

Fish Barrier Removal Board – Meeting Notes**Date: November 17, 2020****Place: Online Meeting****Summary: Agenda items with formal action**

Item	Formal Action
Meeting notes from October 2020	Approved
Cost increase requests for Coffee Creek and Johnson Creek projects	Approved

Summary: Follow-up actions

Item	Follow-up
Strategy update information and accompanying maps	Tom will confer with Margen about generally releasing this information
Consider how Board members can discuss the strategy during legislative session	Discuss this at the December meeting, or at a special meeting of the strategy subcommittee

Board Members/Alternates on phone:

Carl Schroeder, AWC	Matt Curtis, WDFW
Dave Caudill, RCO/GSRO	Paul Wagner, WSDOT
Joe Shramek, DNR	Tom Jameson, WDFW
Jeannie Abbott, GSRO	Susan Eugenis, WSAC
John Foltz, Council of Regions	Susan Kanzler, WSDOT

Staff:

Cade Roler, WDFW	Gina Piazza, WDFW
Christy Rains, WDFW	Neil Aaland, facilitator
Julie Grobelny, WDFW	Jennifer Nelson, WDFW
Gabrielle Stilwater, WDFW	Dave Collins, WDFW
Adam Fleming, WDFW	Alice Ruben, RCO
Josh Lambert, RCO	

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

Wendy Clark-Getsen, Jeff. Co.	Jon Fulton	
Derek Marks, Tulalip Tribe	Kat Moore, RCO	
Erik Schwarz, Mason Co	Cheryl Bauman, NOPL	
Kevin Long NOSC Project Manager	Kristen Currens-MacKay Sposito	

Welcome/Introductions/Agenda Review: Meeting started at 9:00. A quorum is present. Facilitator Neil Aaland reviewed the agenda and noted a correction to the strategy update item. 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: Derek Marks, Tulalip Tribe, asked to address the Board. He is hearing that large woody debris placement was not grant eligible. Matt and Tom confirmed that we have funded projects with that as an element. It depends on the specific project.

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

Updates from FBRB Chair

1. Tom Jameson reviewed the November 3 injunction update meeting. This is an annual meeting with Tribes. Attendance is typically around 60; this time there were around 80.
2. Tom discussed the rulemaking. DFW has set two meetings with tribes during the first week of December for updates. Meetings with other stakeholders are in the process of being scheduled.
3. The proviso report has been submitted to the appropriate legislative committees. He only received two responses on it.
4. Tom asked whether the Board should hold its December meeting. Typically, that meeting is cancelled due to holidays. Members thought a quick check-in would be good, along with an update on the proviso. After discussion, the Board decided to keep it on the schedule.

Cost Increases

- *Johnson Creek:* Kevin Long presented this request. It is a design project located on Johnson Creek along the Hoko-Ozette Road. They are asking for an additional \$140,422. They have \$59,000 in cash as a match. It is a complicated project with triple culverts which are a partial blockage. It will fully open 2.5 miles of spawning upstream. They considered road relocation but that does not work. They are also seeking a 6-month time extension. Questions and comments from the Board:
 - Dave Caudill has been to the site a couple of times and has no qualms about the cost increase
 - Tom Jameson supports the request, noting that Kevin is a very experienced project sponsor.
 - Carl Schroeder thinks it is a reasonable request.
- *Coffee Creek:* Dave provided an overview. The Board discussed this request in October and asked to have the project sponsor attend. It was a complicated project and A&E was higher. Erik Schwartz from Mason County was it was originally separate projects, then were packaged together. The county anticipated covering the increase with local funds. Design issues were responsible for most of the cost increase. Questions and comments from the Board:
 - Carl wonders if they are seeking additional PSAR funding [Dave contacted PSP and they do not have additional PSAR funding available]
 - John Foltz asked if Mason County was planning to absorb some of the costs and then realized it was higher? [Yes.]
 - Paul Wagner supports the request; these are good projects, and they might use them as examples to talk with the legislature about the program
 - Tom supports the request; notes we can move funding back from the 19-21 to support this 17-19 project

John Foltz moved to approve both project increase requests; Tom seconded. The Board unanimously approved the motion.

Board Strategy Update

Tom and Matt met with Margen Carlson, WDFW Habitat Program Division Manager, to discuss the strategy. DFW prepared some maps for her to illustrate issues and showed the maps to the Board. The following issues were discussed with Margen:

- The Board has an existing policy of starting at the most downstream barrier and then heading upstream in correcting barriers
- Board has funded removal of 6 dams to date

- There have been 3 flume projects
- Board is in a bit of a fuzzy area on what topical areas to fund
- Strategy was to look at what we would target in the future; discussion points included
 - ESA listed fish
 - Runs benefiting SRKW prey
 - Commercial and recreational harvest
- There is not a lot of data on SRKW diet. Chinook is by far most of their diet. Chum makes up 20% of their diet in the Fall.
- Margen is working on an agency consensus for which listed stocks are most important (400+ runs)

Matt showed a series of Choropleth maps to the Board. Questions and comments from Board members:

- Carl asked if the next phase of strategy development involves drilling down to the next level of detail – e.g. factors arguing for a particular fish run? [Matt expects that will be the case]
 - Carl thinks that makes sense, to narrow the field
 - Matt said a lot of this information exists at the regional level
- John asked if considerations were included for re-introduction of species and for unlisted populations? [Matt said several of re-introduced populations were included; unlisted only considered if a part of a treaty process or if known to be important for Orca diet]

Tom will confer with Margen regarding whether this information and the maps can be released. The next step is to refine the data, see what DFW upper management can approve to narrow the 400 runs; then outreach with salmon recovery network. Carl hopes Tom can work through the timing for members involved with legislature; need to figure out how we all talk about this. Perhaps this could be discussed at the December Board meeting or a special strategy meeting in advance of the legislative session.

Upcoming opportunities for engagement:

- Tom noted that Sen. Frockt's office contacted DFW and DOT and is interested in a tour; he had previously asked for a tour but cancelled that one. Since his current request, the agency has cancelled all in-person tours due to Covid-19.
- Two House committees have requested testimony during week of November 30
- Carl said AWC is planning their presentation approach; they have a “data story” and are planning to update that
- Dave Caudill said he has talked with Robb Krehbiel, Defenders of Wildlife, and he would like to come to the FBRB and discuss federal funding
 - There might be interest in this; Tom and others will talk offline
- John Foltz said he has heard from Cheryl Baumann that the Johnson Creek project discussed earlier is a high priority project. He also thanked Tom, Matt, and staff for their efforts.

Wrap-up

Meeting adjourned at approximately 11:00 a.m.

Next meeting: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 – online meeting