

Fish Barrier Removal Board – Meeting Notes

Date: September 17, 2019

Place: Association of Washington Cities, Olympia, Washington

Summary: Agenda items with formal action

Item	Formal Action
Meeting notes from July 2019	Approved

Summary: Follow-up actions

Item	Follow-up
Issue of Puget Sound/PSP participation	Follow up with Amber Moore
How to handle cost increase requests in future	Discuss at the October meeting
Rulemaking for fish screens and possible fish passage items	Track status of this rulemaking
Potential ribbon-cutting ceremony for one of first completed projects	Alison will scope out
Next iteration of criteria for draft and final applications and final RFP	Proposed final RFP and final ranking criteria will be brought to October meeting
Subcommittee to discuss potential funding packages	Tom, Carl, Paul, Jane, and Jon will discuss

Board Members/Alternates Present:

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

Others present at meeting:

Neil Aaland, Facilitator	Gina Piazza, WDFW
Dave Collins, WDFW	Cade Roler, WDFW
Alison Hart, WDFW	Wendy Clark-Getzen, Jefferson County
David Blue, Chinook Hab. Rest. Group	Steve Seville, David Evans & Associates
Jamie Quinn, Chinook Hab. Rest. Group	Wendy Brown, RCO
Jess Helsley, Wild Salmon Center	
Erik Schwartz, Mason County	

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

Public Comment: None.

Old Business

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

Puget Sound Partnership: Tom and Neil will follow up with Amber Moore

Fraser River slide: Army COE provided some technical assistance to BC. Some work done at slide location and fish are now able to go upstream on the edges of the slide. No further assistance from WA is anticipated.

17-19 Catherine Creek cost increase: Amount requested of \$1 million seemed high. Gina said sponsor was having trouble with contractor. They finally went with the second bidder who is doing a better job. Will still likely need a cost increase later.

Capacity for 19-21 cost increases: We have \$486,000 remaining for cost increases for 2017-19 projects. May be able to fund some alternates from that list. Carl noted we should discuss how to reach out to legislators now that we have some completed projects. For 2019-21, we have \$293,000 remaining from the \$24.7 million budgeted. Tom expects to hear from Lewis County for a cost increase for Middle Fork Newaukum projects. Board thinks we should not entertain increases before a project is under agreement; and should get all projects under agreement first. Carl wants to get some understanding of a process for this; Paul thinks we should follow how other agencies do this. Tom agreed, thinks how to handle cost increase requests is a topic for the next meeting.

Review 21-23 RFP timeline: Cade reviewed the proposed timeline in the handout. He proposed the RFP will open on November 1, earlier than previous openings. Extra time is needed for DFW to send out crews to review in the field. Calling it an RFP instead of last biennium's term of RFA to avoid confusion. A final version will be brought back for review/approval at the October meeting.

Board updates

RCO representation: Dave Caudill will be the primary representative for RCO; Jeannie Abbott from GSRO will be Dave's alternate.

Two completed projects: Dave Caudill is in the process of purchasing the signage. We could look at November for a ribbon-cutting. Alison will scope these out.

Chinook barrier prioritization: This was funded in the last legislative session. It was an Orca Task Force recommendation. Tom has assigned two fish biologists for this. Will discuss how it fits with FBRB. There is also a rulemaking piece for fish screens associated with this. There are discussions happening within DFW about having rulemaking include more than fish screens. Carl thinks if this rulemaking will include fish passage issues, this Board should have some input to WDFW. We will track this item.

Coffee Creek project delay: Downstream landowner not supportive. Not sure yet how this affects project implementation. Will continue to track.

A break was taken from 10:30 to 10:45.

Grant RFP and Messaging

Matt described the proposed process that includes both watershed and coordinated projects. He raised the question of how the two different types of funding are presented. Joe thinks it's worth noting that there are two different project types. Paul thinks combining makes sense, wonders about having more points for priority watersheds. Cade is concerned about the complexity of doing that. Additional comments/questions:

- Carl wonders about downstream barriers in both pathways, and is concerned about switching completely away from the watershed pathway
- John Foltz likes the way we combined the two pathways into one list last time, and thinks it might be more of a communication piece
- Some concerns expressed about completing the priority watersheds
- Carl suggested awarding more points for projects in a previously identified priority watershed, along with committing to fund at least one project in priority watersheds
- Neil noted the discussion indicates the Board wants to combine the project types but have a way to continue working on priority watersheds; general agreement on that
- John wonders if there is a way to have regional recovery organizations weigh in on coordinated pathway projects
- Jeannie thinks sponsors should have to indicate whether or not projects are included in recovery plans

- John thinks this is a simple question to ask sponsors – are the projects in a recovery plan or not?

Another iteration of this proposed process will be brought to the next meeting by staff.

Update on communication and messaging: Alison explained that she and Rachel have been working on a spreadsheet of projects. This can be used to identify projects that can have ribbon cutting ceremonies and other events. Rachel will come to the next meeting and interview Board members to get quotes for publicity. Paul wonders if we are thinking about any products for use in the upcoming legislative session; yes to that.

LUNCH BREAK from 12:00 – 12:30

RFP and Ranking Criteria

Cade presented this topic. He reviewed the criteria for ranking used for the draft application review (first review). Staff is not recommending any changes. There was a good separation of projects using these criteria. Board members were okay with the draft application review criteria.

Cade then discussed the criteria for final applications. Comments included:

- Item 2, the legislature is interested in partial barriers
- Carl thinks projects in DOT injunction area watersheds should be weighted more
- Item 5 should incorporate project readiness
- Item 6 should include a reference to prey species for Orca
- Jeannie will help revise item 7

Revised criteria will be brought back to next meeting

Outreach for Next Round

Tom reminded the Board that, for the last round, RCO sent a solicitation to 3,000 previous grant recipients in their system. It was noted that AWC and WSAC have lists of engineers, planners, leg staff that should also be used. Alison suggested issuing press releases and using the WDFW Facebook page. John Foltz suggested notifying people now so they can get ready for the opening of the application period.

Should the Board Develop New Funding Packages for Consideration by the Legislature?

Carl thought a subcommittee of the Board was going to be pulled together to discuss and thinks this should happen. Tom, Paul, Jon, Carl, and Jane will get together and discuss this. Tom will also discuss it with Jeff Davis. Tom noted there is a move to get more Skagit projects funded as a separate appropriation.

Upcoming Opportunities for Engagement

This is a new regular agenda topic suggested at the last meeting. Upcoming opportunities:

- October 2-3 is the Joint Transportation Committee Fall Tour; Tom, Paul, Matt, and Ken Mueller (DOT) will participate on one of the days. Focus this year is on the Olympic Peninsula
- We're working on a ribbon-cutting ceremony for one of the newly completed projects
- Carl suggested showing a celebratory video at the next tribal injunction update meeting
- Carl said AWC is holding a series of 13-14 city meetings around the state, information on the Board could be included there

The meeting adjourned at approximately 3:00.

Next meeting: Tuesday, October 15, 2019 – Rainier Room, Association of Washington Cities