

Fish Barrier Removal Board – Meeting Notes

Date: June 16, 2020

Place: WebEx Meeting with all on phone or computer (due to requirements governing meetings by WA Governor Inslee)

Summary: Agenda items with formal action

Item	Formal Action
Meeting notes from May 2020	Approved
Proposal for Chair to approve cost increases of 10% or \$200,000, whichever is less	Approved
Request for cost increase of \$178,000 to Coleman Creek project in Kittitas County	Approved

Summary: Follow-up actions

Item	Follow-up
Tribal representation from two western Washington tribes	WDFW will continue to work on finding ways to reach out to Western Washington tribes

Board Members/Alternates on phone:

Tom Jameson, Chair	Dave Caudill, RCO
Jane Wall, WSAC	Jeannie Abbott, GSRO
John Foltz, COR	Paul Wagner, DOT
Jon Brand, WSAC	Casey Baldwin, Colville Tribe
Matt Curtis, WDFW	Carl Schroeder, AWC

Staff:

Neil Aaland, Facilitator	Gina Piazza, WDFW
Alison Hart, WDFW	Dave Collins, WDFW
Christy Rains, WDFW	Gabrielle Stilwater, WDFW

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

Ali Fitzgerald	Alice Rubin, RCO	Bramlet_er
Confluence Envir Co	Devin Debono, Lewis Co PW	Erik Schwartz
Jess Helsley	JFulton	Josh
Ken Currens	Matthew Miskovic, KPFF	Robert Paine-Donovan
Rvacirca	Wendy Brown, RCO	

Welcome/Introductions/Agenda Review: Meeting started at 9:00. Facilitator Neil Aaland reviewed the agenda. 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: No public comment was provided via the e-mail link.

Old Business

Meeting notes: The meeting notes for the May meeting were approved as submitted.

Chair Update

- *Covid-19 update:* Matt said field crews started on June 1. We had to get PPEs and additional vehicles for distancing requirements. As previously discussed, will not have time for all field work for applications that we have typically done for the Board.
- *Project Update:* Matt said we have an unranked project list. All these projects are into PRISM. Started with 106 projects and the final list is 89. He explained that the highlighted box on the list means something changed from the original application. Several changed the funding request by over \$10,000. Most brought costs down as they refined the project. The list of 89 projects has a total funding request of \$62,466,947. Paul asked how many are related to DOIT projects; Matt is not sure but quite a few listed DOT projects as companion. Carl asked that, for the August meeting, have an indicator of ownership type. John Foltz said it would be good to note whether the projects are planning, restoration; the actual type of projects.
- *Tribal invitation:* Tom noted that a letter has been prepared through Director Susewind. Jeff Davis has told Margen to hold on the letter. He will check with Jeff to see about the hold. Carl wanted to note for the record that AWC appreciates the efforts by DFW for outreach. We need to move forward, regardless. Hope to get tribal participation from western Washington tribes but we should continue moving forward. Tom said he has taken the tribal contact list from the culvert case injunction and added them. Perhaps we will do some briefings for western Washington tribes.
- *Letters of support:* Tom also wanted to note that we have received two letters of support for four projects on the list. Alex Conly wrote one for projects in the Yakima basin. He will send the letters to Board members and through Matt to the scoping bios.
- *Field assessment:* Started June 1. Tom noted it is a while before staff will be back in the NRB.
- *Jon Brand:* Jon is retiring. Jon thanked the Board and complimented DFW staff. WSAC will notify Tom regarding his replacement on the Board. Board members thanked Jon for his 7 years of service.
- *Rulemaking:* DFWS has started a rulemaking project around fish screening, fish passage, and climate adaptive crossings. Neil is helping with facilitation and public meetings. CR-101 has been filed and will be published July 1. First set of meetings (in June and July) are “sensing” meetings, to get a sense of what the rulemaking should address.
- *Board Proviso:* The \$142,000 previously discussed was offered up as budget savings (agencies were asked to find savings due to the Covid-19 budget impacts). Wendy Brown from RCO said the dollars have not yet been taken by OFM; Tom will discuss with Margen. Tom also noted the chinook inventory should be complete by July.

Budget Status and Cost Increases

Dave Caudill presented a summary of the status of project funds. There is likely to be some left-over funding from the two biennia of projects (17-19 and 19-21). At this point, there is \$611,000 unallocated from the 17-19 biennium and could be as much as a total of \$1.6 million from that biennium. This can only be used for projects from the list from that biennium. This funding can be moved to 17-19 projects that were alternates for that biennium. The legislature approved a list with 6 alternates.

Questions and comments included:

- John Foltz asked Tom what he is thinking about using that funding [Tom said the funding being used for 17-19 alternates would free up some 19-21 funding, as those alternates were on the approved list for 19-21]
- John asked about the possibility of including some unallocated funding for cost increases in 21-23 [Tom will check with RCO to see if that is an appropriate line item request; he does not think it will be allowed]

We moved into a discussion of cost increases and the process for those. The manual includes a table that says the Chair may or may not approve those and may or may not send to Board. So far increases have been relatively small. The RCO grant managers review and send a recommendation to Tom. He last approved one for \$13,000. SRFB handles their requests by saying if it is less than a 10% cost increase then the RCO Director decides. Kaleen is also a cabinet member in the Governor's office. If cost increase is more than 10% it goes back to the SRFB for their decision. Tom has a request for a \$170,000 increase for Coleman Creek. That represents a 14% increase. He was a bit uncomfortable approving that amount, wanting to be transparent.

Tom posed this question: is the Board comfortable with Tom approving cost increases? Discussion points included:

- Dave Caudill said the grant managers talk with scoping bios to confirm costs, and the RCO CFO looks them over to verify fund availability
- Carl asked if there are timing issues for requests [The request come in at different times; sponsors are rather good at providing adequate time for review]
- Dave noted the 10% threshold is for Recreation Board projects; he does not think the SRFB has that stated limit

Suggestions included having Tom approve 10% or less increase, or less than \$100,000. After discussion, the Board thought a threshold of 10% or lower or \$200,000 could be approved by Tom, and requests more than that should come back to the Board.

John Foltz moved to allow the Chair to approve a cost increase of 10% or less, or \$100,000 or less, the lesser of the two based on project sponsor justification and review by DFW technical staff. Carl seconded; the motion was approved unanimously.

Coleman Creek cost increase:

This is in Kittitas County on the Vantage highway. The increase is requested to allow purchasing a pre-cast bridge instead of building one on-site. This will mean that, on a busy road, there would only be a need to detour traffic for 14 days instead of a number of weeks. The total project is \$1.3 million; this adds \$178,000. RCO grant managers support the request. Carl thinks this is being responsive to community needs and the rationale makes sense. Tom noted the increase will come out of the \$1.6 million left over from the 17-19 biennium.

Carl moved to approve the request; Dave Caudill seconded. Motion was approved unanimously.

Upcoming opportunities for engagement: None noted.

Meeting adjourned at 10:40 a.m.

Next meeting: Tuesday, July 21, 2020 – likely by WebEx