



## Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board

February 5, 2021  
Board Meeting  
Conference Call/Webinar

Minutes  
Approved: April 2, 2021

**Present:** Taylor Aalvik, Dan Cothren, Paul Greenlee, Hal Mahnke, Gary Medvigy, Todd Olson, Don Swanson, Olaf Thomason, Jade Unger, Dennis Weber, Del Wilson, and Rudy Salakory, TAC Chairman

**Absent:** Lee Grose, Richard Mahar, and Gary Stamper. Chairman Olson excused the absent members.

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**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** No announcements.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** No public comment.

### DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

- EF Lewis River Partner Program: Director Manlow noted that as discussed at the December meeting, staff worked with the Board to prepare a list of questions based on the outcome of the Program Review Pilot Study, aimed at identifying how the Board can work better with recovery partners. He noted that the questions are included in the Board packet, and that staff would like to set up discussions with board members and a small committee to secure feedback, and then synthesize the information for a future Board discussion.

Questions and comments from the Board:

- Chairman Olson stated the purpose of the small group discussions is to improve engagement, communication, and knowledge among the Board members.
- Board member Greenlee suggested that it may be useful for Board members who represent municipalities or counties to have preliminary discussions with their planning staff.
- Board member Wilson noted he is looking forward to this exercise to learn more about recovery actions and the Board members he is working with.
- New Board Member Wahkiakum BOCC: the Director welcomed new Board member Dan Cothren from Wahkiakum County BOCC, noting that Mr. Cothren filled the vacant seat left by Mike Backman.
- Legislative Representative for the Board: The Director indicated that staff is working with Board members Greenlee and Medvigy and former Board member Dean Takko to solicit a replacement for Dean Takko's legislative position on the Board. He noted that letters have gone out the legislature requesting a representative for the Board. Submissions are due on March 31, 2021.
- Clean Water Act: The Director noted that for the last year and a half, he has been working with the Washington Salmon Coalition, Council of Regions, USACE, Ecology, and Tribes to identify ways to streamline the federal permit process. The workgroup will be meeting in April to finalize recommended actions to carry forward.
- Lewis County Master Program Updates: Staff has been attending meetings with Lewis County Planning Department on this issue.
- Focused Habitat Investment Strategy: The Director noted that staff held a kickoff meeting last month with the consulting team consisting of Inter-Fluve, Fish Sciences, and PC Trask. The workgroup will meet the first part of March for an introduction to the project.

- SRFB Grant Round: The Director noted that staff have spent a lot of time working with sponsors to prepare for the grant round, and that 25-30 project submittals are expected.
- SFRB on Monitoring: The Director explained that a meeting will be held next month to discuss whether the SRFB will continue funding project effectiveness work or shift efforts to regional priorities. He noted that staff have identified LCFRB's monitoring gaps to help the effort.
- Snake River Salmon Recovery Board (SRSRB): The Director informed the Board that staff are exploring the idea of setting up joint workshops with the SRSRB for IMW project reviews across the state, with the focus of translating lessons learned to guidance for sponsor project development.
- Hydro Reform: The Director noted that the Cowlitz FHMP process is transitioning to implementation, and annual grant project review for the Lewis is underway with PacifiCorp.
- Hatchery: The Director reminded the Board that they signed a letter a year ago on hatchery policy updates to the Fish and Wildlife Commission. He noted the most current version of the Hatchery Policy includes and addresses some issues raised, but there remain many important gaps like lack of objective metrics for gaging progress.
- Conservation Sustainable Fisheries Plan (CSFP): Staff are exploring different grant opportunities to help wrap up the CSFP.
- State of the Salmon Report: The Director noted that the report has been released by the SRFB and staff sent out links to the Board members. As a follow up, staff would like Board feedback on the Lower Columbia section of the report.

Questions and comments from the Board:

- Board member Greenlee stated he can't think of anything more important in reducing the political resistance to recovery and management than permitting response. He added that Coastal Conservation Association (CCA), a recreational fishing organization, in their National Newsletter, came out with a piece on Washington State chapter's perspective on hatchery management. It was particularly heartening that they put recovery ahead of the immediate recreational catch.
- Board member Medvigy noted that the permitting dialogue could help improve local permit programs.
- Board member Medvigy noted challenges with the issue of harvesting sea lions. He was surprised to learn of how hard it is and the limited numbers that can be addressed, and noted how devastating predation is to salmon, especially around the dams. He suggested that perhaps the Board could make a clear definitive statement to our legislators regarding removal effort, and highlighting the overpopulation. He inquired whether there could be a uniform opinion on this issue among the Board members, specifically a policy statement on the need to streamline efforts to remove sea lions.
- Board member Aalvik agreed with Board member Medvigy thoughts on sea lions. He noted that he has been dealing with the issue in many forums, highlighted the importance of documenting the issues we are dealing with at the local level and how people are being affected. He noted that while sea lions were harvested in the past however, that has changed with the Marine Mammal Protection Act.

*Board member Medvigy left the meeting.*

- Chairman Olson stated he has heard from other Board members on this issue, and suggested forming a workgroup to discuss these issues.
- Board member Unger stated he would like to participate in the workgroup and noted we need to collaborate with Oregon. He added that he feels the Tribes should be taking the lead on the harvest issue.

- Board member Greenlee stated he would also like to participate in the workgroup. He added that state agencies are limited as to what can say, but as Board members, we can write to our legislators on this issue.
- Director Manlow stated he would work with the interested members to set up a workgroup meeting.

## **BUSINESS MEETING**

### Item #1 Consent Agenda

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

### Item #2 2021-23 Workplan

Director Manlow stated this item is to start a review of the work plan, and that staff will seek approval at a later meeting. He noted that the work plan provides guidance for advancing the work of the Board for the 2021-23 Biennium. The goal is to outline priorities that will move recovery efforts forward within existing fiscal and operational constraints.

Director Manlow walked through the elements of the work plan.

- Salmon Recovery Tasks:
  - Targeted Investments Policy
  - Quarterly meetings with NOAA, WDFW, and LCFRB
  - Permit Streamlining Efforts
  - Tacoma Power Fisheries and Hatchery Management Plan (FHMP)
  - Fisheries Technical Committee (FTC)
  - PacifiCorp/Cowlitz PUD Lewis River Aquatic Coordination Committee (ACC)
  - PacifiCorp Lewis River In-Lieu Decision Process
  - Fish and Wildlife Commission and WDFW Harvest and Hatchery Policies
  - State Agency and Local Government Policy Coordination and Regulator Program and Policy Review
  - Columbia Basin Partnership (CBP) Collaborative
  - Salmon Recovery Network (SRNet)
  - Council of Salmon Recovery Regions (COR)
  - Washington Salmon Coalition (WSC)
  - WDFW Hydraulic Code Implementation Citizen Advisory Group
- Monitoring Tasks:
  - Conservation and Sustainable Fisheries Plan (CSFP)
  - 5 Year Status Review NOAA Fisheries
  - Assessment of Habitat Conditions and Land Use Change
  - Lower Columbia Population Performance Reporting
  - Statewide Strategy Update GRSO
  - SRFB Monitoring Program Re-evaluation
- Habitat Protection and Restoration Tasks:

- Focused Habitat Investment Strategy (FHIS)
- Salmon Recovery Grant Rounds
- Recovery Partner Habitat Program Support
- Clark County Clean Water Restoration Fund (CCCWRF)
- Planned Project Forecast List
- Salmon Recovery Portal (SRP)
- Small Grants Program
- Watershed Management Tasks:
  - WRIA 25-29A Watershed Management Plan Implementation
  - State and Local Agency Permit, Program, and Policy Review
- Operation Tasks:
  - Board and Staff
  - Continued Education and Training
  - Communication and Outreach Materials

Questions and comments from the Board:

- Board member Wilson stated he is overwhelmed with the work plan list. He asked if there was anything Board members could do to help. Director Manlow stated yes, and gave the example of Board member Medvigy's engagement in Clark County's shoreline master program update process.
- Board member Wilson stated he had conversations with Board member Grose, Chairman Olson, and Director Manlow regarding landowner incentives. He stated it is very important and key to salmon recovery.
- Chairman Olson asked the Board members to review the work plan to see if there are topics that Board members could help with to further the Board's mission.
- Board member Aalvik stated it is a robust work plan. He indicated there are high as well as lower priority items. He asked staff to show the Board a priority list in the future. He added that the Lewis River In-Lieu is a priority issue for The Cowlitz Tribe. Director Manlow stated the process is now entering into the legal arena and given our funding source and restraints of the grant, LCFRB staff has been asked to step back on this issue. The Director stated he would summarize the process as a whole and give an update to the Board. Board member Aalvik stated he is recusing himself from this issue but would like the Board to be updated.

Director Manlow indicated he would update the work plan and present it at the next meeting for approval.

Item #3 Approval of the 2021 Budget

Ms. Smee presented the annual 2021 budget noting it is a calendar year budget. Budget revenue is based on unspent grant funds received during the prior year and anticipated grant awards in 2021. As a comparison, the 2020 budget was included in the Board packet.

Ms. Smee walked through the elements of the budget.

- Revenues:
  - Unreserved Fund Balance
  - Reserved Fund Balance
  - Unreserved Grants
  - Reserved Grants

- Storedahl HCP
- CCCWRF Reserved Carry Forward
- Expenses: The budget expenses include salaries & benefits, PTO payout, Office & Operating, Professional Services, Small Grants program, Travel, building rent, and annual insurance. Ms. Smee stated that expenses are similar to the 2020 budget with the exception of travel being lower due to COVID-19.

The Board members did not have any questions on the annual budget.

Board member Aalvik moved and Board member Greenlee seconded to approve the 2021 Budget as submitted. No discussion. Motion carried.

**GOOD OF THE ORDER:**

Ms. Smee stated staff is planning to open the Clean Water grant round in April and will ask for Board approval at the March meeting.

Questions and Comments from the Board:

- Board member Greenlee asked if these were restoration and educational grants. Ms. Smee stated yes. She added that sponsors feel they could start working with schools again.
- Board member Aalvik stated he felt that we are getting back to normal with the vaccine and feels we could move forward on this item. However, he requested that a commissioner Board member make the motion.
- Ms. Smee stated she would get the information out to the sponsors and this will give them extra time to work on their proposals.

Board member Weber moved and Board member Aalvik seconded to open the CCCWRF Grant Round in April 2021. No discussion. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 2:40 p.m.

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Approved in open session on 4/2/2021.

Signed:   
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Todd Olson, Chairman