



Brian Abbott Fish Barrier Removal Board – January Meeting Notes

Date: January 18, 2022

Time: 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Location: Virtual Meeting

Summary: Formal Actions/Decisions

Item	Formal Action
Meeting notes from November, 2021	Approved

Summary: Follow-up Actions

Item	Follow-up
Coordinate a presentation on the Lorraine Loomis Act	Triangle will invite Amy Trainer from the Swinomish Tribe and/or a staff member from GSRO to give a presentation on the Lorraine Loomis Act at an upcoming FBRB meeting.
Convene a subgroup to discuss Board engagement with the National Culvert Removal, Replacement, and Restoration Grant Program	Triangle will send a scheduling request to four Board members identified at the meeting to convene a subgroup to discuss and start planning an approach for the Board to engage with the federal grant program. Subgroup will potentially provide recommendations to the full Board.
Preliminary 2023-2025 Project List	Triangle will provide the preliminary 2023-2025 project application list to Board members and support staff by January 21, 2022.

Welcome/Introductions/Agenda Review: Facilitator, Joy Juelson, called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Alex Sweetser facilitated introductions with FBRB members and staff. A quorum was present.

Public Comment: No public comments were received.

Old Business: The meeting notes for the FBRB November 2021 meeting were approved by the Board.

General Updates:

Proviso Strategist Hiring Update

Chair Tom Jameson, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) explained that the position description has been written and that they are waiting for the position to be posted. While WDFW currently does not have funds to hire the strategist, the Governor’s proposed Salmon Recovery Package

includes \$360,000 for this position. In addition to hiring the strategist, there may be an opportunity for WDFW to hire a firm to assist the strategist, especially around fish barrier removal prioritization work.

Staff Changes

The Chair provided an update on staffing positions at WDFW and the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO). Wendy Brown was the RCO policy director and in this role, she advanced the Board's funding requests to the legislature. Now, Wendy is a senior fiscal analyst at the state Senate. Her replacement is Brock Milliern who served as the acting stewardship and sustainability manager for 10 years at the City of Seattle. Josh Lambert was one of the two FBRB grant managers from RCO and is now managing different grants within RCO. He will be replaced by Alice Rubin who has worked for RCO since 2013.

Erik Neatherlin, Governor's Salmon Recovery Office (GSRO), noted GSRO hired Katie Pruit who has worked for WDFW and RCO. At GSRO, Katie will oversee the State of the Salmon Report and salmon policy for the agency.

Discussion on Governor's Salmon Strategy Update

Erik Neatherlin, GSRO, provided an overview of the Governor's Salmon Strategy Update (Salmon Strategy) and the accompanying policy brief. He explained that GSRO, in partnership with Triangle Associates, worked with State agencies and Tribes over 18 months to develop the Salmon Strategy. GSRO provided the Salmon Strategy to the Governor's Office in early fall of 2021. The document was revised and released in December, 2021 alongside a policy brief (see [Salmon Strategy website](#) and meeting materials).

Additionally, the Governor's Office released the Lorraine Loomis Act (SB 5727 and HB 1838) for the current legislative session, which is focused on protecting and recovering riparian habitat. Erik explained that the act was named in honor of Lorraine Loomis, a Swinomish Tribal elder who passed away in 2021. Lorraine was an advocate who fought alongside Billy Frank Jr. for state recognition of Tribal treaty rights in the 1970's, was a leader in managing salmon fisheries and habitat recovery and was the chair of the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission (NWIFC) from 2014 until her passing. Erik recommended inviting Amy Trainer from the Swinomish Tribe and/or a staff member from GSRO to give a presentation on the Lorraine Loomis Act and an upcoming Board meeting.

Chair Jameson and Erik explained the budget request for the Salmon Strategy update includes \$294,000 for fish passage rule-making updates and \$360,000 for fish passage prioritization and the proviso strategist.

Board Questions and Discussion:

- In response to a question, Erik noted that there is a good chance this legislation will pass this year. He explained that it was put forth by the Governor and salmon recovery is one of the Governor's top priorities. Also, the legislature is very supportive of salmon recovery, there is a good budget forecast this year, and federal infrastructure funds likely coming in from the Build Back Better Act. Additionally, it is one of the top four policy priorities for the Environmental Caucus to pass. Lastly, there is a lot of energy and strong support from the Tribes to develop and advance this bill.
- Erik answered a question about how the Board could be involved in a biennial workplan process outlined in the Salmon Strategy Update. He explained that the current focus is on passing the legislation. Then, GSRO will provide briefing to the other State agencies, work with them to

develop an approach for a biennial workplan, and then produce a single budget package for salmon recovery across all agencies. Board budget proposals can be included within this package.

- Chair Jameson noted that there would be a public hearing for the Lorraine Loomis Act on Wednesday, January 19th. This hearing was extended into a second hearing on Friday, January 21st. The bill language can be found [linked here](#) and a TVW recording for the 19th is [linked here](#) and the 21st is [linked here](#).

Action Items: Triangle will invite Amy Trainer from the Swinomish Tribe and/or a staff member from GSRO to give a presentation on the Lorraine Loomis Act and an upcoming FBRB meeting.

Board Input on the National Culvert Removal, Replacement, and Restoration Grant Program

Chair Jameson explained that there has been little new information on the proposed grant program and there have been no updates on when the RFP would be released. Facilitator Juelson reviewed the notes of the Board's discussion on this topic at the last FBRB meeting in November. Then, she led a discussion on how the Board would like to engage with the federal grant program. This discussion was captured live on the screen.

Board Questions and Discussion:

- Matt Curtis, WDFW, summarized his outreach with staff at NOAA. They recommended that the Board submit the top projects from their grant list instead of the unfunded alternatives at bottom of the list. An alternative is to submit the entire FBRB project list, including those funded by the legislature. Additionally, NOAA staff are interested in having a lengthy, dedicated tribal review of this funding process. Lastly, they anticipated applications to launch in mid-March, however, this timeframe may be too early for the program to be fully developed.
- David Collins, WDFW, noted that even though FBRB alternate projects are unfunded, they are still good, viable projects that just require more funding to implement.
- Erik Neatherlin, GSRO, noted that the Governor's Office is working with State agencies, the NWIFC, and the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Commission around the implementation of the Salmon Strategy Update. He recommended a similar joint approach for the federal grant program. Additionally, he suggested that the Board could play a broader role in technical assistance and guidance for others submitting to the grant program. However, this would require greater conversations around how to advance on this topic moving forward.
- Chair Jameson explained that further details from US Department of Transportation (DOT) are required before the Board will have direction for this act. Once an RFP is released, DOT will need to convene State agencies and Tribes to ensure the program is meeting their needs. He feels that the Board is well positioned because the program includes the language provided by the Board, WDFW, and Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT).
- Chair Jameson expressed concern that Cities, Counties, and Tribes may lack the staff and technical expertise to submit grant proposals. Additionally, they may be unable to afford the 25% match that would go with this grant program.

- Erik noted the match funding issue is an equity issue that could make eligible project be unable to be funded. He suggested that the State to cover this match. Additionally, he suggested that the board engage in education and outreach around the grant program. This outreach could include working with WSDOT to understand their opinions on how the Board should engage.
- Paul Wagner, WSDOT, noted that this would be a competitive grant program and WSDOT's injunction work would be eligible to compete for funding. He explained that the \$200 million would not be enough to fund WSDOT's injunction work and would be one of many funding venues the agency pursues. He suggested one possibility is to align additional barrier removals with WSDOT's injunction work for synergistic benefits.

Path Forward: The Board recommended convening a small group meeting outside of the Policy Subcommittee to discuss and start planning an approach for the Board to engage with the National Culvert Removal, Replacement, and Restoration Grant Program. Four Board members volunteered to be part of this small group.

Action Item: Triangle will send a scheduling request to a small group of Board members identified at the meeting.

FBRB Projects Status Update – Continued from November

Dave Collins, WDFW, gave a status update on the projects funded and completed from the 2017-2019 grant round. The slides and a map of FBRB projects are available on the Board's website linked here: [Brian Abbott Fish Barrier Removal Board | Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife](#).

Project and Policy Issues

Chair Jameson noted there was a cost increase inquiry for a project at Eagle Creek. However, this cost increase inquiry was rejected because it was ineligible for a cost increase request; moreover, there is no additional funding available for 21-23 projects.

Updates for the 2023-2025 FBRB Grant Round

Matt Curtis, WDFW, and Dave Caudill, RCO, gave an update on the 2023-2025 FBRB grant round. They explained that there were over 100 applications submitted through PRISM. The total request is just over \$107 million and \$23 million in proposed match funds from sponsors. This is the highest amount of funding requests that the Board has received, and the matching funds are nearly double the Board's requirement.

Matt and Dave explained that the next steps are for the Technical Review Team to review the applications, make sure they are eligible, and updated with new estimates. Additionally, a preliminary project application list was provided to the Board with the following disclaimer: *The numbers in this file are preliminary and do not represent a finalized project list. The project list will be updated as applications are reviewed, and proposals are revised.* A finalized, ranked list will be presented to the Board in August and updates will be shared with the Board throughout the review process.

Action Item: Triangle will provide the preliminary 2023-2025 project application list to Board members and support staff.

Adjourn: The meeting adjourned early at approximately 11:50 a.m.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, February 15, 2021 – online meeting

ATTENDANCE

Board Members/Alternates:

Casey Baldwin, Colville Tribe	Matt Curtis, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)
Chair Thomas Jameson, WDFW	Paul Wagner, Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT)
Erik Neatherlin, Governor’s Salmon Recovery Office (GSRO)	Susan Kanzler, WSDOT
Jeannie Abbott, GSRO	Susan Eugenis, Washington State Association of Counties
Joe Shramek, Department of Natural Resources (DNR)	Tim Ressegiue, Yakama Indian Nation
John Foltz, Council of Regions, Snake River Salmon Recovery Board (SRSRB)	

WDFW, RCO Staff and Triangle Facilitation Team:

Adam Fleming, WDFW	Julie Groebelny, WDFW
Alison Hart, WDFW	Kaylee Kautz, WDFW
Amber Martens, WDFW	Alice Rubin, Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO)
Casey Costello, WDFW	Alissa Ferrell, RCO
Christy Rains, WDFW	Dave Caudill, RCO
Dave Collins, WDFW	Kendall Barrameda, RCO
Gabrielle Stilwater, WDFW	Joy Juelson, Facilitator
Gina Piazza, WDFW	Alex Sweetser, Facilitation Support

Others observing:

Aaron Rosenblum	Evan Lewis	Richard Vacirca
Bailey Thorniley	James Ellis	Steve Helvey
Bryr Harris	Jeanne Cushman	Tony Carroll
Cheryl Baumann, North Olympic Lead Entity	Jessica Helsley	Tracy Gilson
Christian Berg	Jim Heytvelt	Whitney Reynier, Klickitat County
Daniel Howe	Kevin Long, North Olympic Salmon Coalition	