



## UCSRB MEETING

Chelan County PUD Auditorium  
327 North Wenatchee Avenue  
Wenatchee, WA 98801

Thursday, March 27, 2008  
10:00 AM – 3:00 PM

## MEETING MINUTES

### Board Members Present:

Paul Ward, UCSRB Chair, Yakama Nation  
Bud Hover, Okanogan County  
Bill Towey, Colville Confederated Tribes  
Ron Walter, Chelan County  
Chuck Jones for Mary Hunt, Douglas County

Julie Morgan, UCSRB Executive Director  
Derek Van Marter, UCSRB Associate Director  
James R. White, UCSRB Data Steward  
Barbara Carrillo, UCSRB Administrative Assistant

**Others Present:** Casey Baldwin, WDFW & RTT Chair; Dale Bambrick, NOAA Fisheries; Char Beam, Okanogan County; Dennis Beich, WDFW; Ken Bevis, WDFW; Lee Carlson, Yakama Nation; Kathleen Deason, Foster Creek Conservation District; Kristine Desgroseillier, Foster Creek Conservation District; Tom Gibbons, Cascadia Conservation District; Lynn Hatcher, NMFS; Lisa Hatley, Washington Rivers Conservancy; Rebecca Heath, USFS; Chris Johnson, Methow Salmon Recovery Foundation; Tom Kahler, Douglas County PUD; Mike Kaputa, Chelan County; Greg Knott, Methow Salmon Recovery Foundation; Steve Kolk, USBR; Keith Kutchins, Colville Confederated Tribes; Russell Langshaw, Grant County PUD; Bob Lohn, NOAA Fisheries; Rich Malinowski, Cascadia Conservation District; Phil Miller, GSRO; Jennifer Molesworth, USBR; Chris Parsons, WDFW; Chuck Peven, Chelan County PUD; Mike Rickel, Cascadia Conservation District; Kate Terrell, USFWS & RTT Vice Chair; Cam Thomas, USFS; Rob Walton, NOAA Fisheries

### Action Items

1. Bob Lohn noted that NOAA will commit to encouraging the action agencies to work through the existing local recovery plan implementation structure. He also noted that he will ask the action agencies to meet directly with the Board and staff to ensure that the information needs are met.
2. The UCSRB will send a letter of to each of the Washington delegates supporting historical PCSRF funding levels.
3. Bill recommended that staff collaborate with Phil to appropriately title the short-term and 2009-2011 state and federal priorities tables to ensure they are not reflective of overall priorities in the recovery plan.
4. The UCSRB Staff Work Group and the RTT will work on the state and federal priorities tables list in the next several weeks with a product ready for Board approval at the April meeting.

5. The UCSRB's comment letter to the NWPC's request for amendment recommendations was approved with modifications to be submitted by the April 4<sup>th</sup> deadline. ☑
6. Derek will work with Chelan County and Cascadia Conservation District to schedule a SRFB tour May 1 in the Entiat area.

**The meeting was called to order at 10:00 AM by Chair Paul Ward.**

**Welcome and Introductions (Paul Ward).**

Paul welcomed the group and asked for a round of introductions.

**1. Recovery Plan Implementation Discussion with Bob Lohn and Rob Walton, NOAA Fisheries (Ward)**

- Paul Ward introduced Bob Lohn from NOAA Fisheries. Bob Lohn then thanked everyone for the collaboration and work that has been achieved in the last several years and congratulated everyone on the accomplishments. He emphasized the historic effort to rebuild the surrounding environment through worthwhile, hard work. He noted a few themes to focus on in moving forward:
  - 1) The grassroots approach is working;
  - 2) Dealing with issues in an integrated way is vital, and the BiOps released on May 5<sup>th</sup> needs to support this integration with emphasis on species survival; and
  - 3) NOAA continues to support sustainable salmon harvest consistent with recovery.
- In response to a question about how the other H's will be managed to achieve the objectives of the *Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Plan*, Bob Lohn responded by noting that at the time the recovery plan was being developed, specifications on managing the mainstem Columbia were also being worked through. The recovery plan was used by NMFS to address limiting factors and locally-accepted initiatives integrated into the plan for use in other decision-making processes such as harvest and hydropower. The current Federal Columbia River Power System (FCRPS) Biological Opinion (BiOp) ensures that actions are consistent with recovery, realizing measurable improvements of listed species. He suggested that this is also occurring through the Hatchery Scientific Review Group (HSRG) review process to integrate programs consistent with fish recovery. Funding for implementation of the BiOp comes primarily from the action agencies: BPA, BOR and the ACOE. NOAA's intention is that these actions are undertaken in a way that is complimentary to the recovery plan and supports established processes. The best way for the Board to be involved in recovery is to ask BPA and the other action agencies to continue to work through the existing implementation framework the Board has developed. Bud Hover discussed the Board's request for certainty and the need for the plan to be implemented. He noted the risk of losing local support for habitat restoration and other activities if the plan is not fully embraced by the action agencies. Bob Walton responded by asking if there were specific steps that NOAA could take. Bud suggested that the Board would like a commitment from NOAA to encourage the different processes and agencies to work through the recovery plan and the existing implementation framework. Bob noted that NOAA will absolutely commit to

encouraging the action agencies to work through the local recovery plan implementation structure. He also noted that he will ask the action agencies to meet directly with the Board and staff to ensure that the information needs are met.  Ron Walter added that the success and viability of the Board is due to a grassroots, ground-up approach and moving forward as partners will bring tools to the table that as individuals, the various agencies do not have. Ron encouraged these other entities work through the existing framework such as the RTT and citizens committees to ensure consistent recovery actions. Dale Bambrick said that from his perspective the actions in the BiOp are consistent with the recovery plan, and the regional process is used in vetting regional actions.

- To assist in processes that are important to the Board, Rob Walton noted that it is important for the Board to go out and seek positive recovery collaboration.
- Bud Hover asked what the Board can do to influence out-of-basin effects. Bob Lohn noted that if the Board has specific ideas on how it can engage or influence certain processes, then he will seriously commit to carrying those ideas forward to the respective processes.
- Bill Towey said that he is particularly interested in NOAA's commitment to reporting progress toward recovery. Bob responded that under the FCRPS, there are specific requirements for reporting, some of which are Columbia Basin wide. He also noted that the reporting responsibility is on the action agencies in conjunction with the fisheries management agencies. Rob Walton mentioned the need for consistency in data reporting. Ron Walter asked how the collected information will get back to the local level and Bob said his organization needs an understanding of the kind of information needed to ensure the data management system allows for that. Bob also noted that there are a variety of acceptable ways to collect data.
- Bob briefed the Board on staffing levels at his agency and noted they are down 20% since the beginning of the current administration and that Congress has been unable to go through a full appropriation process for the last several years.
- Ron Walter asked how the county can assist NOAA through contentious issues. Bob said his organization has received support from interveners in suits but also cautioned that litigation is costly. Bob also cautioned the Board to view recovery more broadly than how many fish come back to a respective river each year and that ocean conditions make a big difference on returning fish numbers. Bob noted that large weather conditions drive the food base in the ocean and affect fish numbers dramatically. Bob said that the numbers for recovery are set up as averages over a period of time so a few bad years will not significantly affect the overall progress. He noted that in determining delisting, there are two elements: 1) historical numbers of fish; and 2) causes for fish declines over a period of time. Bob noted that his agency is set up to demonstrate they have provided the capability of a particular ESU to exist over a long period of time.
- Ron Walter noted that when the state adopted the recovery plan it committed the services of the state Attorney General to the Board. He asked Bob what type of assurances NOAA could give the Board. Bob answered that regarding assurances, habitat conservation plans can be very valuable tools but expensive and time-consuming to complete. His agency has taken the approach that suggests that as long as a practice has stayed within certain sideboards, then it is okay, but that they are not perfect. He said that if there

are particular assurances the Board would like to pursue, he would be happy to take those up as time and resources allow. Rob noted that currently, 31 of 52 species of salmon are listed in the Pacific. The North American Salmon Stronghold Partnership is a group that may provide an opportunity for utilizing this coalition to identify strongholds, and help with appropriate activities in particular watersheds. Ideas such as land swaps may assist in recovery. For Chelan County, this group may be able to help.

- Paul Ward discussed the role that the Board has in affecting changes out of the basin and noted that counties play a significant role in the restoration of habitat through county land use planning. Paul also asked Bob for support of the Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF) and additional funding for implementing recovery plans. Bob responded that the PCSRF has been a success but that the part of the fund that goes to Alaska does not support listed stocks. Ron mentioned to Bob that the current administration has not supported high levels of funding for the PCSRF and an administration change is imminent. Bob responded that once the election is over, the UCSRB can reach out to those members of the new administration to educate and engage them on the importance of the issues. In the two-month interval after the election, getting information to them and understood is terribly important. Bob also noted that he will do his best to ensure that the new regional administrator for the Northwest for NOAA will be a good steward of the work that has been completed to date.

## **2. Approval of Board Meeting Minutes (Ward)**

- **Approval of minutes for January 24, 2008 and conference call minutes for February 13, 2008**
- Ron recommended approval of the meeting minutes of the January 24<sup>th</sup> meeting and the February 13<sup>th</sup> conference call.

Ron made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of the January 24<sup>th</sup> meeting and the February 13<sup>th</sup> conference call. Bud seconded the motion. All approved.

## **3. PCSRF Letters (Morgan)**

- Julie made a historic PCSRF appropriation funds presentation and reviewed that there is a movement to support historic levels of funding. The discussion that followed focused on sending the same PCSRF support letter that was sent to Patty Murray to each of the other Washington delegates. Julie then requested signature approval for a joint letter of support from the regional recovery organizations.

Bill made a motion to send individual PCSRF support letters to Washington delegates; Bud seconded and all approved.

Bud made a motion to authorize Paul Ward to sign the joint letter of support from the regional recovery organizations. Bill seconded and all approved.

## **4. Short-Term Priorities Table and 2009-2011 Priorities Table Development Report (Morgan and Miller)**

- Julie Morgan reviewed the short-term priorities Table reviewed by the Board at the January 24<sup>th</sup> Board meeting. Phil Miller then reviewed the importance of both the short-term and 2009-2011 priorities tables as they relate to the

recovery plan, and the state and the federal priorities for the next budget cycle. He encouraged the Board to view the tables as a subset of the Implementation Schedule and as a product for the GSRO to work with. For the priorities tables, Bill Towey suggested a title change to the document to clarify that it is not reflective of overall priorities in the recovery plan.  He also suggested that the next step is for staff to develop a priorities list that is all-inclusive of the implementation schedule. Ron Walter and Mike Kaputa expressed their concerns over water flows and local water issues in both tables and would like to work to address flow concerns in both tables. Dennis Beich noted that he needs a general idea by the second week of May of what the priorities are in order to get it into the budget for the 2009-2011 Biennium. Julie suggested that the Staff and the RTT work on the short-term and 2009-2011 state and federal priorities table in the next several weeks with a product ready for Board approval at the April meeting.

Bill made a motion for staff to collaborate with Phil to appropriately title the short-term and 2009-2011 priorities tables to ensure they are not reflective of overall priorities in the recovery plan. Bud seconded the motion and all approved.

**5. Approval of the UCSRB Letter for the NWPCC's Fish and Wildlife Program Amendment (Van Marter and White)**

- Derek presented the NWPCC's Fish and Wildlife Program Amendment letter, and explained that it had been further refined since the last Board meeting. He said the revisions were mostly in the sections on data management systems and H-integration. At the top of page two, Ron recommended the following addition to the letter, "Work through the existing, locally established implementation structure for project development and review the determination of consistency with the Upper Columbia Spring Chinook Salmon and Steelhead Recovery Plan." Derek also noted that the deadline for submitting comments is April 4, 2008 and requested approval to send the letter.

Bud made a motion to approve the NWPCC letter as modified and send the letter. The motion was seconded by Ron and all approved.

**6. Regional Technical Team Project Rating Criteria (Baldwin)**

- Casey Baldwin gave an update on the RTT project rating criteria for the 2008 SRFB and Tributary Fund process. He reviewed the new multi-species scoring system. He also discussed new criteria scoring numbers for VSP parameters, limiting factors, priority watersheds, sequencing and multi-species.

**7. May SRFB Meeting in Wenatchee (Van Marter and Morgan)**

- Derek reviewed plans for the SRFB meeting at the Confluence Technology Center in Wenatchee May 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>, and the plans for a SRFB tour May 1<sup>st</sup> in the afternoon. Paul Ward recommended touring the Entiat area and Ron Walter suggested showcasing the Whitehall and Harrison properties and possibly touring the fish bypass system at the Rocky Reach Dam. Derek will work with Mike Kaputa and Mike Rickel to schedule the tours.  Julie also noted that the UCSRB is being asked to present an update report to the SRFB. Julie asked that either the Chair or Vice-Chair give the opening comments when the UCSRB presentation is given at the SRFB meeting. Paul is

unavailable so Ron agreed to provide the UCSRB welcome and opening comments.

## 8. Management, Logistics and Updates

- **Meeting with the Governor**
  - i. Barbara updated the Board that she is currently working with the Governor's scheduler to finalize a meeting for the Board to meet with Governor Gregoire.
- **May 22<sup>nd</sup> UCSRB Board meeting and 2008 Retreat**
  - i. Julie discussed scheduling a combined UCSRB retreat and Board meeting. The Board decided to cancel the May 22<sup>nd</sup> Board meeting and schedule a combined retreat and board meeting for June 5 and 6, 2008.
  - ii. Julie reviewed and complemented Keith Kutchins' presentation on All-H integration and noted that his presentation will be used at the Board retreat in June.
- **DC Thank you letters**
  - i. Julie asked the Board if it was appropriate to mention a tour in the DC thank you letters. Paul recommended including language that if they are in the area, they are welcome to contact the UCSRB for a tour of completed projects. Ron also recommended including board meetings if they would like to attend one.
- **Report from the Implementation Team**
  - i. Derek reviewed the most recent IT meeting minutes. He also discussed permitting and reviewed the matrix created for permitting a "typical" salmon project with the Board. Derek noted that this matrix was developed to assist project development needs as well as obtaining a permit.

### Public Comment

There were no public comments.

### Adjourn Meeting

Paul Ward adjourned the meeting at 2:45 p.m.

### Summary of Motions

Ron made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of the January 24<sup>th</sup> meeting and the February 13<sup>th</sup> conference call. Bud seconded the motion. All approved.

*Bill made a motion to send individual PCSRF support letters to Washington delegates; Bud seconded and all approved.*

*Bud made a motion to authorize Paul Ward to sign the joint letter of support from the regional recovery organizations. Bill seconded and all approved.*

Bill made a motion for staff to collaborate with Phil to appropriately title the short-term and 2009-2011 priorities tables to ensure they are not reflective of overall priorities in the recovery plan. Bud seconded the motion and all approved.

Bud made a motion to approve the NWPCC letter as modified and send the letter. The motion was seconded by Ron and all approved.

BHC