost-effective way. They support the consolidation proposal.

Phil Rockefeller moved to approve Resolution 2012-01.

Seconded by: Josh Brown

Motion: APPROVED

Puget Sound Recovery Council:

Jeannette Dorner, Director of Salmon Recovery at the Puget Sound Partnership, noted that they received a letter from Director Cottingham about cost efficiencies in Puget Sound. The proposal was presented to the Puget Sound Recovery Council (PSRC) on May 31. The council does not want this to be a question only of lead entity consolidation, and approved exploring these questions:

- Are there efficiencies in the board's process between the state, region, and lead entities?
- What should be the role and purpose of the state and of the region?
- Should there be more responsibilities absorbed by the region?

- Should there be a consolidation of lead entities? The region can facilitate this discussion, but ultimately, the lead entities make the decisions.
- Should the region be reduced and responsibilities distributed to the lead entities?

Another topic for the PSRC has been to review how it works and develops its work plan. The council asked for a better understanding of how each watershed operates. They will have a conference that will help the council determine how to better support recovery plan implementation. The board's request about efficiencies will be incorporated into that conference.

Puget Sound also is interested in looking at the roles and responsibilities of the Regional Technical Team and the state's Technical Review Panel. Dorner and Brian Abbott will meet with the chairs of the two teams to start that conversation.

Member Smith suggested that they also look at the role of the local technical panels, especially in light of the discussions of conflict of interest and the need for broader scientific input.

Chair Hover noted that he understands that each lead entity wants to maintain autonomy and decision making, but that it is becoming more difficult to support funding all of them as the ratio of project to administration dollars shrinks. It is their decision about consolidating, but they need to realize that funding may shrink. He understands that they leverage other funds, but consolidating does not mean that they cannot leverage funds. He wants solutions to come from the bottom up; he does not want to mandate it as a board.

Member LaBorde noted that the board needs to look at both regional and lead entity costs when considering the project to administration ratio, not just lead entities.

Member Brown asked for a report to the board about the roles of the technical panels at all levels so they can see the overlaps. He noted that the issue is also political. The board needs to provide facts and resources to encourage consolidation action locally.

Member Troutt noted that the legislation emphasized local control, and it has been successful. He suggested that instead of focusing on fluctuating budgets, they should focus on what they want to accomplish: (1) recover salmon and (2) have local people involved in decisions. Resources should be focused on those goals rather than on the tension between the two. He thinks that consolidation is a conflict with the second goal. He believes that the investment in administration has broader benefits than the board recognizes.

Member H. Barber stated that administrative costs should be fixed, and if the lead entities do not consolidate voluntarily it will happen to them. He referenced his work in the private sector, and noted that they experience similar concerns about consolidations; the board can learn from them. He encouraged Puget Sound to be more aggressive in their efforts. He would prefer to see them be proactive rather than reactive; maybe consolidation is not the answer, but they should look at cost reduction.

Member Gildersleeve asked how much of the structure in the sound is dictated by the Puget Sound Partnership legislation. Dorner noted that there is flexibility, and that the watersheds do a good deal of regional work.

Northeast:

Megan Duffy informed the board that the Northeast receives about 2 percent of the overall project funding, and about \$100,000 in capacity funding. 2010 PCSRF program priorities made it clear that PCSRF funding cannot be used for non-anadromous bull trout, so the Northeast can be funded with only state funds. As a result, about \$460,000 of state funding cannot be used as PCSRF match.

Item 5: Legislation for Watershed Investment District Concept

Joan McGilton and Doug Osterman from WRIA 9 presented a proposed legislative concept. Osterman explained the local efforts to identify and meet funding needs for salmon recovery. They noted that salmon recovery has many ancillary benefits and projects could meet multiple objectives, but some were too large for current funding sources. There was no dedicated, sustainable funding or governance structure. They believe the Watershed Investment District can fill that gap. He then reviewed the proposed governance structure, funding options, and concepts. The legislation has yet not been presented in the legislature.

Chair Hover asked what the tax basis would be. Osterman responded that it could be existing taxes, mitigation, or portions of other fees. He noted that the justification can be the broader benefits of the projects funded. McGilton noted that they had reviewed 25 different options, and it would be difficult to find two or three that would be acceptable for everyone.

Member Troutt said that it was good work that would help fill the gaps that have been identified for salmon recovery. He noted that there are times when they have the support, but not the resources, for a big project; support wanes when there are no resources.

Member Partridge asked if they would use existing systems such as recovery plans to identify where the funds would go. Osterman confirmed that areas could use that approach, but every area is different.

Member H. Barber noted that the approach relied on high populations, so it was Puget Sound-centric and would not be beneficial to other parts of the state.

Member Brown noted that counties need options to incentivize landowners to do the work themselves, rather than assuming it will all be done with public funds. He noted concern with creating yet another junior taxing district on top of the existing structures.

Item 6: Update on Fish Passage Issues

Brian Abbott reviewed the updates provided in the staff memo. The state agencies that manage the Family Forest Fish Passage Program (FFFPP) met on May 23. They are moving forward with the work needed to fund projects with the additional \$10 million in the 2012 supplemental budget. They have already funded 47 projects. He thanked staff from the RCO, the Department of Natural Resources, and for their work. He also noted the Fish Passage Workgroup information that is in the memo; agencies are looking for ways to coordinate to secure funding, be efficient, and improve fish passage.

Board Decisions

Item 7: 2013 Salmon Project Conference

Brian Abbott noted that they are planning the conference for May 14 and 15, 2013. He reviewed the 2011 conference, including attendance, exhibitors, purpose, registration, and costs. He noted that they were planning to use a publically-owned facility in Vancouver for the 2013 event. Director Cottingham noted that TVW would broadcast parts of the conference if the RCO contracted with a reputable videographer for the recording.

Bud Hover moved to approve funding of up to \$63,000 for a salmon project conference to be held in the Vancouver, Washington area in May 2013.

Seconded by: Harry Barber

Motion: APPROVED

Item 8: Target 2012 Grant Round Funding Level

Brian Abbott reviewed the table in the memo that addressed the funding for the 2012 grant round. Director Cottingham noted that they do not yet know the 2012 PCSRF amount for Washington State. Abbott noted that once they know the amount, they would notify the regions and lead entities.

David Troutt moved to approve a funding target of \$18 million in grant awards for salmon habitat and restoration projects during the 2012 grant cycle, contingent on receipt of the 2012 PCSRF award.

Seconded by: Harry Barber

Motion: APPROVED

Item 9: Monitoring Programs

Keith Dublanica presented an overview of the board's monitoring strategy, its major efforts, and the other monitoring work underway.

Effectiveness Monitoring

Jennifer O'Neil presented the results and findings of project-scale effectiveness monitoring. She explained the reasons that they monitor at the project scale, and presented a timeline that indicated that the data collection for the entire project would be completed in 2020. Monitoring is complete in three project categories – fish passage, diversion screening, and spawning gravel. 73 locations have been monitored (90 projects). They need to complete monitoring on existing projects, add projects for in-stream habitat and floodplain enhancement, do additional outreach at the local and regional levels, and find future partnership opportunities with OWEB and others. She reviewed the results to date related to habitat, limiting factors, and other indicators as well as project costs.

Member Rockefeller asked how they account for other factors external to the project implementation. O'Neil explained that they use a control reach, generally upstream of the sample site in the same stream. He asked if the data were predictive for other projects, and if so, could this be used to replace monitoring at specific sites. She responded that the projects were selected from across the state. From a statistical perspective, the data should be predictive to other sites. If the new projects are designed and implemented according to the same standards (i.e., the sites are similar), there's a fair probability that they are representative.

Fish In Fish Out Monitoring

Mara Zimmerman and Erik Neatherlin of WDFW presented information about Fish In/Fish Out Monitoring (FIFO). Zimmerman explained that it combines juvenile and adult monitoring of the same populations. It provides a measure of abundance and survival in freshwater versus marine environments. The information helps direct management actions. She used an example of Elwha River Chinook Salmon to show that abundance has been decreasing for 100 years. She noted that dams would be removed, but that the FIFO information can tell them if new freshwater productivity will solve the problem. She showed that FIFO tells them that if because ocean survival is low for this population, they need high freshwater survival.

They strategize their efforts based on the Monitoring Framework, which connects juvenile and adult monitoring with habitat monitoring and prioritizes data gaps. She stated that the current annual statewide cost is \$6 million, with local, tribal, federal, state, IMW, and SRFB funding.

In response to board questions, she noted that the return and survival rates factor in harvest rates among many factors that affect the rates. Harvest is one factor that can be managed.

Member Troutt asked if there are other monitoring efforts could be "piggybacked" onto this monitoring (e.g., genetic sampling) to save money. Zimmerman responded that there were, but it was basin-specific.

Member Smith asked how many Chinook populations were monitored, and if all ESUs were covered. Zimmerman said that they were meeting the goal of one population per MPG.

Intensively Monitored Watershed

Bill Ehinger, Department of Ecology, presented information about Intensively Monitored Watersheds (IMW). He explained that the background that led to the IMW monitoring approach and the locations of the study watersheds. He noted the annual monitoring budget includes SRFB funds, in-kind support, and existing monitoring. Ecology contracts out much of the work for IMW efforts. He noted that there always has been a challenge because the restoration and monitoring are funded and managed separately. The answer to the question of "when will we be done?" varies by stream. Some results are available now; he reviewed some of the data and key findings at the four sites: Strait of Juan de Fuca, Hood Canal, Skagit River Estuary, and Lower Columbia. He noted that there does not appear to be a fish response to the restoration efforts in the Strait of Juan de Fuca.

Member Gildersleeve asked if there is any effort to incentivize the restoration efforts so that the monitoring can be completed in the Lower Columbia. Bruce Crawford, NOAA, told the board that when the four sites were authorized, the board was cautioned that the watersheds should be small enough in order to help ensure that projects can be implemented. The number of projects in the Lower Columbia was always a concern, but there was a desire to have an IMW outside Puget Sound. Crawford noted that the Lower Columbia has a lot of watersheds with a lot of high priority projects. Member Troutt noted that a challenge for the board is that the projects are selected at a local level, and not by the board.

Chair Hover asked what they can learn from large woody debris in the Straits IMW that might be applicable on a statewide basis. Ehinger responded that higher in the watershed, where sediment moves through, they are seeing positive habitat effects, but no fish response. Lower in the watershed, where they see more landslides and mass wasting events, they are not seeing habitat effects yet. Member H. Barber noted that independent literature exists to support large woody debris; they may not have had a fish response because it was the wrong limiting factor.

Member Troutt asked how far along each of the locations are in terms of accomplishing the treatment plans linked to the IMW. Ehinger responded that it varies significantly by area. All of the main channel in-stream work in the Straits has been done, except that they theorize more nutrient work needs to be done.

NOAA Priorities

Bruce Crawford, NOAA, presented on behalf of Scott Rumsey. He explained that the 2011-12 PCSRF program review (1) addressed how effective the funds have been in achieving the program purpose and (2) asked how it could improve its impact, performance, and reporting in the future. He noted that the board fared well in the review. Monitoring has now been established as the third of four PCSRF priorities. He noted that all three components – effectiveness, fish in/fish out, and IMW – are important. He noted that for effectiveness monitoring, NOAA wants to see a focus on programmatic monitoring, consistent design and methodology, pre-project monitoring, adequate sampling, coordination, and regular analysis and information sharing. For IMWs, they want to see pre-treatment monitoring, timely implementation of treatments, and coordination and information exchange. For status and trends, they want to see natural spawner abundance estimates for every population, juvenile migrant estimates for at least one population per MPG, and annual distribution of data. They have completed a study of VSP prioritization and gap analysis for Puget Sound, which should help with funding needs.

Allocation of Funds

Director Cottingham noted that the board has expressed concern that the monitoring contracts have been done piecemeal. In response, she has asked staff to present the decisions together at this meeting, with delegation to the director to enter into the contracts as appropriate.

Megan Duffy presented the funding recommendations for effectiveness, status and trends, and IMW monitoring as described in the staff memo. She noted that staff was recommending that monitoring be continued in the Strait of Juan de Fuca IMW for one year, but that the IMW Steering Committee make a recommendation about whether to continue funding in 2013 and beyond. She also presented four options for funding the Lower Columbia IMW, as described in the staff memo, and presented updated cost estimates based on new figures from the Department of Ecology. She noted that small monitoring efforts would be funded at a later date, following a similar process to the one used for 2011.

Public Comment

Alex Conley, Yakima Basin Salmon Recovery Funding Board, challenged the board to think about how they allocate monitoring in the future so that they can better address regional questions that are related to unique regional situations.

Director Cottingham noted that some of those questions were addressed with the monitoring done in the smaller monitoring projects.

PROCESS NOTE: The board opted to use motions rather than the resolution prepared by staff.

Phil Rockefeller moved to adopt the staff recommendation regarding funding for project effectiveness (\$437,000) and fish and fish in-fish out (\$208,000).

Seconded by: Harry Barber

Motion: APPROVED

Phil Rockefeller moved to delegate authority to the director to enter into contracts and implement the days' decisions.

Seconded by: Harry Barber
Motion: APPROVED

David Troutt moved to support the staff recommendation regarding the Hood Canal Intensively Monitored Watershed (full funding of \$368,110).

Seconded by: Phil Rockefeller
Motion: APPROVED

Bud Hover moved that they accept the staff recommendation regarding Skagit Intensively Monitored Watershed (full funding of \$246,124).

Seconded by: Phil Rockefeller
Motion: APPROVED (3 in favor, 1 opposed)

Member Troutt expressed concern that there was not enough information to determine when the IMW would be done. He stated that the IMW was behind schedule in terms of restoration project implementation. Member LaBorde suggested that the board should ask staff to do an assessment like they did with Lower Columbia IMW.

David Troutt moved that staff bring back an analysis of the Skagit IMW before the 2013 contract discussions.

Seconded by: Harry Barber
Motions: APPROVED

Lower Columbia

Member Troutt asked why there is so much scrutiny on Lower Columbia versus the Skagit River Estuary. Duffy responded that the Skagit is a smaller effort, where local entities are committed to using a variety of funding sources to implement restoration projects. Member Troutt disagreed, indicating that landowner commitment is an issue in the Skagit and thinks that staff should be more consistent in the evaluation of the IMWs. Member LaBorde suggested that the board dedicate specific funds for the restoration work in the Lower Columbia in order to complete the work necessary for the IMW.

Duffy asked if Member Laborde intended for the \$1.5 million to come off the top of the annual project pot. Member LaBorde confirmed that was her intent. Duffy noted that it would change the annual grant round to \$17.5 million (based on public comment from Jeff Breckel that it would take about three years to expend, or about \$500,000 per year). Brian Abbott also noted that the funds could come from returned funds, rather than from the overall grant round. Member LaBorde suggested it also could come from additional PCSRF if the state received more funds than anticipated.

Member H. Barber asked Jeff Breckel of the Lower Columbia Region if the money that Region 5 received from Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) could be used for these projects. Jeff responded that it could be used only for tidally influenced areas and tributaries. One of the projects on Abernathy Creek may be eligible, but that is the only one.

Harry Barber moved to adopt Option #3 of the staff memo regarding Lower Columbia.

Seconded by: Phil Rockefeller

Motion: APPROVED

Megan Duffy reviewed option 3, noting that there is a \$1.5 million project funding gap. The original proposal in the staff memo was for WDFW to find the funding needed. The suggestion at the board meeting was that that it would be filled over three years, with \$500,000 per year coming from either the grant round or returned funds. Director Cottingham noted that the board would need to provide this clarification about how it would be done.

Member Rockefeller asked how projects like this would normally be funded; Director Cottingham noted that it this funding approach was unprecedented. Chair Hover asked if this would be a change to a top-down approach. Director Cottingham noted that the board could wait until August to decide how to fund the projects. She committed that staff would bring back options and recommendations about how to fund the projects.

Chair Hover clarified, and Members Barber and Rockefeller confirmed, that the motion would approve funding to continue the monitoring work in the Lower Columbia IMW. Megan Duffy noted that the amount of funding was \$446,180.

Public Comment

Jeff Breckel, Lower Columbia Salmon Recovery Board, supports the Lower Columbia IMW. They think it is important in the region and an important element in the recovery plan. They know that they cannot fund it all with the existing regional allocation, and have expressed concerns since the beginning. They have invested a fair amount of money already, which indicates their commitment. They will continue to try to support it if others do as well. The potential loss of the IMW concerns him, but the LCSR understands the fiscal issues. They want to proceed with something that has a reasonable likelihood of success. Based on the existing capacity, it would take two to three years to put \$1.5 million in projects on the ground.

Strait of Juan de Fuca

Member Rockefeller noted that he didn't see a reason to continue the Strait of Juan de Fuca IMW effort because they had learned that the treatment was not effective. Chair Hover asked how they would know if there might be an effect down the road. Ehinger responded that preliminary data indicate that this treatment did not work, but that they could look at the nutrient enhancement and other treatments to see if they would be effective. Member Rockefeller noted that the Lower Columbia would also have nutrient enhancement. Ehinger responded that there are differences in life history strategies and amount and types of restoration done. Ehinger also noted that he reported results to date and a preliminary analysis; the treatments are not yet completed. Member Smith noted that the negative result is more interesting for adaptive management.

Board members discussed the benefits of additional information and technical review, cost of continuing, and the applicability of the data outside of this basin. Board members also expressed concerns about ensuring that they make the most of the existing investment. The board was split on whether to (a) consider the project complete because early results showed that fish did not respond to the treatment or (b) continuing the monitoring to determine if fish would respond to projects that addressed other limiting factors (e.g., nutrients and off-channel habitat). Director Cottingham advised that they consider providing funding through the summer to get the most of the data collection through the summer field season.

Phil Rockefeller moved that they not fund the Strait of Juan de Fuca IMW.

Seconded by: Harry Barber

Motion: FAILED (1 in favor, 2 opposed, 1 abstention)

David Troutt moved to support the staff recommendation regarding the Strait of Juan de Fuca IMW

Seconded by: Bud Hover

Motion: FAILED (2 in favor, 2 opposed)

Bud Hover moved to fund the Strait of Juan de Fuca IMW until the next board meeting (about \$200,000) and have the IMW Steering Committee report at the August meeting regarding whether it should be continued.

Seconded by: David Troutt

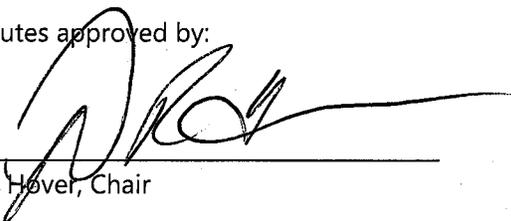
Motion: APPROVED

Public Comment

Cheryl Baumann, North Olympic Lead Entity, brought forward an IMW project in 2009, and they have been adding wood at the project. They are hoping that they still have funding for the analysis in the Strait of Juan de Fuca IMW in the future.

Meeting adjourned at 5:50 p.m.

Minutes approved by:



Bud Hover, Chair

8/23/12
Date

Salmon Recovery Funding Board
Resolution #2012-01

Accepting the Proposed Consolidated Lead Entity Effective January 1, 2013
and Affirming that Resources will be Budgeted Accordingly

WHEREAS, RCW 77.85.050 creates lead entities and provides that counties, cities, and tribal governments must jointly designate, by resolution or by letters of support, a lead entity that is to be responsible for submitting the habitat project list; and

WHEREAS, two lead entities currently operate in the Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Region: the Chelan County lead entity and the Okanogan County/Colville Tribe lead entity; and

WHEREAS, the Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board (UCSRB) was created as a regional recovery organization to develop a recovery plan and coordinate its implementation to restore viable and sustainable population of salmon, steelhead and other at-risk species; and

WHEREAS, the UCSRB consists of five representatives – one each from Chelan, Douglas, and Okanogan counties, the Colville Confederated Tribes, and the Yakama Nation; and

WHEREAS, the UCSRB voted unanimously at its February 23, 2012 meeting and all five representatives reconfirmed on April 26, 2012 to support a proposal to consolidate the Okanogan and Chelan County lead entities into one lead entity that would serve the entire regional area, house the new lead entity in the UCSRB Regional Organization Office, and continue ensuring funds for salmon recovery-related outreach efforts in the counties; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to RCW 77.85.120, the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (board) provides grants for salmon habitat projects and salmon recovery activities, including financial support for lead entities and regional organizations; and

WHEREAS, the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO), as the administrative office for the board, has received and will continue to receive letters of support for the consolidation from affected parties (i.e., counties, cities, and tribal governments in the Upper Columbia region) in accordance with RCW 77.85.050; and

WHEREAS, the board's Strategic Plan guides the board to, within the limits of its budget and priorities, fund projects, monitoring, and human capital in a way that best advances the salmon recovery effort; and, further guides the board to be accountable for board investments by promoting public oversight, effective projects, and actions that result in the economical and efficient use of resources;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Salmon Recovery Funding Board accepts the proposed consolidated lead entity, effective January 1, 2013; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the board affirms that it will allocate funding for projects and activities according to this new structure effective January 1, 2013.

Resolution moved by: Phil Rockefeller

Resolution seconded by: Josh Brown

Adopted/Defeated/Deferred (underline one)

Date: June 7, 2012