



UCSRB CONFERENCE CALL

Thursday, February 25, 2010

12:15 PM – 2:15 PM

MEETING MINUTES

Board Members Present:

Ron Walter, Chelan County

Lee Carlson for Paul Ward, Yakama Nation

Bud Hover, Okanogan County

Mary Hunt, Douglas County

Bill Towey, Colville Tribes, Chair

Derek Van Marter, UCSRB Associate Director

James White, UCSRB Data Steward

Barbara Carrillo, UCSRB Administrative Assistant

Others Present: Casey Baldwin, WDFW; Judy DeLaVergne, USFWS; Dustin Hinson, Landau Associates; Chuck Jones, Alliance Consulting Group for Douglas County; Mike Kaputa, Chelan County; Phil Miller, Governor's Salmon Recovery Office; Kris Petersen, NMFS; Char Schumacher, Okanogan County; Ken Sletten; Kate Terrell, USFWS; Mark Trenholm, Wild Salmon Center

Action Items

1. Derek Van Marter will assist the UCSRB, as needed, during the public comment process for the proposed bull trout critical habitat designation update.
2. Derek Van Marter and Barbara Carrillo will finalize the UCSRB briefing statement and meeting schedule, and transmit that information to the board members prior to their departure to DC.

The meeting was called to order at 12:15 PM by Chair Bill Towey.

Welcome and Introductions (Bill Towey)

Bill Towey welcomed everyone to the telephonic meeting and asked for a round of introductions.

1. Approval of Board Meeting Minutes (Bill Towey)

Bill Towey asked for approval of the UCSRB meeting minutes from Thursday, January 28, 2010. The minutes were approved as drafted.

Ron Walter made a motion to approve the UCSRB Meeting minutes from January 28, 2010. Bud Hover seconded the motion and all approved.

2. Bull Trout Proposed Critical Habitat Designation Update (Derek Van Marter, Kate Terrell, and Judy DeLaVergne)

Judy DeLaVergne with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) provided an update on the proposed bull trout critical habitat designation revision process. She noted that on January 14, 2010, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service released a proposed rule that would designate 22,679 miles of streams and 533,426 acres of

lakes and reservoirs as critical habitat for the Northwestern Bull Trout under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). This proposed designation would be in the states of Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, and Washington. The USFWS originally designated critical habitat for bull trout in the Columbia Basin in 2005. In that designation, the USFWS decided not to include any critical habitat in the Upper Columbia region. The USFWS was subsequently sued by a number of environmental groups alleging that USFWS improperly excluded certain areas from the designation. In response, the USFWS revised the critical habitat designation for bull trout, leading to the current proposed rule. A public comment period is currently underway with comments due March 31, 2010. A final comment summary will be completed by September 30, 2010. Derek Van Marter will work with the USFWS on behalf of the UCSRB in relation to the recovery plan to assist in the comment process, as needed.



3. North American Salmon Stronghold Partnership and Land Exchange Effort in Chelan County (Mark Trenholm and Mike Kaputa)

Mike Kaputa gave an update regarding the North American Salmon Stronghold Partnership and land exchange effort in Chelan County. He reviewed the proposed draft scope of work for the Wenatchee Sub-basin Land Exchange Feasibility Study. The proposed one-year study is slated for funding by the Wild Salmon Center with a contract administered through the UCSRB and implemented by Chelan County. In the proposed feasibility study, Chelan County will work with the Chelan County Lands Dialogue (CCLD) to evaluate land ownership and management in the Wenatchee Sub-basin, and throughout the Upper Columbia region, to determine the viability of a land exchange process that would address salmon recovery and private property ownership goals. Mike Kaputa will obtain Chelan County Commissioner budget and scope of work review prior to final approval of the study. The UCSRB then gave preliminary approval for the concept and budget amount contingent on Chelan County Commissioner approval of final budget and scope of work.

Bud Hover made a motion to approve the concept and budget amount, contingent on Chelan County Commissioner approval, for the draft SOW Wenatchee Sub-basin Land Exchange Feasibility Study funded by the Wild Salmon Center with the contract administered through the UCSRB and implemented by Chelan County. Ron Walter seconded the motion and all approved.

4. State and Regional Salmon Recovery Funding Strategy Proposal and Draft SOW (Derek Van Marter and Phil Miller)

Derek Van Marter reviewed the proposed contract amendment between the UCSRB and the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) for the development of a statewide salmon recovery funding strategy. Phil Miller from the Governor's Salmon Recovery Office/RCO said that the effort will focus on gathering sufficient information to allow consideration of salmon recovery funding needs and options by regional salmon recovery organizations as well as the RCO and GSRO. Initial information and recommendations will be provided by August 30, 2010. Further analysis will be conducted by December 30, 2010. Final compilation of information and a final report will be completed by March 30, 2011. Derek requested that the Board approve and sign the contract amendment to contribute \$5,000 to the proposal to benefit the Upper Columbia Region and the board approved.

Bud Hover made a motion to approve the contract amendment to the UCSRB contract with RCO and contribute \$5,000 for the development of a state and regional salmon recovery funding strategy to benefit the Upper Columbia region. Mary Hunt seconded the motion and all approved.

5. Preparations for the UCSRB DC Visit (UCSRB, Derek Van Marter, Lee Carlson, and Barb Carrillo)

Derek Van Marter and Lee Carlson updated and reviewed the draft leave behind and briefing statement prepared for the Board's legislative trip to DC March 9-12, 2010. The briefing statement includes discussion points regarding the Farm Bill, habitat farming and new opportunities to leverage existing Farm Bill programs (e.g. CREP, CRP and WHIP) to benefit local agriculture and salmon recovery opportunities. Barbara Carrillo reviewed the draft meeting schedule and other logistics with the board. Derek and Barbara will finalize the leave behind document and schedule, and get that to board members prior to their departure.

6. HGMPs and Public Comment Process and All-H Coordination Update (Kris Petersen)

Kris Peterson gave an update regarding the Hatchery and Genetic Management Plan (HGMP) process and public comment process. Kris briefed the group regarding NOAA's process of addressing the federally funded programs for listed fish with the biggest impact, and NOAA's basin-by-basin approach. She gave a briefing and a hatchery genetic management plan overview for the following: White River Spring Chinook Salmon, Leavenworth National Fish Hatchery Spring Chinook, Spring Chinook Salmon Broodstock collection alternatives for the Wenatchee basin, Chiwawa River Spring Chinook Salmon, Nason Creek Spring Chinook Salmon and the Wenatchee River Coho re-introduction program. She noted that in most areas next steps include submitting an official notice in the *Federal Register*, addressing public comments, and conducting NEPA analyses and some formal ESA consultations. Bill Towey discussed All-H integration, the development of a report card by the UCSRB, collection of information to assist in the process and asked Kris to keep us informed as the HGMP process moves forward. Kris noted that the HGMPs also consider impacts and opportunities for harvest. She said NOAA is integrating both H's (harvest and hatcheries), which generally does not occur. Kris will continue to provide updates regarding the process in the future, as needed.

Public Questions and Comment

Ken Sletten of the Methow Valley discussed the need for continued emphasis regarding permit streamlining in the Upper Columbia. Dustin Hinson introduced himself to the group. He is a fisheries biologist with Landau Associates in Spokane, WA, and is eager to provide assistance to the region where needed.

Adjourn Meeting

Chair Bill Towey thanked everyone for attending and adjourned the meeting at 2:15 PM.

Summary of Motions

Ron Walter made a motion to approve the UCSRB Meeting minutes from January 28, 2010. Bud Hover seconded the motion and all approved.

Bud Hover made a motion to approve the concept and budget amount, contingent on Chelan County Commissioner approval, for the draft SOW Wenatchee Sub-basin Land Exchange Feasibility Study funded by the Wild Salmon Center with the contract administered through the UCSRB and implemented by Chelan County. Ron Walter seconded the motion and all approved.

Bud Hover made a motion to approve the contract amendment to the UCSRB contract with RCO and contribute \$5,000 for the development of a state and regional salmon recovery funding strategy to benefit the Upper Columbia region. Mary Hunt seconded the motion and all approved.

BHC