

SALMON RECOVERY FUNDING BOARD

SUMMARY MINUTES - REGULAR MEETING

November 17, 1999
8:30 a.m.

Natural Resources Building, Room 175
Olympia, Washington

SALMON RECOVERY FUNDING BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

William Ruckelshaus, Chair	Seattle
Larry Cassidy	Vancouver
Brenda McMurray	Yakima
James Peters	Olympia
John Roskelley	Spokane
Brenda McMurray	Yakima
Steve Meyer	Executive Director, Conservation Commission
Tom Fitzsimmons	Director, Department of Ecology (morning session)
Tom Eaton	Designee, Department of Ecology (afternoon session)
Tim Smith	Designee, Department of Fish and Wildlife
Craig Partridge	Designee, Department of Natural Resources
Jerry Alb	Designee, Department of Transportation

A verbatim recorded tape of the meeting's proceedings is retained by IAC as the formal record of the meeting.

Call to Order

Chair Ruckelshaus called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m. and welcomed Board members and the audience. He thanked the staff for compiling the hundreds of public comments which had been received on the draft guidelines.

Director Laura Johnson welcomed the Board, reviewed the meeting agenda and reminded members of meeting dates and expected agenda items for January – March 2000.

Item #1. Review and Approval of Minutes

John Roskelley **moved** adoption of minutes from August 20 (Olympia), September 30 and October 1 (Vancouver) and October 15 (Yakima). Larry Cassidy **seconded**.
Motion Carried.

Item #2. Management and Status Reports

Debra Wilhelmi reviewed the financial and management services memo and attachments (see meeting materials). In response to a question, Ms. Wilhelmi explained that contracts are for reimbursable expenses only. The Board currently has \$24 million of state funds available for distribution. Director Johnson said that \$18 million of federal

funds (through the Department of Commerce budget) is anticipated.

Director Johnson introduced IAC staff members who are dedicated to SRFB activities: Eric Johnson (Grants Manager), Rollie Geppert (federal project manager), Lynn Palensky (project manager), Marc Duboiski (project manager) and Tammy Owings (Executive Coordinator).

Item #3a. Major Issues: Board Scope and Policy

Jim Fox presented an overview of the issues (see meeting materials Tab #3a-d) and suggested that public testimony on all issues follow his remarks. More than 100 written responses were received regarding the draft documents and more than 100 citizens attended the public workshop sessions in Yakima, Mt. Vernon and Tumwater. Mr. Fox explained that 16 major issues were identified and, as a result of public response, staff has provided a recommendation for each issue. In addition, 14 issues necessary to administer a grant program have been identified. Tab 3c contains evaluation questions which could be used by lead entities to evaluate project portfolios and Tab 3d provides possible evaluation criteria for individual projects.

At the conclusion of the meeting, staff intends to rewrite the major policy issues, based on Board discussion and decisions, and then revisit the mission statement, guiding principles and major scope of responsibilities. The Board will be asked to approve the final document at the December 3 meeting.

Jim Kramer directed members to materials following Tab 3a and highlighted staff recommendations on each major issue.

Chair Ruckelshaus called for public testimony:

John Cambalik Salmon Restoration Coordinator, N. Olympic Peninsula Lead Entity
Asked for further clarification on “mitigation dollars” and “private land owners” and whether or not assessments and inventories are considered technical assistance. Urged the Board to consider encouraging, but not requiring, local matches

Willy O’Neil Associated General Contractors of Washington
Urged: discussion with local groups which may or may not be a part of a lead entity; consider adding “weak stocks” to preservation statement; immediate distribution of funds to allow time for permitting process; support for volunteer efforts (especially for monitoring projects); local, non-government entities involvement in development of lead entity lists; time limit to be increased from three years to five years to assure adequate maintenance; consideration of additional funding for effects of natural disasters;

Carl Kassebaum Consulting Engineers Council of Washington
Supported inclusion of “engineering” in the definition of “science”

and suggested engineers be part of evaluation teams. Expressed concern that work on projects should be balanced between public and private sector employers.

Peter Scholes Director of Agency Relations, The Nature Conservancy
Expressed disappointment that preservation of high quality habitat was not in the forefront for funding and encouraged the Board to fund acquisitions before “imminent threat” is reached. Long-term accountability needs to be stressed. Individual project sponsors should be able to bring projects forward because the lead entity process has not been tested.

Brian Murray Program Analyst, King County Water & Land Resources
Encouraged Board support for purchase of timber rights, inclusion of priority reaches on project lists, and a grant cycle which allows adequate time for NMFS review and permitting (awarding of grants in July would be preferred).

Jim Kramer suggested the Board and federal agencies discuss ways of developing a fast-track approval process for SRFB projects. Federal agencies should also be invited to have representation on the review panels.

Bill Young Fish Biologist, Mason Conservation District
Supported funding for projects which may not contain listed species.

Michael Kaputo Chelan County Salmon Recovery Coordinator, Chelan County & Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board
Agreed with Mr. Cambalik’s reports regarding local matches (i.e. encouraged but not required). Supported increased weighting for endangered species in the evaluation criteria and asked for an extension of the timelines (January 30 for lead entity project lists).

Jim Fox and Jim Kramer facilitated Board discussions on the Major Issues section of the document (3a). Comments on the following issues have been incorporated into the final proposal (see Attachment A):

Preservation and Restoration Priorities	Match
Listed Species	Eligible Applicants
Measurement of Fish Benefits	Grant Cycle
Monitoring	Grant Limits and Allocation of Funds
Lead Entity versus Individual Projects	Recovery Regions and Block Grants
Review of Lead Entity Lists	Technical Support for Watersheds
Scientific Evaluation of Lists of Projects	Big vs. Little Applications
Project Evaluation Criteria	Long-Term Adaptive Management / Board’s Role

Item #3b: Implementation Issues, Fall 1999 Cycle

Jim Fox and Jim Kramer facilitated Board discussions on the Implementation Issues section of the document (3b). Comments on the following issues have been incorporated into the final proposal (see Attachment B):

Time Limit	Acquisition
Federal Lands	Less-than-fee Acquisition
Minimum Project Amount	Tribal Trust Land
Cost Increases	Retroactive Costs
Matching Requirements	Administrative (Direct) Costs
Project Types	Indirect (Overhead) Costs
Eligible Project Elements	Conversion of Assets

Director Johnson introduced Donna Mason, Chair of the Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation, and Bud Krogh, member of the Committee.

Item #3c: Evaluation, Lead Entities Proposals and Lists

Jim Kramer reviewed the questions that a panel of scientists and other experts will use to assess the benefit of the lead entity project list for fish and the certainty of success. Committee comments and suggestions have been reflected in the revised document (see Attachment C).

Board members will be asked to provide comments on the revisions at the December 3 meeting. It was also agreed that the criteria would be sent to lead entities for discussion at a meeting organized by WDFW on December 14.

Item #3d: Evaluation, Criteria for Projects

Jim Fox reviewed the proposed eligibility requirements and rating criteria for individual project review (i.e. for projects from areas without lead entities). Committee comments and suggestions have been reflected in the revised document (see Attachment D).

Although lead entities may choose to use the questions in their evaluation processes, they will not be required to do so.

Other Business:

Jerry Alb announced that Shari Schaftlein will represent the Department of Transportation at the December 3 meeting in SeaTac.

Director Johnson asked Board members to review the *draft* application form which had been distributed earlier in the meeting (see meeting materials).

In addition, Jim Kramer reminded members of a program review (i.e. items vetoed in SB 5595) which will be on the agenda in December. The Forest and Fish issue will also be discussed.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

SRFB APPROVAL:

William Ruckelshaus, Chair

Date

Future Meetings: December 3, 1999 (SeaTac)
 January 21, 2000 (Spokane)
 February 17-18, 2000 (Bremerton)
 March 16-17, 2000 (Wenatchee)

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