

Fish Barrier Removal Board – Meeting Notes

Date: December 17, 2019

Place: Conference Phone Meeting (physical location: NRB meeting room, Olympia, Washington)

Summary: Agenda items with formal action

Item	Formal Action
Meeting notes from November 2019 as posted for this meeting	Approved
Change in UCSRB Priority Watershed to Wenatchee	Approved

Summary: Follow-up actions

Item	Follow-up
Hood Canal bridge blocking issue as a potential project to consider	Schedule for upcoming meeting discussion

Board Members/Alternates present or on phone:

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

Others present at meeting:

Neil Aaland, Facilitator	Gina Piazza, WDFW
Dave Collins, WDFW	Christy Rains, WDFW
Alison Hart, WDFW	Cade Roler, WDFW
Melody Kreimes, UCSRB	Pete Teigen, UCSRB

Welcome/Introductions/Agenda Review: Call started at 10:00. A quorum was present on the phone and in the room. Facilitator Neil Aaland reviewed the agenda.

Old Business

Meeting notes: The meeting notes for the November meeting were approved.

New Business

Request from UCSRB to change their priority watershed: Pete Teigen and Melody Kreimes presented this request. Their Board met December 12 and voted to submit this request. Previous priority watershed was in the Okanogan watershed. They want to switch to the Wenatchee watershed HUC 10. Previous projects are either funded or well under way. The creeks listed in priority order are Beaver Creek, Derby Creek, Eagle Creek, and Chumstick Creek. There are two lower barriers on Beaver Creek they have as a top priority, then they would move to others in the watershed.

Questions and comments:

- What species are identified in Beaver Creek? [about 5 miles of Intrinsic Potential noted for steelhead; juvenile spring chinook have been observed and it offers great rearing habitat for Chinook. Bull trout not much indication.]
- Eagle Creek has a number of barriers, active sponsors

- Beaver Creek was the recommended priority because it is in a higher priority assessment unit and for efficiency (fix five barriers and get five miles; whereas other creeks have higher density of barriers)
- Derby Creek has some good IP for steelhead, not much for spring chinook. It has had projects implemented and a project sponsor that is planning to do more. Some funding has been secured but a number of barriers remain. There is a steep cascade and a partial barrier due to a railroad crossing that makes it tricky, it is difficult to work with BSNF and that project could be very expensive for minimal additional biological benefit.
- John Foltz congratulated on getting Okanogan done, wonders with the move to another watershed if any impediments are perceived [they've asked sponsors about that, but they're confident it's not overly arduous; will be a multi-biennium effort]
- Are there any lower barriers of concern in the watershed? [Largely highest priority barriers have been addressed; not aware of any landowner willingness issues. The railroad one is a challenging barrier]
- Can you comment on other HUC 10s that were considered? [More Intrinsic Potential in the Wenatchee than the other 2 watersheds being considered. Not as many non-federal opportunities in others.]
- Dave Caudill thinks it's a good choice
- John Foltz thinks the justification is solid
- Carl also supports, wonders about some creeks but he's comfortable
- Paul Wagner also thinks it is a good choice; he wonders about the broader question of how to determine when a watershed is completed
- Casey noted that regarding Okanogan watershed Johnson Creek, there are still more partial barriers in the upper watershed but the most important barriers low in the watershed have been fixed (by others) or are funded through FBRB; there are no other opportunities right now and what was originally proposed to FBRB has been funded. Might submit those in the future but not as a priority watershed project.

John Foltz moved to approve switching the priority watershed from the Okanogan to the Wenatchee HUC 10 identified by the UCSRB: Jon Brand seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

Hood Canal Project Discussion: Tom explained that Matt was contacted by Long Live the Kings (LLTK) about this. The Hood Canal Bridge functions as a barrier to young salmonids. Tom and Matt were on a tour this fall and looked at the ends of the bridge. These serve as a barrier to salmon and the young fish go back and forth seeking a way through, and experience significant predation from pinnipeds. The structures are t-shaped which turns them around. LLTK estimates a 50% loss of juveniles there. It's not an easy fix. Ideas include adding a rounded end to the structure to lead them past. LLTK wonders if the Board would consider funding a rounded structure; if so, they would apply. Comments and questions include

- Paul noted it's a complicated situation; an issue that relates to salmon recovery but not sure it meets FBRB criteria. It's been on DOT's radar screen
- Casey wants to learn more about it but puts it in the same category as tidegates – not sure how to address
- Cade wonders how to score/rank this type of projects
- Carl also wonders if it fits
- John Foltz suggested taking more time; he also wonders if the Board could elevate projects via outreach; set aside a different list to increase awareness.

FBRB members agreed to place this as a discussion item on a future agenda.

The meeting adjourned at 11:05 am.

Next meeting: Tuesday, January 21, 2019 at the AWC office.