



## Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board

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October 6, 2023  
Board Meeting  
Webinar and In-Person Meeting  
WSDOT, Room 124  
11018 NE 51<sup>st</sup> Circle, Vancouver WA 98682

Final Minutes  
Approved: December 8, 2023

Present: Scott Brummer, Dan Cothren, Asa Leckie, Troy McCoy, Gary Medvigy, Todd Olson, Ann Rivers, Sandra Staples-Bortner, Don Swanson, Jade Unger, Dennis Weber, and Del Wilson

Absent: Dalton Fry and Marylynne Kostick. Chairman excused the absent members.

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

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**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** No public comments were offered.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Board member Weber requested to add the approval of Rober Sudar as the Cowlitz County Citizen Representative to the agenda.

Board member Weber moved and Board member Medvigy seconded to add an item to the agenda. Chairman Olson stated it would be Item # 1.5 after the Consent Agenda. No discussion. Motion carried.

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

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT:** Director Manlow offered the following updates:

- Over the past few months staff have been working on wrapping up some of the SRFB and CRR grant round processes and preparing for 2024.
  - The SRFB met in mid-September to make decisions on the 2023 grant round and to set funding levels for the 2024 grant round. Our 2023 project list was approved as submitted allocating approximately \$4.6 million. Director Manlow thanked the sponsors, the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), and the Board for the work that was put into this year's grant round. Looking forward to the 2024 grant round, the estimated funding will be between \$4.8 and \$5.2 million. In addition, the Legislature has appropriated \$25 million for riparian projects statewide.
  - The Cowlitz Restoration Recovery (CRR) grant round was ran alongside the SRFB process. The Fisheries Technical Committee (FTC) met in early September and approved our 2023 CRR project list. Staff worked with Tacoma Power to hold presentations and a project field tour last week. He noted there is up to \$3 million per biennium available for CRR and Hatchery Associated Projects.
- Staff are interested in having the Skagit Watershed Council present information on landowner incentives for riparian projects that they have been engaged in.

- Hatcheries & Harvest:
  - Staff are still working to wrap up the Conservation Sustainable Fisheries Plan (CSFP) report. This has been a joint process with WDFW.
  - WDFW has prepared Hatchery Transition Plans for salmon stocks in the Lewis River, and we have been engaged in development. These plans address how hatchery programs will be supporting reintroduction and recovery in the basin.
  - Staff provided comments to NOAA Fisheries on the Environmental Impact Statement scope for the Southern Resident Killer Whale Hatchery Production Program.
  - Staff are continuing to track and engage in the Hatchery Co-Manager Policy development process. Several of the changes we requested have been incorporated into the draft policy.
- Staff are continuing to work with Board member Weber on the Spirit Lake Toutle River Collaborative process. A field tour is scheduled for October 12, 2023.
- Hydro: After a couple of years of coordination, the Aquatic Coordination Committee (ACC) for the Lewis River Hydro project voted to support PacifiCorp’s new fish passage prescriptions for reintroducing salmon and steelhead into Yale and Merwin Reservoirs. This is an ongoing process and those prescriptions include trap and haul facilities in each of the reservoirs.

**PRESENTATION:** Focused Investment Strategy for Habitat (FISH) Update – Ameilia Johnson, LCFRB  
Presentation is available upon request.

**BUSINESS MEETING**

Item #1 Consent Agenda

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

Item # 1.5 Elect Robert Sudar as Cowlitz County Citizen Representative to the Board

Board member Weber presented the item. This action is to fill the vacancy left by Hal Mahnke as the Cowlitz County Citizen Representative. Mr. Mahnke had served on the Board since February 2017 and was also a member of the Finance Committee since December 2022. In September, Mr. Mahnke sent an email to the staff stating his intent to resign from the Board. This allowed time for the Cowlitz County BOCC to recommend a new representative. The Cowlitz County BOCC nominated Rober Sudar for the position. Per the Board’s enabling legislation, the appointment of the Citizen Representative is a decision made by the five County Commissioner members of the Board.

Board member Weber moved and Board member Medvigy seconded to appointment Mr. Robert Sudar to the Board as the Cowlitz County Citizen Representative. Motion was approved unanimously by the County Commissioners and Councilor. Motion carried.

## Item #2 Contracting with ESRI to Assist in Habitat Strategy Map Update

Director Manlow presented the item. Our current mapping system, Salmon Port, is currently non-functional. It is a proprietary system that cannot be managed internally by staff. In addition, it is archaic and doesn't give staff the flexibility of a functional project mapping system.

Questions and comments from the Board:

- Board member Medvigy stated he didn't want to detract from the item but he asked what authority the Director has and noted this item should be within his discretion as a Director, rather than bringing it to the Board. Board member Medvigy asked what about the dollar threshold that would require Board approval? Ms. Smee stated the Board doesn't have a threshold in any of our policies. Past practice has been that contracts are presented to the Board for approval.
  - Director Manlow stated this is a good point and added it would be nice to have a conversation with the Board about what they are comfortable delegating to the Director, both on fiscal decisions and correspondence. Getting clarity on both of those fronts would be a good agenda item.

Board member Weber moved and Board member Swanson seconded to authorize the Director to enter into contract for consulting services with Environmental Systems Research Institute, Inc. (ESRI) to develop and publish an ArcGIS Online web application map for the regional habitat strategy in the amount of \$21,300. No discussion. Motion carried.

## Item #3 Contracting with Inter-Fluve, Inc. for FISH Finalization

Director Manlow presented the item. This contract would provide up to \$90,000 to complete the Focused Investment Strategy for Habitat (FISH) and if additional funding is required, propose a 2024 SRFB proposal for Assessment to complete some specific tasks for the project. This contract is a continuation of the work that Inter-Fluve has been doing for the Board.

Board member Medvigy moved and Board member Brummer seconded to authorize the Director to enter into contract for consulting services with Inter-Fluve, Inc. in the amount of \$90,000 to complete the Focused Investment Strategy for Habitat (FISH) project and, if additional funding is required, authorize the Director to propose a 2024 Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) assessment proposal to complete specific FISH project tasks in the amount of \$200,000. No discussion. Motion carried.

### **GOOD OF THE ORDER:**

- Board member Weber invited the members to the Spirit Lake Collaborative Open House field tour on 10/12/2023. This is open to everyone and the group will meet at 10:00 a.m. at Harry Gardener Park. Please bring your own lunch for this event.
- Board member Wilson informed the Board that a WDFW staff member died in the Wind River while performing her duties and adding this accident was a disturbing situation for local residents. The Board agreed to have Director Manlow reach out to WDFW and offer the Board's condolences to both her family and staff.

- Board member Medvigy noted the Horseshoe Falls project. The Council voted to allow Columbia Land Trust to conserve the Falls. However, this has been an ongoing process since 2019 trying to work out the agreement with the landowner. Director Manlow added that summer steelhead are located at Horseshoe Falls and it and other falls in the basin are critical for adult fish holding.
- Board member Medvigy referenced a situation he brought to Director Manlow in the Chelatchie area. He noted that allegedly a fish bearing stream was bulldozed and cut off which raised concern with local citizens. He noted that the situation may involve federal preemption that bypasses local permits, and that the county is still working on this issue. Director Manlow stated staff reached out to the agencies that may have regulatory authority. He noted that when it comes to railroads, federal supremacy and interstate commerce authorities may indeed limit local jurisdictions. Director Manlow indicated Ecology and the USACE are looking into this situation.

Chairman Olson adjourned the meeting at 2:32 p.m. A full recording of the meeting is available upon request.

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Approved in open session on \_\_\_\_\_ Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Todd Olson, Chairman