



Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board

June 2, 2023
Board Meeting
Webinar and In-Person Meeting
WSDOT, Room 124
11018 NE 51st Circle, Vancouver WA 98682

Final Minutes
Approved: July 28, 2023

Present: Dan Cothren, Marylynne Kostick, Hal Mahnke, Gary Medvigy, Todd Olson, Don Swanson, Dennis Weber, and Del Wilson

Absent: Scott Brummer, Troy McCoy, and Ann Rivers. Chairman excused the absent members.
Absent: Asa Leckie and Jade Unger. Members were not excused.

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS: No public comments were offered.

PARTNER REPORTS: No partner reports were offered.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Director Manlow stated a written Director's Report was sent out last month. He also highlighted the following items:

- The Board sent a letter to WDFW and the Fish and Wildlife Commission on the proposed Hatchery Co-Manager Policy, expressing concerns. This would replace the existing hatchery policy (C-3624).
- From a budget perspective, capacity funding for lead entities and regions have flatlined since 2009. Director Manlow has been working with the regional directors to put together a budget proposal to address the gaps. We anticipate receiving a budget increase from the legislature of \$140,000 - \$170,000 per year.
- The SRFB meeting was held in May. Agenda items included discussion on Targeted Investments SRFB match requirements.
- For this year's grant round, we have approximately \$4.2 million in requests. Based on the SRFB's allocation, Lower Columbia could have \$4 to \$5 million in available funds. He noted that based on the project list we may have an opportunity to provide additional funds to the Klickitat Lead Entity.
- John Foltz, Director of the Snake Recovery Board, has stepped down and taken a position with RCO. Recruiting is underway for his replacement.
- Keith Dublanica, RCO IMW Coordinator, is retiring and they will be recruiting for his position.
- Kessina Lee, WDFW has moved on to another position and has recently been replaced by Rian Sallee of Ecology as the new Regional Director of WDFW.

Questions and comments from the Board:

- Chairman Olson asked when the Board will see the additional funding. Ms. Smee stated the new funding will be effective 7/1/2023.

BUSINESS MEETING

Item #1 Consent Agenda

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

Item #2 Wahkiakum County Citizen Election

Chairman Olson stated the five county commissioners/councilors on the Board will make the selection of Wahkiakum County Citizen Representative. Two candidates applied for the position, Sandra Staples-Bortner and Michael Passmore, and both candidates are from Wahkiakum County. Their resumes have been included in the Board materials. Director Manlow stated per the Board’s legislation, the five county commissioners/councilors appoint the citizen representatives.

Mr. Passmore was in attendance and was asked to introduce himself. Chairman Olson stated Ms. Staples-Bortner is not in the meeting and noted he hoped everyone has had a chance to review both candidate resumes. Board members and staff discussed the qualifications of the two applicants and their interests in being on the Board. Chairman Olson opened up the nominations for the Wahkiakum County Citizen Representative. He reminded the Board that this action is for the five county commissioners only.

Board member Medvigy nominated Sandra Staples-Bortner as the Wahkiakum County Citizen Representative to the LCFRB. Board member Cothren seconded the nomination.

Chairman Olson called the vote for the Wahkiakum County Citizen Representative:

	Sandra Staples-Bortner	Michael Passmore
Daniel Cothren, Wahkiakum County BOCC	Yes	
Gary Medvigy, Clark County Councilor	Yes	
Dennis Weber, Cowlitz County BOCC	Yes	
Scott Brummer, Lewis County BOCC	Absent	
Asa Leckie, Skamania County BOCC	Absent	

Chairman Olson thanked Mr. Passmore for participating in the meeting and his interest in the Board.

Board member Medvigy moved and Board member Cothren seconded to authorize the appointment of Sandra Staples-Bortner to the Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board as the Wahkiakum County Citizen Representative. No discussion. Motion carried.

Item #3 Approve Storedahl Small Grants Award

Director Manlow presented the item, noting that for the past 10 years, the Board has received funds from J.L. Storedahl and Sons as part of their Habitat Conservation Plan for the Daybreak mining operation in the East Fork Lewis River. The Board authorized staff to open the grant round in February 2023. Staff set up a review committee and solicited project proposals. The Board received one grant application from the Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership titled, Ridgefield Pits Floodplain Reconnection project. The Review Committee met and scored the project and recommends it for funding. Included in the Board materials are the Committee’s deliberations, scores, and rationales for funding.

Board member Medvigy moved and Board member Weber seconded to recommend that the Board adopt the LCFRB Storedahl Small Grant Review Committee’s scores, supporting rationales, and funding recommendation for the Ridgefield Pits Floodplain Reconnection proposal, and authorize the Director to enter into contract with the sponsor for project implementation. No discussion. Motion carried.

Item #4 Approve Authorization for Contract with RCO

Director Manlow presented the item, noting that every biennium the Board has to enter into or renew a contract with the Recreation Conservation Office. As an organization, our authorizing body has to review and approve the contract resolution and authorization form. These allow the Director to work with RCO to finalize the Regional Organization and Lead Entity contract so the Board can accept the funds for Fiscal Years 2023-2025.

Board member Weber moved and Board member Wilson seconded to recommend that the Board authorize the RCO Resolution/Authorization form to be signed by the LCFRB Chair, authorizing the Director to sign the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) Grant 23-1241P, for the Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board (LCFRB) Regional Organization and Lead Entity (ROLE) operating funds. No discussion. Motion carried.

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

- Ms. Smee stated the regularly scheduled July Board meeting has been canceled and a special meeting will be held on 7/28/2023. The Board will be reviewing and approving the SRFB and CRR ranked project lists.
- Board member Medvigy stated he would like to see restoration work done at Vancouver Lake. He is advocating for the City of Vancouver and the Port of Vancouver to get more engaged in the recovery efforts.

Chairman Olson adjourned the meeting at 1:43 p.m.

/lc



Approved in open session on 707/28/2023 Signed: _____

Todd Olson, Chairman