

Fish Barrier Removal Board – Meeting Notes

Date: May 19, 2020

Place: WebEx Meeting with all on phone or computer (due to requirements governing meetings by WA Governor Inslee)

Summary: Agenda items with formal action

Item	Formal Action
Meeting notes from April 2020	Approved

Summary: Follow-up actions

Item	Follow-up
Tribal representation from two western Washington tribes	WDFW will continue to work on finding two new members of FBRB. Consideration will be given to direct briefings being offered regularly to all 21 tribes.
Field work for final applications	Will not be in field to provide information by deadline; alternative scoring process discussed in April will be used

Board Members/Alternates on phone:

Matt Curtis, WDFW	Dave Caudill, RCO
Jane Wall, WSAC	Jeannie Abbott, GSRO
John Foltz, COR	Paul Wagner, DOT
Jon Brand, WSAC	Casey Baldwin, Colville Tribe
Joe Shramek, DNR	Carl Schroeder, AWC

Others present on phone:¹

Neil Aaland, Facilitator	Gina Piazza, WDFW
Alison Hart, WDFW	Dave Collins, WDFW
Cade Roler, WDFW	Sheridan Paulus
Christy Rains, WDFW	Daniel Howe
Julie Grobelny, WDFW	Eric Doyle
Gabrielle Stilwater, WDFW	Eliza McGovern
Robert Paine-Donovan	JFulton
rvacirca	Olivia Vito

Welcome/Introductions/Agenda Review: Meeting started at 9:00. Facilitator Neil Aaland 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. He noted that Tom will try and participate before the meeting ends today.

Public Comment: No public comment was provided via the e-mail link.

Old Business

Meeting notes: The meeting notes for the April meeting were approved as submitted.

¹ We only have the identification provided by those who joined by phone; may not be full names

Tribal invitation: Matt reminded the Board that a letter was sent to Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission (NWIFC) inviting them to submit two names from western Washington Tribes for membership. NWIFC declined to do so. Feedback from some tribes was received at the recent injunction update meeting:

- There is concern from tribes over representation. They believe no tribe can speak for any other tribe; invitations should go to all 21 tribes.
- Tribes have concerns about taking any funding away from the injunction responsibilities.
- Concern about prioritization - some tribes will not see any projects in their area because they have no barriers or are in urbanized areas.

Tom is preparing a response letter to be sent by WDFW leadership, asking tribes to reconsider and provide two members. The letter is under review. Paul appreciates the summary; the issue of only two members was a big one. He wonders if there is a different approach, such as direct outreach by the Board to all 21 tribes. He has mentioned this to Tom. Matt said the tribes did mention this at the meeting, expressing that they did not think the Board was actively communicating with them enough.

Updates from Chair Jameson

Tom has not yet arrived on the phone so Matt Curtis will provide his updates.

WDFW back-to-work: They are starting with fieldwork, some challenges with locating PPE. There is limited interaction with the public currently. For FBRB, field work will not occur soon enough to do the habitat surveys for application process. They will be using the alternative scoring process discussed at the April meeting.

Update on Rulemaking: Margen Carlsen briefed the FWC on April 30. Goal is to codify current standards for instream structures, screening and diversions, and climate adaptive water crossing structures. In addition, will address compliance issues for instream structures and screening and considerations for technical assistance programs and support tools.

Cooke Creek cost increase: A cost increase for sponsor Kittitas County Conservation District was approved for \$13,000.

Movement of monies between biennia: several projects on the 17-19 list are wrapping up under budget, which means more funding is available for project alternates on the current biennium's list. He noted that the Middle Fork Newaukum project will be coming in with \$300,000 to spare. Dave Caudill mentioned another project will come into completion with \$700,000 left over.

NMFS/NOAA potential infrastructure spending: WDFW was alerted to some potential federal funding for shovel ready fish passage correction projects. They spent some time putting a list together before the request was called off. However, this will probably be useful later. Now we have a list of Board projects that could be ready to go this summer or shortly thereafter. It was noted that DNR submitted a list for FFFPP. Other states are potentially looking at this as a source of funding.

Proviso progress: Matt reminded the Board that they have \$142,000 in proviso funding to look at a statewide strategy for removing barriers. This would be looking at agencies, tribes, private barriers. Factors include addressing stocks critical for Orca recovery; listed as threatened or endangered; critical for salmon treaty and North of Falcon processes. This is affected by the Governor's hiring freeze, but Matt thinks some tasks can be done.

Updates from Matt Curtis:

Bio 2 hiring update: This position is now on hold due to the hiring freeze ordered by the Governor. Still hope to be able to hire later this year. Carl expressed disappointment, and wonders if they have talked to OFM about a waiver since the funding made it through the first OFM screen of the adopted budget. Matt thinks Margen is still weighing this.

21-23 Final application update: 101 projects were submitted, 4-5 were not eligible, 5 decided not to pursue final application. 91 are left to submit final applications. Current funding request is \$73 million.

Due date for getting final applications into PRISM is May 29. Dave Caudill noted that there are currently 72 final applications in PRISM.

Upcoming Opportunities for Engagement

No items were discussed.

The meeting adjourned at 9:50 am.

Next meeting: Tuesday, June 16, 2020 – likely by WebEx