



UCSRB MEETING

Chelan Fire House
232 E Wapato
Chelan, WA

Thursday, March 22, 2007
8:30 AM - 9:45 AM

MEETING MINUTES

Board Members Present: Bud Hover, Okanogan County, UCSRB Chair
Ron Walter, Chelan County
Bill Towey, Colville Confederated Tribes
Paul Ward, Yakama Nation
Chuck Jones for Mary Hunt, Douglas County
Julie Morgan, UCSRB Executive Director
Derek Van Marter, UCSRB Associate Director

Others Present: Kate Terrell, USFWS; Mark Cookson, WDFW; Bob Bugert, GSRO; Lee Carlson, Yakama Nation; and Ken Sletten, Okanogan County Farm Bureau.

Action Items:

1. The **UCSRB staff** and **Julie** will identify specific projects in the region that can be highlighted during the summer tour with NOAA and USFWS.
2. **Julie** will coordinate logistics of a two-day summer tour with NOAA and USFWS regional and headquarter staff.
3. Letter will be drafted and sent to USFWS Region 1 on behalf of the Board supporting the Partners for Fish and Wildlife grant program, and asking for some allocation for this region.
4. **Julie** will finalize the thank you letter to each of the individuals the Board met with on their trip to Washington, DC.
5. **Staff** will develop a purpose and need paper for the position of Data Steward that identifies, among other things, both short- and long-term strategies.
6. **Bob** said that funding for a position like the Data Steward is difficult to obtain, a letter from the UCSRB in supporting it would be great to have when the RTT is ready to approach potential funding sources.
7. **Ron** suggested sending a letter to the Senate Natural Resources Committee and others as carbon copy, suggesting revisions to HB 1598.
8. **Ron** asked **Julie** will confirm the timing of SB 5224 (HB 1577) to get out of committee.
9. **Julie** and **Derek** will provide background and a recommendation on the organization's computer system network needs at the Board's next meeting.
10. **Derek** will publish the Administrative Assistant position and move forward with the hiring process.
11. **Bill** requested that a plaque be made for the Esther Stefaniw Memorial Award.
12. **Julie** will convene a conference call for the April Board meeting in lieu of meeting in Twisp.

Welcome and Introductions (Commissioner Bud Hover, Chair)

The meeting was called to order at 8:40 by Chairman Bud Hover

1. Approval of Meeting Minutes - February 22, 2007

Chuck Jones for Mary Hunt moved to approve the February 22nd, 2007 meeting minutes. Ron Walter seconded the motion and the motion was passed.

2. Debrief of DC Trip

- **Ron** briefly discussed the trip he and the other Board members recently made to Washington, DC. He said they focused their discussions on seeking assurances, funding and other local issues. He said nearly all of the meetings were very productive.
- In the meeting with NOAA (Dr. Hogarth), the Board invited him for a two-day tour of the region this summer.
- In the meeting with USFWS, they talked about partnerships.
 - Partners for Fish and Wildlife grant program has money that could be spent in the region.
 - Explore different programs in the USFWS that foster conservation agreements nationwide and that have been successful.
 - **Kate** said that her office currently has \$40,000 in the program.
 - **Bud** said they also talked about having USFWS officials out in the region for a tour this summer at the same time as NOAA officials.
- Senator Murray's staff was helpful; she stopped by to say hello. The Board also met with Senator Cantwell, and Representatives McMorris, and Hastings.
- In discussions on the Endangered Species Recovery Act, the Board focused on wanting more flexibility in making agreements with the regional office.
- **Julie** proposed following-up on organizing a summer tour with NOAA and USFWS officials. She suggested asking staff about some projects to highlight in the region. Staff can then work with project sponsors to coordinate dates and logistics. She will also work with the agency staff in DC.
 - **Bud** said it would be good to have examples of each of the 4 H's on the trip.
 - **Paul** suggested that the contact should be Bud on the final thank you letter.

3. SRFB Update

- **Julie** provided updates on the Governor's Forum on Monitoring and the SRFB
 - The Council of Regions (COR) is requesting four things from the Forum on Monitoring
 - Identification of key high-level indicators, tied to de-listing, that should be monitored across all regions;
 - Identification of monitoring protocols for these indicators and expected data and reporting;
 - Securing the cooperation and assistance of state agencies in implementing the monitoring plans; and
 - Development of a comprehensive state funding strategy for implementation of the monitoring plans.
 - **Bud** asked for an explanation about the first one.
 - **Bill** said that one of the problems with a monitoring program in the Columbia Basin is getting one that everyone can agree upon. He asked if the Governor's Forum on Monitoring is bringing together all of the elements that have already been funded across the state. The UCSRB could really take a lead role in these venues to articulate what is going to work for us in the region.
 - **Bill** asked what the Data Steward position would accomplish.
 - **Bob** said that it is more and more imperative to coordinate all of the data that is being collected in the region through the various monitoring programs.

- **Bud** asked if we can take the lead on this to really drive the system that ultimately gets developed statewide.
- **Ron** asked what it looks like for the Puget Sound and how that compared to the region's approach. Since there is so much focus there, it might be good to either be ahead of them or in sync with what they have planned.
- **Bob** said that we are quite a bit ahead of other regions in terms of monitoring.
- **Kate** said that the problem is in the lack of funds for monitoring.
- **Bud** said it was absolutely absurd that we are required to do something, but won't be able to finish the job. We need to be able to identify where we are in recovery and how successful we have been.
- **Bob** said that support from the UCSRB for the Data Steward position is important so that we can show the need for increased funds for monitoring based on all of the information we have already collected in the region. We need someone that is very good with computers, but also really good with people.
- **Bud** asked how the information will come to him/her.
- **Bob** said that all of the existing monitoring programs in the region are collecting data in a compatible format now, but that the data are spread out across the region. We are the only region in the state that has an accepted, peer-reviewed QA/QC protocol for data collection.
- **Bud** asked how we will know that the information being forwarded on to the data steward is true and accurate. We need to make sure we are being led by true information.
- **Chuck** said that if the person is being funded through the UCSRB, it could make sure that the information still belongs to the people and agencies submitting it to the data steward.
- **Bill** asked where the funding would come from for the position.
- **Bob** said that is the trick; no one wants to fund this, so we want a letter from the Board supporting it would be great to have when the RTT is ready to approach potential funding sources.
- **Ron** suggested staff pull together a description of the need, which the Board will then use to solicit for funds from several private foundations. It would be particularly helpful if the position already had support from other sources.
- **Julie** said the data steward position needs to be a long-term commitment, because we need to be able to show the trend over time. The RTT monitoring and evaluation subcommittee has some good ideas on long-term strategies for seeking funding for the position.
- **Bud** asked whether the Board would need to fund the technology or whether it would feed into some existing database elsewhere.
- **Julie** said that accessibility is a critical function of collecting all of the data. If the position sits with the UCSRB and staff, the Board could set policy on accessibility.
- **Bill** said he would like to see a tie to upcoming processes (e.g. potential for BiOp remand dollars, NPCC processes). He agreed that it would be helpful for staff to pull all of this together and present it to the Board. The Board would like to see an outline of process and opportunities that the Board can then discuss whether it makes the most sense to pursue collectively or individually. He suggested identifying both short- and long-term strategies.
- **Julie** provided an update on the SRFB process to allocate regional funding for the next biennium. The SRFB agreed to fund the first year of the biennium with left over federal dollars. It will make a decision on the second year at its May meeting.

- **Julie** provided an update about the RTT chair. After the RTT selects a chair person, they will submit their recommendation to the UCSRB Executive Director, who will then work with the UCSRB Chair to negotiate final approval and contracting.
- **Julie** provided an update on HB 1598
 - **Ron** suggested sending a letter suggesting revisions to the proposed bill due to its implications on contracting entities engaged in salmon recovery projects. He said the letter be sent to members on the Senate Natural Resources Committee, as well as Senators Parlette and Honeyford, and to the Governor's Office (Fitzsimmons) and Ruckelshaus.

Bill Towey made a motion to send a letter from the UCSRB to the Senate Natural Resources Committee and others regarding HB 1598. Ron Walter seconded the motion and the motion was passed.

- Julie provided an update on the GSRO bill (SB 5224). It passed the Senate and now cannot get out of committee in the House.
 - **Ron** asked if Julie had an indication of where the SRFB Chair was on the issue. Julie said that she understand he is neutral on the matter. She added that some in Puget Sound would like to see those functions transferred to IAC.
 - **Julie** said that the majority of Lead Entity administrative dollars are currently directed toward Puget Sound. On the other hand, a great majority of the GSRO support goes toward the Columbia.
 - **Ron** asked Julie to find the timing on the bill to get it out of the committee.
- **Bob** formally announced that he is leaving the GSRO to become the Executive Director for the Chelan-Douglas Land Trust. Before he leaves, he said he would like to complete the 4d rule issue for threatened species in the region.

4. Management, Logistics, and Updates

- Upcoming Implementation Team Meeting
 - **Derek** described the process to populate and convene the Implementation Team. He said that staff would spend a majority of its next meeting discussing this topic. The goal is to convene the Implementation Team and hold the first meeting on May 1. Staff agreed in March to make the meetings quarterly to start. Derek said that the next meeting after May would be June, thereby getting into the quarterly schedule.
- Server for UCSRB Computer System Network
 - **Julie** said that she and Derek were currently in the process of outlining the needs of the organization in terms of its technology capability. She said that it appears at the moment that a server would be our best option in order to share contacts, send out mass communication to distribution lists and to back up files. She said that she would have a recommendation for the Board at its next meeting.
- Organizational Identity
 - **Julie** asked about the organization's letterhead and whether it would be appropriate to attach the names of the Board members.
 - The Board agreed that it would rather list affiliations of the organizations represented on the Board, and not names.
- UCSRB Administrative Assistant
 - **Derek** said the draft position description was in the Board packet, and asked if there were any questions. There were none.

Bill Towey made a motion to publish the position announcement for the Administrative Assistant and move forward with the hiring process. Ron Walter seconded the motion and the motion was passed.

Public Comment

Ken Sletten, Okanogan County Farm Bureau, provided comment to the Board. He suggested that with regard to the server the organization should move toward Microsoft products if it has not already. Using Outlook can streamline administration and the business of the Board. He also spoke about the hearing on HB 1598. Apparently, members on the committee did not think it would be an issue for those indirectly receiving funds from SRFB, and that the bill would likely go forward. He also said that an assistant attorney from the Attorney's General Office was there and spoke in favor of the bill.

Recess Meeting

Bud recessed the meeting at 9:50 a.m. He said the Board would reconvene after the workshop to continue reviewing public comments to the draft plan.

Reconvene Meeting

Bud reconvened the meeting at 12:00 p.m.

Ron Walter made a motion to approve the suggested revisions to the draft plan. Chuck Jones seconded the motion and the motion was passed.

Bill suggested that the Board move forward with the Esther Stefaniw Memorial Award. He suggested that Sandy Cox be recognized as the first recipient of this award. All present agreed.

Julie proposed holding the April Board meeting in conference call rather than convening the Board in Twisp as scheduled. There were no objections to her suggestion. Julie said she would keep the Board apprised of the need to conference in preparation for the first Implementation Team meeting in May.

Adjourn Meeting

Bud adjourned the meeting at 12:10 p.m.

Summary of Motions

Chuck Jones for Mary Hunt moved to approve the February 22, 2007 meeting minutes. Ron Walter seconded the motion and the motion was passed.

Bill Towey made a motion to send a letter from the UCSRB to the Senate Natural Resources Committee and others regarding HB 1598. Ron Walter seconded the motion and the motion was passed.

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