



Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board

November 4, 2022
Board Meeting
Webinar and In-Person Meeting
WSDOT, Room 124
11018 NE 51st Circle, Vancouver WA 98682

Draft Minutes
For Approval: December 9, 2022

Present: Lee Grose, Marylynne Kostick, Richard Mahar, Troy McCoy, Gary Medvigy, Todd Olson, Rudy Salakory, Don Swanson, Dennis Weber, and Del Wilson.

Absent: Dan Cothren, Hal Mahnke, Ann Rivers, Olaf Thomason, and Jade Unger. Chairman excused the absent members.

Staff: Steve Manlow, Denise Smee, Amelia Johnson, Steve West, and Lorie Clark

ANNOUNCEMENTS: No announcements were made.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: No public comments were made.

PARTNER REPORTS:

Clark County Clean Water Restoration Fund (CCWRF) Project Presentation, Chris Hathaway, Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership (LCEP)

Mr. Hathaway introduced himself and noted that LCEP is a bi-state non-profit group formed in 1995. Their organization covers areas from Bonneville Dam to the Pacific Ocean. He provided an overview of the CCCWRF projects that they have worked on since the start of the grant program in 2015, adding that all of their projects have engaged and educated students from local school classrooms and volunteers to help with the plantings on their project sites.

Mr. Hathaway described the following projects that were completed under the Clark County Clean Water Restoration Fund program:

- 2016: Salmon Creek Stormwater Osprey Project for \$150,000
- 2017: Burnt Bridge Creek Stormwater Osprey Project for \$98,960
- 2017: Woodin Creek Stormwater Osprey Project for \$99,945
- 2018: Burnt Bridge Creek Stormwater Project for \$131,692
- 2020: Campen Creek Stormwater SOS Project for \$113,730
- 2021: Burnt Bridge Creek Stormwater Project Phase 2 for \$115,125

Questions and comments from the Board:

- Board member Medvigy stated that there have been issues with the homeless population along Burnt Bridge Creek and asked about the location of projects relative to homeless encampments. Mr. Hathaway responded they haven't had issues with the homeless population at their project sites.
- Board member Medvigy stated that Camp Bonneville needs restoration work and asked if the facility is on the Partnership's radar. Mr. Hathaway explained that LCEP is aware the park is being transferred from a private to county ownership but did not identify any proposed projects.
- Director Manlow thanked Mr. Hathaway and the Partnership for making the grant program a success and noted their outreach and education work has set up future stewards.
- Chairman Olson commented that working with the students gives them a sense of place and an opportunity to take ownership of watershed health.

*A copy of the presentation is available upon request.

2022 Grant Round Lessons Learned, Amelia Johnson, LCFRB

Ms. Johnson presented the results of a "lessons learned" survey that went out to TAC members and sponsors. She explained that every year at the end of the grant round, staff sends out surveys to get feedback on how to improve the next grant round. The survey includes questions to help identify what did or did not work well during the last grant round and to help identify changes to improve the process for the next year. She noted that year, surveys were sent out to 17 applicants and 10 TAC members.

She highlighted that pre-application meetings, workshops, and materials were rated as helpful by both groups, and that while some members would like to do physical site visits, the virtual site visit tours continue to work well and are cost effective for TAC, sponsors, and staff. She also noted that spreading out the virtual site visit schedule over a few weeks was beneficial to the group. She explained that several suggestions were made through the surveys regarding communications, resources, and long-term considerations, and that staff will work with the TAC over the next few months to get ready for the 2023 grant round.

Questions and comments from the Board:

- Chairman Olson asked if Lessons Learned have been shared with the SRFB. Ms. Johnson stated she is working with Ameer Bahr and Kat Moore, of the SRFB, to share the survey results.
- Ms. Johnson stated staff will delay opening the 2023 Grant Round until February 2023 to wait for the new Manual 18 to be released from the SRFB.

A copy of the presentation is available upon request.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Director Manlow stated the Director's Report was sent out with the Board materials last week. He highlighted the summaries that came out of NOAA's 2020 5-Year Status Review identifying some of the recovery progress and gaps. Staff would like to talk with the Board at a future meeting on what is in the 5-Year Status Review report and our perspective on where we are seeing success on a species basis. Please send any questions directly to Director Manlow.

BUSINESS MEETING

Item #1 Consent Agenda

Board member Medvigy moved and Board member Salakory seconded to approve the Consent Agenda as submitted. No discussion. Motion carried.

Item #2 Volunteer Recognition Policy

Ms. Smee presented the item, which arose from our most recent Accountability Audit for 2020 and 2021 that was completed last month. Ms. Smee stated she wanted to congratulate the Board and staff on a very clean audit and noted the auditor did not recommend any exit items for improvement. He did question one of the expenditures relating to volunteer gifts.

Ms. Smee added that traditionally, Board and TAC volunteers have been given a small gift of appreciation when they have left service from the Board. She noted that in reviewing the expenditure, the auditor emphasized that gifts of public funds need to be in service to a public good, and should be based in policy, which is now proposed for the Board to consider.

Questions and comments from the Board:

- Chairman Olson asked if the language for the motion is consistent with what the state auditor suggested. Ms. Smee stated yes, and noted she researched other policies as well.
- Board member Mahar asked where the \$200 value came from. Ms. Smee stated we looked back at the small gifts that were previously given and they are in that range.
- Board member Mahar asked if the \$200 value was fine with the auditor. Ms. Smee stated a dollar value was not specifically discussed with the auditor. She stated the Board could decrease the amount.
- Director Manlow stated generally the volunteers have been given a pen with a wood gift box and they run just over \$50. Ms. Clark stated the invoice that the auditor reviewed/questioned had several pens on one order and that is what flagged him - however, he did not recommend a formal exit item recommendation for the Accountability Audit.
- Board member Medvigy stated early on in his career as a lawyer and judge advocate in the Army and then became an ethics advisor, their guidance was the gifts could be low value but never put a dollar figure to it.

Board member Medvigy moved and made a friendly amendment and Board member Mahar seconded to approve the update to the Volunteer Recognition Policy to allow for volunteer appreciation gifts with a maximum of a \$50 value.

Discussion on the amendment:

- Board member McCoy asked if the \$50 value would have to be adjusted in a year due to inflation. He suggested a \$100 value would be a better target.
- Board member Grose agreed and stated \$50 seems low but it could be covered at the Chairman's discretion.

Board member Medvigy moved and Board member Salakory seconded to approve the update to the Volunteer Recognition Policy to allow for volunteer appreciation gifts with a maximum of a \$100 value and at the Chairman's discretion.

No discussion. Motion carried.

Item #3 Support Letter for State Agency Budget Priorities

Director Manlow presented the item and noted staff is recommending the Chairman sign a letter addressed to Governor Inslee and the Office of Financial Management, which is attached to the Board packet. He explained the letter outlines some of the priorities we have identified in the state agency 23-25 budget proposals. Mr. Manlow noted that if the Board approves the letter, staff will need Board member volunteers to assist with outreach to the Governor and OFM.

Mr. Manlow explained there is no direct fiscal impact to the Board from the action today but noted the priorities that have been highlighted directly affect the work that we do. He noted that included is a proposal from RCO to increase capacity funding for lead entities across the state and regional organizations within the Columbia Basin. Director Manlow stated he has been working with the other Columbia Basin directors over the last couple of years to formulate the proposal. He noted that regions have been doing 2022 work with a 2009 budget when it comes to running our grant rounds, and that this is the first time in over a decade that RCO has stepped up and said they would make a pitch to the Legislature for an increase in capacity funding.

No questions or comments from the Board members.

Board member Medvigy moved and Board member Wilson seconded to authorize the Chairman to sign a letter to Governor Inslee and the Office of Financial Management outlining the LCFRB's priorities for state agency 2023-25 budget proposals. No discussion. Motion carried.

Item #4 Support Letter for Pacific Lamprey Conservation Initiative

Director Manlow presented the item and explained that staff were approached by the Pacific Lamprey Conservation Initiative (PLCI) soliciting support for the multi-state effort to improve the conservation of lamprey. He noted that the Board's linkage to this initiative is that Lamprey are a focal species in our Recovery Plan, and that the PLCI is a collaboration of Native American tribes, federal, state, municipal and local agencies, and non-governmental organization working to achieve long-term persistence of Pacific Lamprey and their habitats and support traditional tribal use of Pacific Lamprey throughout its historical range on the West Coast of North America.

Mr. Manlow stated that there is no fiscal impact to the Board and staff plan on limited engagement that will focus on data and information sharing to benefit both lamprey and salmon recovery.

No questions or comments from the Board members.

Board member McCoy moved and Board member Grose seconded to authorize the Chairman to sign a letter of support to Pacific Lamprey Conservation Initiative (PLCI) and sign the supporting Conservation Agreement. No discussion. Motion carried.

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

- Board member Salakory announced that he is resigning from the Cowlitz Indian Tribe and as their representative on the LCFRB - he has accepted a position with Friends of the Columbia Gorge as the Conservation Director effective November 11, 2022. He indicated he will continue his roles on the LCFRB Technical Advisory Committee as Chairman, as a Board member with the Columbia Land Trust, and on the Bonneville Environmental Foundation. Chairman Olson thanked Board member Salakory for his work with the Cowlitz Tribe and dedication to the LCFRB.
- Board member Grose announced this will be his last meeting as well. The new Lewis County Commissioner will be sworn in on November 30, 2022. Mr. Grose asked for an opportunity to introduce the new Commissioner to both, the Director and Chairman, in the coming weeks. Director Manlow thanked Board member Grose for supporting the Board and being one of the longest standing members on the LCFRB. Chairman Olson thanked Board member Grose for his engagement and mentorship.
- Board member Wilson expressed his continued interest in the Landowner Incentives initiative and to assist the Board if it goes forward. He also stated he would like to see more Board members get more involved with LCFRB issues.
- Chairman Olson thanked Board member's Weber and Salakory for their work on the Toutle River and Board member Medvigy on his engagement with Vancouver Lake.
- Ms. Smee stated since our switch to Microsoft Teams from GoToMeeting, the Board has a few extra email accounts available until April 2023. She asked Board members to send an email if they are interested.
- Ms. Smee announced the December Board meeting will be on the second Friday (December 9, 2022) of the month due to the Thanksgiving holiday.
- Ms. Smee announced there will not be a January 2023 Board meeting. She noted that instead, the Board will hold a Recovery 101 workshop in January for new Board and TAC members as orientation to salmon recovery - it will be open to anyone who wants to attend.

Chairman Olson adjourned the meeting at 2:50 p.m.

/lc

Approved in open session on _____ Signed: _____
Todd Olson, Chairman