



Brian Abbott Fish Barrier Removal Board – Draft July 2022 Meeting Notes

Date: July 19, 2022

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

Location: Virtual Meeting

Summary: Formal Actions/Decisions

Item	Formal Action
Meeting notes from June 21, 2022	Approved
Cost Increase Request for Kristoferson Creek	Approved
FBRB proposed project bundle for NOAA’s Restoring Fish Passage through Barrier Removal Grant Program	Board agreed for staff to advance a proposal containing a bundle of projects of 2021-2023 alternates from Kitsap and Lewis Counties. Due to the tight timeline, the Board provided staff flexibility to adapt the proposal as appropriate to ensure it can be submitted by August 15.

Summary: Follow-up Actions

Item	Follow-up
Fall In-Person FBRB Meeting Planning	Triangle will work with John Foltz and the Board on the logistics for the in-person Board meeting from September 28 to 29. Then, send the Board preliminary logistics to assist them in planning and finding accommodations.
Additional Funds to FBRB from Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL)	The Board will track additional funds from the BIL.
2023-2025 Ranked Project List Review	The ranked Project List will be presented for Board approval at the August 2022 FBRB meeting.
2023-2025 Ranked Project List Submittal	The Board will invite Brock Milliern RCO Policy Director to the August FBRB meeting for the discussion of the 2023-2025 Ranked Project List and administration amounts for agencies.
National Culvert Removal Grant Program RFP release	Board members will track the RFP release and prepare for Board engagement to support submittals.

Welcome/Introductions/Agenda Review: Triangle Associates facilitator, Joy Juelson, called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Alex Sweetser, Triangle Associates, 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 June 2022 meeting were reviewed by the facilitator. A motion to approve the notes was made by John Foltz, Council of Regions, and seconded by Paul Wagner, Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT). The motion was approved with no objections.

Decision: Board approved the Board June 2022 Meeting Notes.

General Updates:

Proviso Strategy next steps

Chair Tom Jameson, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) reminded the Board that Dr. Jane Atha was hired by WDFW to serve as the Proviso Strategist and was introduced at the June 2022 FBRB meeting. He noted there are two RFPs to contract support for her Proviso Strategy work. The first was for a consultant to develop small business economic impact statements and firm WDFW has previously worked with has been hired. The second is contract support to help Dr. Atha to develop the Statewide Fish Passage Strategy. This RFP is anticipated to release in early August 2022. The anticipated timeline for developing the Strategy is January 2024.

- John Foltz offered to provide Regional and Lead Entity support to Dr. Atha. He noted there are several Regional prioritization strategies, which could be built from or adapted as part of the Statewide Strategy.
- Erik Neatherlin, Governor's Salmon Recovery Office (GSRO), recommended phasing the Strategy to identify early priorities to ensure the Board and state agencies are leveraging their connections and resources to secure federal funds.
- Dr. Atha thanked the Board for their support and expressed support for exploring a parallel process to help secure federal funding for Washington.

Additional FBRB Funds from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL)

Carl Schroeder, Association of Washington Cities (AWC), and Axel Swanson, Washington State Association of Counties (WSAC), explained cities and counties have been negotiating with the state regarding the state/local split of federal transportation dollars. AWC and WSAC have requested three years of Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient and Cost-Saving Transportation (PROTECT) Program funding for the FBRB. These funds would be distributed to local projects through the FBRB's grant program. Details are expected to be finalized in mid-August, and this distribution to FBRB is expected to be in the final package. Additional information on the details of the request and a full letter to the Joint Transportation Committee can be found at the following link: [Joint Transportation Committee Workgroup wraps up state/local split negotiations \(wacities.org\)](https://www.wacities.org/joint-transportation-committee-workgroup-wraps-up-state-local-split-negotiations).

- In response to a question from Susan Eugenis on how funds would be allocated to the Board, Axel explained that the funds are federal funds, which will be passed through the State. Further follow-up would be required to answer this question.
- Carl suggested pursuing additional operational funds for the Board to help review this funding process and support the process for allocating federal funds.

Path forward: The Board will track additional funds from the BIL.

Review FBRB Bylaws

Joy Juelson explained the FBRB Bylaws were redistributed to Board members for their review. A discussion about updating the Bylaws is anticipated at a future Board meeting near the end of the year.

UW Culvert Optimization Workshop report out

Chair Jameson explained that a University of Washington (UW) professor, Sunny Jardin, received Sea Grant funding to develop a decision support tool for fish passage prioritization and a public workshop was held on June 22, 2022. The next meeting is anticipated for February 24, 2023. Chair Jameson noted the lead Principal Investigator accepted a position at WDFW and left the team. He explained the decision support tool focuses prioritization on cost-benefits. Several WDFW staff and Board members attended the workshop to provide suggestions on how the tool could integrate other priorities. Dr. Jane Atha gave a summary of the workshop and reviewed the suggestions and feedback provided by workshop participants.

- Dave Caudill, Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) noted it has been difficult for the Board to integrate cost-benefits into the Board's Scoring Criteria for assessing FBRB project applications using the scoring criteria. This can lead to higher-cost projects with fewer benefits to be submitted to the Board. He recommended improving how the Board's Criteria assesses cost-benefits.

Subgroup Report Out on Proposal Package for NOAA Restoring Fish Passage through Barrier Removal Grant Program

Chair Jameson explained a Board subgroup met on June 1, 2022 to discuss an approach for submitting a bundle of FBRB projects to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)'s Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for the newly established *Restoring Fish Passage through Barrier Removal* grant program. The subgroup considered a proposal including the first \$15 million worth of alternates from 2021-2023 Project List. This proposal was scrapped the following week after subgroup member discussion with NOAA staff.

Christy Rains, WDFW, reviewed the process for developing a new FBRB proposal to submit two project bundles: A bundle of four projects in Lewis County and a bundle of five projects in Kitsap County. To qualify, projects had to be restoration projects listed as alternates on the 2021-2023 Project List and resubmitted into the 2023-2025 Grant Round. This meant the projects had updated cost estimates and they had not been funded through other means. Jeannie Abbott, GSRO, reached out to project sponsors to inform them of the proposal and heard support for the proposal. Christy noted the deadline for proposals is August 15, 2022.

The Board reviewed maps of the proposed project bundles and the updated cost estimates for these projects. The application for this proposal has not been started yet and the intent of Board discussion is to gather feedback and get approval for advancing the proposal to NOAA. This would be one proposal for approximately \$13-14 million for both project bundles of Kitsap and Lewis County projects.

Board Questions and Discussion

- In response to a question from David Collins, WDFW, Chair Jameson explained the only funds WDFW and RCO would receive are the 4.78% and 4.12% respectively for administration.

- Carl Schroeder suggested identifying if there are any linkage between WSDOT barriers and the proposal projects. Christy supported incorporating this element, if applicable, into the narrative section of the proposal bundle.
- Several Board members expressed support for the proposal and were confident in the quality of the projects given they are already vetted and listed as alternates on the 2021-2023 Project List.
- Due to the tight timeline, Carl recommended providing Board staff the flexibility to adapt the proposal as appropriate to ensure it can be submitted by August 15. Several Board members agreed, and the decision item was adjusted to incorporate this addition.
- Axel Swanson suggested coordinating with other counties to better understand who else is submitting proposals to this grant program.
- Casey Costello, WDFW, noted in the chat that the Yakima Basin is working on NOAA submittals. Despite the tight turnaround regional partners hope to submit a proposal or two.

A motion to authorize Board staff to develop a proposal package for the NOAA grant program containing the projects from Kitsap and Lewis Counties. Carl seconded the motion providing Board staff be provided flexibility to adapt the proposal as appropriate to ensure it can be submitted by August 15. The motion was approved with no objections.

Decision: Board agreed for staff to advance a proposal containing a bundle of projects of 2021-2023 alternates from Kitsap and Lewis Counties. Due to the tight timeline, the Board provided staff flexibility to adapt the proposal as appropriate to ensure it can be submitted by August 15.

Project and Policy Issues / Opportunities

FBRB and RCO Administration Fees and Project List Format for Submission to Office of Financial Management (OFM) for the 23-25 Process

Chair Jameson noted WDFW and RCO's preferred administrative rate for FBRB projects is 4.78% and 4.12% respectively. However, both agencies were funded below these amounts in the last biennium. He noted Brock Milliern, RCO Policy Director, will be invited to the next meeting to introduce himself and to discuss the agencies' request.

Path Forward: The Board will invite Brock Milliern to the August FBRB meeting for the discussion of the 2023-2025 Ranked Project List and administration amounts for agencies.

Cost Increase Request: Kristoferson Creek

The Cost Increase Subcommittee reviewed the cost increase request for Kristoferson Creek (see meeting materials) and presented their recommendation to fund the request. Chair Jameson reviewed the cost increase handout and explained the cost increase amount, the sponsor and grant manager justifications, and additional project details. Then, Subcommittee members clarified their rationale for the recommendation to the Board to approve the request.

A motion to approve the Kristoferson Creek cost increase request was made by John Foltz and seconded by Carl Schroeder. The motion was approved by the Board with no objections.

Decision: Board approved the Kristoferson Creek cost increase and time extension request.

Other Items:

Path Forward: Board members will track the National Culvert Removal Grant Program RFP release and prepare for Board engagement to support submittals.

Update on FBRB 2023-2025 Grant Round

Christy Rains noted the Technical Review Team (TRT) is still scoring projects with the FBRB's Scoring Criteria and aims to conclude scoring by the end of August. To date, this is the largest grant application round the Board has processed. The Ranked 2023-2025 Project List will be presented for Board approval at the August 2022 meeting.

- John Foltz asked if the Board will be able to discuss and identify red flags or concerns about the projects at the next meeting. Christy and Chair Jameson explained that WDFW biologists will be identifying these issues and bringing them to the Board to discuss. The Board could explore setting a minimum score for advancing a project.

Path Forward: The 2023-2025 Ranked Project List will be presented for Board approval at the August 2022 FBRB meeting.

Discuss Upcoming Opportunities for Engagement

Next steps for planning in-person Board meeting this fall

Joy Juelson noted the in-person Board meeting will be held from September 28-29. The first day will be an all-day hybrid Board meeting and the second will be a half-day tour organized by John Foltz.

John explained the tour will likely focus on Mill Creek, a priority watershed in Walla Walla, WA. Additionally, he has reserved space at the Walla Walla Community College Water and Environmental Center. John is working with Triangle and WDFW to develop the logistics for the meeting and travel accommodations, which will be sent to the Board shortly after the meeting.

Path Forward: Triangle will work with John Foltz and the Board on the logistics for the in-person Board meeting from September 28th to 29th. Then, send the Board preliminary logistics to assist them in planning and finding accommodations.

Upcoming conferences

Joy Juelson presented the updated list of upcoming conferences.

- Axel noted the Association of Counties is hold the County Leader Conference in King County from November 14-16. This was added to the list.

Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at approximately 12:00 p.m.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, August 16, 2022 – online meeting

ATTENDANCE

Board Members/Alternates:

Axel Swanson, Washington State Association of Counties	John Foltz, Council of Regions, Snake River Salmon Recovery Board (SRSRB)
Carl Schroeder, Association of Washington Cities	Paul Wagner, Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT)
Chair Thomas Jameson, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)	Susan Eugenis, Washington State Association of Counties
Christy Rains, WDFW	Susan Kanzler, WSDOT
Erik Neatherlin, Governor's Salmon Recovery Office (GSRO)	Terra Rentz, Department of Natural Resources (DNR)
Jeannie Abbott, GSRO	Tim Resseguie, Yakima Nation

WDFW, RCO Staff and Triangle Facilitation Team:

Adam Fleming, WDFW	Kaylee Kautz, WDFW
Amber Martens, WDFW	Amee Bahr, Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO)
Casey Costello, WDFW	Alissa Ferrell, RCO
Cassandra Weekes, WDFW	Alice Rubin, RCO
David Collins, WDFW	Dave Caudill, RCO
Gina Piazza, WDFW	Alex Sweetser, Facilitation Support
Jane Atha, WDFW	Joy Juelson, Facilitation Support
Julie Groebelny, WDFW	

Others observing:

Bryan Maloney	David Varner	Nathan Jensen
Charlie Roberts	Devin DeBono	Steve Helvey
Christina Kereki	Don Gourlie	Thomas Hanrahan
Christina Villeneuve	Evan Lewis	Tracy Gilson
Cheryl Baumann	Harvey Coffman	Call-in user x3
Damiano Seghetti	Heidi Reynolds	
Daniel Howe	Jim Heytvelt	