



UCSRB BOARD MEETING

Chelan County Commissioners Meeting Room
400 Douglas Street
Wenatchee, WA

Thursday, January 25, 2007
10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

MEETING MINUTES

Board Members Present:

Bill Towey, Colville Confederated Tribes
Bud Hover, Okanogan County
Ron Walter, Chelan County
Mary Hunt, Douglas County
Lee Carlson for Paul Ward, Yakama Nation
Julie Morgan, UCSRB Executive Director
Derek Van Marter, UCSRB Associate Director

Others present: Kate Terrell, USFWS; Mike Kaputa, Chelan County; Bob Bugert, GSRO; Lynn Hatcher, NMFS; Chuck Jones, Alliance Consulting Group; Nick Christoph, Okanogan County; Dennis Beich, WDFW; and Sandy Cox, Okanogan County

Action Items:

1. **Bill** requested that comments received be forwarded to the Board as they come in so that it gives not only the UCSRB time to address a policy issue, but each agency as well.
 - **Lynn** will work with **Julie** to accomplish this request
 - Make room reservation at the Chelan Fire Station
 - Check phone jack at the Fire Station in Chelan
2. **Julie** suggested that a letter be drafted for submittal to NOAA by the comment deadline of January 29, 2007 so that it is in the public record – (include the numbers and information received from EFC)
3. **Ron** suggested that somehow acquisition costs will need to be covered/conveyed in the letter as an addition to the black and white numbers that EFC provided
4. **Julie** to do some research on the Columbia River Partnership and bring it back to the Board
5. For the UCSRB website, **Bud** suggested that the information on the Project tab be fleshed out
6. **Bill** requested that a rewrite to the RTT Chair SOW be completed as soon as possible so that it is staged and ready to go when funding comes through.
7. **Ron** suggested that the information from the RTT Biological Benefit Review be presented to the individual watersheds so that they have an understanding of the process

Welcome and Introductions

Bud called the meeting to order at 10:17 AM

1. **Approval of Meeting Minutes - December 21, 2006**

Mary moved to approved the December 21, 2006 UCSRB meeting minutes. Ron seconded the motion and the motion was passed.

2. Status of the FCRPS BiOp Remand (Miller)

- New completion date of August 1, 2007 has been set
- Habitat element comments have been received, concerns with how the habitat estimates are being used
- **Phil** is concerned that the actions for 2010 – 2016 have not been discussed with the UCSRB yet and should be prior to the release of the draft actions
- Other Federal actions and non-federal (using current authority) actions that concern the listed fish are being compiled
- When other federal actions and non-federal actions are put on the table it is NOT adding new obligations. It is a way to take into account other actions that are benefiting the fish.
- They will continue to work with NMFS in reviewing the work being done and get the drafts out to **Julie** and others for review as they become available

3. Status of Recovery Plan Adoption

- Timeline (Hatcher) (**Handout**)
 - Tasks After Comment Period Closes
 - Set March Work Session Dates (March 21 – 23) (Rob & Lynn)
 - **Bob Bugert, Tracy Hillman, Laura Berg, James White, and Lynn Hatcher** are all working to get materials ready for the UCSRB to review
 - Will provide an update at the next Board Meeting
 - March 5-9 Staff to meet with NMFS to review the comments and NFMS proposed edits. All three dates might not be necessary for the staff to meet.
 - Comments from the November 8, 2007 public meeting in Okanogan are being included as well
 - **Bill** requested that comments received be forwarded to the Board as they come in so that it gives not only the UCSRB time to address a policy issue, but each agency as well.
 - **Lynn** will work with **Julie** to accomplish this request
 - **Bill** complimented **Lynn** on the process that they have developed
 - **Julie** proposed that the comment review in March take advantage of the March Board meeting already scheduled – perhaps hold a two hour Board meeting and the rest of the day be used for the comment review
 - Make room reservation at the Chelan Fire Station
 - Check phone jack at the Fire Station in Chelan
- Preliminary Summary of Substantive Issues (Morgan)
 - Entiat Watershed and the All-H element
 - Provide public process for the on-going Adaptive Management element of the plan
- Reviewed information provided by Evergreen Funding Consultants
 - **Julie** suggested that a letter be drafted for submittal to NOAA by the comment deadline of January 29, 2007 so that it is in the public record – (include the numbers and information received from EFC)
 - Acquisition costs were not included in the information received by EFC because it was a policy decision by the Board to not include “Acquisition” in the implementation schedule or in the plan
 - **Ron** suggested that somehow acquisition costs will need to be covered/conveyed in the letter as an addition to the black and white numbers that EFC provided

- **Bill** suggested that a total lump sum for the need of the Upper Columbia be submitted – this would alleviate a potential prioritizing assumption if it is submitted in a “broken-down”, watershed specific format
- **Mike** requested that EFC’s information be distributed out to the Board and Staff

4. Progress on Plan Implementation: Watershed Action Teams

- Overview
- Overall update provided by **Derek**
 - Wenatchee and Entiat (Kaputa)
 - Update provided - Watershed wide priority process is being developed, Habitat Workshop is slated for February 1, 2007, end result goal is a biologically sound, community supported prioritization framework
 - Methow and Okanogan (Christoph)
 - Meeting with MRC agreed to Feb 20
 - Foster Creek/Crab Creek/Mainstem (Jones) Handout
 - No group for mainstem or small tributaries – there is a group that may take on the update to the current watershed plan to include issues that weren’t covered originally
 - **Mary** and **Chuck** have discussed the development of an all-inclusive group that could be developed to deal with the entire areas especially those that aren’t usually covered (Geographic coverage is still under discussion)
 - **Bud** suggested that we proceed with caution on areas that are shared by other Counties, agencies etc.
 - **Mary** talked about another layer: The Columbia River Partnership – mentioned that they were experiencing difficulties with the process of who looks at the projects – **Mary** suggested to them that the projects be brought before the region to be given the opportunity to review them. She also described the Policy Advisory Group
 - **Ron** asked if this was an opportunity for the UCSRB to respond to the Columbia River Partnership and try to unite the processes
 - **Lee** stated that this Board is advocating a regional process and have committed to making that a reality – we should be talking to them
 - **Chuck** brought up the issue of water rights...it is another process that needs a regional approach as well
 - **Bob** mentioned the outcome of the last HCP Policy meeting – all members, committees etc recently met. Long-term plans, what is going on. They are interested in the MRC and OK water Council. They are interested in participating in these processes. **Mike Shiewe** has offered to come to speak with the board if they so desire.
 - **Bill** suggested that the Board may want to take into account the agencies/entities like the Columbia River Partnership in our Implementation Schedule/Outline/Flowchart
 - It was agreed that this needs further discussion and action by the Board
 - **Julie** to do some research on the Columbia River Partnership and bring it back to the Board

5. Management and Logistics

- Approve Thank You Letter for the Governor in regards to the GSRO (Hover) **D**

*Mary moved to approve **Bud** signing this letter. **Bill** seconded the motion and the motion was passed.*

- **Mary** felt that this topic is still in flux and needs this Board's continued attention
- UCSRB Web Design (Van Marter) **D**
- Presented mock up for the Board's review
- **Ron** suggested that a Project tab be added
 - **Bud** suggested that the information on the Project tab be fleshed out
- Finalize and Approve UCSRB 2007 Meeting Dates and Locations (Cox) **D**

Bill moved to approve and adopt the 2007 UCSRB Board Meeting schedule, preferring the trip to the Similkameen over the Dryden location for the September Board Meeting . Ron seconded the motion and the motion was passed.

Bud presented **Bob Bugert** with a certificate of appreciation and gift for all of his work in the RTT from 1998 through 2006.

Lunch Break **Noon - 1:00 PM**

6. Proposed UCSRB SOW and Budget for 2007-2009

- Regional Technical Team (RTT) Update (Terrell)
 - Looking for funding for a half time FTE - It is a position that requires a great deal of someone's time
 - **Bob** mentioned that he was not able to keep up with PNAMP, CSMEP, while working as the RTT Chair
 - The autonomy of the RTT was discussed and the importance was agreed on by all
 - **Mary** asked about the possibility of a contract between the RTT Chair and the UCSRB
 - **Julie** mentioned that it could be an individual contractor or it could be a "borrowed" agency person
 - **Bill** encouraged the Board to create a clear understanding and definition of the relationship to avoid any difficulties in the future
 - **Lee** asked about the bullet items regarding the representation issues.....seems that these would push the Chair's half time status over the edge into a full time position
 - **Bill** stated that he would like to see a bullet in the SOW that the Chair report to the UCSRB Executive Director
 - **Chuck** suggested that instead of the last bullet saying at the "request of" change it to a monthly report so that the task is specific
 - **Chuck** also suggested that in the contract include an opt out clause
 - **Julie** mentioned that she would like to consult with the RTT on how they would like to proceed regarding the contracting
 - **Mike** asked about other funding sources – **Julie** reported that the RTT feels that the Board is the most neutral party to receive funding from

Ron moved to approve the commitment to fund the RTT Chair through the budget. Lee seconded the motion and the motion was passed.

- **Bill** requested that a rewrite to the SOW be completed as soon as possible so that it is staged and ready to go when funding comes through.
- Discussion of Work Elements and Budget Scenarios (Carlson)
 - **Lee** reported to the Board that the Staff was trying to keep the budget under \$500K per year

- The budget numbers were reviewed with the Board – discussion ensued
- The tasks were created in the Council of Regions so that there was consistency between regions
- **Steve Martin** is presenting the tasks to the SRFB tomorrow
- **Chuck** reminded the Board that if they choose to address the Mainstem element that funds will need to be allocated to that effort
- **Mary** requested that an additional column be added to the budget spreadsheet to reflect the Mainstem element
- **Bob** cautioned the Board to consider the funds that they are requesting very closely
- **Bob** reported that the COR suggests that an increase in budget be held to about 10% over the last two years
- **Kate** suggested that a cost sharing from the RTT be identified
- **Bill** suggested that the cost sharing issue be extended to include the Legal Counsel, Board Members time and any other contributed time be included in this analysis
- Each entity to create a document that identifies and substantiates the time contributed

Ron moved to approve the budget presented. Lee seconded the motion and the motion was passed.

- **Kate** presented the Biological Benefit Review of the Wenatchee Implementation Schedule drafted by the RTT that was requested by the Wenatchee Watershed Planning Unit's Habitat subcommittee
 - Project types were considered, not specific projects
 - Biological Benefits were considered, economical benefits were not considered in this exercise
 - **Mike** mentioned that there were similarities between the community review and the biological review
 - **Kate** reported that the Tiers are the same from area to area which allows for an apples to apples comparison
 - This is the same criteria that was used for the last SRFB cycle
 - The RTT is hopeful that this product will allow the RTT to wrap up the Biological Prioritization at the ESU level
 - **Kate** reported that problems can be identified at an Assessment Unit level, but the decisions should be made at a local level

Bill moved that the Biological Benefit Review process be completed by the RTT for the remainder of the watersheds in the Upper Columbia for the Board's benefit. Ron seconded the motion and the motion was passed.

- **Ron** suggested that the information from the RTT Biological Benefit Review be presented to the individual watersheds so that they have an understanding of the process

Public Comment

None

Adjourn Meeting

Bud adjourned the meeting at 2:45 PM

Summary of Motions

***Mary** moved to approved the December 21, 2006 UCSRB meeting minutes. **Ron** seconded the motion and the motion was passed.*

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The next meeting of the UCSRB will be on Thursday, February 22nd from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM in Wenatchee at the Chelan County Commissioners Meeting Room.