



UCSRB MEETING

Entiat Fire House
4674 Entiat River Road
Thursday, April 23, 2009
10:30 AM – 3:00 PM

MEETING MINUTES

Board Members Present:

Ron Walter, Chelan County, Chair
Paul Ward, Yakama Nation
Bud Hover, Okanogan County
Mary Hunt, Douglas County
Chris Fisher for Bill Towey, Colville Tribes

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

Others Present: Lynn Hatcher, NMFS; Chuck Jones, Alliance Consulting Group for Douglas County; Char Schumacher, Okanogan County; Ken Sletten, Okanogan County Farm Bureau via phone; Bob Steele, WDFW.

Action Items

1. Staff will prepare a draft schedule for an Upper Columbia legislative tour for Board review.
2. Staff will make the suggested additions to the RTT Analysis Workshop sponsor list and prepare the sponsor letter for review.
3. Staff will communicate the recommended changes regarding UCSRB meetings for the remainder of the year via email in the next few weeks.

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 AM by Chair Ron Walter.

Welcome and Introductions (Paul Ward)

Ron Walter welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked for a round of introductions.

1. Approval of Board Meeting Minutes (Ron Walter)

Ron asked for approval of the conference call minutes from February 26, 2009.

Bud Hover made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from February 26, 2009. Mary Hunt seconded the motion and all approved.

2. Project and Funding Coordination (Derek Van Marter and Julie Morgan)

Derek Van Marter gave an update regarding the annual SRFB process and presented the Upper Columbia timeline. Derek also reviewed the list of projects submitted to NOAA Fisheries in response to the economic stimulus funds. Derek described the

Upper Columbia projects from the Colville Tribes and Washington Rivers Conservancy as well as the Beebe Springs Project submitted by the Department of Fish and Wildlife. There were a total of three projects submitted from our area for just under \$5 million.

Derek then reviewed the Mid-range work plan and a memo dated January 16, 2009, outlining the process for updating the Implementation Schedule (IS). Derek briefly discussed the timeline for the process and said the Watershed Action Team's (WAT's) are on schedule for the annual IS update. Julie Morgan then presented background information for the Expert Panel for the Upper Columbia being convened in early June and the work they will be doing. The standing Expert Panel will consist of Casey Baldwin, John Arterburn, Dale Bambrick, Tracy Hillman, Chuck Peven, Kate Terrell, and possibly Carmen Andoneagui and they will be the region-wide experts. There will be other individuals that will participate in sub-basin specific evaluation. For example, Julie noted that Phil Archibald, Mike Rickel and others will serve on the Expert Panel for the Entiat.

Julie then noted that projects will already be identified and funding will be associated by project. The Expert Panel will work on addressing limiting factors and survival percents. Julie noted that the Expert Panel will not prioritize projects. Their job is to evaluate what the project sponsors and WATs say they want to do in the next three years and what projects will be marked for funding by the FCRPS BiOp. The total amount available from the BiOp is about \$4 million/year. The Expert Panel will meet for two days to do their technical review and the information will then be conveyed to the action agencies.

Lynn noted that NOAA has asked the action agencies for this Expert Panel review requirement to track progress toward the FCRPS BiOp. Ron Walter asked about the integration of the other H's in this panel. Julie noted that habitat would be the main focus of the Expert Panel. Ron noted that he would like to see the integration of the other H's in these kinds of discussions.

3. Habitat Work Schedule (HWS) System Update (Derek Van Marter and James White)

James White reviewed the work that Joy Juelson of J & J Environmental is working on with the Habitat Work Schedule (HWS). Joy has been working on entering projects from Okanogan County. James explained that Paladin Data Systems created a way for Joy to enter the data specific to our region. We are the only ones looking at the HWS as a basin-wide tool to track habitat projects as well as using it as a regional database tool at an ESU level.

Derek gave an overview of the standing Upper Columbia HWS Implementation Work Group meeting scheduled for April 29, 2009. Derek noted this work will continue until June 30, 2009 to make sure all of the necessary detail goes into the regional system.

4. UCSRB Operations Budget (Julie Morgan, Ron Walter, and Bud Hover)

Julie Morgan reviewed the work of the UCSRB Finance Committee, the Staff Work Group and reviewed the UCSRB budget and funding obligations. Julie then reviewed the data gap research performed by the Monitoring and Data Management Committee (MaDMC) and asked the Board for approval for Chuck Peven Consulting, Inc. to

complete an update of the data gap analysis report. Julie noted that Chuck's work will be done as a subcontract to the Okanogan County contract with the UCSRB.

Julie then asked the Board to approve a contract amendment with Paladin Data Systems to revise the Will-Not-Exceed Amount of the contract from \$25,000 to \$26,280 for the duration of the contract. Julie then asked the Board to approve a new contract with BioAnalysts, Inc. to complete the contracted tasks from an expired contract with them. Julie also asked the Board to approve a copier upgrade and budget.

Paul Ward made a motion to approve the following items: the Peven Consulting scope of work as a subcontract of the Okanogan County Contract, the amendment to the Palladin contract, the BioAnalysts, Inc. contract, and the proposed copier upgrade and budget. Bud Hover seconded the motion and all approved.

Julie reviewed the UCSRB Work Plan Summary for 2009 as well as the UCSRB budget scenarios for 2009-2011. Julie and Chuck Jones then discussed changes and additions to the draft UCSRB Implementation Scope of Work dated July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010 (i.e. the UCSRB's contract with the state). As part of the contract work with Alliance Consulting, Chuck Jones met with Julie to rearrange the Implementation Scope of Work and to add tasks. Chuck then reviewed other additions and changes which were made to bring the scope of work up to date.

Julie then discussed the preliminary proposal to Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) to help the UCSRB implement Appendix Q of the Plan, the adaptive management framework. Julie noted these funds would give the UCSRB additional resources to do tasks identified by the Board while assisting with the implementation of some of the relevant RPAs. Julie also reviewed the memo to the Yakama Nation (addressed to Paul Ward) regarding the UCSRB request for support to implement the recovery plan and adaptive management.

Julie then reviewed the UCSRB FTE model that Chuck Jones prepared. The FTE model is based on the work plan the UCSRB developed. The Board discussed the recommendation of adding the position of data tech to free up James White for higher level duties.

The Board then discussed a position of program manager or policy analyst to assist Julie and Derek in relieving them of current overload. Ron mentioned that if we add another staff person that we need to have the funds available for it. Ron said to firm up the funding sources and then the board will approve this position request. Julie asked the board for direction to continue to negotiate for grants and positions, and Ron and the other Board members agreed with continuing on this direction.

5. Outreach and Communication (Julie Morgan and UCSRB)

NOAA is assisting the UCSRB with outreach and communications and has featured the UCSRB in the *Citizens Update* publication. Lynn Hatcher noted the *Citizens Update* circulation is a couple thousand nationwide. Lynn was delighted that the Federal Caucus was interested in featuring the UCSRB in the publication. Julie and Lynn noted they will co-present at the Federal Caucus in June regarding work in the Upper Columbia.

Julie mentioned the Salmon Recovery Fund Board (SRFB) had their project conference last week and Julie brought a large UCSRB tri-fold informational display to the conference made primarily from information out of the UCSRB DC brochure. Julie then discussed reporting templates and described the 2008 Entiat Watershed Annual Report funded by the Bonneville Environmental Foundation (BEF). She said that the UCSRB has been tracking this report and providing assistance and it will be used as a template for our future reporting.

Julie reviewed highlights from the Board's successful March DC legislative visit. Julie also reviewed plans for an upcoming DC legislative project tour of the Upper Columbia slated for August 26-27, 2009. Paul Ward suggested researching if other project tours might be going on at that time, which staff will look into. Julie mentioned Dick Wallace and hopefully Tom Karier from Northwest Power and Conservation Council (NPCC) would be able to attend the tour. Julie asked the Board for approval to enter into an agreement with Sun Mountain Lodge for an overnight contract for accommodations for tour participants and the Board approved her request. Julie will prepare a draft tour schedule for the Upper Columbia DC legislative tour for review at the next UCSRB meeting.

Bud Hover made a motion to approve an agreement with Sun Mountain Lodge for overnight accommodations for an August legislative project tour of the Upper Columbia. Paul seconded the motion and all approved.

6. RTT Analysis Workshop Update (James White)

James White discussed plans for the November 2009 RTT Analysis Workshop. He noted that the workshop logistics are moving forward and discussed a draft letter to workshop sponsors to raise money for the event. James then reviewed the list of potential sponsors for the workshop and Board members suggested adding Terraqua, Paladin and any other UCSRB contractors to the potential sponsor list. Chuck Jones also suggested adding the Department of Ecology. Julie and Barb will add the suggested sponsors to the RTT Analysis Workshop sponsor list and prepare the sponsor letter for review.

7. Management, Logistics, and Updates (Julie Morgan and Derek Van Marter)

Julie Morgan reviewed the historical services of the Governor's Salmon Recovery Office (GSRO) and Derek mentioned that the GSRO has also been our advocate in the legislature in terms of salmon recovery. Derek briefed the group regarding the upcoming transfer of GSRO to the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO). Julie noted that the Council of Regions (COR) is working with the RCO to try and make sure that critical services are maintained in the transition.

Julie discussed recent correspondence between board members regarding the remaining UCSRB meetings for 2009. Based on board recommendations, Julie asked for approval for a conference call on May 28, 2009 from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Julie then briefed the board on other recommended meeting changes for the remainder of the year. Julie and Barb will communicate the revised UCSRB meeting schedule via email to the board members and others for the remainder of the year.

Derek briefed the group regarding evaluating project costs and discussed the SRFB and Tributary project cycles. Derek then reviewed the RTT score sheet and reviewed associated points with respect to the cost criterion. He noted that the citizens

committee also reviews costs and economic benefits. He then discussed the following question: how do we appropriately evaluate project costs and whose responsibility is it to evaluate those costs?

Derek then presented a few different scenarios for the Board to consider:

- Stay with the current criteria and arrangement (status quo)
- Evaluate cost effectiveness more thoroughly through the RTT; or
- Convene an independent cost committee to evaluate costs based on averages from the state or NOAA?

Chris Fisher discussed the issue of cost benefit and mentioned that the RTT is familiar with general costs and fairly experienced with the majority of general project costs. Derek noted that cost effectiveness has been left out and that the RTT has focused solely on technical issues in the past. Bud Hover emphasized that cost effectiveness is critical and that we have to work with the tax payer's money in the most cost-effective manner. Ron Walter noted that the citizen's committee is already evaluating cost-benefit; that is, the benefit of the project to the local community. He said that the technical team does not look at dollars per say, but that the technical team needs to be concerned about making a connection between dollars and VSP parameters. Chuck Jones noted that one of the historic problems is that proposed projects do not have a detailed budget. Chris reviewed the elements of a project and its budget. He said if there is an issue with the bottom line with specific items of concern, then you start separating items in the budget. Chuck Jones then discussed mobilization costs and the need to explain those costs and said as you do more projects, you begin to build a database of projects you can go back to as you build your budget for new projects. Bud noted that the dollars do need to be scrutinized. Derek said that between the RTT and the Citizens Committee, the RTT is the group with the experience to review cost effectiveness. Bud mentioned that there should be enough of those projects out there already to estimate new projects based on past projects. The Board recommended the RTT more closely scrutinize project cost for proposals. Derek said he will ask the RTT to look at this item further.

Public Comment

Ken Sletten asked for the official date for online public use of the Habitat Work Schedule (HWS). James White said they are working on some modifications that will make it more useable for us and the date of completion is scheduled for June 30, 2009.

Adjourn Meeting

Chair Ron Walter thanked everyone for attending and adjourned the meeting at 2:06 p.m. Ron then invited everyone to the Entiat National Fish Hatchery for an "Adults in the Creek" education experience.

Summary of Motions

Bud Hover made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from February 26, 2009. Mary Hunt seconded the motion and all approved.

Paul Ward made a motion to approve the following items: the Peven Consulting scope of work as a subcontract of the Okanogan County Contract, the amendment to the

Palladin contract, the BioAnalysts, Inc. contract, and the proposed copier upgrade and budget. Bud Hover seconded the motion and all approved.

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