

Fish Barrier Removal Board – Meeting Notes**Date: December 15, 2020****Place: Online Meeting****Summary: Agenda items with formal action**

Item	Formal Action
Meeting notes from December 2020	Approved

Summary: Follow-up actions

Item	Follow-up
Update of “Extinction is Not an Option”	Arrange for Erik Neatherlin or Jeannie Abbott to discuss with the Board
Strategy subcommittee to review two-page legislative summary	Schedule meeting of strategy subcommittee

Board Members/Alternates:

Casey Baldwin, The Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation	Matt Curtis, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)
Erik Neatherlin, Governor’s Salmon Recovery Office (GSRO)	Paul Wagner, Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT)
Jeannie Abbott, GSRO	Susan Eugenis, WA State Association of Counties (WSAC) (Cowlitz Co.)
Joe Shramek, Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR)	Susan Kanzler, WSDOT
John Foltz, Council of Regions, Snake River Salmon Recovery Board (SRSRB)	Tom Jameson, WDFW

Staff:

Adam Fleming	Dave Collins
Alison Hart	Gabrielle Stilwater
Cade Roler	Gina Piazza
Cassandra Weekes	Julie Groebelny
Christy Rains	Neil Aaland, Facilitator

Others observing (some only signed in with short login names):

Alice Rubin, Recreation and Conservation Office	Erik Young	Steve Helvey
Cheryl Baumann	Evan Lewis	Tracy Gilson
Daniel Howe	Heidi Reynolds	Valeri Wade
Dave Caudill	Jon Fulton	Wendy Clark-Getzin, Jefferson County
Elena Fernandez	Mara Z	Call-in user (2)
Eric Doyle	Matthew Miskovic	
Erica Bramlet	Natasha Coumou, Tulalip Tribes	

Welcome/Introductions/Agenda Review: Meeting started at 9:00. A quorum is present. Facilitator Neil Aaland called on FBRB members and alternates and asked them to introduce themselves. He then reviewed the agenda. He explained that if anyone has public comment to offer, to e-mail it to FBRB@dfw.wa.gov. Comments will be read into the record.

Public Comment: No public comments were received.

Old Business: The meeting notes for the December meeting were approved as submitted.

Updates from the Chair

1. 21-23 Governor's budget: \$66 million requested for 118 barriers; Gov. budget includes \$39 million which funds the first 35 projects. Governor's budget is generally considered the "high water mark". Matt discussed the list of projects. Good mix of city and county projects; list can be seen on FBRB website. In response to a question, approximately \$3 million is administrative costs. Also, the capital budget will list those projects that can be considered as alternates.
2. Fish passage rulemaking: three subjects for the rulemaking that is currently underway - fish passage, fish screening, and climate adaptive crossings. Staff has been meeting with AG office to discuss the draft. Currently scheduling next phase of outreach/workshops.
3. FEMA: change to permits required for projects in floodplains. They have concerns about downstream flooding; will now require enhancement projects to obtain local approval. This will affect timing of projects. An analysis will be required. Currently a bill before legislature to clarify a project can still go through streamlined process under certain circumstances. Link to the bill: <https://app.leg.wa.gov/billsummary?BillNumber=1268&Year=2021&Initiative=false>
4. Briefing of Senator Frockt: He requested a tour/briefing; due to limitations posed by Covid no in-person tour. Provided an online/virtual tour in late December. Briefing went well; he wants to contact Senators Mullett and Schoesler to see if they want briefings.
5. Meeting with Blue Forest Conservation: Organization offers their services. They work on west coast. FBRB not a great fit because Board does not sponsor projects. They have donors and are trying to link with sponsors. John Foltz asked to be connected with them for his sponsors.

Proviso Strategy update

1. Habitat utilization for proviso species: Matt said the proviso asks for prioritizing barrier removals with several criteria. He quickly reviewed a slide deck [see FBRB website].
 2. Commonality in fish passage project evaluation criteria: Tom worked on an outline for this. Margen Carlson is planning to discuss the proviso with key legislative members. He looked at different fish passage programs and how they evaluate projects. He walked through a slide deck [see FBRB website]. Paul Wagner noted tribal preferences are strongly considered by USDA when making grants.
- Summary of meeting with DFW fish program science staff on January 8, 2021:
 - Barrier removals which will make a difference for each salmon species and for Steelhead – especially in estuaries, side channels, and lateral habitats (for example alluvial floodplains that help all species)
 - The status of fish distribution modeling statewide and how it is planned (or not) for further modeling
 - Where there is more agreement for fish passage barrier removal:

- Adult current/historic use
 - Open access to quality habitat
 - Open full barriers vs partial
 - Open more linear habitat (quantity)
 - Less Agreement in barrier removal:
 - Juvenile current/historic use and needs (esp. rearing)
 - Opening access into poor habitat (quality)
 - Opening partial barriers
 - Opening limited linear habitat gains (quantity)
3. Legislative update: Margen asked for a 2-page outline; Tom has started a draft but still needs external review. He reviewed it for the Board.

Questions and comments:

- John Foltz is happy to help with ESA recovery part. At a future Board meeting would be good to hear from Erik Neatherlin or Jeannie Abbott to discuss the update to “Extinction is Not an Option”. He noted the salmon recovery regional organizations can help identify passage-related needs and how they fit into this.
- Jeannie asked if Tom was seeing anything that he would want to change in the FBRB grant program. Tom did not have any specific changes. He said there is some confusion around all the different programs. Some legislative changes might be warranted. Matt added that this item focused on species targeted by the proviso.

Upcoming opportunities for engagement:

- Legislature is in session 1/11 – 4/25
- Puget Sound federal task force meeting is Feb. 1; Paul and Tom will participate
- Quarterly injunction implementation meeting with tribal nations is Feb. 2
- Presentation to SRFB is scheduled on March 3
- The strategy sub-group will review the draft two-pager

Wrap-up

Meeting adjourned at approximately 10:40 a.m.

Next meeting: Tuesday, March 16, 2021 – online meeting