



Brian Abbott Fish Barrier Removal Board: Ostrander Creek 2019-2021 Cost Increase Request

Cost Increase Subcommittee Meeting Draft Notes – May 11, 2023

Cost Increase Description from Josh Lambert, RCO:

Two versions of a cost increase amendment request with associated cost estimate worksheets were submitted by Cowlitz County for the Ostrander Restoration project, FBRB 20-1876. The two versions of the request provide one scenario with proposed temporary bridge and an alternatively lower cost scenario without a temporary bridge, instead using an existing detour. *[Josh provided a spreadsheet showing all quotes Cowlitz County received compared to the recently updated Cowlitz County engineers cost estimate].* They chose Quiggs, the lowest bidder. The quotes and engineers' budget do not include the temporary bridge which was only just conceived very recently.

Effectively, the request with no temporary bridge is requesting \$524,450 in additional FBRB funds and keeping match commensurate at 15% of the total. The request with the temporary bridge is requesting an additional \$719,950. While the temporary bridge does provide additional public safety, it does not necessarily increase the salmon benefit of the project.

Subcommittee Recommendation: Approve the cost increase request with additional funds for the temporary bridge.

High-level Summary of Subcommittee Discussion:

Josh Lambert shared the details and background for the Ostrander Restoration project cost increase request (see above). The main driver of the cost increase request is regrading the road for installation of a bridge that would replace the existing three-box culvert. Another consideration is a separate FBRB project to replace a culvert upstream.

- Subcommittee members reviewed the Cowlitz County engineer's cost estimate and bids from engineering contractors. They felt that the cost estimate and construction bids were fair.
- Subcommittee members discussed the county's request for a bridge. They noted these funds would result in no benefit to fish and there is a significant difference between the two different cost increase requests.
- Subcommittee members expressed uncertainty around the impacts to route access and emergency services. To help answer these questions, Chair Jameson requested more information about the temporary bridge from the project sponsor following the meeting.
 - **Action Item:** After the meeting, Chair Jameson contacted the project sponsor requesting more information about the need for the temporary bridge.
 - **Outcome:** The project sponsor shared information on the impacts the road closure would have – specifically to trucks and school buses that cannot use the alternate route. This pushed subcommittee members to recommend funding the temporary bridge.
- In response to a question, Josh Lambert shared there are no red flags with the request and Cowlitz County has historically returned projects under budget.

- John Foltz, Council of Regions, noted there would be a significant impact if the project was not completed given the Board funded the designs and the impacts it could have on the upstream FBRB project. He recommended approving the cost increase request.

Attendance:

Chair Thomas Jameson, WDFW

Christy Rains, WDFW

John Foltz, Council of Regions

Casey Baldwin, The Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation

Josh Lambert, RCO

Alex Sweetser, Triangle Associates

Reference Image for Bypass Route:

