



UCSRB MEETING

Entiat Fire House
4674 Entiat River Road
Entiat, WA 98822

Thursday, August 28, 2008
9:00 AM – 1:00 PM

MEETING MINUTES

Board Members Present:

Lee Carlson for Paul Ward, Yakama Nation
Bud Hover, Okanogan County
Mary Hunt, Douglas County
Ron Walter, Chelan 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; Ken Bevis, WDFW; Teri Cleeland, USFS; Judy DeLaVergne, USFWS; Kristine Desgroseillier, Foster Creek Conservation District; Julie Grialou, Methow Conservancy; Chuck Jones, Alliance Consulting Group for Douglas County; Mike Kaputa, Chelan County; Steve Kolk, USBR; Greg Knott, MSRF; Brian Lipscomb, CBFWA; Jennifer Molesworth, USBR; Mike Rickel, Cascadia Conservation District; Bob Steele, WDFW; Cam Thomas, USFS; Keith Vradenburg, Entiat Landowners

Action Items:

1. Per Board approval, Derek will move forward with the Implementation Schedule update process.

The meeting was called to order at 9:07 AM by Vice Chair Ron Walter.

Welcome and Introductions (Walter)

Ron Walter welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked for introductions around the room.

1. Approval of Board Meeting Minutes (Walter)

Ron asked for approval of the meeting minutes of the July 24, 2008 Board meeting.

Bud Hover made a motion to approve the Board minutes from July 24, 2008 meeting. Mary Hunt seconded the motion and all approved.

2. Management, Logistics, and Updates (Morgan)

- **Funding Coordination Update (Van Marter and Carlson)**

Derek Van Marter gave a brief overview of the funding coordination update process currently underway. He reviewed the process to build a three-year work plan based on the updated implementation schedules. Next steps include

analyzing costs by sub basin, comparing that with funds historically available, and identifying appropriate funding sources by project. Lee Carlson noted that the fish accord dollars will be plugged into the three-year work plan. Lee briefly discussed co-manager consensus, cost sharing, funding sources, regional planning and all essential ingredients to the funding coordination approach. Next steps are talking to the WATs and discuss project and funding coordination for the next three years.

Derek noted that the Board had previously approved at its retreat this summer a funding coordination plan to bring to the Implementation Team on September 9, 2008. Derek will then come back to the Board in December with further information. Mike Kaputa mentioned the need to have representatives from various funding sources attend future funding coordination meetings. Derek said that he will pursue inviting those representatives to attend.

- **Input on Approach for Developing the UCSRB Regional Organizations' Budget for 2009-2011 (Morgan)**

Julie reviewed funding coordination related to the UCSRB and noted that the contract with the RCO and the SRFB is approaching renewal. She reviewed the six tasks as outlined in the contract scope of work with the RCO:

- Support collaborative decision-making
- Refine and manage recovery plan
- Coordinate implementation and reporting
- Coordinate monitoring and adaptive management
- Communicate with public, tribes, and agencies
- Develop financing plan for operations and implementation

Julie said she is currently putting together an Upper Columbia budget in conjunction with the RCO for the next biennium for the Board to adequately address all of the WATs needs including the Wenatchee sub-basin, Entiat sub-basin, Methow sub-basin, Okanogan sub-basin, and the Foster Creek/Douglas County watershed. She said the UCSRB budget will be bigger than our RCO budget so she is talking with the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) and with the tribes about funding the gap.

Julie then presented the proposal she gave to BPA regarding funding for the UCSRB to support coordinated implementation of the BPA Fish and Wildlife Program. She noted this proposal is being facilitated by the GSRO and submitted in conjunction with them. Julie also noted that the funding amounts are aggregated by the GSRO and the BPA, and funding will come to the regional boards.

- **COR Update – Joint Meeting with NOAA Fisheries Service and COR (Morgan)**

Julie Morgan, Chair of the Council of Regions, gave an update on recent work of the Council of Regions. The COR is a group of the salmon recovery regions in the state of Washington. The COR recently had a meeting with NOAA regarding various implementation topics such as updating recovery plans, technical assistance, data evaluation for 2009, future joint meetings with ISEMP, the regional technical team and the NW Fisheries Science Center regarding joint evaluation efforts in the near-term to set the stage for scientific analysis in 2009.

- **RATF Update for SRFB (Morgan)**

Julie said that the SRFB Regional Allocation Task Force (RATF) met on August 11, 2008 regarding key task force initiatives. Julie is the representative for the Upper Columbia and said that one of the recommendations they are considering is that the task force may shift the focus of one of its initiatives toward strategically increasing overall funding levels rather than revisiting the formulas associated with past allocation development approach. Julie said this issue will eventually go to the SRFB for consideration.

3. Process for Updating the Implementation Schedule (Van Marter)

- **Decision – Approve the process to update the Upper Columbia Implementation Schedule.**

Derek Van Marter reviewed his August 5, 2008 memo to the Board regarding seeking their approval of the process to update the Upper Columbia Spring Chinook Salmon and Steelhead Recovery Plan (Plan, October 2007) Implementation Schedule. Derek then reviewed the implementation schedule update process, and recent discussions with NOAA Fisheries regarding the official logistics for engaging the public in Recovery Plan updates. As a result of the discussions with NOAA, Derek was able to obtain specific language from NOAA Fisheries regarding what constitutes an update, revision, and an addendum (NOAA Guidance, 2003):

- 1) Updates – Updates do not require a formal public process. A memo to NOAA Fisheries outlining the updates will complete the record.
- 2) Revisions – require a formal Federal Register Notice. These obviously have an associated comment period.
- 3) Addendum – are communicated by attaching information updates as an addendum in a memo to NOAA Fisheries.

Derek noted that the goal is to make the update process an annual task. Ron and Julie suggested holding annual formal public meetings to submit comments during the update process each year. Julie also noted that public input and awareness is one of our deliverables to the RCO. The Board gave Derek approval to move forward with the update process as outlined in his memo.

4. 2008 Project Review Update (Baldwin and Van Marter)

Derek gave an update on the project list for the Upper Columbia region for the SRFB 9th round. Derek and Casey presented the Regional Technical Team (RTT) scores for those projects, and the associated comments from the RTT review. The total SRFB request currently stands at \$3.2 million, while the allocation is roughly \$2.18 million (10.85% of the total available). Casey Baldwin then gave an overview of the biological benefits and the certainty of success of the current projects on the 9th round list.

5. Bull Trout Update/Kids in the Creek Overview (De La Vergne)

Judy De La Vergne, USFWS, Central Washington Field Office, gave an update regarding status of bull trout and details on the five year stock status review as required for a listed species under the ESA. Judy noted that the USFWS finalized the five-year review in the spring of 2008, and is working on reclassification recommendation (e.g. DPS, updating information for status determination). She also reviewed next steps in the process including DPSs, status review, final recovery planning and critical habitat.

Judy then gave an overview of the “Kids in the Creek Program”, an education program designed for high school students, children and adults to deliver comprehensive curriculum on stream ecology using a wide variety of activity-based modules. An educational day is planned for the UCSRB in 2009.

6. USFS Salmon Recovery Plan Implementation Discussion (Heath)

Becky Heath, US Forest Service Supervisor for the Okanagon-Wenatchee National Forest, gave an overview of her role and emphasized the need for salmon recovery public awareness. Becky addressed questions from the UCSRB regarding the Forest Service’s aquatic restoration priorities, alignment of goals and actions to the recovery plan, information sharing and communication, and assistance from the UCSRB with Forest Service priorities. Becky noted their current priorities focus on watershed action plans and watershed action teams with action plans already developed for specific areas. The plans are the basis for where the Forest Service puts money and efforts that form the foundation for salmon recovery in the National Forest with important work happening in regards to aquatic and riparian restoration strategies as they relate to salmon recovery.

In regards to interfacing with the Board, Becky noted that we can leverage our resources together and continue to share data. Becky said the Board can help the Forest Service by continuing to communicate and collaborate with agencies so we can all obtain our objectives. Becky noted that their budget is bleak right now, however, fish and watershed restoration and aquatics is still a high priority. Becky also noted that land acquisition is a low priority right now because of the money issues involved, land exchanges are a challenge as well. She said there are not a lot of financial resources nationally for either items. Becky also mentioned that Forest Service stewardship timber sales do not currently support or bring in revenue to fund projects. Becky noted there is a great need to separate the budget for fire suppression funding from the other needs that they have. As it relates to salmon recovery, Cam Thomas noted they are currently working on putting together a protocol to treat, alter and remove roads as well as look at ways to stabilize and support wildlife as well as provide public access where needed.

7. CBFWA Update (Lipscomb)

Brian Lipscomb, Executive Director for the Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Authority, gave a presentation entitled, “Building Accountability through Effective Reporting, Development of the next SOTR (State of the Resource Report).” He reviewed the goals and objectives of CBFWA in updating their manual entitled, “Status of Fish and Wildlife Resources in the Columbia River Basin” including adaptive management and other objectives. He noted there is a 60-day comment period to the amended fish and wildlife program update starting next Tuesday.

8. Cascadia Conservation District Presentation (Rickel)

- **Project Sponsor – Cascadia Conservation District; WAT – Entiat Watershed**
Mike Rickel reviewed the current goals of the Entiat Watershed Action Team. He also gave a presentation regarding the Conservation District’s restoration activities and projects in the Entiat River. He presented a table entitled: Restoration Actions Addressing Lower Entiat River (RM 0 to RM 16.2) Habitat Diversity and Water Quantity Limiting Factors in the Entiat Mouth to Mad River IAU (CCCD, 2006), which included information regarding project number, project name, project status,

project location and year completed or planned for completion and project description.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Adjourn Meeting

Ron thanked everyone for attending and adjourned the meeting at 1:15 p.m.

Summary of Motions

Bud made a motion to approve the Board minutes from July 24, 2008 meeting. Mary seconded the motion and all approved.

BHC