



Brian Abbott Fish Barrier Removal Board – December 2024 Meeting Summary

Date: December 17, 2024

Time: 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

Location: Virtual Meeting

Summary: Formal Actions / Decisions

Item	Formal Action
Board Decision: November 2024 Meeting Notes	Approved
Board Decision: Fletcher Bay Rd Fish Passage Restoration Cost Increase Request	Approved
Board Decision: Cutler Barrier Removal	Approved
Board Decision: 20th Street Culvert Replacement Design	Approved

Summary: Follow-up Items and Next Steps

Item	Follow-up
Technical Review Team (TRT) Process Info Session	WDFW will convene an informational session to give an overview of the Technical Review Team (TRT) process and the role of the Board.
Policy Subcommittee – Updates to Manual 22	The Policy Subcommittee will continue to meet and provide regular updates to the Board on updates to Manual 22 prior to August 2025
Fish Passage Strategy – Optimization Model Development	WDFW staff are moving forward with developing the optimization model in-house with support from Cramer Fish Sciences. WDFW staff will provide updates to the Board regularly.
Funding Status Updates (<i>Ongoing</i>)	WDFW and RCO will keep the Board updated on the status of returned funds. A decision on whether to: 1) retain funds for cost increases, or 2) advance funds to alternates down the ranked project list is anticipated this fall/winter.
2027-2029 Grant Round (<i>Long-term</i>)	The Board will discuss updates to the next grant round RFP based on topics identified by Board staff.
Match Modernization (<i>On Hold</i>)	The Board will continue to monitor the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB)’s implementation of match modernization and consider updating the Board match requirements for future grant rounds.

Welcome/Introductions/Agenda Review:

Triangle Associates (Triangle) facilitator, Joy Juelson, called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Chair Thomas Jameson, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), welcomed attendees to the virtual meeting.

Kate Galambos, Triangle, facilitated introductions with Board members and staff. A quorum was present

Old Business:

Joy reviewed the summary notes from November 19, 2024, meeting and highlight decisions and action items.

Decision: Approval of November 19 Meeting Summary

Chair Jameson made a motion to approve the November meeting summary. Steve Manlow seconded the motion. With no objections, the November meeting summary was approved.

Public Comment: None

Funding Status Update, John Foltz, RCO

John provided an update to the Board on the status of available funds. The Climate Commitment Act (CCA) was not repealed through Initiative 2117, therefore the Board will have \$20.7 million, starting Jan. 1, to apply to the 23-25 project list. Given this additional funding, John has reached out to project sponsors for projects number 70-100 (#102 total projects) on the 23-25 list to offer funding. John anticipates that there will be enough funding to fund the remainder of the list, including projects 101 and 102, which have significant requests.

CCA funds cannot be applied to projects that have already received capital funding, and no project can appear on two lists. Seven projects were listed on both because their sponsors did not receive 2023-2025 funds and subsequently applied for 2025-2027 funding. These projects have accepted supplemental CCA funds, so their 2025-2027 funding requests have been adjusted to \$0. Consequently, projects listed twice will have their subsequent funding requests removed.

Path Forward: John will continue to work with project sponsors on the 23-25 to award funding based on the funds made available by the CCA

Cost Increase Requests, John Foltz, RCO

John Foltz provided an overview of three cost increase requests along with the recommendations from the Cost Increase Subcommittee. All three projects are legislative alternatives on the 23-25 list, and the Board has sufficient funding available to support all three requests.

- 1. 21-1426 20th Street Culvert Replacement Design**
 - a. Sponsor: City of Fife
 - b. Requested Cost Increase: \$47,600

- c. Cost increase largely due to inflation
2. **21-1529 Fletcher Bay Rd. Fish Passage Restoration**
 - a. Sponsor: City of Bainbridge
 - b. Requested Cost Increase: \$457,146
 - c. Since the time of application, the project has advanced through an alternatives analysis and completed 30% design to inform request thus leading to a better understanding of the project scope and cost.
3. **21-1468 Cutler Barrier Removal**
 - a. Sponsor: Cascadia Conservation District
 - b. Requested Cost Increase: \$166,763
 - c. Request is due to increase in cost estimate from the time of application

Decision: Approval of Three Cost Increase Requests

Chair Jameson made a motion to approve all three cost increase requests as noted on the Cost Increase Subcommittee notes PowerPoint slides. Steven Manlow seconded the motion. With no objections, the three cost increase requests were approved.

Fish Passage Strategy Update, Jane Atha, WDFW

Jane Atha gave a brief update on the status of the Fish Passage Strategy:

- Fish Passage Strategy project team met with WDFW Leadership on Dec. 2 and decided to postpone a full launch of the Strategy during the upcoming legislative session due to the incomplete optimization model.
- WDFW has the staff capacity to begin work on the model immediately, with support from Kai Ross of Cramer Fish Sciences. The Board can anticipate reviewing model outputs in 2025 as the tool is developed, prior to updates being made to Manual 22.
- The final strategy will be posted on the WDFW website by mid-January 2025.

Path Forward: Development of the Statewide Optimization Model

WDFW staff are moving forward with developing the optimization model in-house with support from Cramer Fish Sciences. In addition to the Fish Passage Strategy updates, there are additional topics for the Board to consider informing Manual 22 updates, including:

1. Funding line
2. Eligibility requirements
3. Match

These topics will be brought to the Board at future meetings prior to August 2025.

Upcoming Opportunities for Engagement, Chair Jameson, WDFW

- Chair Jameson noted that the Washington state legislative session will begin January 13th. Lawmakers will be developing the state budget for the 25-27 biennium. Budget projections show the CCA revenue forecast is 50% below the expected amount, therefore the Board should expect less funding during the 25-27 biennium.
- The Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office, [Salmon Recovery Conference](#) has been cancelled due to the state travel freeze.

Next Meeting: The next FBRB meeting is scheduled for January 21th, virtually.

Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 10:32 a.m.

ATTENDANCE

Board Members/Alternates:

April Magrane, WSDOT	Steve Manlow, Council of Regions
Axel Swanson, WA Association of Counties	Susan Eugenis, Cowlitz County
Erik Neatherlin, GSRO	Thomas Jameson, WDFW
John Box, Colville Confederated Tribes	Tim Resseguie, Yakama Nation
Kaylee Kautz, WDFW	

WDFW, RCO Staff and Triangle Facilitation Team:

Alice Rubin, RCO	Casey Costello, WDFW
Daniel Coffman, WDFW	Gabrielle Stilwater, WDFW
Jane Atha, WDFW	Christy Rains, RCO
Joel Ingram, WDFW	John Foltz, RCO
Josh Lambert, RCO	Joy Juelson, Triangle Associates
Melissa Erkel, WDFW	Molly Borgaard, WDFW
Tim Young, WDFW	Kate Galambos, Triangle Associates

Others observing:

Tracy Gilson	Brett DeMond	Christian Berg
Daniel Howe	Don Gourlie	Elena Fernandez
Evan Lewis	Shane Scott	