



## Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board

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July 28, 2023  
Board Meeting  
Webinar and In-Person Meeting  
WSDOT, Room 124  
11018 NE 51<sup>st</sup> Circle, Vancouver WA 98682

Final Minutes  
Approved: October 6, 2023

Present: Scott Brummer, Dan Cothren, Dalton Fry, Marylynne Kostick, Hal Mahnke, Troy McCoy, Gary Medvigy, Todd Olson, Sandra Staples-Bortner, Don Swanson, Dennis Weber, and Del Wilson

Absent: Asa Leckie, Ann Rivers, Jade Unger. Chairman excused the absent members.

Staff: Steve Manlow, Denise Smee, Amelia Johnson, Steve West, and Lorie Clark.

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### **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

- Richard Dyrland, of Friends of the East Fork, requested a federal EIS be performed on the Ridgefield Pits project and design.
- Paul Lacy, of Wahkiakum County, requested clarification of what areas are included in the adopted recovery plan so that he could apply for grants.
- Albert O'Connor stated an EIS should be completed on the Ridgefield Pits project during the planning phase.

**PARTNER REPORTS:** No partner reports were offered.

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT:** Director Manlow highlighted the following items:

- WDFW announced that Kessina Lee has left and accepted a position with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as the Oregon State Supervisor. They have hired Rian Sallee from WA State Department of Ecology as her replacement to fill the Director of SW Region position.
- Agencies are submitting supplemental budgets that outline natural resource management priorities, and regions are working with the Governors Salmon Recovery Office to provide feedback regarding alignment with recovery priorities.
- The 2018 Ostrander Barrier Correction project has been delayed in the FBRB process.

Chairman Olson welcomed new Board members:

- Sandra Staples-Bortner, Wahkiakum County Citizen representative replacing Olaf Thomason.
- Dalton Fry, Cowlitz Indian Tribe representative replacing Rudy Salakory.

### **BUSINESS MEETING**

Item #1          Consent Agenda

Board member McCoy moved and Board member Medvigy seconded to approve the Consent Agenda as submitted. No discussion. Motion carried.

Item #2 Approve Klickitat Lead Entity Allocation, 2023 SRFB and CRR Ranked Project Lists

Director Manlow presented the item. The CRR and SRFB grant rounds are run concurrently. The SRFB has set a 2023 statewide grant round target at \$23 million resulting in \$4.6 million to the Lower Columbia, and Tacoma Power has up to \$3 million available for eligible projects. LCFRB opened the grant round in February 2023 with final applications submitted to the TAC for scoring and evaluation in July.

The final TAC recommended ranked SRFB and CRR project lists were approved by consensus on July 19, 2023. However, Director Manlow noted that on July 28, 2023, staff received notification that the sponsor of Project #23-1154 (Schoolhouse Creek Barrier and Riparian Improvements) would not be receiving an expected \$60,900 in match from Weyerhaeuser Company for the project. The sponsor has requested to change the project to design only with a total SRFB request of \$60,090, which provides the opportunity to allocate additional funding to the Klickitat Lead Entity projects that target Lower Columbia populations.

Comments by sponsors on their project:

- No comments from sponsors.

Director Manlow read the Conflict-of-Interest statement from the Board's bylaws and asked each Board member if they had a conflict. The Board members disclosure of their Conflict of Interest for Agenda Item 2 for SRFB and CRR Projects:

- Board member Brummer None
- Board member Cothren None
- Board member Fry None
- Board member Kostick None
- Board member Mahnke None, Disclosed that he is on the Board of the LCFEG
- Board member McCoy None
- Board member Medvigy None
- Board member Olson None
- Board member Staple-Bortner None
- Board member Swanson None
- Board member Weber None
- Board member Wilson None

Comments by the public on any project:

- Jim Byrne of Trout Unlimited, stated a full EIS should be performed on the Ridgefield Pits project.

Board member Staples-Bortner moved and Board member Medvigy seconded to:  
1. Allocate \$650,000 in Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) project funds to the Klickitat County Lead Entity (LE) to fully fund 2023 proposals in the White Salmon watershed targeting Lower

Columbia Populations. This includes the standard 2.7% allocation, plus additional funds that are not allocated to Lower Columbia Lead Entity projects;

2. Authorize the Director to coordinate with other Regional Directors to allocate the remaining project funds (\$66,458) to high priority projects in the Columbia Basin;
3. Approve and adopt the LCFRB Technical Advisory Committee's (TAC) Benefits to Fish, Certainty of Success and Cost Scores and supporting assumptions, rationales, and deliberations for both the SRFB and Cowlitz Restoration and Recovery (CRR) 2023 project reviews;
4. Approve the 2023 Ranked SRFB project List as recommended by the TAC, and approve its submission to the SRFB;
5. Approve the 2023 Ranked CRR project list as recommended by the TAC, and approve its submission to Tacoma Power's Fisheries Technical Committee (FTC); and
6. Approve the 2023 Lower Columbia Regional Monitoring SRFB Project (23-1169, Columbia River Chum Salmon Escapement Analysis) and its submission to the SRFB as part of the Region's overall SRFB project list.

No discussion. Motion Carried

Item #3            Approve 23-25 Workplan

Director Manlow presented the item. The proposed work plan is laid out by programs (Salmon Recovery, Monitoring, Habitat Protection and Restoration, and Watershed Management) and designed to be implemented using the LCFRB's operating funds received from RCO.

On July 18, 2023, the draft work plan was reviewed and commented on by the Board's Executive Committee. Chairman Olson stated this is a living document and asked Board members to review the plan and contact staff with any questions or concerns. It is recognized that priorities may shift during work implementation based on emerging issues.

Board member Medvigy moved and Board member McCoy seconded to adopt the proposed 2023-2025 biennium work plan. No discussion. Motion carried.

Item #4            Approve Amended 2023 Budget

Ms. Smee presented the item. The Board prepares an annual budget based on the calendar year even though the state allocates funding on a fiscal year. The Board approved the 2023 Annual Budget at their December 2022 meeting. It was stated at that time that additional funding could be awarded to regions by the legislature and staff would submit an amended budget for Board approval.

In June 2023, the legislature provided an additional \$271,000 in state operating funds to the Lower Columbia for the 23-25 biennium. Half of the additional funding will be added to the 2023 budget for July – December 2023 in the amount of \$135,500. Then the remaining \$135,500 will be included in the 2024 Annual Budget for January – June 2024.

Ms. Smee reviewed the changes to the budget to reflect the additional funding received by RCO for the amended 2023 budget.

Board member Weber moved and Board member Staples-Bortner seconded to adopt the amended 2023 budget to incorporate additional state operating funding starting July 1, 2023. No discussion. Motion carried.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

At 2:20 p.m., Chairman Olson stated the Board will now meet in executive session to review the performance of the Director as allowed by RCW 42.30.110 (1)(g). The Board will be in executive session for 10 minutes until 2:30 p.m. The Board is expected to take further action following the executive session. Chairman Olson asked staff and members of the public to exit the Teams meeting until 2:30 p.m.

At 2:30 p.m., Chairman Olson called the regular meeting back to order.

Board member McCoy moved and Board member Brummer seconded to award the Director a 2% merit increase effective July 1, 2023. No discussion. Motion carried.

**GOOD OF THE ORDER:**

- Chairman Olson stated the next regular Board meeting is scheduled for 09/01/2023. After discussion, Board members agreed to cancel the meeting due to the Labor Day holiday. The next meeting will be 10/06/2023.
- Board member Staples-Bortner announced the passing of Port Gamble S’Klallam Tribal Chair Jeremy Sullivan. He was a longtime advocate for the environment, cultural preservation, salmon recovery and the recipient of the Billy Frank Jr. Leadership Award.

Chairman Olson adjourned the meeting at 2:45 p.m. A full recording of the meeting is available upon request.

/lc



Approved in open session on 10/06/2023

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Todd Olson, Chairman