



## WASHINGTON COAST SUSTAINABLE SALMON PARTNERSHIP

### SUMMARY OF SPECIAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

**January 11, 2011**

approximately 2:00 – 2:20 pm

Via Conference Call

#### DECISION made at THIS MEETING

MOTION: The Board of Directors of WCSSP authorizes Miles Batchelder to sign the Council of Regions letter to Governor Gregoire in support of the Salmon Recovery Funding Board, subject to it also being copied to the chairs of the appropriate legislative committees.

In attendance via conference call:

#### WCSSP BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Mark Swartout**, Chair

North Pacific Coast Lead Entity Group

**Katie Krueger**, Quileute Indian Tribe

**Rich Osborne**, Lead Entity Coordinator

Grays Harbor County Lead Entity Group

**Terry Baltzell**, Chehalis Basin Fisheries Task Force

**Lee Napier**, Lead Entity Coordinator

**Mark Swartout**, Thurston County

Quinalt Indian Nation Lead Entity Group

**Dave Bingaman**, Quinalt Indian Nation

Pacific County Lead Entity Group

**Mike Johnson**, Lead Entity Coordinator

**Key McMurry**, WBWRCC, Key Environmental Solutions

**Faith Taylor-Eldred**, Pacific County (late to join)

#### OTHERS

John Sims, Lead Entity Coordinator

Terry Willis, Grays Harbor County Commissioner

Miles Batchelder, WCSSP Staff

Dana Jo Dietz, WCSSP Staff

#### Welcome

Chair Mark Swartout welcomed everyone, brought the meeting to order and asked everyone to identify themselves. He noted that there was a quorum present.

## **Council of Regions' letter to Gov. Gregoire concerning proposed dissolution of Salmon Recovery Funding Board**

Chair Swartout asked Batchelder to explain the need for this special meeting. Batchelder reiterated that the Council of Regions (COR) was drafting a letter addressed to Governor Gregoire in support of retaining the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB), which Gregoire has proposed eliminating in legislation currently before the legislature. COR is asking each of the seven regional Executive Directors to sign the letter by tomorrow, Wednesday, January 12, 2011, at which time it will be sent to Gregoire. A copy of the current draft of the letter (attached) was sent out to the Board along with special meeting invitation at 1:35pm Monday, January 10, 2011 (and to everyone on WCSSP email list at 2:13pm Monday, January 10, 2011).

In order to start discussion about approving WCSSP's signature on this letter, Swartout asked for a motion. Mike Johnson made the following motion: **"The Board of Directors of WCSSP authorizes Miles Batchelder to sign the Council of Regions letter to Governor Gregoire in support of the Salmon Recovery Funding Board."** Key McMurry seconded the motion. Swartout pointed out that, as part of its decision, the Board needs to understand that the letter is still undergoing some language changes; therefore, the Board will need to trust Batchelder's judgment that the content of the original letter isn't changed before he signs it.

Dave Bingaman asked whether we have further information on how policy decisions now being made by the SRFB would be made if it doesn't exist. Batchelder answered that he had asked Phil Miller to attend this meeting to address that question. Miller was not able to attend this meeting, but did send the following answer to Batchelder and Dietz (which Dietz read into the record): "The answer to Bingaman's question is that, if the SRFB is eliminated, the policy calls it has been making would be made by either the RCO Director, or the Director of the consolidated agency if the consolidation legislation passes." Miller noted that this is the best answer he can give at this time, and that the current RCO Director has asked the legislature for clarification of this. Swartout noted that his many years of experience in Olympia has shown him that answers to these kinds of questions don't occur until after the legislation is finalized and/or passed.

Bingaman questioned whether WCSSP was being reactive in this situation. The point was made that this is truly time-sensitive material; the sooner that input like this from COR is made to the legislature, the more effective it is. If we don't act in a timely way, we won't have any say.

Swartout raised the question of whether the letter was addressed properly (to the Governor). Several Board members agreed that it should be addressed or at least copied to the chairs of the appropriate legislative committees. Batchelder noted that he has already made this suggestion to COR. Terry Baltzell moved a friendly amendment to the motion, adding: **"subject to it also being copied to the chairs of the appropriate legislative committees."** Bingaman seconded the amendment.

Swartout called for approval of the amended motion:

**MOTION: The Board of Directors of WCSSP authorizes Miles Batchelder to sign the Council of Regions letter to Governor Gregoire in support of the Salmon Recovery Funding Board, subject to it also being copied to the chairs of the appropriate legislative committees.**

Rich Osborne and Katie Krueger said they had to abstain, since the letter had not come before NPCLE. Swartout asked if there were any objections beyond NPCLE's abstention. There were none. This decision occurred at 2:17 pm.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further agenda items, Chair Swartout thanked everyone and adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,  
Dana Jo Dietz

January 12, 2011

The Honorable Chris Gregoire  
Governor  
Post Office Box 40002  
Olympia, Washington 98504-0002

Dear Governor Gregoire:

On behalf of the Council of Regions (COR), we are writing in response to your proposal to consolidate natural resource agencies. COR is an ad hoc council of the 7 salmon recovery organizations in Washington State working together to advance salmon recovery efforts. As you have stated several times, the economic deficiencies we are facing in government demand critical review and tough choices about how government operates. We generally support your effort to consolidate government, and to review the existing boards and commissions. However, we regret the proposal to eliminate the Washington State Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) for the following reasons:

- Since Governor Locke and the 1998 legislature's leadership in establishing a statewide salmon recovery partnership the SRFB has become a forum that represents diverse interests across the state, ensures public accountability, and is a national model for addressing a federal issue at the local level. The SRFB is an entity that equitably and responsibly distributes a significant federal investment across the state of Washington. This framework has been embraced and strongly supported by the federal government who is largely financing the operations and implementation of the state's salmon recovery plans.
- The SRFB embodies the "Washington Way" to address salmon recovery: a grass-roots effort led by 7 strong regional recovery organizations that depend on the process and support from the SRFB and staff. The SRFB has overseen and guided significant habitat project funding in a way that has engaged agencies, tribes, local governments, communities, non-profits and volunteers to leverage resources and address critical habitat needs. The SRFB has been able to accomplish these tasks because of its focused mission and the interest and knowledge of salmon recovery issues its members bring to the table. The salmon recovery program, administered by the SRFB is truly a smaller, more efficient model of getting salmon recovery actions done (I want to say something about focus i.e., the SRFB is not distracted by "agency" scope creep or competing demands but I am out of time and have to go now).
- Fiscally, the OFM projected savings of eliminating the SRFB is \$25,000 per year. The return on the State's investment cannot be understated, and should not be dismissed.

We look forward to engaging with you and the legislature on the consolidation of natural resource agencies during the 2011 legislative session. We look forward to a continuation of a strong salmon recovery partnership through the state's Salmon Recovery Funding Board.

Kind Regards,

Cc: Kaleen Cottingham, etc.