

Fish Barrier Removal Board – Meeting Notes

Date: March 17, 2020

Place: WebEx Meeting with all on phone or computer (due to requirements governing meetings by WA Governor Inslee)

Summary: Agenda items with formal action

Item	Formal Action
Meeting notes from February 2020	Approved
Project list initial scoring	Approved with no upper limit to dollar amount

Summary: Follow-up actions

Item	Follow-up
Meeting with strategic planning subgroup	Schedule meeting
Presentation/discussion about tidegate project eligibility	Schedule discussion at April meeting
Project spreadsheet	Add county location and sponsor name

Board Members/Alternates:

Matt Curtis, WDFW	Dave Caudill, RCO
Jon Brand, WSAC	Jeannie Abbott, GSRO
John Foltz, COR	Paul Wagner, WSDOT
Tom Jameson, Chair, WDFW	Casey Baldwin, Colville Tribe

Others present on phone:

Neil Aaland, Facilitator	Christy Rains, WDFW
Alison Hart, WDFW	Gabrielle Stilwater, WDFW
Cade Roler, WDFW	Dave Collins, WDFW
Gina Piazza, WDFW	

Welcome/Introductions/Agenda Review: Meeting started at 9:00. Facilitator Neil Aaland reviewed the agenda. He explained that if anyone has public comment to offer, to e-mail it to FBRB@dfw.wa.gov. Comments will be read into the record.

Public Comment: No public comment was offered.

Old Business

Meeting notes: The meeting notes for the February meeting were approved as submitted.

Updates from Chair Jameson

- *Agency:* Telework is now mandatory, staff are only to come in if necessary.
- *Legislative update:*
 - WDFW received additional funding to cover the \$26 million budget shortfall
 - March 11 proviso was adopted in ESSB 6248. He sent out a clean copy of that and the operating budget proviso. He hopes to have Neil help with some new duties; he will also post for EP3 or 4 to help. Matt has the Bio 2 position to help as well, as previously discussed. They have also recently hired 7 scientific technician positions.
 - There are three rulemaking efforts going on right now, Gabrielle is heading the effort. They will be hiring a facilitator. Also still working on inventory of Chinook barriers. Carl thanks WDFW and WSDOT for their work on the proviso. He asked if the strategy

subgroup could be convened to discuss how work on these will proceed. Tom said he would; Margen Carlson, Habitat Program Director, is also interested in that.

Review and Approval of FBRB Project List – Matt Curtis

There are 99 total applications. He reviewed a spreadsheet showing some details and the ranking of projects. He is comfortable with this list and explained the structure of the spreadsheet. The scoring list was reviewed to explain how scores were derived. Priority watersheds got a boost in scoring. The request totals \$77.4 million. He had three questions for the Board:

1. Do you want to draw a line?
2. Ineligible projects are at the bottom; are any here in error?
3. With COVID-19, do we want to delay the timeline?

Discussion on Question 1:

- Jon, Carl, John F, Dave, Tom, Paul all supported NOT drawing a line and submitting all projects. Cade noted that some projects scored lower because of lower habitat gain, a greater cost, etc. He said project 41 is a planning project and wants a lot of funding for design.

Discussion on Question 2: Minimal discussion, members seem okay with list of ineligible projects as presented.

Discussion on Question 3:

- Cade noted the challenge will be fieldwork.
- Tom thinks if it's just having sponsors submit formal applications this is doable by May 15; suggests continuing with timeline.
- Carl and Paul support the current timeline.

Discussion about tidegate projects. Paul thinks we should get more information but might be better to focus on projects other than tidegate connections.

- Dave thinks tidegate projects should be considered case by case
- Tom concurs with Paul
- Neil asked if tidegate projects are being pulled off the list? Carl thinks the board shouldn't completely preclude them and asked if we can have a presentation/discussion at the next meeting on this issue; members agreed.
- Casey suggested considering partial support of tidegate requests but with a larger match.

A motion was made to approve the project list to the full amount being requested, with tidegate projects staying on the list for now and come back to a further discussion about tidegates in April. Tom moved; Carl seconded. Board approved the motion.

Dave asked that project sponsors names and county location be added to spreadsheet; Matt will do so. Tom noted that for the last meeting Matt put out a two-pager with additional information including county and WRIA.

Upcoming Opportunities for Engagement

- Tom noted that the proviso requires coordination with tribes. April 28 is the next scheduled tribal meeting at NWIFC. He doesn't know if that is still happening; he'll mention the proviso if it is.
- He is meeting Thursday with WDFW legislative affairs staff.
- He has heard that tribes don't want to meet directly with state family due to distancing requirements

- Carl said that AWC has a story map that shows relationship to WSDOT facilities; link is www.wacities.org/culverts
- Paul asked if we have heard back on our 1/28 letter to NWIFC regarding tribal membership; we have not yet received a response

Wrap-up/Next Steps: Future meetings will likely continue to be virtual until the health emergency is over.

The meeting adjourned at 10:45 pm.

Next meeting: Tuesday, April 21, 2019 via WebEx or phone