

UCSRB Special Board Meeting Minutes

(Policy Discussion)

Thursday, February 17, 2005

9:00 am – 1:35 pm

1:35 pm - ? Executive Session

Douglas County Public Services Building

East Wenatchee

(509.884.7173 for directions)

Board Members Present: Lee Carlson for Paul Ward, Yakama Nation
Ron Walter, Chelan County
Mary Hunt, Douglas County
Bill Towey on behalf of Joe Peone, Colville Confederated Tribes
Bud Hover, Okanogan County

Others present: Denny Rohr, UCSRB Facilitator; Dick Nason, UCSRB Staff Coordinator; Sandy Cox, Okanogan County

Action Items

1. **Bill** to draft a letter to NOAA and circulate it to the Board for review – **Bill** to have the letter ready for the Board meeting on 2/24/05. (send to NOAA and cc: **Mike Eng**)
2. **Denny** suggested that **Rob Walton** be advised of what is in the letter prior to it being mailed so that there are no surprises and that **Rob** can have input in case it is warranted
3. Anyone who has a facilitator nomination to add to the facilitator roster needs to get that persons name and contact information to **Dick** so that he can forward it to **Mike Eng**.
4. **Dick** to get to **Bill, Mike Eng's** contact info.
5. Request date of interview, select and contract meeting move up one day to Thursday, April 21, 2005 Tentative start time: 9AM – 2PM
6. Find location for the April 21, 2005 meeting
7. **Bill** asked **Denny** to contact **Doug Marker** and **William Maslen** to request that in the future they cc the UCSRB on correspondence pertinent to the Board.
8. **Ron** requested that **Denny** get back to him with the timing of the S232 Bill.
9. **Dick** to present the following draft policy statements to Staff from the Board, or finalization (these finalized statements due to Board 2/24/05)
 - a. Hatcheries Policy Statement
 - b. Inclusion of Canada in Salmon Recovery Plan
 - c. Impacts of Humans
 - d. Watershed Plans
10. **Ron** asked **Lee** to get with **Mike** and discuss the Coho reintroduction.
11. Regarding the Geometric Mean - **Dick** to find out what the biologist have to say and report back to the Board.

Suggested Action Items ☒:

1. **Dick** suggested that we get a policy statement from NOAA on this topic. When the switch over happens in the Methow what are the consequences.
2. Regarding the Geometric Mean - **Dick** suggested that the Staff build in check points.....5 years, 8 years 10 years etc. **Dick** suggested that we go to the biologists for more information on this.
3. **Dick** suggested that we work with **Ron Walton** on how we get the new info from subbasin, watershed and other ongoing plans into the recovery plan in the future.

Mary called the meeting to order at 9:18am

MEETING AGENDA

I. **Schedule for the day** (Mary Hunt, Chair)

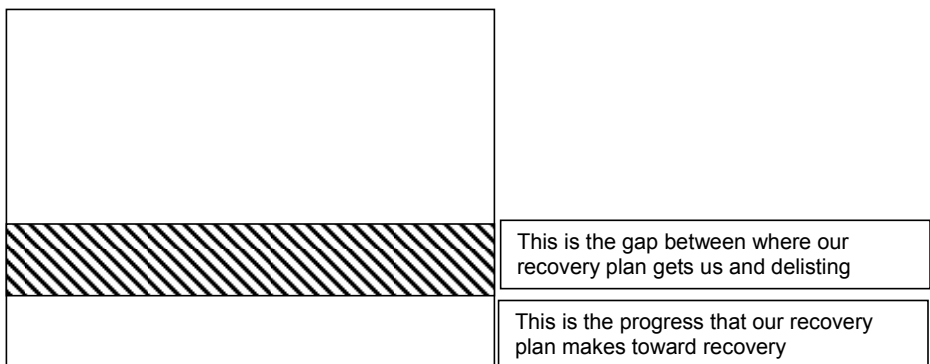
Board Meeting
BOD/HCC Meeting

II. **Board Discussion re: February 7, 2005 NOAA Conference Call**

Policy Forum
Facilitator

- **Dick** – spoke to **Mike** Eng from the U.S. Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution out of Tucson (They have put a list of questions together)
- NOAA's participation – **Bill** suggested that the Board draft a letter to NOAA stating the expectations that this Board has, which are: Tracking the process, staying on top of the decisions that are being made and addressing issues as they arise instead of letting them build up until the last and then addressing.
- **Bill** will draft a letter to NOAA and circulate it to the Board for review - will have the letter ready for the Board meeting on 2/24/05. (send to NOAA and cc: **Mike Eng**)☒
- **Denny** suggested that **Rob Walton** be advised of what is in the letter that **Bill** drafts prior to it being mailed so that there are no surprises and that **Rob** can have input into the letter in case it is warranted.☒
- **Mary** asked if there is anyone that is known to us that we would want to suggest as the facilitator. **Dick** suggested **Tim Thompson**, who he had worked with previously on an HCP **Dick** was able to list some of **Tim's** prior experiences. Local familiarity and political connections would be extremely beneficial. **Lee** asked if we want to have some one who is local or do we want to have someone who is unbiased and not invested in the issues or the subject matter.
- **Mary** also suggested that prior to submitting a potential facilitator name the submitter should check in with that person and get their permission

- **Bill**, after reviewing the scope of work, asked the Board to consider what it is that they want in this facilitator. **Bill** commented that it seems like what the Board decides they want will drive who the Board supports as the facilitator.
- **Bill** stated that he was not too concerned about the bias that the facilitator may or may not have since **Dick** and **Denny** would be involved in the process.
- **Ron** felt that it was too early to decide either way on the facilitator. Seems that this decision would come later in the process when qualities and attributes of candidates would be weighed.
- **Mary** asked if the interview, selection and contract with 3rd party would come back to this group. **Dick** answered **Mary's** questions with a recap of the con/call: His understanding of the call was that there would be a larger group that would be participating. **Dick** stated that once the facilitator is chosen the Board would lose their authority over the process.
- **Denny** mentioned that the policy forum will be a “ya’ all” come type of meeting – it will include anyone and everyone that wants to participate.
- **Bill** raised the issue that being “just” a member of this larger group doesn’t make sense while we are trying to create our state recovery plan.
- **Dick** diagramed the need for the policy forum:



- **Denny** stated that he felt that NOAA had consciously taken a hands-off approach so that it never appeared that they were directing the process.
- **Bill** and **Bud** both felt that the Board should be wary about creating a huge cumbersome process that no one has time for.
- **Mary** suggested that the UCSRB as the “core planning group”.

- **Ron** listed the other groups, that if we supplemented the core planning group, it would be interest groups such as WDFW, State Land owner, federal land owner etc. which is not probably too feasible. **Ron** suggested that maybe the Board should consider involving 3 other professionals such as HR experts who are skilled at interviewing etc. to be involved in the process.
- **Lee** suggested that the Board get a representative from each of the 2514 groups, then all of those groups would be equally represented.
- **Dick** mentioned that **Lynn Hatcher** would be attending the Board meeting next week.

Bud moved that the 5 members who sit on the UCSRB be the core planning group. **Ron** seconded the motion and the motion was passed.

- Anyone who has a facilitator nomination to add to the facilitators roster needs to get that persons name and contact information to **Dick** so that he can forward it to **Mike Eng**.
- **Dick** to get **Bill, Mike Eng's** contact info. (Website is ECR.gov)
- According to the SOW the set selection date is for Friday, April 22, 2005 – Request date move up one day to Thursday, April 21, 2005 - Tentative start time: 9AM – 2PM
- Will need to find a location for above April 21, 2005 meeting
- [Douglas County Public Land Services Building is not available (HCC has the auditorium booked already on the 21st)]

OOSE (out of basin effects)

III. **Board Discussion**

List of Specific Policy Issues re: Recovery Plan

The following is a list of policy issues that are to be discussed, including a draft statement outlining the “Definition of Recovery”

Okanogan County Policy Discussion List

o **Purpose of the draft Plan; Definition of Recovery**

Is the purpose of the draft plan to achieve recovery or recovery and harvest? The UCSRB needs to discuss this issue and provide explicit direction to the HCC, RRS and consultants. This issue goes hand in hand with the definition of recovery. There are two definitions of recovery needed: the delisting (actual numbers) recovery and recovery in the broad sense (a more social definition). The actual numbers for delisted ESA species are set by NOAA Fisheries though the UCSRB should explore the opportunity to negotiate these numbers. Also, recall the Okanogan County Farm Bureau letter of December 21, 2004.

Feb. 15, 2005 Notes: UCSRB needs to review and comment on staff's draft position statement; Also, UCSRB needs to discuss if they want to promote "take" as harvest, if possible, between now and delisting of species.

** See below the Position statement regarding the Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board's definition of recovery of fish populations in the region

- **Crab Creek**

A plan of action on how to address Crab Creek needs to be decided by the UCSRB. Moreover, assignments need to be made to the appropriate individuals to carry out that plan of action. This plan of action and results needs to be included in the draft plan so that it is documented.

Dick suggested that we make no reference to Crab Creek in our plan. We have been given clear confirmation by GSRO that we are not accountable or responsible for this area.

Bill suggested that we not include this and we can tee this issue up for our facilitator to tackle. **Bill** thought that NOAA would probably want this in the plan.

Bud made the motion that we do not include Crab Creek in the Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Plan. **Ron** seconded the motion and the motion was passed.

Bill made the motion to present this issue to the Conflict Resolution Facilitator once that person is on board. **Lee** seconded the motion and the motion was passed.

- **Hatchery versus Wild Stocks**

The draft plan is very inconsistent about hatchery stocks throughout. There needs to be discussion by the UCSRB with the HCC regarding the position in the draft plan about hatchery stocks and the instances that they are portrayed as beneficial and detrimental.

Dick felt that the above statement is not correct now. Most hatcheries are now a supplemental type hatchery.

Ron made the motion to create a draft policy statement on Hatcheries. **Bill** seconded the motion and the motion was passed.

DRAFT POLICY STATEMENT: Hatchery programs will enhance recovery of listed species. And those programs mitigating for other species will not jeopardize the existence of the listed species.

Dick to present this to staff for finalization on 2/23/05. Present to Board on 2/24/05

Feb. 15, 2005 Notes: Colville Confederated Tribes Spring Chinook hatchery for the Okanogan; Yakama Nation Coho Reintroduction in the Methow (Ron added Wenatchee)

Dick mentioned that this is another area where it is out of the Board's realm. This is an area of expertise outside of this Board. The hatcheries are in place and operating because they have been given permission to do so. This is an on-going issue that is being continually discussed.

Bud commented on Carson Stock in the Okanogan and asked that since they would be extirpated anyhow then there would be or should be no consequences if they are in the river or not. This would just add the numbers of the fish coming across Wells Dam.

Dick suggested that we get a policy statement from NOAA on this topic. When the switch over happens in the Methow what are the consequences. ☒

Ron asked **Lee** to get with **Mike** and discuss the Coho reintroduction. ☑

- ***Inclusion of Canada in regional salmon recovery plan***

The UCSRB should make a decision about what to do with Canada in the draft plan.

Downfall: State of Washington and Okanogan County have no authorities over Canada, therefore why include in the plan?

Suggestion: could list as an out of basin effect in the draft plan

Benefit: would show that Canada can largely impact the recovery of the species; spread the "burden"

The Board feels strongly about including Canada in the regional salmon recovery plan.

DRAFT POLICY STATEMENT: Habitat improvement projects in Canada will be investigated in order to continue and enhance opportunities for listed stock as well as those in the Okanogan basin.

Dick – steelhead habitat is being improved in the Canadian habitat. – Seems that this would be beneficial to the Okanogan habitat for Steelhead.

Bud moved to accept the draft as the Board's policy in regards to the inclusion of Canada. **Ron** seconded the motion and the motion was passed.

Dick to present this to staff for finalization on 2/23/05. Present to Board on 2/24/05. ☑

- **Geometric mean**

The timeframe to determine if the ESU is on the "road to recovery" needs to be decided on by the UCSRB. Currently the plan states 8 years, however in the LCFRB, their draft plans states 5 years. More information needs to be collected on what the geometric mean for ESU should be and in consultation with NOAA Fisheries.

Bill reported that this is an ongoing discussion at the HCC

Dick suggested that the Staff build in check points.....5 years, 8 years 10 years etc. **Dick** suggested that we go to the biologists for more information on this. ☒

Dick to find out what the biologists have to say and report back to the Board. ☑

- **Policy Forum**

Continued discussion and input particularly after the February 07, 2005 conference call

**** See notes above regarding policy forum discussion**

- **Impacts of humans**

How much does the Board think should be mitigated for due to humans? For example: should the historic area in many of our cities, protected now by dikes, be modeled as "not there" and then we need to "make up" for it in other areas or ways?

Channel migration study done on the Wenatchee – and beginning in the Methow.

This board advocates the process of restoring, enhancing recovery – all of the actions identified in the plan will be implemented on a voluntary basis.

DRAFT POLICY STATEMENT: We will work with public land owners for policy changes that will help implement the plan on their lands. Actions implemented on private land will be on a voluntary basis.

Bud moved to adopt the draft as a policy direction for the UCSRB. **Ron** seconded the motion and the motion was passed.

Dick to present this to staff for finalization on 2/23/05. Present to Board on 2/24/05.

- **Watershed plans**

Integration is critical; this has been expressed numerous times. Consider directing staff to develop language explicitly for the recovery plan. Perhaps staff should be directed to develop language/mechanism for integrating watershed plans that will be completed after recovery plan is completed.

Bill – Need to continue the collaborative efforts between the local stakeholders, HCC etc.

Dick – suggests that we work with **Ron Walton** on how we get the new info into the plan.

Bud – Local buy in is crucial

Ron – maybe the solution is in the projects that we implement in the future (base the projects on the subbasin, watershed, bi-lateral, recovery plans etc)

DRAFT POLICY STATEMENT: The UCSRB accepts the role in the coordination of the recovery plan to include all of the subbasin, watershed, bi-lateral, & recovery plans. This will ensure a bottom-up, grass roots approach.

Bud moved to accept this as a draft policy on Watershed plans for this board. **Ron** seconded the motion and the motion was passed.

Dick to present this to staff for finalization on 2/23/05. Present to Board on 2/24/05.

o **Adult/spawner returns**

NOAA Fisheries is not willing to add this as a new criteria or replace an existing. Need to ensure that we are not held to a standard that we can not achieve due to out of subbasin effects.

DRAFT POLICY STATEMENT: Even though the delisting criteria will be based on the number of returning adults the success of habitat improvements should be based upon juvenile productivity.

Bud moved to accept this as a policy draft for the UCSRB. Ron seconded the motion. The motion was not passed.

Further discussion is required.

The Board is supportive of the technical work that the HCC is doing in regards to the adult / spawner criteria.

o **Monitoring Program**

Though the Board has received a presentation on the Upper Columbia Monitoring plan, perhaps another presentation should occur since it is being integrated into the recovery plan. This monitoring strategy will collect data that assists in determining if the "bar" is getting reached.

Douglas County Policy List for Discussion:

February 14, 2005

OK so here's a list with some comments,

1. *Definition of recovery- discussion on proposed statement*

** See below the Position statement regarding the Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board's definition of recovery of fish populations in the region

2. *Harvest- Also really needs a position statement that notes we are seeking harvest within the region, which includes potential discussion of downstream harvest (both stream and ocean etc) as related to the economic "fairness". There are probably related points as well.*

** Added to Staff list for consideration – see below

3. *Crab Creek- same thing on position statement. Something to the effect that this particular watershed/basin whatever does not support an independant population as defined by NOAA Fisheries (500 fish). Further discussions will include Grant County agencies and interested groups for defining their contribution.*

** Addressed above in Okanogan County

4. *Naturally blocked rainbow trout- should not be a component to considered for the recovery of the listed steelhead. This is a Crab Creek issue, but has come up on several other small tribs as*

well. This one may be longer of a discussion than you think- consider the habitat and upland effects tumbling downstream... are land-locked rainbow a good measure of succeeding in improvements in those areas that affect the downstream listed species?

**** Addressed above in Okanogan County**

And these are from comment discussions so far at HCC:

5. Outlining federal trust responsibilities (tribes)

6. Artificial propagation of bull trout in Lake Chelan and/or Okanogan

7. Spring Chinook in the Okanogan

8. Above Chief Joseph (I thought this was a dead issue, but it showed up again) at this point in time it may be premature to create a policy on this – in the future it may be a potential to increase valuable habitat

9. Additional guidance for monitoring specifics to the upper Columbia- counting what attribute that measures if we in the UC have succeeded, regardless of downstream oh lets say failures (not so good of a term, but anyway).

Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board

Position statement regarding the Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board's definition of recovery of fish populations in the region.

In 2000, the Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board (UCSRB) developed a goal statement that defined recovery of salmon and steelhead as having viable **and** harvestable populations. The Board has reaffirmed this position on several occasions over the last five years. The UCSRB definition of recovery is not synonymous with the Endangered Species Act (ESA) definition. The ESA defines recovery as a process that changes the status of a species to allow delisting. This UCSRB goal is intended to achieve an enriched quality of life in the region, represented in part by healthy fish populations, and providing for clearly needed economic growth and diversity. It is not the intent of the Board to put any regulatory or legal burden above and beyond what is called for in the ESA on the citizenry of the region. The recovery plan will achieve delisting of threatened and endangered salmonid species and include information and **voluntary** actions that will result in salmonid populations capable of sustaining some level of recreational and tribal harvest.

The Board believes that there are three stages in the recovery process: 1) a change from endangered to threatened status, 2) from threatened to delisting, and 3) delisting to harvestable. The first two stages are ESA defined and regulated by the federal services (NOAA Fish and USFWS), whereas the last stage is a plan objective that contains non-regulatory potential for enhancing or creating fisheries in the region. The first stage, a change in status, allows more legal and regulatory flexibility as negotiated through what are called 4(d) rules. The second stage completely relieves ESA requirements and the third stage will assist in meeting federal

tribal trust responsibilities and provide for recreational fisheries and economic benefit within the region. An example of the last stage might be voluntary landowner actions related to improving habitat conditions. This definition is conceptually consistent with, and intended to support, many community goals related to the quality of life in the region.

It was **Chuck** and **Lee's** thought that we might need to put together a definition statement of Harvest and some of the other terms that may require it in the near future. (Hatcheries etc.)

Harvest is an objective beyond recovery.

Bill moved to approve the Recovery Policy Statement as written with the one change (the adding of the word voluntary). Ron seconded the motion and the motion was passed.

IV. Review / Update

Bob Lohn testimony in Olympia, **Senator Morton** comments, **Rob Walton** involvement

- **Denny** distributed a letter from BPA about projects and funding. **Dick** mentioned that this was a direct reflection of our efforts on early implementation from last year.
- **Bill** asked **Denny** to contact **Doug Marker** and **Maslen** to request that in the future they cc the UCSRB on correspondence pertinent to the Board.
- **Ron** requested that **Denny** get back to him with the timing of the S232 Bill.

Q & A

V. Other

- **Dick** mentioned that he has talked to **Tracy Hillman** and **Tracy** has given him a list of 5 items and their corresponding due dates that he needs from NOAA.
 - 1) Viability Curves for Upper Columbia steelhead and spring Chinook (by March 1)
 - 2) Updated MSAs for Upper Columbia steelhead and spring Chinook (by March 1)
 - 3) Out of Subbasin Effects (by April 1)
 - 4) Cost/Benefit Assessments (by April 1)
 - 5) Relationship of recovery to other efforts (by April 1)
- **Dick** updated the Board on the process and status of the handling comments recently received during the comment period.

VI. Executive Session

Summary of Motions

Bud moved that the 5 members who sit on the UCSRB be the core planning group. **Ron** seconded the motion and the motion was passed.

Bud made the motion that we do not include Crab Creek in the Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Plan. **Ron** seconded the motion and the motion was passed.

Bill made the motion to present the Crab Creek issue to the Conflict Resolution Facilitator once that person is on board. **Lee** seconded the motion and the motion was passed.

Ron made the motion to create a draft policy statement on Hatcheries. **Bill** seconded the motion and the motion was passed.

Bud moved to accept the draft as the Board's policy in regards to the inclusion of Canada. **Ron** seconded the motion and the motion was passed.

Bud moved to adopt the draft on the impacts of humans as a policy direction for the UCSRB. **Ron** seconded the motion and the motion was passed.

Bud moved to accept this as a draft policy on Watershed plans for this board. **Ron** seconded the motion and the motion was passed.

Bill moved to approve the Recovery Policy Statement as written with the one change (the adding of the word voluntary). **Ron** seconded the motion and the motion was passed.

Handouts:

- Agenda
- DOE Letter to Doug Marker from William Maslen (February 16, 2005) (KEW-4)
(3 pages plus spreadsheet)
- Proposed Scope of Work and Budget for U.S. Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution with NOAA Fisheries (under purchase order AB133F-03-SE-1485)
(11 pages)

1) **CRAB CREEK**

Bud made the motion that we do not include Crab Creek in the Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Plan. Ron seconded the motion. The motion was passed.

2) **HATCHERIES**

DRAFT POLICY STATEMENT: Hatchery programs of listed species will enhance recovery of those species. And those programs not directed towards recovery, will not impede recovery, of the listed species.

- Deleted: will
- Deleted: of listed species.
- Deleted: mitigating
- Deleted: for other species
- Deleted: jeopardize
- Deleted: the
- Deleted: existence
- Deleted: investigated
- Deleted: continue and
- Deleted: enhance opportunities for listed stock as well as those in the Okanogan basin.

3) **INCLUSION OF CANADA IN RECOVERY PLAN**

DRAFT POLICY STATEMENT: Habitat improvement projects in Canada will be in encouraged in order to contribute to recovery.

4) **IMPACTS OF HUMANS**

DRAFT POLICY STATEMENT: We will work with public land owners for policy changes that will help implement the plan on their lands. Actions implemented on private land will be on a voluntary basis.

5) **WATERSHEDS**

DRAFT POLICY STATEMENT: The UCSRB accepts the role of coordination for the recovery plan to include all of the subbasin, watershed, bi-lateral, & recovery plans. This is to ensure a local approach.

- Deleted: in the
- Deleted: of
- Deleted: will
- Deleted: bottom-up, grass roots

6) **ADULT / SPAWNER RETURNS**

DRAFT POLICY STATEMENT: Even though the delisting criteria will be based on the number of returning adults the policy of the UCSRB is that the success of habitat improvements will be based upon juvenile productivity and the quality and quantity of habitat.

- Deleted: should
- Deleted: .¶

(This draft was not approved by the Board, but it has been added onto this list incase the Staff has time to address it and provide a different option for the statement)

7) It was Chuck and Lee's thought that we might need to put together a definition statement just like the Recovery definition statement for Harvest and some of the other terms that may require a similar definition in the near future. (Hatcheries etc.)