

## SALMON RECOVERY FUNDING BOARD SUMMARY MINUTES

**Date:** September 13, 2023

**Place:** Hybrid - Room 172, Natural Resources Building, 1111 Washington Street SE; Olympia, WA and online via Zoom

### Salmon Recovery Funding Board Members:

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<b>Jeff Breckel, Chair</b>	Stevenson	<b>Annette Hoffman</b>	Designee, Washington Department of Ecology
<b>Kaleen Cottingham</b>	Olympia	<b>Tom Gorman</b>	Designee, Department of Natural Resources
<b>Chris Endresen-Scott</b>	Conconully	<b>Levi Keesecker</b>	Designee, Washington State Conservation Commission
<b>Joe Maroney</b>	Spokane	<b>Jeremy Cram</b>	Designee, Department of Fish and Wildlife
<b>Vacant</b>		<b>Susan Kanzler</b>	Designee, Washington Department of Transportation

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**This summary is to be used with the materials provided in advance of the meeting. The Recreation and Conservation Office retains a recording as the formal record of the meeting.**

### Call to Order:

**Chair Breckel** called the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (board) meeting to order at 9:01 AM. **Julia McNamara**, Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) Board Liaison, performed roll call and determined quorum. **Member Susan Kanzler** was absent from this meeting.

**Motion:** Move to approve the **September 13-14 Agenda**.  
**Moved by:** Member **Endresen-Scott**  
**Seconded by:** Member **Cottingham**  
**Approved:** **Approved**

**Motion:** Move to approve the **May 23-24 Meeting Minutes**.  
**Moved by:** Member **Cottingham**  
**Seconded by:** Member **Endresen-Scott**  
**Approved:** **Approved**

**Motion:** Move to approve the **2024 Meeting Calendar**.  
**Moved by:** Member **Cottingham**

**Seconded by:** Member **Endresen-Scott**  
**Approved:** **Approved**

Members discussed the proposed September meeting dates as there were scheduling conflicts with **Members Maroney** and **Endresen-Scott**. **Chair Breckel** recommended approving the proposed calendar and continuing to work on solutions for the September 2024 meeting.

**Chair Breckel** recognized the passing of **Member Jeremy Sullivan** and read a resolution honoring Member Sullivan’s contributions and legacy in salmon recovery. Members of the board shared their memories of Member Sullivan. Vice Chair of the Port Gamble S’Klallam Tribe **Chris Tom** shared a few words in remembrance of Member Sullivan and expressed appreciation to the board for his recognition.

**Motion:** Move to approve the resolution honoring Jeremy Sullivan and his service to the Salmon Recovery Funding Board.  
**Moved by:** Member **Endresen-Scott**  
**Seconded by:** Member **Cottingham**  
**Approved:** **Approved**

*Public Comment*

None.

**Item 1: Director’s Report**

**Director Duffy** recognized the passing of **Ron Shultz** who contributed greatly to conservation and recreation in Washington State. **Member Keesecker** took a moment to reflect on his time working with Mr. Shultz at the Conservation Commission. **Chair Breckel** and **Member Cottingham** reflected on their memories of and time working with Mr. Shultz.

Continuing her report, Director Duffy noted that GSRO is actively hiring an Administrative Assistant 4 position. RCO has hired two new grants managers, one each for recreation and outdoor education; is actively recruiting for an equity coordinator position; and will be recruiting a tribal affairs director in the near future.

Of interest to the board, RCO will participate in:

- The Riparian Roundtable in Yakima October 9-10,
- Meeting with the Council of Regions on October 19,
- Centennial Accord on October 30-31; and,
- The Natural Resources subcabinet meeting on November 8.

Director Duffy and Erik Neatherlin will travel to Washington, D.C. in November for the Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF) meetings with federal agencies and congressional members.

In a final note on the agenda, Director Duffy shared that staff has received additional feedback on Item 6: Riparian Policies and Funding after the memo was released, particularly regarding regional allocation, and a slide was added to today's presentation for board consideration.

## **Legislative and Policy Update**

**Brock Milliern**, Policy and Legislative Director, shared that the Washington Invasive Species Council has a new Executive Coordinator, Stephanie Helms.

Mr. Milliern provided an overview of supplemental capital funding requests ahead of the 2024 Legislative session, which will include \$20 million for salmon recovery funding, \$7.56 million from the Washington Coastal Restoration and Resilience Initiative (WCRRI), and \$5.78 million for the Community Forest Program (CFP). Notably, capacity of bond funding has been fluctuating, while there is reasonable capacity for Climate Commitment Act (CCA) funding.

Budgets are due to the Office of Financial Management (OFM) on September 13, and the Governor's budget will be released mid-December. The next session begins January 8, 2024, and continues through March 10.

**Member Cottingham** asked if there were projects waiting to be funded through WCRRI. Mr. Milliern noted that there are additional projects that need funding.

## **Item 2: Salmon Recovery Management Report**

### **Governor's Salmon Recovery Office**

**Erik Neatherlin**, GSRO Director, noted the addition of Greer Maier, Science Coordinator, to the GSRO. Ms. Maier was the previous science coordinator for the Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Funding Board. GSRO staff have been attending events, including the annual Yakima Basin Fish and Wildlife meeting and a mid-August congressional staff tour hosted by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), Puget Sound Partnership, and RCO.

GSRO will work with state agencies to develop a supplemental salmon package to be submitted to Governor's Office and OFM in October and will convene the Natural Resources Subcabinet with Governor's Office in November to review 2024 supplemental budget and policy priorities for salmon.

The monitoring panel and subcommittee working on the pilot floodplain project met and decided to continue to scope the pilot to create a one- or two-page scoping document to inform a request for proposal later this fall. Additionally, the monitoring panel and subcommittee decided to focus on better communication between the technical review panel and others. Ms. Maier will assist with both issues.

In a final note, Mr. Neatherlin shared that unobligated funding for regional monitoring will carry forward into next year.

**Tara Galuska**, GSRO Orca Recovery Coordinator, began her briefing by sharing that two orcas have been born in L-Pod, a male and a female.

WDFW is hosting a four-part series of workshops on hatcheries, and Ms. Galuska and Mr. Neatherlin attended the third workshop of the series to present on increasing the prey base for orcas by producing more hatchery fish. The final workshop will be held in November and will primarily discuss adaptive management.

Ms. Galuska shared the sad news of the death of Tokitae, the last remaining Southern Resident Killer Whale (SRKW) being held in captivity, on August 15.

The National Defense Act included a cetacean desk in the Puget Sound for the United States Coast Guard (USCG). This cetacean desk will inform commercial mariners on the presence of SRKWs and other whale species to avoid the impact of ship strikes and vessel noise. Additionally, WDFW advisory committee is underway to implement Senate Bill (SB) 5371, which moved the distance between SRKWs and vessels to 1,000 yards.

Orca Recovery Day will be held on October 14 at Squaxin Park in Olympia. Staff have asked for all salmon recovery and orca recovery partners to register for an event during the month of October to participate in Orca Recovery Day. Partner events can be found on the [Better Ground website](#).

In a final note, Ms. Galuska expressed excitement over a potential collaboration with the Marine Mammal Commission which recently reached out to learn about current local recovery efforts.

### **Salmon Recovery Section**

**Marc Duboiski**, Salmon Recovery Grants Section Manager, introduced the salmon team including two new outdoor grants managers, Kate McLaughlin and John Foltz.

Eighty-four percent of the projects funded across all programs in 2022 are active, and staff are working towards getting those agreements under contract, which should be complete by the end of the year.

Mr. Duboiski directed members of the board to Attachments A and B included in the materials for details on the 2023 Grant Cycle. Since April, staff have worked with sponsors to finalize deliverables and have closed fifty-four projects listed in Attachment A. Attachment B is a list of director-approved amendments, which include time extensions, scope changes, and cost increases.

**Member Cottingham** asked if the full amount of the board's cost increase fund was used. Noting pressure taken off the cost increase fund through Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR) and supplemental funds having been made available, Mr. Duboiski stated that there is still around \$500,000 available. **Chair Breckel** asked what the status of the cost increase fund would be if the supplemental funds were not available. Mr. Duboiski felt that there would be less money available but there would still be some, closer to \$100,000 to \$200,000. Chair Breckel noted that these numbers give the board an idea of what may be needed in the fund in the future.

#### *General Public Comment*

None.

### **BREAK: 10:45 – 11:00 AM**

### **Item 3: Partner Reports**

#### **Council of Regions**

**Alex Conley**, Council of Regions (COR) Chair, provided brief updates on last quarter's activities, but mostly focused on providing comments on agenda items.

Regarding *Item 5: Alternate Match Proposal*, Mr. Conley asked the board to ignore the option numbers in the materials he provided the board, as they were outdated. COR recommended the board pursue developing a match optional option.

For *Item 6: Riparian Policies Funding*, COR was in strong support of Option One, which allocates money to lead entities and regions.

Finally, COR strongly supports putting the \$4 million that was set aside into the regular grant round, noting that without having a request for proposal (RFP) approved by the board, it is too late to meet the targeted investment (TI) policies. Mr. Conley expressed concern that putting the \$4 million toward riparian projects would risk using Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Funds (PCSRF) dollars on projects that would otherwise not be prioritized for PCSRF.

Materials provided by Mr. Conley and COR can be found in the [materials](#) for this meeting.

**Member Cottingham** asked Mr. Conley to elaborate on the final comment he made on PCSRF prioritization. Mr. Conley explained that if the \$4 million were to go to a riparian subgrant program, some riparian projects might receive funding that would not necessarily be Tier One projects for purposes of the tiered framework used by NOAA for PCSRF.

Members of the board discussed the importance of discerning between upland and riparian when funding, and **Member Endresen-Scott** requested that in the future, Mr. Conley provide examples of floodplain and upland projects in his reports.

### **Washington Salmon Coalition**

**Aundrea McBride** provided an update from the Washington Salmon Coalition (WSC), but mostly focused on providing comments on agenda items.

The lead entities have reviewed and were in support of the proposed grant round timeline outlined in *Item 4: Manual 18 2024 Calendar*.

Regarding *Item 5: Alternate Match Proposal*, WSC submitted a letter, included in the [materials](#) for this meeting, and supports the new Option Two, which recommends returning to previous proposals. Additionally, WSC asked that the board remove the match requirement for all project types as proposed in the original option.

For *Item 6: Riparian Policies Funding*, WSC strongly supports Option One and does not support a statewide process, as it does not adequately provide for ranking projects across highly variable regional riparian conditions and needs and will likely marginalize tribal co-managers. Option One will better support the development of strategic, long-term regional and watershed scale riparian planning, restoration, and stewardship.

WSC strongly supports Option Two of *Item 7: 2024 Funding Options* which provides the most flexibility on project types.

**Member Cottingham** asked all the partners to consider if not now, when would there be a TI program.

### **Regional Fisheries Enhancement Groups**

**Lance Winecka**, representing the fourteen Regional Fisheries Enhancement Groups (RFEG) across the state, provided updates for the Regional Fisheries Coalition (RFC), while mainly addressing relevant agenda items.

Regarding *Item 5: Alternate Match Proposal*, RFC continues to support match leverage options.

RFC supports working through lead entities and regions for *Item 6: Riparian Policies Funding*. Mr. Winecka noted that long-term maintenance is proving to be difficult with landowners and asked the board to consider longer maintenance and longer grant agreements.

RFEs are continuing to work with WDFW on an insurance investigation to understand how to cover the risk of project sponsors completing complicated large-scale projects on behalf of the state, without being solely responsible for the risk involved.

**Member Cottingham** commented that when considering long-term contracts, it is important to keep in mind that the money the Legislature provides is only available for two years, and wondered what long-term funding look like would. **Alex Conley** shared that when there is still maintenance left for stewardship grants, the maintenance needs to go into the next stewardship grant and in some instances, projects have gone through multiple series of this. **Aundrea McBride** shared that in Skagit they apply for a second grant for stewardship, adding that they use a database that tracks riparian installations going back as far as 1999, and projects with at least five years of stewardship are doing better than projects that were implemented without any stewardship options. Mr. Winecka emphasized that supporting landowners is essential to the success of projects.

**Chair Breckel** allowed time for Mr. Conley to address **Member Cottingham's** previous comment on TI. Mr. Conley noted that the necessary considerations of TI are funding and lead time and emphasized the importance of beginning this discussion now rather than next September. After the board weighed in, Director Duffy summarized their requests, both of which the board and staff need to start planning for now and bring back to the board in December.

- 1) If the supplemental budget request is successful, regions would need enough time to plan for development projects.
- 2) Going into the 2025-27 biennium with a list like the one used for PSAR large capital projects.

**BREAK: 10:38 PM – 11:00 AM**

#### **Item 4: Manual 18 2024 Calendar**

**Kat Moore** sought approval of Manual 18's 2024 Calendar.

**Motion:** Move to Approve the 2024 Grant Schedule, as shown on Attachment A of Memo 4.  
**Moved by:** Member **Cottingham**  
**Seconded by:** Member **Endresen-Scott**  
**Approved:** **Approved**

*Public Comment*

None.

**LUNCH: 11:38 AM – 1:00 PM**

**Item 5: Alternate Match Proposal**

**This section was presented after Item 8.**

Over the past year, the board has discussed potentially making changes to the existing match policy. Previously, **Nick Norton**, Policy Specialist, presented three options for consideration:

- 1) Make match optional.
- 2) Make match easier.
- 3) Waive match more – for different circumstances, E.g., types of projects.

Mr. Norton provided a detailed analysis of Option Two, make match easier. Changes to the grant agreement, PRISM database, billing, reporting, and contract enforcement would be required under this option.

Mr. Norton continued by explaining that Option Two would ease sponsor burden; do a better job of illustrating the bigger financial picture; and simplify billing. This option could transition to optional match should the board decide to switch to that later. However, the risks associated with Option Two include implementation challenges, alignment issues, less detailed information, less rigorous verification, inability to match federal funds, inflated application numbers, and could undermine compliance.

**Member Cottingham** asked why sponsors would submit different types of information on a bill report. Mr. Norton answered that to prove match, sponsors would be asked to provide the source of the match, rather than a more itemized list of what the match funding was used for; however, sponsors would still be required to explain how board funding was used. In addition, the match funding sources would be unverified, and although this option would make match easier for sponsors, it would also create new strategic, operational, and policy risks, which would not exist under Options One or Three.



**Member Cottingham** asked what the priority was for lead entities, regions, and sponsors. Mr. Norton noted speaking with many groups and individuals over the last year and most support Option One: Make match optional.

**Member Endresen-Scott** asked whether the board could go back to existing policy if Option One was chosen but there was risk of not matching PCSRF funds. Mr. Norton answered that there are steps that could be triggered in that scenario, such as using other existing programs to meet match, or asking some funded projects to become federalized and report match in the old way if needed.

Members discussed the options and various concerns including impacts to RCO's PRISM database, the barrier to small landowners, and level of risk associated with each option. Mr. Norton explained that PRISM would be minimally impacted with Option One versus Option Two. Regarding small landowners, the nature of what can be considered match can create a barrier and some projects do not move forward due to that barrier, and Option Three would help address this. The level of risk was addressed with all three options. Option Two carries the most risk operationally, because outside funding wouldn't be verified as line-item costs and people might inflate proposed match at application then end up bringing less, which would undermine compliance.

**Member Maroney** and Chair Breckel expressed concern over perception with Options One and Three and the ability to show matched funds because total project cost upfront and at completion are a testament to the importance of board funding and funding across the state for salmon recovery projects. Mr. Norton noted that the structure for reporting funding up front and at the end exists but could use some improvement.

**Director Duffy** agreed with the importance of telling a full funding story to the Legislature and Congressional delegation.

**Member Hoffman** suggested a program review of key metrics to determine if Option One is working as intended. **Chair Breckel** noted that the pilot could take three to five years. **Member Endresen-Scott** and **Member Gorman** agree with instituting a backstop. **Members Cram, Hoffmann,** and **Chair Breckel** showed preference for Option One, make match optional. **Member Endresen-Scott** likes this option but would like an exception for land acquisitions. **Member Cottingham** would like to explore this option but rephrase it from "make match optional" to "match is not required but it is expected," and agreed with making an exception for land acquisitions.

**Member Maroney** showed preference for Option Two, make match easier.

Noting the preference for Option One, Mr. Norton offered to conduct a deeper analysis of the option with a focus on risks, legislative impacts, and the potential implications for

specific project types, such as land acquisition. **Member Endresen-Scott** recommended including how much RCO staff time would be saved as part of the analysis to show other efficiencies that Option One would bring.

**Chair Breckel** invited the partners to make brief comments on this subject. **Alex Conley** emphasized the importance of creating a distinction between large and small projects as funded partially or fully by the board. On behalf of COR, Mr. Conley noted that documenting leverage is very important, and having a projected cost in the application is valuable and can be done with all three options. On behalf of the Yakima Basin Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board, Mr. Conley was interested in seeing how acquisitions will be considered within the options. **Sasha Medlin**, RCO Grant Manager, highlighted the \$70 million dollars the Chehalis Basin Strategy received for the biennium, which is a no-match program, indicating that RCO is already providing a no-match program.

Mr. Norton will develop an analysis of Option One: Make Match Optional and present the progress at the December meeting for a decision.

**BREAK: 2:00 – 2:23 PM**

#### **Item 6: Riparian Policies and Funding**

**Nick Norton** provided a brief background on the proviso and the nature of riparian funding. RCO received \$25 million for this biennium to establish a grant program that complements existing board work, and possible additional funding of \$100 million in future biennium. The proviso directs that existing structures, processes, procedures, and policies shall be used in creating the riparian program and additional criteria may be developed. Notably, the Washington State Conservation Commission (SCC) also received \$25 million for a riparian program.

Mr. Norton gave an overview of the key objectives that support the funding and policy decision-making process. These objectives include:

- Provide salmon recovery partners the opportunity to scale up riparian programs.
- Obligating funding in 2024.
- Accommodating a variation in project sponsor capacity.
- Meet the unmet statewide demand for riparian projects.
- Integrate local and regional priorities.
- Use existing processes and procedures.

Staff looked at several funding pathways that have been used in the past to see if they would achieve the objectives. Based on feedback from public comment, Mr. Norton presented the board with four funding options:

- 1) Modified allocation with statewide allocation – each lead entity would receive a direct allocation of a set amount, followed by a regional process with a portion reserved for a statewide competition.
- 2) Equal Lead Entity allocation plus a statewide allocation – each lead entity would receive an equal amount and the rest would remain in a statewide competition.
- 3) All statewide allocation – \$23.87 million would be retained for a statewide competition.
- 4) All regional allocation – All \$23.87 million would be used for regional allocation.

Mr. Norton presented allocation parameters for the board to consider, contingent on which option the board chose:

- No project funding limit for regions or lead entities.
- Funding could be used for 2023 and/or 2024 grant round.
- If money allocated to regions or lead entities is not obligated in 2023 or 2024, it would go into the statewide funding pool to ensure that it is obligated, if there is a statewide component.
- If there is no statewide funding, then lead entities could carry-forward funds to 2025 and/or trade with another lead entity.

Mr. Norton explained the recommended statewide parameters. If there is a statewide allocation, it would happen in the 2024 grant round and have a \$3 million maximum award to ensure that multiple projects are funded through the process without limiting how many projects enter the statewide competition from a lead entity or region. These projects would need to follow Manual 18 and the lead entity schedule and must be on a lead entity project list to be scored by a review panel and ranked by the board. The criteria and process for this is yet to be determined.

Mr. Norton displayed the eligible project types for the board’s consideration that are contingent on the type of allocation the board chooses, noting that the invasive species removal, stewardship, and assessment/inventory categories may want to be limited in a statewide competition.

Project Type Eligible for Riparian Funding	Lead Entity or Regional Allocation Eligibility	Statewide Allocation Eligibility
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Acquisition	Eligible as sole, primary, or secondary project type.	Eligible as sole, primary, or secondary project type.
Riparian Planting	Eligible as sole, primary, or secondary project type.	Eligible as sole, primary, or secondary project type.
Invasive Species Removal	Eligible as sole, primary, or secondary project type.	Eligible as secondary project type only.
Stewardship	Eligible as sole, primary, or secondary project type.	Eligible as secondary project type only.
Assessment/Inventory	Eligible as sole project type.	Not eligible.
Instream and Floodplain Habitat Restoration	Limited work types eligible in 2024 as a supporting element of a riparian planting project.	Limited work types eligible in 2024 as a supporting element of a riparian planting project.

**Member Hoffmann** thought the riparian funding could be an opportunity to merge multiple sources of information. **Member Keesecker** suggested that some of this funding could be used to connect the dots between efforts underway at WDFW and local information that does not currently exist in a database.

Mr. Norton continued, proposing modifications that may be necessary to Manual 18 due to the riparian focus for the funding.

- Acquisitions – limit eligibility to fifty percent or less uplands, which would limit the project scope.
- Riparian Planting – would explicitly allow projects within geographic envelope where all parcels have not been identified and provide five-year agreements to support monitoring and stewardship.
- Assessment and Inventory – waive the \$200,000 regional cap.
- Instream and Floodplain Habitat – must have a riparian planting component; must directly support riparian function; and is limited to beaver dam analogs, post assisted log structures, large woody debris, and streambank stabilization.

Mr. Norton described the general parameters for the riparian funding, noting that all funds are subject to Manual 18 unless otherwise modified; are limited in providing cost increases; would have limited combined funding; allow the option for indirect match to National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA); and waiving match requirements due to the newness of this funding.

Before board discussion, **Chair Breckel** invited partners to share any clarifying information on the options provided by Mr. Norton. **Alex Conley**, on behalf of COR, shared a preference for Option One and Option Four. **Member Endresen-Scott** asked Mr. Conley for his thoughts on an option that had a lead entity and regional allocation. Speaking for himself, Mr. Conley answered that by allocating to lead entities first, followed by regions, more money would go to regions that have more lead entities and eliminate the ability of regions to prioritize projects within their region. Allocating to regions first allows regions to work with lead entities on a sub-allocation.

**Aundrea McBride** noted not having had the opportunity to discuss Option Four so does not know if WSC would prefer Option Four over Option One, which they favored out of the three original options.

**Steve Manlow**, Director of the Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board (LCFRB), agreed with Mr. Conley's statements, noting a preference for Option One. Mr. Manlow explained that LCFRB believes that prioritizing riparian needs belongs at the regional scale.

**Melissa Speeg**, representing the Puget Sound Region, shared support for Option One and Option Four, and agreed with Mr. Conley's and Mr. Manlow's comments.

**Chair Breckel** posed a modification to Option Four that ensures that within each region each lead entity gets a certain amount of money. **Member Cottingham** suggested adding the \$4 million carry-forward fund to do targeted investments with a riparian priority. **Member Endresen-Scott** said that if there will not be a \$4 million TI round, then the \$4 million should go into the regular 2023 grant round and if sponsors need additional money for riparian, they could get it through there.

**Alicia Olivas**, Hood Canal Coordinating Council, shared that stewardship is of high priority to partners in the Hood Canal region.

**Cheryl Baumann**, North Olympic Lead Entity for Salmon Tracking, emphasized that lead entities are ready to implement funding and those that cannot finish in 2023 can finish projects in 2024.

**Chair Breckel** returned the conversation back to the board. **Member Maroney** expressed concern regarding the inclusion of assessments projects.

In response to **Chair Breckel's** modified Option 4, **Member Cottingham**, **Member Endresen-Scott** and **Member Maroney** shared support. **Member Cram** shared support for the original Option Four, which would give regions the flexibility to allocate on their own.

**Motion:** Move to approve \$23.87 million in riparian specific funding to the regional allocation formula, of which no lead entity shall receive less than \$300,000.

**Moved by:** Member **Cottingham**

**Seconded by:** Member **Endresen-Scott**

**Approved:** **Approved**

Chair Breckel invited the board to discuss the Allocation Parameters. **Member Endresen-Scott** expressed concern with the last parameter regarding carry-forward funds to 2025. **Member Cottingham** reiterated earlier partner comments that expressed concern that some regions may have difficulty using funding by 2024.

**Motion:** Move to approve the proposed allocation policies and general policies with the modification that funding may be used for the 2023 and/or 2024 grant round and general policies for the riparian specific funding as presented in the memo and presented by staff.

**Moved by:** Member **Endresen-Scott**

**Seconded by:** Member **Cottingham**

**Approved:** **Approved**

Members discussed the Eligible Project Types. **Chair Breckel** expressed concern about acquisition, noting it is often expensive and other programs may improve or restore riparian areas. **Member Endresen-Scott** commented that acquisitions should be left up to the regions and watersheds because they know what is necessary.

**Member Cottingham** asked if acquiring distressed land could be paired with a strategy for planting or restoring. **Kat Moore** answered that it is not currently required but could be an opportunity to require a plan for restoration within a certain number of years.

**Member Cram** shared concern about the restriction of work types on instream and floodplain habitat restoration eligible project type, noting there is a missed opportunity to do more holistic riparian restoration. Additionally, Member Cram thought that acquisitions should be included as they allow other types of restoration and cautioned heading down a path of high-maintenance and possibly disconnected projects. **Alex Conley** echoed Member Cram's concerns and noted that the "Riparian Planting" project type should be "Riparian Restoration" to include activities like fencing, alternative water, and setback.

**Alicia Olivas** noted that conversations in Hood Canal on riparian priorities are on the longevity of benefit and type of streams.

**Jill Silver**, 10,000 Years Institute, agreed with Member Cram's and Ms. Olivas' comments. Ms. Silver emphasized the importance of integrating invasive species

management into every step of a project to ensure success. The 10,000 Years Institute has been advocating for ten percent of every project to be allocated towards invasive species management.

**Motion:** Move to approve the eligible project types and associated modifications as described in the memo and presented by staff, but with the following changes: changing "riparian planting" to "riparian restoration"; and regions may use up to ten percent of their riparian allocation for riparian specific assessment and inventory projects.

**Moved by:** Member **Cottingham**

**Seconded by:** Member **Endresen-Scott**

**Approved:** **Approved as amended**

**Member Maroney** supported the change of language for Riparian Planting but expressed concern with assessments being included. **Member Endresen-Scott** would like assessments and inventories to be eligible but suggested adding a limit. **Chair Breckel** suggested that no more than a certain percent could be used for assessment and inventory.

**Amy Hatch-Winecka**, from WRIA Thirteen, emphasized this as an opportunity to update the limiting factor analyses conducted in the 1990s and early 2000s. **Member Hoffmann** noted that this sounded like making an investment to make efficient use of the funding.

**Kat Moore** suggested shifting the \$4 million of unspent funds into the riparian funding for assessments.

Members of the board discussed Ms. Moore's suggestion, and whether to set a percentage cap or a dollar amount cap for assessments. **Member Cram** shared concern that the optics would not look good to tell Legislature that \$5 million was spent on assessments and did not believe that aligns with the Legislative intent. **Member Endresen-Scott** suggested limiting assessments in this round to investigate why assessments do not score well in regular rounds.

**Chair Breckel** suggested that each region could use ten percent of their allocation for an assessment, which would total \$2.4 million.

After further discussion, **Member Cottingham** amended her original motion: "Move to approve the eligible project types and associated modifications as described in this memo with the exception of changing the word 'planting' to 'restoration for riparian planting' and presented by staff" by changing "restoration for riparian planting" to "riparian restoration" and added "regions may use up to ten percent of their riparian allocation for

riparian specific assessment and inventory projects” so that the full amended motion reads as it is written above.

### Public Comment

Public comment is integrated into the conversation above. Public commenters included Cheryl Baumann, Alex Conley, Amy Hatch-Winecka, Steve Manlow, Alicia Olivas, Aundrea McBride, Jill Silver, and Melissa Speeg.

## Item 7: 2024 Funding Options

**Kat Moore** provided an overview of the funding available for the 2024 grant round.

Project Funding Available	
Return Funds Used/Available	\$4,000,000
State Salmon	\$7,800,000
PCSRF 2024 (projected)	\$14,650,000
Riparian	\$23,800,000
Total Funds Available	\$50,250,000

Notably, \$4 million in unspent funds are still available and consist of approximately \$900,000 in state funds and \$3.1 million in federal funds.

Ms. Moore presented four options for distributing the funds:

- Option One: Add the \$4 million to the Riparian Grant program to provide \$27.8 million in riparian funding. Include the entire PCSRF award in the 2024 grant round.
- Option Two: Add the \$4 million to the entire PCSRF award and provide an estimated \$26.45 million SRFB grant round.
- Option Three: Use \$4 million to create a TI grant round. Include the entire PCSRF award in the 2024 grant round.
- Option Four: Use the \$4 million and any PCSRF funds remaining after establishing a \$20 million SRFB grant round for a TI grant round. Based on projected \$14.65 million in PCSRF/Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, there would be a \$6.45 million TI grant round.

**Member Cottingham** asked if there were any projects from the previous TI grant round that were still viable and have not been funded. Ms. Moore answered that projects have been approved and did not believe that there were any projects left unfunded.

Members of the board discussed the options with interest in Options Three and Four, which offered a TI round. **Member Maroney** preferred Option Two.



**Alex Conley** cautioned against rushing into TI, noting that none of the COR are ready for TI in the 2024 grant round. Mr. Conley suggested developing a biennial list. **Steve Manlow** echoed Mr. Conley's comment, emphasizing that sponsors need lead time and certainty of funding amount.

**Member Endresen-Scott** and **Member Cram** shared frustration around funding TI and not having a solution yet. After hearing that partners would not have time to develop TI projects for the 2024 grant round, members leaned toward Option 2. **Chair Breckel** would like to work on a TI list for the 2025-27 biennium.

**Motion:** Move to move the \$4 million to the entire Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund award and use the total amount for the 2024 grant round.

**Moved by:** Member **Maroney**

**Seconded by:** Member **Cottingham**

**Approved:** **Approved**

**Members Cottingham, Endresen-Scott, and Chair Breckel** would all like to see a TI round within the next biennium.

#### *Public Comment*

Public comment is integrated into the conversation above. Public commenters included Alex Conley and Steve Manlow.

### **Item 8: State Agency Partner Reports**

**This section was presented after Item 4.**

#### **Washington State Conservation Commission**

**Member Levi Keesecker** provided updates from the Washington State Conservation Commission (SCC). The most pressing issue for SCC is that the Farm Services Agency (FSA) has determined that many contracts in Whatcom County do not meet the standards for the Conservation Reserve and Enhancement Program (CREP), so landowners with contracts for riparian plantings and restorations are facing disenrollment. SCC is working with conservation district partners to reach out to affected landowners to work towards a solution that reduces negative impacts on the landowners. Additionally, SCC is only eligible for so many miles of CREP funding and is working with state agency partners and others to propose approving more miles of CREP from the FSA.

SCC is in the process of hiring an executive director and hopes to begin interviews at the end of the month.

Additionally, SCC is working with a riparian group composed of state agency partners, conservation districts, and other stakeholders to help develop criteria for the riparian funding they received. SCC will engage with RCO so that their riparian approach is complimentary to RCO's funding.

A science hub was funded for the purpose of better quantifying the benefits of conservation practices applied across the landscape and to better communicate the results of monitoring.

Lastly, Member Keesecker relayed Interim Director, Kirk Robinson's sentiments that SCC is looking forward to continuing to work closely with the board and Director Duffy while developing their riparian funding and other projects related to the work that the board and its stakeholders does.

**Chair Breckel** asked what happens if issues are not resolved on the unqualified projects. Member Keesecker shared that they are unsure at this time. Member Cottingham asked what triggered the county-wide determination. Member Keesecker believes it likely came about from an issue with one landowner that uncovered other eligibility issues.

### **Department of Ecology**

**Member Annette Hoffmann** provided an update on the Department of Ecology's (Ecology) Climate Resilient Riparian Grant program, which is about \$30 million of the federal infrastructure funding for Ecology's Shoreline and Environmental Assistance program to support restoration and reach scale investments working with landowners, conservation easements, acquisitions, and restorations. Work on this program will begin in October with new partnerships with the SCC and the Bonneville Environmental Foundation. The funds are expected to be dispersed over six years, and priorities for funding will be established through stakeholder informed processes run by the Climate Resilient Riparian Systems lead. The program will convene workshops on riparian management themes to identify implementation funding needs in certain geographies and highlight investment concepts to incentivize climate resilient riparian restoration. Colin Hume in the Shorelines Program is the point of contact.

Member Hoffman provided an update on the hazard criteria for 6PPD-Quinone (6PPD-Q), which provide specific data requirements and standards to assess chemical safety of alternatives with the long-term goal of finding an alternative to 6PPD-Q that is not lethal to aquatic life. In June, Ecology proposed listing 6PPD-Q as a priority chemical

under the Safer Products for Washington Act, and Ecology expects a final report to be issued in January 2024. Ecology has opened three water quality permits and two stormwater manuals for public comment through November 10. These permits will define the bulk of the stormwater regulatory response over the next five years. Lastly, Ecology has laboratory data that needs to be translated into the real world to find an efficient and effective long-term solution for 6PPD-Q.

Noting the multiple riparian and restoration programs, **Chair Breckel** asked if there is coordination between agencies. **Director Duffy** answered that there is ongoing active engagement among agencies, including the current recruitment of a riparian coordinator for the GSRO.

### **Department of Natural Resources**

**Member Tom Gorman**, Department of Natural Resources (DNR), updated the board on work related to DNR's 2022 supplemental appropriations. DNR received funding for ongoing work related to DNR's Kelp and Eel Grass Health Conservation Plan, which, in cooperation with tribal partners, focuses on locating areas in need of conservation. A report will be submitted to Legislature by the end of 2023.

The derelict vessel removal program received a sustainable source of funding, nearly doubling the number of vessels DNR has been able to remove in the last biennium. Member Gorman noted that, unfortunately, derelict vessels continue to be reported. Additionally, within their Watershed Resilience Action Plan, DNR is working with numerous partners on projects in the Snohomish watershed, including targeted derelict vessel removals, and has hired staff to support this work. Similar to the derelict vessel program, DNR received funding through Senate Bill 5433 for the removal of derelict structures, and currently DNR is working to remove four in the Puget Sound region, though this is a statewide program.

Additionally, DNR received funding for a pilot project to investigate the cost of removing tire piles, formerly known as tire reefs, in the Puget Sound. DNR is working closely with Ecology on this project.

DNR is the co-lead, along with WDFW, for the Habitat Strategy Initiative, which is part of the National Estuary Program. Last year this program held a grant round for around \$13 million, and this year the grant round will be around \$7 million to be targeted at restoration in the Puget Sound.

Member Gorman noted that there are currently five aquatic restoration positions open. Additionally, DNR's decision package will be submitted soon, and Member Gorman hopes to provide an update at the next meeting.

**Member Cottingham** asked if there is a definition for the type of derelict structures being looked at for removal. Member Gorman answered that there are a range of structure types from piling removal to structures that are actively falling into the water.

### **Department of Fish and Wildlife**

**Member Jeremy Cram** shared the funding requests that WDFW will be asking for in upcoming 2024 supplemental session, which include:

- Endangered Species Act (ESA) Regulatory Compliance to fund mandates in biological opinions that allow hatchery operations to operate and meet salmon recovery objectives.
- Coastal Salmonids Management which would expand population viability monitoring and harvest monitoring in fisheries on the coast.
- Two data modernization package upgrades for a public facing portal and a back-end cloud data management.
- Requests to ensure WDFW hatcheries remain consistent on minimizing impact on environment through critical infrastructure maintenance and fish marking that ensures fish being released from hatcheries are marked and healthy when released.

Member Cram noted that through working with GSRO, it was made clear that WDFW has received funding for forty different packages over the last two years, causing funding requests to be light going into this supplemental session.

**WDFW released a Climate Change Refugia project report that includes forested shrub steppe and aquatic habitats. A recently funded climate package for a riparian systems assessment focuses on generating high resolution data across different land use types and creating an engine that can produce meaningful outputs for different questions about land use for riparian habitats. Department of Transportation**

**Member Susan Kanzler** was absent and did not provide a written update.

**RECESS: 5:29 PM**

## SALMON RECOVERY FUNDING BOARD SUMMARY MINUTES

**Date:** September 14, 2023

**Place:** Hybrid - Room 172, Natural Resources Building, 1111 Washington Street SE; Olympia, WA and online via Zoom

### Salmon Recovery Funding Board Members:

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<b>Jeff Breckel, Chair</b>	Stevenson	<b>Annette Hoffman</b>	Designee, Washington Department of Ecology
<b>Kaleen Cottingham</b>	Olympia	<b>Tom Gorman</b>	Designee, Department of Natural Resources
<b>Chris Endresen-Scott</b>	Conconully	<b>Levi Keesecker</b>	Designee, Washington State Conservation Commission
<b>Joe Maroney</b>	Spokane	<b>Jeremy Cram</b>	Designee, Department of Fish and Wildlife
<b>Vacant</b>		<b>Susan Kanzler</b>	Designee, Washington Department of Transportation

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**This summary is to be used with the materials provided in advance of the meeting. The Recreation and Conservation Office retains a recording as the formal record of the meeting.**

### Call to Order:

**Chair Breckel** called the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (board) meeting to order at 8:59 AM. **Julia McNamara**, Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) Board Liaison, performed roll call and determined quorum. **Member Kanzler** and **Member Maroney** were absent.

### Item 9: 2023 Grant Round

**Marc Duboiski**, Salmon Recovery Grant Section Manager, provided an overview of the 2023 grant cycle. Since February, staff have worked to complete site visits, sponsors have completed applications, and a final ranked list was created. Between now and December, staff will be writing grant agreements. Lead Entities will begin submitting requests in December for 2024 site visits.

Available for the 2023 grant round is:

- \$23 million regular Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) funds
- \$6.5 million carry-forward supplemental funds

- \$5.5 million carry-forward from Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR) funds

A detailed breakout for each funding source can be found in the meeting [materials](#).

Mr. Duboiski summarized the 2023 cost increase fund, which has \$560,269 remaining, with two or three projects working on requests. Mr. Duboiski emphasized the demand for cost increases as indicated by the \$1.6 million approved by the board for cost increases.

Mr. Duboiski highlighted parts of the materials, including the three regional monitoring project requests, grant applications by project type, and a map of grant application locations. In 2023, there were 153 initial review projects, seventeen were withdrawn for review, and 136 were submitted on ranked lists. Notably, there were no projects of concern submitted. Mr. Duboiski directed the board's attention to Attachment Five to find a list of nineteen conditioned projects, Attachment Six to find the Lead Entity ranked lists, and Attachment Seven for the project descriptions.

**Elizabeth Butler**, Yakima Basin Mid-Columbia Salmon Recovery Region Grants Manager, presented the top ranked project for the Washington Water Trust (WWT), the Teanaway River Trust Water Rights Acquisition ([RCO #23-1197](#)). This project is slated to receive over \$234,000 and is being matched in part with a grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF).

**Amee Bahr**, Upper Columbia, Snohomish, and WRIA 8 Grants Manager, presented Chelan Natural Resources' Icicle Creek Instream Flow Restoration project ([RCO #23-1279](#)), which requested \$750,000 in board funding with \$4,633,940 in sponsor match. This project will benefit bull trout, Chinook, and steelhead by significantly improving instream habitat and increasing instream flow.

**Sandy Dotts**, Grants Manager for the Northeast Washington Salmon Recovery Region, presented the Flume Creek Final Design project ([RCO #23-1215](#)). The Kalispel Tribe has requested \$350,000 for this design-only project and will work with Natural Systems Design, who will produce the final design, which will complement ongoing efforts by the Kalispel Tribe and other partners.

**Kendall Barrameda**, Grants Manager for the Snake River Region, presented the Coppei Creek Project Area 07 Restoration ([RCO #23-1022](#)) sponsored by the Walla Walla County Conservation District (WWCCD), which has requested \$540,942 from the board and has \$200,941 in matching funds. Coppei Creek is a Touchet River tributary located in southwest Washington and contains valuable habitat for adult and juvenile salmon and

steelhead. Through this project, WWCD will advance preliminary designs to the final design by 2024 to eventually restore the floodplain, improve hydraulic diversity, restore the riparian habitat, and collaborate with local landowners.

**Bob Wariner**, Grants Manager for the Lower Columbia Region, presented the Salmon Creek Reconnection Design project ([RCO #23-1151](#)) from the Cowlitz Indian Tribe. The Cowlitz Indian Tribe has requested \$298,100 for this design-only project, which is the first phase of a larger restoration project. Salmon Creek provides habitat for Chinook, chum, steelhead, and coho, and is one of the largest coho producers in the Lower Columbia region.

**Alissa Ferrell**, Grants Manager for the Coast Region, presented the Cedar Creek Barrier – Wilhelm Culvert project ([RCO #23-1134](#)), the top ranked project for the North Pacific Coast Lead Entity. The Wild Salmon Center will design and implement the replacement of a fish passage barrier on Cedar Creek, improving access for coho, steelhead, cutthroat, and rainbow trout to upstream habitat. The Wild Salmon Center has requested \$319,288 in board funding and has a match of \$56,665.

**Josh Lambert**, Grants Manager for the Hood Canal Salmon Recovery Region, presented the Little Quilcene Estuarine Delta Conceptual Design project ([RCO #23-1061](#)) sponsored by the Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group. This project has requested \$249,760 in board funding and has \$42,250 in matching funds. The design for this proposed restoration will build on previous efforts in the Little Quilcene Estuary and restore estuarine and freshwater habitat for Hood Canal summer chum, Chinook, and steelhead.

**Kay Caromile**, Puget Sound Region Grants Manager, presented the Crabapple-Carpenter Estuary Protection project ([RCO #22-1131](#)) sponsored by the Great Peninsula Conservancy, part of the West Sound Lead Entity. This project will acquire fifty acres of a fifty-seven-acre property, which includes thirteen acres of tide flats, 1,400 feet of stream, and 3,447 feet of estuary shoreline. The Great Peninsula Conservancy has requested \$340,322 in board funding and \$491,920 in Puget Sound Acquisition and Recovery (PSAR) funds, for a total request from RCO of \$832,242.

**BREAK: 10:14 – 10:30 AM**

### **Item 10: 2023 Grant Round Continued**

**Jennifer O’Neal**, Technical Review Panel (TRP) Co-Chair, briefed the board on observations made by the panel during the 2023 grant round. Members from the TRP

examined the language in Manual 18 and provided recommendations for improvements.

To clarify the design deliverable requirements TRP recommends:

- Including language for split worksites to lessen the confusion for project types that had different elements of the project at different levels of design.
- Strengthening the context language for conceptual designs and structure placement.
- Including designs funded by other sources to evaluate projects.

TRP would like to see adaptive management plans for riparian plantings included in the \$25 million riparian funding. These plans would look at functional metrics like cover and survival rate, require a longer contract period to allow for more maintenance, and include guidance for adapting riparian plantings to climate change.

The TRP completed site visits to evaluate projects; however, some regions and lead entities had virtual visits, which caused difficulty in reviewing. TRP recommends considering in-person site visits for complex projects so that the review panel can properly evaluate project specifics like instream structure placement.

Ms. O'Neal discussed a Stage Zero Standard of Practice, which was discussed previously in 2022. This is a newer approach to restoration that needs a standard of practice to consider public safety issues, measure performance expectations, and expectations for biological effectiveness. This could be a potential collaboration between the board and the TRP similar to the Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program (ESRP) "pre-design projects."

A final observation ties into the riparian process and the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP). Current payments to farmers for conservation are lower than what can be made from agriculture which is a disincentive, and the addition of riparian funding makes this a key issue. TRP recommends considering supplementing CREP payments, especially for critical salmon habitat adjacent to higher value croplands and increasing the timespan for protection of buffers.

Members of the board discussed the stage zero projects and developing a standard of practice that prioritizes public safety.

**Member Cottingham** asked if the recommended changes could be integrated into Manual 18 now. **Director Duffy** replied that these could be considered in developing the riparian grant program.



**Steve Toth**, TRP Co-Chair, highlighted three noteworthy projects.

- Middle Skagit Riparian Restoration (Skagit) ([RCO #23-1187](#)) – includes a cost-effective planting approach using climate change adapted species and can be used as an example for other sponsors.
- Howard Lake Road, Upper Klickitat Floodplain (Klickitat) ([RCO #23-1195](#)) – a continuation of a successful approach to reach restoration using wood placements and has been highly effective.
- Lower White Salmon Conservation Acquisition (Klickitat) ([RCO #23-1217](#)) – simple acquisition of 288 acres along the lower 3.3 miles of the White Salmon River.

## Item 11: 2023 Grant Round Overview by Regions

### Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board

**Denise Smee**, Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board (LCFRB) Program Manager, provided an overview of the LCFRB, which is one region, one lead entity, and one lead agency under the Watershed Planning Act in southwest Washington. There are seventy-four Endangered Species Act (ESA) listed populations across seventeen watersheds and the estuary, and all Columbia Basin fish use this area for rearing.

In 2023, LCFRB ran three concurrent grant rounds from the Salmon Recovery Funding Board, Cowlitz Restoration and Recovery, and the Storedahl Small Grants Program. This year, LCFRB received \$4.6 million from the board to fund nineteen projects across the region. LCFRB continues to shift towards large and scalable projects.

Looking forward to 2024, LCFRB hopes to continue work on the ongoing Focused Investment Strategy for Habitat (FISH). Recently, LCFRB completed an assessment of landscape changes using high-resolution change detection (HRCD) technology and a survey of land use programs and is now finalizing a population viability update and evaluation of hatchery and harvest reform implementation. This update will help to inform where to focus future habitat investments.

**Member Keesecker** asked if a specific modeling framework was used for the population viability and if this is something that other regions could use. Ms. Smee answered that other regions could use LCFRB's model, but noted it is tailored to the watersheds of the region.

### Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board

**Amanda Ward**, Executive Director of the Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board (UCSRB), introduced herself to the board before **Dave Hecker**, UCSRB Lead Entity

Coordinator, provided an update from the UCSRB. Work in the Upper Columbia region is focused on four major sub-basins, the Wenatchee, Eniat, Methow, and Okanogan, which are home to three ESA listed species, Upper Columbia spring Chinook salmon, steelhead, and bull trout.

The 2023 grant round provided a unique opportunity to fund a significant number of projects, and sponsors responded by submitting twenty-one proposals across three sub-basins. Of note, the Yakima State Route 207 Highway Realignment Proposal was not funded due to the total cost of the project outweighing the benefit of eight to ten other high-ranked projects being funded. The Yakama Nation Fisheries staff will continue to push forward with this project in the future.

UCSRB approved twelve projects that will be funded with the \$3.9 million in board allocated funds and will total around \$11 million including match and leveraged funds.

**Mr. Hecker emphasized that barrier removal and prioritization of barrier removal in the region continues to be a focus of UCSRB and regional partners. This year considerable updates were made to the regional barrier prioritization tool including the addition of prioritization data in the Okanogan sub-basin. Hood Canal Coordinating Council**

**Scott Brewer**, Executive Director of the Hood Canal Coordinating Council (HCCC), took a few moments to remember late Salmon Recovery Funding Board member Jeromy Sullivan.

HCCC is putting together a petition to delist summer chum east of the Strait of Juan de Fuca from the ESA, citing abundance, productivity, and spatial structure and diversity as positive signs of the species health. HCCC understands that there are two ways to delist, through a petition or a finding by the service that the species is under, which is National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Fisheries in this case. There is abundance of summer chum in the Hood Canal and elsewhere, and HCCC has a great ongoing monitoring program to keep an eye on numbers. NOAA will require a minimum five-year monitoring plan after delisting to ensure the species' standing. Mr. Brewer would like to provide details on this process in a future meeting.

Members of the board discussed the significance of delisting a species and planning a communication strategy.

### **Puget Sound Partnership**

**Melissa Speeg**, Puget Sound Partnership (PSP) Salmon Recovery Manager, provided an overview of 2023 board funded projects. PSP received just over \$8.7 million in board

funding for sixty-one projects and had eight fully funded PSAR projects. Ms. Speeg highlighted a diverse range of projects occurring in the region including the Nisqually River Mckenna Reach protection project, WRIA 14 Riparian Restoration, Weeks Point Way County Shoreline Restoration, Middle Fork Nooksack Porter Creek Reach Design, Boeing Levee Setback, and Tafton Floodplain Restoration.

Up to this point, PSP has invested \$368 million in Puget Sound recovery with PSAR funding, which is co-managed by PSP and RCO. Additionally, PSP is working on updating the Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Plan which will be finished in June 2024. PSP received funding to help two watersheds, WRIA 1 and Elwha, update their plans, and PSP plans to update six more over the next two years.

Ms. Speeg highlighted two projects that are nearing completion this year. The Port Susan Bay Restoration effort which began in 2001 will increase critically located habitat area, connectivity, and diversity; improve tidal exchange; and expand freshwater distribution and residence time. The Fall City Floodplain Restoration will remove 2,600 feet of levee which will allow unconstrained natural processes in proximity to 145 acres of floodplain.

### **Coast Salmon Partnership**

**Mara Zimmerman**, Executive Director of Coast Salmon Partnership (CSP), provided an overview for the Washington Coast Region, which includes all watersheds that drain directly into the Pacific Ocean. Ms. Zimmerman shared that in this region, fish numbers have declined, and habitat is damaged. Two species, Lake Ozette sockeye and bull trout, are ESA listed, and petitions have started to list Olympic Peninsula steelhead and Washington Coast spring Chinook.

Coastal recovery work is guided by the Washington Coast Sustainable Salmon Plan which focuses on sustaining salmon runs that will endure as integral parts of the Washington Coast Region's environmental, social, and economic well-being.

Ms. Zimmerman highlighted CSP's 2023 grant round:

- North Pacific Coast Lead Entity will receive \$897,000 for four projects.
- Quinault Indian Nation Lead Entity will have two projects funded with \$558,000.
- Chehalis Basin Lead Entity will receive \$851,000 for four projects.
- Willapa Bay Lead Entity will receive \$681,000 for four projects. Notably, this includes \$251,000 from the Quinault Indian Nation and Chehalis Basin lead entities.

In addition to board funding, the Washington Coast Region has received an additional \$53.5 million from state and federal sources to advance salmon restoration on the coast.

**Chair Breckel** asked about the status on the ESA listing petitions. Ms. Zimmerman believed they may know by mid-October whether NOAA finds the spring Chinook listing warranted, but there was no word on timing for the Olympic Peninsula steelhead.

### **Yakima Basin Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board**

**Michael Horner**, Yakima Valley Basin (YVB) Lead Entity Coordinator, provided an overview of the 2023 grant round for the Mid-Columbia Region. YVB is focused on implementing two recovery actions, the 2009 Yakima Steelhead Recovery Plan and the 2017 Yakima Bull Trout Action Plan. Mr. Horner referred any questions about the Klickitat County Lead Entity ranked list to the Klickitat County lead entity staff.

This year, the Yakima Basin lead entity received ninety-eight percent of the region's allocation at just over \$2.1 million. This allocation will fully fund four projects, partially for one project, and there are five projects listed as alternates on the ranked list.

Mr. Horner highlighted the region's top two ranked projects. The Teanaway River Trust Water Rights Acquisition project aims to acquire instream water rights in the Teanaway. The Yakima River Corridor Plan Phase IIB: Design and Riparian project will create preliminary design for reach-scale floodplain reconnection, maintain riparian and floodplain habitat, and plant seventeen acres of cottonwood. Additionally, YVB is working on recovery actions not funded by the board that range from instream flow negotiations to monitoring projects.

Mr. Horner presented an updated Yakima Basin fish run report, noting that this month under 6,000 adult salmon and steelhead have passed Prosser Dam near the Tri Cities, indicating a continued decline in anadromous fish in the region.

**Chair Breckel** noted that the Snake River Salmon Recovery Board was unable to present due to illness and the Northeast Salmon Recovery Region provided a written report.

**Member Cottingham** asked for a status update on whether the new lead entity in Spokane will receive an allocation. **Director Duffy** said that discussions about the new lead entity have started, and this topic will be presented at a future meeting when the new lead entity has further organized.

### **Item 12: 2023 Grant Round Funding Board Decisions**

**Mark Duboiski** requested approval of regional funding requests from the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) and the Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration

(PSAR). Detail on funding requests can be found in the [2023 Salmon Recovery Grant Funding Report](#).

### Hood Canal Salmon Recovery Region

**Motion:** Move to Approve \$1,687,717 in SRFB funds for projects and project alternates on the Hood Canal Region ranked list, as shown in Attachment 6 (pages 30-31) of the 2023 Salmon Recovery Grant Funding Report dated September 2023.

**Moved by:** Member **Endresen-Scott**

**Seconded by:** Member **Cottingham**

**Approved:** **Approved**

### Hood Canal Salmon Recovery Region

**Motion:** Move to Approve \$434,833 in carryover PSAR funds for projects and project alternates on the Hood Canal Region ranked list, as shown in Attachment 6 (pages 30-31) of the 2023 Salmon Recovery Grant Funding Report dated September 2023.

**Moved by:** Member **Cottingham**

**Seconded by:** Member **Endresen-Scott**

**Approved:** **Approved**

### Middle Columbia (Yakima) River Salmon Recovery Region

**Motion:** Move to Approve \$2,540,013 of SRFB funds for projects and project alternates on the Middle Columbia Recovery Board Region's list shown in Attachment 6 (pages 32, 35-36 of the 2023 Funding Report, dated September 2023. This amount includes \$433,542 of funding for projects in the Klickitat County lead entity.

**Moved by:** Member **Endresen-Scott**

**Seconded by:** Member **Cottingham**

**Approved:** **Approved**

### Washington Coast Salmon Partnership Region

**Motion:** Move to approve \$2,986,925 of SRFB funds for projects and project alternates on the Coastal Region ranked lists, as shown in Attachment 6 (pages 59-63 of the 2023 Salmon Recovery Grant Funding Report dated September 2023.

**Moved by:** Member **Cottingham**

**Seconded by:** Member **Endresen-Scott**

**Approved:** Approved

### Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Region

**Motion:** Move to approve \$3,858,163 of SRFB funds for projects and project alternates on the Upper Columbia Region ranked list, as shown in Attachment 6 (pages 56-58) of the 2023 Salmon Recovery Grant Funding Report dated September 2023.

**Moved by:** Member **Endresen-Scott**

**Seconded by:** Member **Cottingham**

**Approved:** Approved

### Snake River Salmon Recovery Region

**Motion:** Move to approve \$2,744,052 of SRFB funds for projects and project alternates on the Snake River Region Ranked List, as shown in Attachment 6 (pages 54-55) of the 2023 Salmon Recovery Grant Funding Report dated September 2023.

**Moved by:** Member **Cottingham**

**Seconded by:** Member **Endresen-Scott**

**Approved:** Approved

### Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Region

**Motion:** Move to approve \$8,279,649 of SRFB funds for projects and project alternates on the Puget Sound Region ranked list, as shown in Attachment 6 (pages 38-53) of the 2023 Salmon Recovery Grant Funding Report dated September 2023.

**Moved by:** Member **Endresen-Scott**

**Seconded by:** Member **Cottingham**

**Approved:** Approved

### Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Region

**Motion:** Move to approve the 2023-2025 list of carry-forward Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration projects, totaling \$5,229,221 in the Puget Sound Region, as listed in Attachment 6 (pages 38-53) of the 2023 Salmon Recovery Grant Funding Report dated September 2023.

**Moved by:** Member **Cottingham**

**Seconded by:** Member **Endresen-Scott**

**Approved:** Approved

## Northeast Washington Salmon Recovery Region

- Motion:** Move to approve \$437,000 for projects on the Northeast Region ranked list, as shown in Attachment 6 (page 37) of the 2023 Salmon Recovery Grant Funding Report dated September 2023.
- Moved by:** Member **Endresen-Scott**
- Seconded by:** Member **Cottingham**
- Approved:** *Approved*

## Lower Columbia River Salmon Recovery Region

- Motion:** Move to approve \$4,600,000 of SRFB funds for projects and project alternates on the Lower Columbia Region ranked list, as shown in Attachment 6 (pages 32-34) of the 2023 Salmon Recovery Grant Funding Report, dated September 2023. This amount includes \$716,458 of funding for projects in the Klickitat County Lead Entity.
- Moved by:** Member **Cottingham**
- Seconded by:** Member **Endresen-Scott**
- Approved:** *Approved*

### *Public Comment*

None.

Regarding the Point No Point Estuary Design Project, **Chair Breckel** acknowledged community correspondence received by the board. Of note, this project is not up for funding, but the design and potential implications have raised concern in the community. **Kay Caromile** provided a brief project status update. The sponsor has held numerous community meetings in the last year and a half and has more planned for this fall. A draft alternative analysis report was completed in August that includes extensive modeling of king tide and other flooding events. Reduction of flooding is an evaluation criterion that is being considered in their alternative selection. Kitsap County has reviewed this analysis, and the technical partners and staff have a meeting set with the county and project sponsor to review the draft alternative analysis. Staff recommended providing the alternate analysis to the community if it has not already been made available. Ms. Caromile has made it clear to the sponsor that they cannot proceed using any RCO funding until the draft analysis has been approved.

**Member Cottingham** asked if the funding for this project was conditioned. Ms. Caromile clarified that funding was not conditioned as it was viewed as a project of concern. **Member Endresen-Scott** requested future updates on this project.

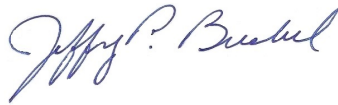
**Motion:** Move to adjourn.  
**Moved by:** Member **Endresen-Scott**  
**Seconded by:** Member **Cottingham**  
**Approved:** **Approved**

*Public Comment*

None.

**ADJOURN: 12:14 PM**

The next regular meeting will be December 13-14, 2023, in Room 172, Natural Resources Building, 1111 Washington Street SE; Olympia, WA and online via Zoom.



Jeffery Breckel