

Fish Barrier Removal Board – Meeting Notes

Date: October 21, 2020

Place: Online Meeting

Summary: Agenda items with formal action

Item	Formal Action
Meeting notes from September 2020	Approved
Cost increase requests for Coleman Creek and Johnson Creek projects	Approved

Summary: Follow-up actions

Item	Follow-up
Coffee Creek cost increase request	Invite Mason County to the November meeting to discuss their cost increase request
Have Margen Carlson participate in strategy discussion	Invite her to the November meeting

Board Members/Alternates on phone:

Carl Schroeder, AWC	Matt Curtis, WDFW
Dave Caudill, RCO/GSRO	Paul Wagner, WSDOT
Jane Wall, WSAC	Tom Jameson, WDFW
Jeannie Abbott, GSRO	Casey Baldwin, Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation
John Foltz, Council of Regions	Susan Eugenis, WSAC

Staff:

Alison Hart, WDFW	Gina Piazza, WDFW
Christy Rains, WDFW	Neil Aaland, facilitator
Julie Grobelny, WDFW	Jennifer Nelson, WDFW
Gabrielle Stilwater, WDFW	Dave Collins, WDFW
Adam Fleming, WDFW	

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

Alex Conley, Yakima Basin Fish & Wildlife Recovery Board	Justin Isle, Aquatic Contracting	Heidi Reynolds
Alice Rubin, RCO	Kevin Long, North Olympic Salmon Coalition (presenter)	Wendy Clark-Getzin, Jefferson County
Daniel Howe, Snohomish County,	Kristen Currens, MacKay Sposito Engineering	Call-in user (2)
Erik Young, Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group	Steve Malloch, Western Water Futures LLC	Anna Lael, Kittitas Conservation District (presenter)
Evan Lewis, King County	Tracy Gilson, Snohomish County,	

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: None were provided

Old Business: The meeting notes for the September meeting were approved as submitted.

Cost Increases

Dave Caudill discussed the status of funding from the 17-19 and 19-21 biennia. For 17-19, \$287,714 is available. For 19-21, \$1,137,101 is available. Some funding in 19-21 was moved from the previous 17-19 budget, and some of that could be moved back for any approved cost increases for projects from the earlier cycle. Jeannie asked about the limitation that funding can only be used on projects within that specific biennium. Tom explained the funding history. Estimates for projects in the first cycle of 17-19 were prepared by WDFW staff. He explained how project estimates and project funding is done.

Considerations for cost increases include:

- First, do we have funding available?
- Second, are cost increases justified?

Funding would need to be moved back from 19-21 to cover cost increase requests from 17-19 projects.

Neil suggested the Board hear all three presentations and then discuss whether to approve increases.

Coleman Creek cost increase request: Anna Lael, Kittitas County Conservation District, presented this request. Original budget estimate was done by WDFW staff. Property is in Olmsted State Park and the site is still operated as a farm. It is currently the second-lowest diversion. They are funded to address the lowest diversion in the next couple of years. There was a project change that means additional funding is needed. They were not required to provide a match but found additional funding of \$200,000. They need an additional \$182,530. Original plan was a separate irrigation system on each side of the creek.

Coffee Creek: Dave Caudill explained that initially the project sponsor was South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group, then Mason County took it over. They have received additional funding from PSAR. Original budget was \$704,000. They need an additional \$207,000. It includes two projects. There have been challenges negotiating with landowners. Result is different types of structures are needed. County was planning to absorb costs but decided to ask for increased funding. Questions and comments:

- Will the project be completed without additional funding? [Yes, it is already done. A&E costs increased due to back and forth with landowners; one issue was needed easements and the other issue was a reluctant landowner.]
- Were we aware of the possible need for a cost increase? [county was set to absorb but Dave suggested asking for cost increase; Board can fund all, none, half but he sees this as a relationship issue.]

Johnson Creek: Kevin Long presented this request. It is on Hoko-Ozette Road. They are working with Clallam County which provided a 15% match. The budget was tight when it went out to bid. It has been completed. Just yesterday he watched silvers going through the project all day long. During construction the contractor encountered bad soil conditions and could not find good foundation material. This increased costs by \$100,000. Dave Caudill said they have been in constant contact. They found an old buried bridge that had to be removed, added to cost increase. Carl noted that DFW had done the initial cost estimate. Tom said there is no bad or good timing for a cost increase; he is kept informed along the way.

Jeannie Abbott asked how much is being requested for cost increases for these three projects; \$584,000. Tom explained there is currently \$300,000 in the 17-19 budget and \$1.1 million in 19-21 budget. Dave reminded the Board that Newaukum Creek is still set to close and will return a couple hundred thousand to the 17-19 list. Other questions and comments:

- Neil noted that he was hearing the Board express comfort around Coleman Creek and Johnson Creek increases, less so around Coffee Creek
- Several Board members agreed with that summation
- Dave said it is important to consider project cost, and the increase for Coffee Creek is no fault of the county
- Carl understands but think it would be good to have more discussion with sponsor
- Matt says FBRB shares responsibility for projects; with cost overruns we need to understand that costs and site conditions change
- Tom agreed with Matt and noted there is a relationship aspect; nothing in this project is inappropriate. He suggested having Mason County come in and discuss the request in November

A motion was suggested to approve Coleman Creek and Johnson Creek cost increases but hold off on Coffee Creek. Paul Wagner made that motion, Carl Schroeder seconded. The motion was approved to add \$182,531 to Coleman Creek and \$194,000 to Johnson Creek projects.

Board Strategy Update

Matt showed the Board what the funded project website map looks like. There was not previously a map embedded in the FBRB website showing this information.

Tom referred to the strategy meeting notes prepared by Neil. The proviso was included in the supplemental session in 3 different budgets. The timeline was tight to begin with. First update is due to the legislature on November 1. He has been working on a draft report and will e-mail that to the FBRB after today's meeting. Comments will be due back to him on Monday, October 26 at close of business. The report will be submitted to the legislature on Friday, October 30. The report will discuss a revised timeline being proposed. Consultation with tribes needs to occur. A meeting is scheduled on November 3 with Stevens Treaty tribes, Margen Carlson (WDFW Habitat Program Division Manager) will participate and this will be discussed. There is no additional funding to do some of the additional assessment work as was done with the Chinook barrier inventory. Comments and questions included:

- John Foltz wonders about this work identifying priority areas for next grant round
- Carl Schroeder agreed with this point
- Tom thinks we need to have GIS analysis done for that
- Carl thinks for a future meeting look at other culvert removal programs and understand their priorities; Legislature wants coordination
- Alex Conley with the Yakima Basin Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board said there is still work to do with data needs and suggested making a one-year push on that; regional organizations can help
- Dave Caudill talked about FFFPP; the list of projects is “worst first” and currently has 1,000 projects; can look at best projects in different regions
- Carl noted that one element of the proviso asks for recommendations on legislative changes

Upcoming opportunities for engagement:

- Tom Jameson noted the November 3 culvert injunction meeting
- John Foltz said the Salmon Recovery Network is working on a legislative update; a letter is going out highlighting work included FBRB funding support
- Carl Schroeder has received feedback from cities that they are interested in sending a letter to the Governor supporting full funding of the budget request; he wonders about others joining in

Wrap-up

Meeting adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

Next meeting: Tuesday, November 17, 2020 – online meeting