

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

Item	Formal Action
Meeting notes from August 2020	Approved

Summary: Follow-up actions

Item	Follow-up
FBRB strategy subcommittee	Tom will organize a meeting to discuss proviso and other topics
Map showing status of all projects from previous biennia	Schedule as a topic for an upcoming meeting

Board Members/Alternates on phone:

Carl Schroeder	Matt Curtis
Dave Caudill	Paul Wagner
Jane Wall	Tom Jameson
Jeannie Abbott	Casey Baldwin
Joe Shramek	Susan Eugenis
John Foltz	

Staff:

Alison Hart	Gina Piazza
Christy Rains	Neil Aaland
Cade Roler	Laura Till
Gabrielle Stilwater	Josh Rogala

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

Alex Conley	Jillian Capistrano	Rory Paine Donovan
Alice Rubin, RCO	Jon	Steve Helvey
Betsy Lyons	Julie Ann Koehlinger	Tracy Gilson
Chance Berthiaume	Kristen Currens-MacKay Sposito	Call-in user (2)
Christian Berg	Matt Shanahan	
Jeff Dickison	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.

Public Comment: One comment was received via e-mail submitted by Olivia Vito, North Olympic Salmon Coalition: Is it worthwhile to additionally overlay the WDNR's RMAP layer in identifying fish barriers in critical streams, in order to see more complete barrier data? [Matt said that yes, this would be worthwhile.]

Old Business

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

Project list: Matt showed the final project list that has been submitted to RCO. There are 87 projects with 120+ total barriers. The only change from last meeting was the removal of the Gilliam Creek project. Total cost of list is \$61 million for projects, \$65 million with administrative costs. The list has been posted to the FBRB website.

Updates from Chair Tom Jameson

Tom introduced Susan Eugenis from Cowlitz County who is the new WSAC member of the Board. He also noted that he talked with Jon Brand to let him know his parting gift is on the way; Jon said he is enjoying retirement.

Board Strategy Update

Tom updated on the strategy subcommittee meeting. A draft report is due by November 1. Proviso included funding for this work, but it was pulled back. He has existing staff helping with this. The subcommittee reviewed each task in the proviso. They were charged with reviewing streams that had a connection to pro for Orca. 75% of streams met these criteria.

Matt then discussed the 7 bigger geographic areas. The analysis found 75 distinct runs. The areas which meet critical points from the Proviso for Chinook include Nooksack, Stillaguamish, Lewis, Coweeman, and Grays (fall chinook). Chinook was the largest component. For chum the important areas were Columbia River and Hood Canal. For coho, there is one listed stock and nine distinct important runs that we know of so far. For steelhead, there were five larger geographic groups to break down.

Tom noted this was the first task. The second task was to identify barriers on these streams. They have completed a statewide inventory of Chinook barriers. They are meeting soon with the Governor's Salmon Recovery Office (GSRO) to discuss the findings. There are about 20,000 barriers on salmon/steelhead streams statewide. They will compare with DOT's list of injunction barriers. Tom noted the due date of September 29 for this information.

He reviewed the Board's existing two pathways, watershed and coordinated, for the public's benefit. There needs to be a willing owner for projects to be considered. Someone is needed as a sponsor for privately owned barrier projects. Some liability goes to sponsors. Average costs for corrections are

- \$145,000 for privately owned barriers
- \$1 million for county owned barriers
- \$5 million for DOT owned barriers

Tom returned to discussing the strategy. The initial report is due to OFM on November 1. This includes project timelines and includes all agencies with projects. All agencies with barriers except Parks are members of the Board. DFW monitors the Parks projects.

An update on the fish passage rulemaking was provided. DFW has done the first phase of outreach. They are meeting with county engineers later this month to discuss their concerns and interest.

Tom discussed the fishway project on the South Fork of the Stillaguamish. This is one of the most important streams for salmon recovery. The fishway is complex, located in a rocky canyon. These need maintenance. Automatic doors have malfunctioned, and sediments have built up. Fish are moving now and starting to show up. An emergency has been declared to allow the sediment removal.

DFW is starting its annual involvement in fish rescue. Irrigators close off their waterways at the end of irrigation season and sometimes fish are stranded. There are diversions on the Dungeness, Methow, and in the Yakima basin.

Other item: Tom asked the strategy subcommittee to consider how to increase federal funding of barrier removal projects. NRCS might have some funding. Best way to access that funding is through federally recognized tribes. Dave Price suggested to Tom that the report include a request for federal funding.

Jeannie suggested that Tom prepare a summary powerpoint for future presentations to make it easier for the Board to follow along with the discussions, as there is a lot of information presented.

Casey is interested in how the new strategy will fit with the Board's current strategy and how projects on current list would fit in.

In response to a question from Carl, Matt said only a handful of the 75 streams included in the analysis will meet all four factors. He also noted that the North Fork Stillaguamish can break down to several other creeks.

Dave Caudill asked how the analysis was done. Matt said it took 9-12 months; used existing database with outreach to people on the ground looking for additions to the data. Matt then showed some pictures of fishway issues.

Wrap-up

- Paul said that FEMA notified them of some changes regarding work within mapped FEMA floodplain. They have used expedited permitting that bypasses local permits. FEMA will require more analysis, and they might not be able to use the expedited process.
- John Foltz has feedback from sponsors. He wonders if there is a map of all projects and status updates for previous biennia. Perhaps have this as an agenda topic.
- Matt is working on an online interactive map

Meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

Next meeting: Wednesday, October 21, 2020 – online meeting