



UCSRB MEETING

Okanogan County Commissioners
Meeting Room
123 Fifth Avenue North, Room 150
Okanogan, WA 98840

Thursday, April 24, 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
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 and RTT Chair; Char Beam, Okanogan County; Dennis Beich, WDFW; Lee Carlson, Yakama Nation; Kathleen Deason, Foster Creek Conservation District; Britt Dudek, Foster Creek Conservation District; Julie Grialou, Methow Conservancy; Lynn Hatcher, NMFS; Chuck Jones, Alliance Consulting Group for Douglas County; Tom Kahler, Douglas County PUD; Jay Kehne, NCW Reclamation and Conservation District; Keely Murdoch, Yakama Nation; Chris Parsons, WDFW; Mike Schiewe, Anchor Environmental; Kate Terrell, USFWS and RTT Vice Chair via conference call; Chris Thew, The Omak Chronicle; Cam Thomas, USFS.

Action Items

1. Julie will integrate the relevant data gaps into the 2009-2011 State and Federal Priorities Table and forward them, as well as the approved Short Term State and Federal Priorities Table, to the GSRO.
2. Bill Towey asked for careful tracking of the state's recommendations for funding based on the 2009-2011 Table. He requested that Phil Miller present scheduled updates on the development of the state budget related to the priority table.
3. UCSRB Staff will present an updated UCSRB Personnel Policy manual at the UCSRB meeting in June 2008.
4. UCSRB staff will present an approach to UCSRB funding the recovery plan at the retreat on June 5 and 6, 2008.

The meeting was called to order at 10:06 AM by Vice Chair Ron Walter.

Welcome and Introductions (Ron Walter).

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

1. Approval of Board Meeting Minutes (Walter)

Ron asked for approval of the meeting minutes of the March 27, 2008 Board meeting.

Bud made a motion to approve the minutes from March 27, 2008 and Mary seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

2. Agenda Approval and Additions

Julie asked for approval for two additional agenda items: 1) Entiat Fisheries Update and 2) Methow Basin aquifer recharge letter from Ken Sletten.

Bud made a motion to approve the amended agenda and Mary seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

3. MaDMC Report: Results of Data Gap Analysis (Murdoch)

Keely Murdock presented the process to analyze and prioritize data gaps in the Upper Columbia region, as conducted by the Regional Technical Team's Monitoring and Data Management Committee. Keely said that the Committee pulled from several sources to compile the list of data gaps: the Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Plan, Upper Columbia Biological Strategy, Regional Technical Team's comments to Appendix P of the Recovery Plan and additional Regional Technical Team information.

The data gap analysis is largely based on professional opinion but uses stringent criteria for rating including VSP criteria. Keely also described the priority tiers of the data gap analysis prepared by the Committee and reviewed the information regarding identified data gaps.

Ron Walter inquired about the first data gap regarding the lack of steelhead monitoring in the Entiat, Methow, and Okanogan and asked if there is currently monitoring in place to start that process through PIT tagging. Keely remarked that the notes section of data gap prioritization report addresses these types of comments and the efforts to continue to fill the gaps.

Ron also asked for an explanation on the column in the report labeled "Use of the Information." Keely explained that this column has to do with how the information collected will be used and describes how well the data gap could be answered. Then, the scoring criteria moves through to ask if the information could affect management actions, whether it fills a fundamental scientific uncertainty, and whether the information had been specifically requested by management and/or policy makers.

Ron asked if this information could be used to influence policy decisions and technical issues. Keely said yes, that the purpose of the prioritization is to assist decision makers. Bill Towey asked if the information will be used by data collectors. Julie Morgan noted that the information will be used by those agencies and entities that are doing data collection and management to help them prioritize new monitoring projects. James White also noted that an audience for this information could be managers and funders to help them understand the relative importance of data gaps in the Upper Columbia. The Northwest Power and Conservation Council (NPCC) also asked for this information in their request last month.

Bill Towey asked if the intent of this information is to identify priority data gaps and to have existing organizations incorporate this in their programs. Bill added that this is the linkage he would like to see with the major monitoring programs in the Upper Columbia so that information is more freely flowing. Keely said that linkage could be addressed.

Keely then reviewed the Monitoring and Data Management Committee work plan for 2008. The Committee will work on Data Gap Prioritization, Methow Monitoring Inventory, Data Management Protocol, Appendix P Review, Review of Data Steward work plan, and RTT Analysis Workshop.

4. State and Federal Priorities Tables from Recovery Plan (Morgan)

Julie Morgan reviewed the background and purpose of the tables. She reminded the Board that the GSRO asked for these plans and consulted with all the regional salmon recovery agencies to get the information. She noted that the Upper Columbia process to develop these tables commenced in the latter part of 2007 with the RTT and UCSRB Staff Work Group developing the process for the tables. Julie asked the Board for: 1) Approval to forward the 2009-2011 State and Federal Priorities Table to the GSRO; 2) Approval to forward the Short-Term State and Federal Priorities Table to the GSRO; and 3) Approval for the integration of the relevant data gap priorities into the 2009-2011 Table.

[Bud made a motion to approve forwarding the 2009-2011 State and Federal Priority Table to the GSRO with minor edits and Ron seconded the motion. The motion was approved.](#)

Bill Towey asked for careful tracking of the state's recommendations for funding based on the 2009-2011 Table. He requested that Phil Miller present scheduled updates on the development of the state budget related to the priority table.

Julie then asked for approval to forward the short-term state and federal priorities table to the GSRO.

[Ron made a motion to approve forwarding the Short-Term State and Federal Priorities Table to the GSRO and Mary seconded the motion. The motion was approved.](#)

Julie then outlined a process to refine and approve the data gap prioritization process, integrate final data gaps into the 2009-2011 priorities table, and forward to the GSRO.

[Bud made a motion to approve the integration of the relevant data gap priorities into the 2009-2011 Table and Bill seconded. The motion was approved.](#)

Discussion followed regarding process development and information sharing between agencies regarding the state and federal tables. Julie will ask Phil Miller to give periodic updates to the board regarding development of the state and federal priorities tables.

5. Management, Logistics and Updates

- **NASA Project to Improve Stream-Flow Modeling Proposal (Kehne)**

Jay Kehne from the NCW RC&D presented a proposal for a NASA Advanced Streamflow Forecasting survey to the Board. Kehne asked for support from the Board to pursue the survey when it is released, using the UCSRB staff and

a network of practitioners in the field. The Board expressed some concern regarding overburdening staff and resources, as well as concern regarding the lack of a direct link to salmon recovery. Discussion followed and the Board agreed, on a limited, short-term basis to allow the UCSRB staff work group to assist in completion of the survey.

- **UCSRB Personnel Policies Update (White)**

James White presented the draft Table of Contents for the current UCSRB Personnel Policies and noted that a complete personnel policies manual is due to the state by the end of June as a contract deliverable. He noted the staff will be looking at edits over the next few months and will present an updated draft policies manual at the June board meeting.

- **Budget Update (Morgan)**

Julie presented a budget update to the Board. She said that the continuation grant has been spent and that the UCSRB is now operating under the 07-1555 RCO contract.

- **UCSRB Presentation and Status Report to the SRFB May 1, 2008 (Van Marter and Morgan)**

Julie reviewed the upcoming May 1st UCSRB presentation to the SRFB and said that James and Keely will present monitoring and data flow information. Keely will also give a presentation on data gap analysis.

Derek gave an outline of the upcoming tour for SRFB members on May 1st and said that he has been working with Rich Malinowski and Joy Juelson on the tour logistics. Derek also noted that the group will view the Rocky Reach Dam fish bypass, tour project sites in the Entiat, and conclude with a BBQ at the Entiat National Fish Hatchery.

Derek also mentioned that at the Cascadia Conservation District/Entiat Fisheries Roundtable meeting, the agencies and landowners discussed interest in a timeline to allow fisheries to open in the Entiat. They announced the imminent approval of NOAA permit 1554, which as long as the conditions are met, will allow for a fishery in the Entiat this year.

6. Tribes' Memorandum Of Agreements (Carlson, Ward and Towey)

- Lee Carlson presented information and updated the Board regarding the Tribes' MOAs. He noted that these MOAs have not been signed yet and can be modified through mutual agreement. There are non-hatchery/habitat projects (\$51 million annually) for the three tribes. The Yakama Nation can anticipate approximately \$10 million and about \$5-6 million in the Upper Columbia. There are ongoing actions and expanded and new actions identified in the agreement. The parties agreed that projects that are funded must be consistent with the Council's program, ESA recovery plans, BPA in-lieu policy and data management protocols. The Tribes have responsibility to report results via PISCES (a BPA reporting database). For the hatchery projects, the Tribes have to show biological benefits, work with NOAA to show that they will not impede recovery, and secure all necessary permits. There is some language for RM & E projects, specifically stating that the tribes will work with regional processes. There is also language for integrating adaptive

management into the implementation of the agreements. Inflation of 2.5%, beginning in 2010, is factored in. The agreement will begin with a “ramp-up” period before full funding amounts are realized.

- Bill provided an update on the Colville Confederated Tribes’ (CCT) agreement. The agreement follows the same sideboards as the three tribes’ MOA. The CCT MOA includes Okanogan, Rufus and Lake Roosevelt, and it includes resident fish, anadromous fish and wildlife projects. The CCT negotiated \$210 million over ten years and \$60 million in habitat over ten years. The CCT identified core programs that have been vetted through the Council’s Fish and Wildlife program. There is a capital program that includes the Chief Joseph hatchery. Unique to the CCT MOA is the Okanogan Subbasin Implementation Program. This specifically outlines how the habitat actions will be implemented through the UCSRB structure. This is a critical part of the habitat implementation program. Bill said that the CCT will be working directly with the Watershed Action Team in the Okanogan, Implementation Team, and the Regional Technical Team. Compared to historical funding allocations in the Upper Columbia, this is a significant step up.

7. UCSRB Retreat Agenda Review (Morgan)

Julie gave an overview of the topics to be presented at the UCSRB retreat scheduled for June 5-6 at Campbell’s Resort at Lake Chelan. The three main areas of focus for the 2008 retreat include All H-Coordination, the 2008-2009 Work Plan, and UCSRB Roles and Responsibilities. Julie also noted the topic of recovery plan implementation funding strategies will be included per Ron Walter’s request. UCSRB staff will present an approach to UCSRB funding the recovery plan at the retreat on June 5 and 6, 2008.

8. Chelan and Douglas Counties PUDs HCPs Presentation (Schiewe)

Mike Schiewe, Chair of the Coordinating Committee and Hatchery Committees for the Chelan and Douglas Public Utility Districts’ (PUDs) Habitat Conservation Plans (HCPs), presented information to the Board on the role of the HCPs in relation to the recovery plan. Mary asked about the funding for his position and Mike replied that both Chelan and Douglas PUDs split the cost. Paul Ward asked Mike about the work of the Committees and how they feed into the recovery plan. Mike responded that there is definitely an interaction that comes primarily through the individuals that work in both areas. Mike suggested the Board work through the Committees for habitat restoration and supportable salmon populations. Paul Ward asked how sockeye passage is running and Mike noted that it is going well at Rock Island and Wells Dam. At Rocky Reach they are trying to get a management situation that is conducive to survival. Mike added that if operations are conducive to sockeye survival, the others will follow.

9. Monitoring and Data Flow Presentation (White)

James White presented a diagram outlining monitoring data flow in the Upper Columbia. He also outlined data collection in reference to answering questions for policy makers, coordination of monitoring and research, why we do monitoring and why monitoring does not always work. Ron Walter asked about incorporating informal observations from the public into our adaptive management framework. Casey Baldwin responded that these observations can and will be incorporated into the RTT analysis workshops in a way that the information can be organized specifically for each sub-basin.

Bud made a motion and Lee seconded to approve the UCSRB monitoring data flow diagram as presented and to communicate with other agencies and groups about the work monitoring and data management work in the Upper Columbia. The motion was approved.

Public Comment

Julie presented a letter to the Board on behalf of Ken Sletten, Okanogan County Salmon Recovery Steering Committee, regarding initiating an aquifer recharge project in the Methow. Derek Van Marter noted that this item is in the implementation schedule and is a top tier two data gap for the Upper Columbia.

Adjourn Meeting

Ron adjourned the meeting at 3:14 p.m.

Summary of Motions

Bud made a motion to approve the minutes from March 27, 2008 and Mary seconded the motion. All approved.

Bud made a motion to approve the amended agenda and Mary seconded the motion. All approved.

Bud made a motion to approve forwarding the 2009-2011 State and Federal Priority Table to the GSRO with minor edits and Ron seconded the motion. All approved.

Ron made a motion to approve forwarding the Short-Term State and Federal Priorities Table to the GSRO. All approved.

Bud made a motion to approve the integration of the relevant data gap priorities into the 2009-2011 Table and Bill seconded. All approved.

Bud made a motion and Lee seconded to approve the UCSRB monitoring data flow diagram as presented and to communicate with other agencies and groups about the work monitoring and data management work in the Upper Columbia. The motion was approved.

BHC