



Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board

June 4, 2021
Board Meeting
Conference Call/Webinar

Minutes
Approved: August 6, 2021

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

Absent: Lee Grose, Richard Mahar, Chairman Olson excused the absent members.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: No announcements.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Kessina Lee, WDFW, gave a final season update on the Pinniped removal activities at Bonneville Dam. She stated their team at Bonneville, WDFW, ODFW, Idaho Fish & Game as well as CRITFC have completed their management activities at Bonneville. As of the end of May, completing their seventh week of spring management season, this is the first season for removing Stellar Sea Lions in addition to the California Sea Lions. There will be some processing of lessons learned this summer for dealing with the larger animals that behave differently. At the end of the seven weeks, all of the animals had left the area to head out for their breeding season. They had scheduled an eighth week of management but did not need to use it. Cumulatively, they removed 34 pinnipeds (13 Stellar Sea Lions and 21 California Sea Lions) for a total biomass of 25,605 pounds. One of the Stellar Sea Lions that was removed weighed in at 1,598 pounds, making it the largest animal their team has ever removed. In addition to the Bonneville operation, their partners at ODFW removed 9 animals at Willamette Falls (1 Stellar Sea Lion and 8 California Sea Lions).

Questions and comments from the Board:

- Board member Medvigy asked how many pounds of fish do sea lions eat in a day. Ms. Lee stated she does not have that information readily available. She offered to have her Marine Mammal staff do a presentation to the Board once the season is over.
- Board member Weber stated he missed the presentation last month but his understanding is there is a request for consideration of the cultural impact on the Tribes. He asked Ms. Lee if she would share with the Board how the cultural concerns are being addressed. Ms. Lee stated there is a provision for making these animals available to our tribal partners. There is a provision that allows NMFS to make remains available for tribal use. She noted that to her knowledge, they have not received any requests this year.
- Board member Weber asked what percent of the target population was removed. Ms. Lee stated she didn't have that percentage, but at one point there were over 60 animals at the Dam and that was the maximum at the height of the season, and they removed 34. She added that she feels their permit over the course of the five years will allow them to remove all of the animals that are habituated to the Lower Columbia.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Chairman Olson stated in consideration of our guest speakers, the Director's Report would be moved to the end of the meeting after Board business.

PRESENTATION:

Lower Columbia Intensively Managed Watershed (IMW) Program, Update and Lessons Learned

- LCFRB, Amelia Johnson
- WDFW, Marisa Litz and Jaimie Lamperth
- Cowlitz Indian Tribe, Eli Asher
 - Presentations available upon request.

BUSINESS MEETING

Item #1 Consent Agenda

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

Item #2 Decision on Clark County Clean Water Restoration Fund (CCCWRF) Draft Ranked List

Director Manlow presented the item to the Board. He stated this is the last year of funding for this program. Staff recently concluded the review and scoring with the Review Committee (RC). Staff is recommending the Board adopt the RC consensus findings and ranked project list, which includes three fully funded projects and one partially funded project. Five project proposals were submitted and presented to the Review Committee on May 26. These projects descriptions are included in the Board packet. The Review Committee met after the presentations for discussion and deliberation on a ranked list.

Questions and comments from the Board:

- Board member Medvigy asked if he needed to recuse himself from this item. Director Manlow stated no. Per our policies, there is no official conflict and noted that Member Medvigy would not personally benefit from any of the projects being funded.
- Board member Aalvik asked if any of the project sponsors would like to make public comment. No response. Director Manlow stated staff has not received any written comments from the sponsors or the public.
- Director Manlow discussed inviting project sponsors to come back to the Board and highlight past projects and how they used the funds. He added that a lot of these projects have involved extensive public outreach and classroom education. He added that sponsors have potentially reached thousands of students with these Clean Water funds in terms of education opportunities.

Board member Greenlee moved and Board member Aalvik seconded to adopt the 2021 Clark County Clean Water Restoration Fund (CCCWRF) Review Committee consensus findings and ranked project list, which includes one partially funded project and authorize the Director to award grants and enter into contract. No discussion. Motion carried.

Item #3 Approval of Authorization Resolution and Regional Organization and Lead Entity Contract

Director Manlow presented the item to the Board. This agreement will provide operations funding for the LCFRB for FY21-22. He stated that in general, we receive \$80,000 in Lead Entity funding and just over

\$456,000 in Regional Organization funding annually. These amounts have been a status quo budget over the years. Director Manlow stated this year, staff was successful in securing an additional \$25,500 for tasks related to the Salmon Recovery Portal (SRP) activities.

Questions and comments from the Board:

- Chairman Olson commended staff for getting additional funds for the additional SRP work.

Board member Greenlee moved and Board member Mahnke seconded to authorize the Chair to sign the Resolution and authorize the Director to sign the RCO Contract for Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board's Regional Organization and Lead Entity (ROLE) Operating Funds. No discussion. Motion carried.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Director Manlow updated the Board members on the following activities:

- SRFB: Director Manlow stated he received an email from RCO stating for the FY21 the grant round allocation will be \$20M and they are proposing the same for FY22, with an additional \$3.7 M for their Targeted Investments Program. He noted the SRFB selected projects that contribute to Orca recovery as the focal area. As for the Lower Columbia, it would be projects that benefit Chinook. This increase gives the Lower Columbia \$4M for the 2021 grant round this year. He explained that we currently receive 20% of the state allocation, so we are hoping to be able to move down our ranked list this year.
- EF Lewis River: Staff has been using this as a springboard effort to improve engagement as called for in our Communications Plan. He noted we are using follow up interviews with Board members to discuss how we can better integrate recovery work that the LCFRB does with work that our Board members do, given who they represent at the table. Four Board member interviews have been conducted to date. Based on the questions outlined, we are encouraging Board members to set up an interview with staff to shape how we work with the Board. Chairman Olson reiterated that Board members should contact staff to set up their interviews.
- Board member activities:
 - Board member Wilson has interviewed a variety of folks, from landowners and sponsors to conservation districts, regarding landowner incentives. This is to get a better understanding of how the lack of incentives is hampering property owner's interest in recovery and habitat work. Director Manlow stated that Board member Wilson could present his results at a future Board meeting. Results will be presented to the SRFB to inform their fall retreat discussion.
 - Board member Aalvik was successful in getting the LCFRB a seat on the Toutle River Fish Collection Workgroup. The workgroup oversees how the Sediment Retention Structure (SRS) facility and associated fish passage approaches will be upgraded. Board member Aalvik added that this is a USACE led program and he felt the role of the LCFRB was initially downplayed by others, who cited the Director's workload. Director Manlow stated there are a lot of primary populations in that watershed. He added that Steve West will represent the LCFRB on this workgroup.
 - The Director noted that the City of Washougal has submitted a federal funding proposal for a park facility along the Washougal. He noted that there is an opportunity for restoration work in the proposed park, and has been coordinating with Vice Chair Greenlee.
 - Board member Greenlee wrote a letter on the non-native game fish policy that WDFW is currently working through.
 - Board member Stamper has been working with staff on getting a field tour scheduled of Davis Lake (near Morton) in August, with the County and Tacoma Power.

- Pinniped Legislation: Director Manlow stated he worked with the Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board to send in letters to Congress in support of proposed funding to continue the program. Both the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission (CRITFC) and WDFW have been working with the Congressional delegation on that funding opportunity.
- Director Manlow stated the Board has several initiatives going on and for the Board to be successful, we need to find and continue to build upon opportunities that staff can work with Board members and the areas/counties that each of them represent. Staff would like to have the one-on-one conversations with each member, or a delegated staff member that can represent them, on recovery issues in order to keep momentum going. Chairman Olson encouraged Board member to reach out to staff.
- Director Manlow stated in the interest of time, the Focused Habitat Investment Strategy (FHIS) update will be postponed to the next meeting.

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

- Board member Swanson provided information regarding the amount of fish that Sea Lions eat. He researched on the internet and found that Sea Lions eat 6 % to 8% of their body weight on a daily basis.
- Board member Mahnke asked Director Manlow and Board member Aalvik if they have seen the plan from the USACE to upgrade the SRS this summer. Board member Aalvik stated he would look for it on the USACE website. Staff will follow up next week.

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

/lc

Approved in open session on 8/6/2021.

Signed: 

Todd Olson, Chairman