



UCSRB MEETING

Chelan County PUD Auditorium
327 N. Wenatchee Avenue
Wenatchee, WA 98801

Thursday, January 28, 2010
10:00 AM – 3:00 PM

DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

Board Members Present:

Ron Walter, Chelan County
Paul Ward, Yakama Nation
Bud Hover, Okanogan County
Bill Towey, Colville Tribes, Chair

Julie Morgan, UCSRB Executive Director
James White, UCSRB Data Steward
Barbara Carrillo, UCSRB Administrative Assistant

Others Present: Casey Baldwin, WDFW; Roy Beaty, BPA via conference call, Dennis Beich, WDFW; Bob Bugert, Chelan Douglas Land Trust; Lee Carlson, Yakama Nation; Joe Connor, BPA via conference call; Mickey Fleming, Chelan Douglas Land Trust; Keith Goehner, Chelan County Commissioner; Lynn Hatcher, NMFS; Chuck Jones, Alliance Consulting Group for Douglas County; Rob Jones, NMFS; Heather Java, Cascadia Conservation District; Joy Juelson, J & J Environmental; Mike Kane, Chelan County; Mike Kaputa, Chelan County; Jeff McLaughlin, USBR; Phil Miller, Governor's Salmon Recovery Office via conference call; Pamela Nelle, ISEMP; Mary Jo Sanborn, Chelan County; Char Schumacher, Okanogan County; Shawn Seaman, Chelan County PUD; Ken Sletten via conference call; Bob Steele, WDFW; Kate Terrell, USFWS; Mark Trenholm via conference call, Wild Salmon Center; Keith Truscott, Colville Confederated Tribes; Nancy Warner; IRIS; Bob Weidner via conference call, Evergreen Forest County Group

Action Items

1. Staff will make edits to the letter to the RCO, Washington State Farm Service Agency, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Salmon Recovery Funding Board from the Board and prepare it for mailing.
2. Staff will send briefing information via email to legislative and agency leads prior to the Board's DC March visit.

The meeting was called to order at 10:10 AM by Chair Bill Towey.

Welcome and Introductions (Bill Towey)

Bill Towey welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked for a round of introductions. Bill then presented Ron Walter with a congratulatory plaque and thanked him on behalf of the UCSRB for his chairmanship in 2009. Julie Morgan said that Ron did an excellent job of representing the entire Upper Columbia region as a spokesman in a number of different forums such as the HSRG meeting in Portland.

1. Approval of Board Meeting Minutes (Bill Towey)

Bill Towey asked for approval of the Annual Business Meeting minutes as well as the UCSRB Meeting minutes from Thursday, December 17, 2009. All minutes were approved as drafted.

Bud Hover made a motion to approve the Annual Business Meeting minutes as well as the UCSRB Meeting minutes from December 17, 2009. Paul Ward seconded the motion and all approved.

2. Beyond Traditional Conservation Easements (Julie Morgan, Bob Bugert, Nancy Warner)

Julie Morgan reviewed the letter to the Recreation and Conservation Office, Washington State Farm Service Agency, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, and the Salmon Recovery Funding Board from the UCSRB in support of long-term agreements for riparian farming. Bob Bugert with the Chelan Douglas Land Trust, and Nancy Warner with the Initiative for Rural Innovation and Stewardship (IRIS) also reviewed the benefits of voluntary land protection agreements. As outlined in the letter, one such tool is habitat farming, which provides a way for growers to protect critical riparian habitat based on leases and term easements, and can be viable for tree fruit. Bob and Nancy also explained that they worked with a consultant to prepare a remuneration model to cover tree fruit expenses to make it work economically, and Nancy Warner will send out a report on the model. Additions to the letter were also discussed, such as inserting language regarding monitoring tied to limiting factors, assessments, and inviting the agencies to participate in discussion about the Habitat Farming program with us. Casey Baldwin pointed out that assessments exist in the watersheds that show where riparian habitat is a limiting factor, suggesting further refinement to the draft letter. Addition of language about the Conservation Reserve Program, administered by the Farm Service Agency, discussed at the December 17, 2009 meeting, will be saved for a different letter at a later date. The Board then approved the letter for mailing with the noted language additions. Staff will revise and mail the letter.

Bud Hover made a motion to approve the letter to RCO, Washington State Farm Service Agency, SRFB, and NRCS in support of long-term agreements for riparian farming with the additional edits to the letter to include the connection to monitoring, limiting factors, assessments, and inviting the agencies to discuss the Habitat Farming Enterprise Program with the UCSRB. Paul seconded the motion and all approved.

**3. Project and Funding Coordination (Julie Morgan, Roy Beaty, and Joy Juelson)
Funding Coordination with BPA for Non-Accord Funds (Morgan and Beaty)**

Julie Morgan reviewed the geographic scope for the habitat programmatic for BPA (Non-Accord) funds with the Board. She noted that the geographic scope will now include the Entiat, Okanogan, Wenatchee, Methow, Douglas County and Crab Creek including the mainstem Columbia River. Discussion followed and it was noted that the geographic scope would be defined to include the full Upper Columbia ESU and DPS area. Julie then asked the board for approval of the defined geographic scope and they approved her request.

Bud Hover made a motion to approve the UCSRB defined geographic scope for the habitat programmatic for BPA (Non-Accord) funds to include the full Upper Columbia ESU and DPS area. Ron Walter seconded the motion and all approved.

Julie then reviewed with the Board the hybrid option to contract administration for the habitat programmatic for BPA (Non-Accord) funds. The hybrid approach includes shared contract administration by both BPA and the UCSRB. BPA will handle the larger contracts and the UCSRB will handle some of the smaller ones. Discussion followed regarding potential cash flow issues and Julie noted that BPA has worked successfully with the Yakima Tributary Access and Habitat Program (YTAHP) regarding similar issues. Discussion also followed regarding a possible interest free loan from the Icicle Fund. Bob Bugert mentioned that request would have to go through the Icicle Fund's Executive Director, and that the Fund has a process for requests. Discussion also followed regarding the responsibility of BPA to mitigate for damages, and their obligation to develop mechanism for solving the cash flow issue. The Board then approved the hybrid approach to contract administration with a modification making approval conditional on BPA addressing the cash flow issues with the UCSRB.

Bud Hover made a motion to approve the hybrid approach to contract administration for the habitat programmatic for BPA (Non-Accord) funds with a modification regarding BPA addressing the cash flow issues with the UCSRB. Ron Walter seconded the motion and all approved.

Julie reviewed the modified UCSRB Staff Work Group Recommendation Paper regarding the programmatic approach for BPA (Non-Accord) funds with the Board. Discussion followed and the Board approved the modified paper. The modifications to the paper concerned the geographic scope for the habitat programmatic.

Ron Walter made a motion to approve the modified UCSRB Staff Work Group Recommendation paper regarding programmatic approach for BPA (Non-Accord) funds. Bud Hover seconded the motion and all approved.

**Contract Amendment with BPA to Develop the ISRP Narrative to Implement Project and Funding Coordination (Morgan)
Subcontract to Develop the ISRP Narrative (Morgan)**

Julie asked the Board to approve an increase of \$4,900 to the contract with BPA to develop the ISRP narrative to implement the programmatic funding approach as outlined in the modified UCSRB Staff Work Group Recommendation Paper and approved by the UCSRB. Julie also asked the Board to approve the amendment to the subcontract with J & J Environmental to develop the ISRP narrative to implement the programmatic funding approach as outlined in the modified UCSRB Staff Work Group Recommendation Paper and approved by the UCSRB, and contingent on securing additional funds from BPA with an increase not to exceed \$4,900. Discussion followed and the Board approved both requests.

Bud Hover made a motion to approve the contract amendment with BPA to develop the ISRP Narrative to implement project and funding coordination as well as to approve the subcontract amendment with J & J Environmental to develop the ISRP

narrative contingent on securing additional funds from BPA not to exceed \$4,900. Paul Ward seconded the motion and all approved.

**Review Draft ISRP Narrative (Juelson and Morgan)
Final due to the ISRP in late February 2010
UCSRB to provide input and re-endorse schedule**

Joy Juelson reviewed the draft ISRP narrative with the Board. Julie Morgan also noted that the draft ISRP narrative is due in two weeks to the ISRP for review. Once ISRP comments are received, Joy and Julie will work with everyone, including the Board, to respond. Paul Ward suggested that the development of the ISRP narrative and response is a technical effort and that the Board should rely on staff to ensure that the deadlines are appropriately met and the response to the ISRP are adequately addressed. The Board then re-endorsed the revised ISRP narrative work schedule and timeline.

4. North American Salmon Stronghold Partnership and Land Exchange Effort in Chelan County (Mark Trenholm, Mike Kaputa, and Phil Miller)

Mike Kaputa reviewed with the Board the history of the North American Salmon Stronghold Partnership and Land Exchange Effort in Chelan County. The Chelan County Lands Dialogue was established many years ago to respond to interests in land acquisitions, exchanges, and supporting the local economy and people. Several years ago there was an effort by several organizations, including NMFS and the State of Washington, to form the North America Salmon Stronghold Partnership to fund salmon projects not funded or supported by current funding sources. Mark Trenholm and Phil Miller also informed the Board that the North American Salmon Stronghold Partnership has worked closely with NMFS to ensure that their efforts are consistent with recovery activities. There was discussion about \$25,000 of new funds that may be available through the Wild Salmon Center to fund a study looking at the feasibility of land exchanges in Chelan County. Mike Kaputa suggested that materials could be ready for the Board to review at their next meeting.

**5. UCSRB Bylaws and Personnel Policies (Julie Morgan)
Legal Review of UCSRB Bylaws
Review Personnel Policies
Legal Review of Personnel Policies
Next Steps**

Julie informed the Board that a second legal review has been completed regarding the recent edits made to the UCSRB Personnel Policies based on the initial legal review. The UCSRB attorney also reviewed the amended Bylaws. His only question about the amended Bylaws related to the relationship between the UCSRB and the UCRTT. Casey Baldwin discussed the relationship as laid out in the Bylaws. Julie suggested that the Board address Steve Smith's comments about this relationship at the 2010 Annual Business Meeting. She then presented the UCSRB Personnel Policies for approval and the Board approved.

Bud Hover made a motion to approve the UCSRB Personnel Policies. Ron Walter seconded the motion and all approved.

6. UC RTT Analysis Workshop Update (Casey Baldwin and James White)

Casey Baldwin presented a report on the recent RTT Analysis Workshop, held January 12-13, 2010 at the Red Lion Hotel in Wenatchee. He noted that there were 11-12 RTT members in attendance each day, and that approximately 55-65 attendees were present each day. Casey and James noted that the conference went well and the feedback was very positive. Casey thanked all of the organizers and attendees for a successful conference. A number of comments about potential improvements to the the workshop in the future were conveyed from the group.

7. Preparations for the UCSRB DC Visit (Bob Weidner, Lee Carlson and Barb Carrillo)

Discuss topics (Weidner and Carlson)
Coordinate Schedules (Carrillo)

Bob Weidner, Evergreen Forest County Group, began by reviewing the current political climate in Washington, DC. Bob noted there is a proposed federal spending freeze. He noted that the Washington delegation supports the salmon recovery effort and appreciates the work that is being done. There is also some goodwill across party lines that can form the basis for asking for funding to continue.

Lee Carlson gave an overview of the key messages that UCSRB staff are preparing for the Board to take to Washington, DC for the legislative and agency visits planned for March 10-12, 2010. Messages from prior years will be re-emphasized, and new messages from the Board will be added. New areas of emphasis this year will include funding efficiencies and accountability, data collection and analysis, stewardship, educational opportunities, and an emphasis on the Farm Bill and the Habitat Farming Enterprise Program. Ron Walter suggested sending information to the legislative contacts and agency leads prior to the trip. Lee Carlson, Julie Morgan, and Barbara Carrillo will work with the graphic designer to ensure the updated briefing paper is prepared and sent to the legislative staff and agency leads prior to the Board's visit.

Barbara Carrillo then reviewed the initial draft schedule with the Board for their trip. Barbara will begin coordinating appointments and keep the Board informed of progress regarding their schedules. Final schedules and briefing packets will be taken to DC by Derek.

8. Upper Columbia River Artificial Propagation ESA Consultation Briefing from NMFS (Lynn Hatcher, Kris Petersen, and Rob Jones)

Lynn Hatcher and Rob Jones gave a presentation to the UCSRB regarding the Upper Columbia River Artificial Propagation ESA Consultation Strategy. The Federal Columbia River Power System (FCRPS) Biological Opinion (BiOp) requires NMFS and the Action Agencies to conduct new ESA consultations on hatchery programs throughout the Columbia River basin. This process was started in 2008. A public comment period will be opening up in the near future.

Next steps include:

1. NMFS will announce receipt of HGMP's as part of the ESA permit applications in the Federal Register in the near future, starting a 30-day public comment period.
2. Address public comments – NMFS and permit applicants

3. NEPA analysis
4. Formal ESA consultation

Discussion followed regarding Grant County and the White River Work Group. Lynn said NOAA sees the UCSRB as a facilitator of public meetings and would like to discuss the Board's role further as a facilitator with Grant County and the White River Work Group. It was decided that further discussion regarding this matter will take place at the next UCSRB meeting.

**9. US Bureau of Reclamation Update (Jeff McLaughlin)
Assessments and Project Development in the Entiat and Wenatchee Sub-basins
2009 Reclamation FCRPS BiOp Tributary Projects Maintenance and Hydraulic
Function Monitoring Report for the Entiat and Wenatchee Sub-basins**

Jeff McLaughlin with the US Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) gave a report on USBR's 2009 work in the Entiat and Wenatchee sub-basins. He noted that the USBR provides technical services to project sponsors to accomplish work that leads to improvements in anadromous fish habitat. Specific project types are flow, entrainment (fish screens), access (passage barriers), and channel complexity (channel reconstruction and side channel reconnection). Jeff also reviewed assessments and construction planned through 2011.

**Wenatchee and Entiat Watersheds: Project Coordination and Implementation
Updates (Mike Kaputa)
Wenatchee Watershed Coordination effort, Wenatchee WAT, Chelan County
Lead Entity**

Mike Kaputa from the Chelan County Natural Resources Department reviewed project coordination and implementation in the Wenatchee and Entiat watersheds. He showed and reviewed a short public relations building film recently made featuring projects in Chelan County. The film was made by "Howell at the Moon Productions" in Wenatchee. A recommendation was made that copies of the film be taken with the Board members as part of the briefing packet showcasing work, and highlighting issues of salmon recovery in our area, as part of the Board's upcoming visit to DC. Direction was given to staff to explore the cost of expanding the film to give a more Upper Columbia region-wide message.

Mike Kane and Mary Jo Sanborn from the Chelan County Natural Resources Department also gave a report on recent work and coordination efforts by the Wenatchee Watershed Action Team and the Chelan County Lead Entity.

Chelan-Douglas Land Trust Priorities and Project Implementation (Bob Bugert)

Bob Bugert with the Chelan Douglas Land Trust gave a presentation to the Board entitled, "Landscape Conservation and Community Development at a Local Level." Bob reviewed projects on the Entiat and White River, acquisitions and conservation easements. Bob also reviewed future areas of exploration regarding public and private land swaps, conservation easements, and the organizations future priorities.

**Cascadia Conservation District Recovery Plan Implementation Work in the
Entiat Watershed (Heather Java)**

Heather Java with the Cascadia Conservation District gave a presentation regarding implementation work in the Entiat Watershed. Heather reviewed Cascadia Conservation District's role in support of the implementation of the Entiat Watershed Plan and Detailed Implementation Plan (DIP), and the planning unit's goals. Heather also reviewed biologic prioritization of actions, social service priorities, past projects, projects in design, the future of Entiat restoration and the benefits of the Intensively Managed Watershed (IMW) in relation to the Entiat area and the Entiat Watershed Planning Unit.

Chelan County Natural Resources Department Recovery Plan Implementation work in the Wenatchee Watershed (Mike Kane)

Mike Kane gave a presentation to the Board entitled, "Recovery Plan Implementation Work in the Wenatchee." Mike reviewed various elements of the Chelan County Natural Resource Department's salmon habitat recovery projects for 2007-2009, construction funding and partners.

10. Monitoring, Evaluation, and Data Management Coordination (Casey Baldwin and James White) Update on M & E Sub-Regional Workshop

James White gave an update regarding current monitoring, evaluation and data management coordination as well as an update on the M & E sub-regional workshops and the Columbia Basin Coordinated Anadromous Monitoring Strategy process that occurred in October and November 2009. James described upcoming opportunities to pursue BPA funding to conduct project implementation and action effectiveness monitoring in the Upper Columbia, to fund the reinstallation of water monitoring stations that were or will be removed as part of Washington Department of Ecology's budgeting process, and to provide long-term funding for the Data Steward Position. James then asked the Board for approval to pursue proposals, contracts and subcontracts to fund and implement priority monitoring, evaluation and data management in the Upper Columbia with BPA funds through the Columbia Basin Categorical Review process with guidance by the UC Monitoring and Data Management Committee (MaDMC) and the UCSRB Staff Work Group.

Bud Hover made a motion to approve the UCSRB staff moving forward with pursuing proposals, contracts and subcontracts to fund and implement priority monitoring, evaluation, and data management in the Upper Columbia with BPA funds through the Columbia Basin Categorical Review process with guidance by the UC Monitoring and Data Management Committee (MaDMC) and the UCSRB Staff Work Group. Ron seconded the motion and all approved.

Public Questions and Comment

Nancy Warner with the Initiative for Rural Innovation and Stewardship (IRIS) presented information and handouts regarding the North Central Washington Community Success Summit held November 18, 2009 in Pateros, Washington. The Summit featured sustaining success stories of stewardship from North Central Washington. She invited the Board to participate and attend two upcoming events: 1) The Healthy Lands Round Table, February 19, 2010 at the Pateros Fire Hall, and 2)

The North Central Washington Community Success Summit scheduled for November 17, 2010.

Adjourn Meeting

Chair Bill Toweey thanked everyone for attending, and adjourned the meeting at 3:10 PM.

Summary of Motions

Bud Hover made a motion to approve the Annual Business Meeting minutes as well as the UCSRB Meeting minutes from December 17, 2009. Paul Ward seconded the motion and all approved.

Bud Hover made a motion to approve the letter to RCO, Washington State Farm Service Agency, SRFB, and NRCS in support of long-term agreements for riparian farming with the additional edits to the letter to include the connection to monitoring, limiting factors, assessments, and inviting the agencies to discussion the Habitat Farming Enterprise Program with the UCSRB. Paul seconded the motion and all approved.

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Bud Hover made a motion to approve the hybrid approach to contract administration for the habitat programmatic for BPA (Non-Accord) funds with a modification regarding BPA addressing the cash flow issues with the UCSRB. Ron Walter seconded the motion and all approved.

Ron Walter made a motion to approve the modified UCSRB Staff Work Group Recommendation paper regarding programmatic approach for BPA (Non-Accord) funds. Bud Hover seconded the motion and all approved.

Bud Hover made a motion to approve the contract amendment with BPA to develop the ISRP Narrative to implement project and funding coordination as well as to approve the subcontract amendment with J & J Environmental to develop the ISRP narrative contingent on securing additional funds from BPA not to exceed \$4,900. Paul Ward seconded the motion and all approved.

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BHC