



Snake River Salmon Recovery Board
109 South Second Street
Dayton, WA 99328
509-382-4115
Email: info@snakeriverboard.org

Snake River Salmon Recovery Board

Meeting Minutes - January 9, 2003

Officiator, Steve Martin, called the board meeting held in Pomeroy at Donna's Drive Inn to order at 3:00 p.m. Voting Board Members present were Jay Holzmilller, Gordon Reed, Don Scheibe, Emmit Taylor Jr., Cathy LaRoque, Dick Jones, Les Wiggin, Eric Myers, Butch Klaveano, Clay Barr (had to leave), Yancy Reser, Stuart Durfee and Richard Hastings. The following individuals also attended: Brad Johnson, Megan Browne, Terry Bruegman, Bob Bugert, Mark Wachtel, Paul Kraynak, Lonnie Mettler, and Elizabeth Garr (NOAA fisheries). Absent Voting Board Members were Jed Volkman, Randy Suess, Jim Cochran and Dick Ducharme.

Minutes:

The minutes for the November 19, 2002 meeting were reviewed. It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes of the November 19, 2002 meeting. **Motion Carried.**

New Business:

Guest Speaker

Elizabeth Gaar, Salmon Recovery policy and science representative for NOAA fisheries (National Marine Fisheries Service) provided a 30 minute presentation of how NMFS views salmon recovery planning. Her current role is to work on building and supporting recovery plans.

The Endangered Species Act (ESA) requires that the Federal Agencies develop a recovery plan for listed species. Such a plan must establish goals, site-specific actions and identifies cost and a schedule to implement plan. This effort has been shifted from the federal government to the local Snake River Salmon Recovery Board because in the last planning process for salmon recovery, people having to implement actions were not a part of the planning process. This time the planning is starting at the local level with local strategies and commitment in this planning process.

There are seven main recovery plan components, which are Subbasin Plans, Estuary/Nearshore Actions, Mainstem Actions, Harvest Actions, Large Scale Hatchery Actions, Natural & Climatic Variability and Monitoring & Evaluation.

The Subbasin Plan is the component the Snake River Salmon Recovery Board is working on. Ultimately, all of the components will be put together with Subbasin Plans from all Salmon Recovery Boards.

NMFS has assembled a technical review team (TRT) to develop draft recovery objectives, including considerations for salmon abundance, genetics and productivity. Draft abundance objectives are now available for steelhead in Asotin Creek, and the

Tucannon and Walla Walla rivers. The TRT will work with the local recovery board scientists and agencies to refine these goals as more information becomes available. These objectives may become a part of the de-listing criteria for salmon in this region.

Executive Committee Option

It was suggested the board have an Executive Committee to make decisions that can't wait until the entire board can meet. The Executive Committee will consist of the chairmen of the following four subcommittees: (1) Budget, (2) Bylaws, (3) Personnel, (4) Habitat and the co-chairs of the Recovery Board. The Executive committee will not have to consult entire board to make decisions in order to move forward with business. It was moved and seconded to have an Executive Committee to make day-to-day decisions. This change will be reflected in the draft By-Laws. **Motion Carried.** Establishing membership to the four subcommittees will occur at the next meeting.

Business Organization

There are three other existing recovery boards and Bob Bugert (Governor's Salmon Recovery Office) provided a summary of the organizational structure as well as the pros and cons of how they are organized.

The Upper Columbia Board has established itself as a standing committee to a non-profit organization, the Resource Conservation and Development council (RCD). The RCD is a branch of the federal agency, the NRCS. The two primary advantages to being organized as a committee under the RCD is that the Upper Columbia Board can use the auditing system that the NRCS uses, and that as a non-profit organization, they are eligible for accepting and allocating private funds. The drawback is there are federal requirements that must be met, potentially conflicting missions, and additional administrative requirements, i.e., multiple reporting. The Puget Sound Forum (Recovery Board) is also organized as a non-profit but is not associated with any branch of government. The disadvantage is that it takes considerable time to go through the process of becoming a 501(C)3, there are legal fees involved, and an independent accounting/audit system must be established.

The Lower Columbia Board has statutory authority as a recognized and funded board directly from the legislature. They expect to have a completed recovery plan by 2004. Their board members consist of County Commissioner and Tribal representatives. The drawback to this form is it must meet terms of legislation. It was suggested having a representative talk to the board about how it works for them.

After discussion, it was suggested that the Columbia County Commissioners consider accepting the fiscal responsibility for the Recovery Board. Dick Jones, County Commissioner agreed to present the idea to the Columbia County Commissioners at their next meeting. The concept is that the Columbia County auditor and treasurer would process invoices and payroll for the Recovery Board, but would not have responsibility for authorizing expenditure. In this scenario, expenditures would have to be authorized by the Recovery Board or a sub-committee, i.e., budget subcommittee, before being paid. The advantage to the County serving as fiscal agent is that they have an auditor, treasurer and formal state auditing, which are looked upon favorably by the granting entity. The second advantage is that this will expedite fiscal process and the Recovery Board can

begin authorizing expenditures as soon as the Commissioners pass necessary resolution and the IAC works with the Commissioners to develop the grant contract. The **Motion Carried** to have the Columbia County Commissioners assume fiscal responsibility. Steve will work with a representative of the IAC and the Columbia County Board of Commissioners to understand the responsibilities of serving as the fiscal agent.

By-Laws and Operating Rules

Steve will modify the by-laws to reflect having an Executive committee and subcommittees.

Job Descriptions for Director and Staff

The board reviewed example Job Descriptions and Salary Range for an Administrative and Education Outreach Specialist and a Secretary. As soon as the personnel and budget committees are established, job descriptions will be developed and announcements published for the positions. No decision was made regarding the use of contractors to serve the roles or if the Recovery Board wanted to hire staff. This will be an agenda item for the next meeting.

Agency Directors

There will be representatives from NMFS, WDFW, USFWS, NWPPC and SRFB to share their perspectives and vision of regional salmon recovery planning at a meeting May 15th at the Marcus Whitman Hotel and Conference Center in Walla Walla. An agenda will be prepared and distributed in February, but keep your calendar open for this exciting opportunity to network with key policy and regulatory agency representatives.

It was suggested that the number of voting members for the board be decreased as a means to increase efficiency. The Board discussed this but concluded that to maintain adequate representation of all stakeholders in the Region the number should remain at 3 per county. The Board felt that the Tribes should have the same number of votes as each county, so a motion carried to increase the number of votes to three for each of the two Tribes. There will be 21 votes total.

The board discussed changing the voting from a complete consensus to a 2/3 majority to pass motions. It was moved and seconded to change from complete consensus to a 2/3 majority to pass motions. **Motion Carried.** Steve will change the by-laws to reflect this decision-making change.

Glen Mendel would like the board to hire Mike Gembala to get WDFW data transferred into a usable form in a spreadsheet. Steve volunteered to hire Mike under the contract that he currently has under the Lead Entity, for 1-½ months at an estimated cost of \$3,500 plus over-head, for the purpose of entering data that will be critical as Recovery Planning moves forward. Mike has worked on Glen's crew for several years and is familiar with the data. It was moved and seconded to have Martin Consulting hire Mike for 1-½ months at the cost of \$3,500 to get WDFW data into a usable form. **Motion Carried.**

Review of Motions:

1. It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes of the November 19, 2002 meeting. **Motion Carried.**

2. It was moved and seconded to have an Executive Committee to make day-to-day decisions. **Motion Carried.**
3. It was moved and seconded to have the Columbia County Board of Commissioners to delegate funding if they willing to do so. **Motion Carried.** Steve will find out if the Columbia County Board of Commissioners would be willing to do this.
4. It was moved and seconded to change the number of votes for each Tribe from 1 to 3 and to change the decision making process from complete consensus to a 2/3 majority to pass motions. **Motion Carried.**
5. It was moved and seconded to have Martin Consulting hire Mike for 1 ½ months \$13 per hour (\$3,510) plus employer expenses incurred by Martin Consulting, to get 1998 and 1999 WDFW fish management data into a usable form that will be useful for recover planning. The terms and deliverables are described in a letter dated January 8, 2003 sent by Glen Mendel (WDFW) to Brad Johnson. **Motion Carried.**

There being no further business, the regular meeting was adjourned at 5:30 p.m. by Steve Martin.

NEXT MEETING:

February 25, 2003

3:30 p.m.

The 5 Star Restaurant in Dayton, WA