



Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board

March 3, 2023
Board Meeting
Webinar and In-Person Meeting
WSDOT, Room 124
11018 NE 51st Circle, Vancouver WA 98682

Draft Minutes
For Approval: June 2, 2023

Present: Scott Brummer, Dan Cothren, Marylynn Kostick, Asa Leckie, Hal Mahnke, Troy McCoy, Gary Medvigy, Todd Olson, Don Swanson, Dennis Weber, and Del Wilson

Absent: Ann Rivers and Jade Unger. Chairman excused the absent members.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Chairman Olson informed the Board that Director Manlow will be out of the office for the next few weeks for health reasons.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: No public comments were offered.

PARTNER REPORTS:

- Ms. Smee and Ms. Johnson presented on potential updates to the LCFRB Website. Staff provided information on who uses the website, which pages are visited, and how the web pages are found. The PowerPoint presentation is available on request.
- Chairman Olson asked Board members to take some time to review the other websites listed in the presentation and provide feedback to Ms. Smee.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

- Ms. Smee stated the LCFRB opened their grant rounds on 2/6/2023 and held a workshop on 2/15/2023 to discuss the three different funding sources (SRFB, CRR, and Storedahl Small Grant) that will be used this year. Preliminary applications for SRFB and CRR are due on 4/3/2023 and final applications are due 6/26/2023. Storedahl applications are due 5/1/2023. Project presentations (virtual site visits) are scheduled for 4/27/2023, 5/2/2023-5/4/2023. Meeting information will be sent to the Board.
- Ms. Smee identified legislative Bills that staff is watching, including:
 - HB-1686 Convenes a Joint Salmon Recovery and Reform Committee of Legislators. This bill has not been assigned to a committee for review as of today. If it is not reviewed by 3/8/2023, it will not go forward.
 - HB-1181 Improving the states response to climate change by updating the state's planning framework. This bill has not been assigned to a committee for review as of today. If it is not reviewed by 3/8/2023, it will not go forward.

- HB-1775 Limiting liability for salmon recovery projects performed by regional fisheries enhancement groups. As a non-profit, Fish Enhancement groups, with limited liability, do not have the same ability to ensure their work related to salmon recovery projects.
- Ms. Smee noted that legislators are beginning to work on budget bills. Budgets will not be released until after the Economic Revenue Forecast Council releases their budget forecast on 3/20/2023.
- She added that the Climate Commitment Act is a factor that will have an impact on the budget this year. Some of the income from the Act will go to Natural Resources. Ms. Smee stated now is the time to start talking to our Legislators and those on the budget committees highlighting what budget items LCFBR would like to support. LCFRB sent a letter to the Governor with budget items to include in his budget. If Board members are having meetings with Legislators and would like supporting information, please contact Ms. Smee for the one-pager information sheet on salmon recovery priorities.
- Ms. Smee informed the Board that staff have been participating in the Interstate Bridge Replacement (IBR) Mitigation and Conservation workgroup since December 2021, and have been in discussions regarding potential for LCFRB to engage in the proposed conservation initiative.

Questions and comments from the Board:

- Chairman Olson asked staff to touch on the future schedule/process with the IBR. Mr. West stated the group meets once a month with the full workgroup and once a month with a subgroup. Looking ahead, he stated they need to have the mitigation lined out for the regulatory agencies by late 2023 and the conservation initiative lined out after that date.
- Board member Weber stated he is curious about HB-1686 that hasn't been assigned to a committee but has language connecting it to budgets. He asked if there is a movement underfoot on a fundamental change in salmon recovery efforts. He suggested that Jeff Breckel from the SRFB would be better aware of it. Ms. Smee stated staff has asked the same question from RCO's policy leads but they don't know. Board member Weber stated the Board should be aware of what the discontent is and continue to inquire about the bill.
- Board member Medvigy stated he has lost sight of where the LCFRB was on the funding of the Ridgefield Pits project. Ms. Smee noted funding would be addressed in the capital budgets, which are addressed in the letter LCFRB sent to the Governor.
- Board member Medvigy highlighted a political concern regarding the IBR, noting local stakeholders supported the locally preferred option. He is hopeful that LCFRB can get into the conservation aspect while staying politically neutral.

BUSINESS MEETING

Item #1 Consent Agenda

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

Item #2 Board Approval to Develop and Submit Proposals for the Lower Columbia Focused Investment Strategy for Habitat (FISH) Project

Ms. Smee noted that she met with Chairman Olson to discuss a change to this item. Ms. Smee presented the item to the Board in track changes format, and noted that last August, the Board gave authorization for staff to submit the FISH application to NOAA. This year, staff requested authorization to submit the FISH application as part of the SRFB grant round. She indicated that upon further review, it would be much more efficient if staff asked the Board for authorization to develop and submit proposals for this project to any applicable grant and funding sources, given staff have found other grant opportunities that are more appropriate since the action summary was written.

No questions or comments from the Board.

Board member Medvigy moved and Board member Cothren seconded to authorize staff to develop and submit proposal(s) for the Lower Columbia Focused Investment Strategy for Habitat (FISH) project to applicable grant and funding sources. No discussion. Motion carried.

Item #3 TAC Recruitment Approval

Ms. Smee presented the item, noting that the Board approved a TAC recruitment at their February meeting. To date, the Board has received one application from Karen Adams. However, the recruitment is still open. Ms. Adams is currently working for WDFW as an Area Habitat Biologist and has worked for the LCFRB in the past. Ms. Smee stated that staff reviewed her application and spoken with her about the requirements for the position, and recommend Ms. Adams be appointed to the TAC.

Questions and comments from the Board:

- Chairman Olson asked if Ms. Adams would be filling one of the open positions on the TAC. Ms. Smee stated that the agency positions have been filled, and that Ms. Adams will fill an opening based on her experience and knowledge. Ms. Smee added the TAC lost Alex Uber and Kelley Jorgensen to the SRFB Review Panel, and Rudy Salakory, who was the TAC Chair, took a position with another entity. Currently, David Lindley from Yakama is serving as interim Chair.
- Ms. Smee stated we still have two open positions to fill on the TAC.

Board member Weber moved and Board member Mahnke seconded to recommend that the Board appoint Karen Adams to the LCFRB's Technical Advisory Committee (TAC). No discussion. Motion carried.

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

- Chairman Olson stated the Salmon Recovery Conference will be held in Vancouver on April 18 and 19. Registration for any Board member that would like to attend would be paid by the LCFRB. Please contact Ms. Smee by March 6, 2023 if you would like to go.
- Ms. Smee stated the Washington Salmon Coalition (WSC) will be hosting a meeting at the Water Resource Education Center on April 20, 2023.
- Ms. Smee stated the LCFBR will give a Salmon 101 workshop presentation on March 22, 2023 through MS Teams (online only). Meeting information has been sent to the Board and TAC.

Chairman Olson adjourned the meeting at 2:00 p.m.

/lc

Approved in open session on _____ Signed: _____
Todd Olson, Chairman