



March 7, 2025 Board Meeting Agenda

1:00pm – 3:00pm PST

This is a hybrid meeting- participants have the option to attend virtually using the Microsoft Teams information or in-person.

Microsoft Teams

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Wahkiakum County In-Person Meeting:

River Street Meeting Room

25 River Street

Cathlamet, WA 98612

ROLL CALL

PUBLIC COMMENTS (Limited to 3 minutes per person)

PARTNER REPORTS

Coast Strata Recovery Update presentation- Steve Manlow, Executive Director

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

BOARD BUSINESS

Action Items	
1.	Consent Agenda
2.	North of Falcon Comment Letter
3.	Appointment of Secretary-Treasurer position
4.	Appointment of Private Property Interests Representative
Informational Items	
5.	2025 Annual Report

GOOD OF THE ORDER

If you need special accommodations to participate in this meeting, please call 360 425-1555



March 7, 2025

Board Meeting

Webinar and In-Person Meeting

River Street Meeting Room

25 River Street , Cathlamet WA 98612

Minutes

Approved: May 2, 2025

Present: Scott Brummer, Dan Cothren, Dalton Fry, Asa Leckie, Matt Little, Todd Olson, Nathan Phillips, Steve Rader, Sandra Staples-Bortner, Robert Sudar, and Don Swanson.

Absent: Marylynne Kostick, Troy McCoy, and Jade Unger. Chairman excused absent members.

Staff: Steve Manlow, Denise Smee, Amelia Johnson, Steve West, and Lorie Clark

ANNOUNCEMENTS: No announcements were offered.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: No public comments were offered.

PARTNER REPORTS: Coast Strata Recovery Update Presentation by Steve Manlow, Executive Director

DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Director Manlow noted the Director's Report was sent out with the Board materials. He highlighted the following topics from his report:

- Wahkiakum County Common Ground Workshops;
- Salmon Day on Capitol Hill;
- FY2025/27 State Budget Process;
- Port of Vancouver (POV) Small Grants Program; and,
- North of Falcon Harvest Forum Engagement.

BUSINESS MEETING

Item #1 Consent Agenda

Member Staples-Bortner moved and Member Fry seconded to approve the Consent Agenda as submitted.

No discussion. Motion carried.

Item #2 North of Falcon Comment Letter

Mr. Manlow presented the item and provided a summary of the staff report and recommended letter addressing the four LCFRB recommendations from the letter.

Board members provided the following questions and comments:

- Member Sudar described the challenges with defining impacts for each population. Mr. Manlow noted there are emerging tools that might help with evaluation of impacts to natural origin tule's.
- Member Sudar added that hatchery fish are used as the surrogate for wild fish and impacts cannot be measured until fish are counted in-basin and the fishery is mostly over, and ocean impacts are also determined. Mr. Manlow noted that if we were above Bonneville Dam it would be a different situation.
- Member Swanson inquired about evaluation of pit tag data and on-vessel observers in ocean fisheries.
- Member Staples Bortner commented that the proposed letter is conservative and scientifically sound, and that it is our obligation to protect these fish with the best data possible. She indicated the letter addresses all "H's" and is well written.
- Member Phillips noted the letter is well done and diplomatic.
- Member Sudar described the movement to eliminate in-river commercial representatives from the North of Falcon process, noted support is needed, and described the gaps in representation across the different management forums. The Director and board members discussed the need to engage before the next management cycle. Mr. Manlow explained that supporting viable fisheries grounded in our vision statement.
- Chair Olson stated suggested we send out the letter and gauge responses.
- Member Staples Bortner asked about expected responses. Mr. Manlow noted the letter was vetted with WDFW but expected pushback from fishing interests.
- Member Fry noted that any reduced ocean harvest impacts might be used up in-river.
- Member Phillips noted it makes sense to establish certain points in the mainstem for managing fishery closures and openings.
- Member Swanson asked whether moving impacts to in-river fisheries could produce fewer bycatch impacts, or whether impacts would be the same. Mr. Manlow responded that currently management is based on ESA take limits.
- Member Sudar explained that we only harvest mature fish in the river whereas in the ocean they handle a lot of immature and smaller fish.
- Member Radar indicated he is in favor of being proactive on seeking solutions.

Mr. Manlow stated he plans to testify at the North of Falcon meeting on Tuesday, March 11, 2025 in Vancouver. He thanked the Board for their support on submitting the letter.

Member Staples-Bortner moved and Member Swanson seconded to authorize the Chair to sign a letter to Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) and Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC) for consideration during the 2025 North of Falcon management process.

No discussion. Motion Carried.

Item #3 Appointment of Secretary – Treasurer Position

Mr. Manlow presented the item and summarized the staff report.

Member Swanson, a current Finance Committee member, self-nominated to fill the Secretary-Treasurer position. Member Fry moved and Member Phillips seconded to close nominations.

Member Phillips moved and Member Sudar seconded to appoint Don Swanson as Secretary-Treasurer.

No discussion. Motion carried.

Item #4 Appointment of Private Property Interests Representative

Mr. Manlow presented the item and summarized the staff report.

After discussions with Board members and no volunteers to fill the position, Chair Olson stated this item did not have to be approved today. Members stated they would like the role to be more defined. This position would serve as a liaison to the Board. Mr. Manlow suggested that staff could hold a workshop on the position to better define the responsibilities.

Chair Olson tabled this item for a future meeting.

Item #4B Appointment of a Finance Committee Member

After approval of Item #3 appointing Member Swanson as Secretary-Treasurer and a current Finance Committee member, there is a need for an additional Finance Committee member. Ms. Smee stated the Boards Bylaws require a minimum of three Board members serve on the Finance Committee. However, currently there are only two. A motion was made to nominate Member Phillips to serve on the Finance Committee.

Member Fry moved and Member Cothren seconded to appoint Nathan Phillips to the Finance Committee.

Discussion:

- Ms. Smee stated this item would be put on the next meeting agenda in case other Members are interested in serving on the Finance Committee.

Motion carried.

Item #5 Informational Item – 2025 Annual Report

Ms. Smee presented the Annual Report on the Board's website. Copies of the Annual Report have been made available.

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

- Ms. Smee stated staff is planning for Fall project tours.
- Member Swanson asked about Board funding. Mr. Manlow noted there has been a 6% cut under Governor Ferguson's proposed budget. He added that the natural resource agency budgets took a hard hit in the Governor's proposed budget.

- Member Leckie asked about the reduction in Salmon Recovery from the governor's budget. Mr. Manlow stated the operating budget reduction has been absorbed without a big reduction in the regions so far.
- Ms. Smee stated staff have finalized the reduction in office space with WSDOT to reduce monthly rent.
- Member Sudar invited the Board to attend the Audubon Society meeting on 3/28/25 at the Kelso Senior Center. He will send a link to staff to share with Board Members.
- Chair Olson asked staff to set up a meeting with new Board members.

Adjourned at 3:02 p.m.

/lc

Approved in open session on 05/02/2025

Signed: _____



Todd Olson, Chairman