

Fish Barrier Removal Board – Meeting Notes

Date: October 15, 2019

Place: Association of Washington Cities, Olympia, Washington

Summary: Agenda items with formal action

Item	Formal Action
Meeting notes from September 2019	Approved
RFP language and criteria	Approved for Nov. 1 release

Summary: Follow-up actions

Item	Follow-up
Video being taken at the November 20 th recognition event	Carl thinks AWC can help edit the video
WSAC Annual Conference is being held in Spokane third week of November	Final RFP and other information can be brought to County Engineers meeting at conference
Publicizing the RFP and next grant round	Dave Caudill will check on e-mailing to their distribution lists; Carl and Jane can e-mail to specific association lists
John Foltz has video of completed projects and thinks that could be edited for public information	Alison and Neil will discuss
A letter should be sent to the salmon recovery regions about the requested support to develop projects	John Foltz offered to draft a letter that Tom could send as the Chair

Board Members/Alternates Present:

Carl Schroeder, AWC	Dave Caudill, RCO
Jon Brand, WSAC	Jeannie Abbott, GSRO
John Foltz, COR (phone)	Paul Wagner, DOT
Tom Jameson, Chair, WDFW	Jane Wall, WSAC
Matt Curtis, WDFW	Casey Baldwin (phone)

Others present at meeting:

Neil Aaland, Facilitator	Gina Piazza, WDFW
Dave Collins, WDFW	Patrick Klavag, WDFW
Alison Hart, WDFW	Wendy Clark-Getzen, Jefferson County
Matt Miskovic, KPFF	Mara Zimmerman, Coast Salmon Partnership
Kevin Mackay, ICF	Don Ponder, WDFW
Megan Tuttle, WDFW	Evan Lewis, King County
Steve Helvey, GeoEngineers	

Welcome/Introductions/Agenda Review: Meeting started at 9:00. Facilitator Neil Aaland reviewed the agenda.

Public Comment: Wendy Clark-Getzen, Jefferson County, said it was very helpful to have pre-award authorization. They just received a grant award from RCO. She suggested raising the threshold for match to bring in more projects. Finally, their RTPO is updating their plan. Comments being received say they need to address climate change.

Old Business

Meeting notes: The meeting notes for the September meeting were unanimously approved.

Puget Sound Partnership: Tom is meeting with Executive Director Laura Blackmore.

Jon Brand: He asked about whether progress is being made on how to address intertidal barriers. Tom said their staff is continuing its research, they just completed another field season and have that data to review.

Board Updates

John Foltz showed a brief slide presentation of projects happening in the Mill Creek corridor within Walla Walla. He previously showed a detailed powerpoint showing all the work that needs to be done. He noted there is a 7 mile long fish passage issue; once fixed this will open 50 miles of habitat upstream. He noted Mill Creek is a key issue to meet goals of de-listing endangered species.

Jon asked if the stream segment is currently impassable; John said that under ideal flow conditions there is some passability but at the majority of flows there are passage barriers throughout the flood control project. Carl wondered about delisting efforts and what else needs to be done. John said there is still an effort to correct problems at Benington Dam by the ACOE; there is also three miles of energy-dissipating weirs to correct. There are other things that need to be resolved throughout the Mid-Columbia distinct population segment before viability could be achieved and delisting possible.

John noted there are three bridges also causing problems; they hope to remove two of them and improve the third. The “elephant in the room” is the underground section of the creek in the downtown area that we are working on through the Mill Creek ACOE GI study.

Grant RFP and Messaging

Matt reviewed the latest iteration of the RFP and scoring questions/criteria. A number of discussion points were raised. Some of those were:

- How points were added to watershed projects so they can continue to be a priority
- Casey asked whether watershed pathway projects would still be prioritized; the Board agreed they would be and that is why the point bumps were provided
- Discussion about the reasons for requiring another project in the same system
 - Leveraging investments
- Whether the scoring criteria would be provided to applicants (yes)
- Why there is a two-step review
 - Didn't want applicants to do more work than needed to determine eligibility
- Whether being coordinated a requirement for eligibility, or whether a single project can be eligible

The Board then reviewed the project narrative and scoring criteria

- Discussed adding limiting factors to criteria for review – left as is
 - But added a reference to limiting factors to question 1
- Discussion about specific numbers and how they are applied

Matt summarized the changes he heard; the Board agreed with his summary and added several more.

Carl moved to approve the RFP packet; Dave Caudill seconded. Approved unanimously.

Video Interviews

Alison introduced Rachel Blomker, WDFW Communications staff. She will pull out individual Board members after lunch for short interviews (interviews are being videotaped).

A short break was taken between 12 and 12:15 to allow Board members to get lunch; meeting then commence over a working lunch.

Update on Recognition event

Alison summarized the logistics of this event to celebrate the completion of one of the Board's first projects. The event is on November 20th down in Onalaska, WA. The project site is the Middle Fork of the Newaukum River. A park two miles away will be the site for the event.

Carl offered to help with editing any video taken of the event. Several Board members will attend. Key legislators will be invited; Carl has a list he can provide.

Publicizing the Next Grant Round

Neil reviewed the discussion about outreach for the grant round from the September meeting notes. Dave Caudill will check with the DFW staff on other methods. Information will be sent to Carl and Jane so they can send to their e-mail distribution lists. John asked about developing an outreach video; he has a couple of projects that are nearly done. Neil and Alison will discuss.

Upcoming Opportunities for Engagement

- WSAC Annual Conference in Spokane during November; can provide materials to hand out (and copies of RFP for county engineers)
- AWC Annual Conference next June is in Vancouver

Updates from the Chair

- Tom noted that Sound Transit is contracting with DFW to have crews look at their projects within DOT rights of way.
- He is preparing for rulemaking, will be hiring an EP4 and also some contractor support. The subjects of rulemaking are still under review, could include fish screening and fish passage issues.
- The Chinook prioritization required by the legislature will probably rely on salmon recovery regions, LEs, etc. to tell DFW about their related barriers
 - John said he can help to develop a priority list within his region; he also offered to draft a letter that Tom could send to the regions

The meeting adjourned at approximately 2:00.

Next meeting: Tuesday, November 19, 2019 – Rainier Room, Association of Washington Cities