



May 2, 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.

In-Person Meeting location:

Skamania County Courthouse Annex (*Enter the building to the rear*)

170 NW Vancouver Ave, Stevenson WA 98648

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Meeting ID: 221 634 844 454

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ROLL CALL

PUBLIC COMMENTS (Limited to 3 minutes per person)

PARTNER REPORTS

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Presentation on At-Risk Projects - Steve West, Habitat Policy Specialist

BOARD BUSINESS

Action Items	
1.	Consent Agenda
2.	Adoption of the Port of Vancouver Small Grant Review Committee Ranked List
3.	Decision on Pacific Coast Salmon Recovery Fund Letters
4.	Appointment of Finance Committee Member(s)

GOOD OF THE ORDER

ADJOURN

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



May 2, 2025
Board Meeting
Webinar and In-Person Meeting

Final Minutes
Approved August 1, 2025

Skamania County Courthouse Annex
170 NW Vancouver Ave., Stevenson, WA 98648

Present: Scott Brummer, Dan Cothren, Dalton Fry, Marylynne Kostick, Asa Leckie, Matt Little, Todd Olson, Ed Orcutt, Nathan Phillips, Sandra Staples-Bortner, Robert Sudar, Don Swanson and Jade Unger.

Absent: Troy McCoy and Steve Rader. Chairman excused absent members.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS: No announcements were offered.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

- Jeff Breckel, Salmon Recovery Funding Board Chair, and former LCFRB Director: Mr. Breckel complimented the Board on being a leader in salmon recovery and working with landowners. He noted the statewide program will be facing some funding challenges. He encouraged the Board to continue to voice support for federal funding and with local legislators.
- Paul Kolp, LCEP: Mr. Kolp invited Board members to their groundbreaking East Fork Lewis River Reconnection project on May 9, 2025.

PARTNER REPORTS: No partner reports were presented.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Director Manlow highlighted the following from his Director's Report:

- Brian Abbott Fish Barrier Removal Board: For Fiscal year 25/27, the draft list has five Cowlitz County and four Lewis County projects totaling over \$7.4 million in project requests.
- At Risk Projects from 2022 Supplemental Budget Appropriations: The RCO recently became aware of a provision in the proposed Senate operating budget that would transfer \$30 million from funded salmon recovery projects to the state general fund for fiscal year 2026. We do not know whether this provision will be removed until the session is over.
- Senate Bill 5157: This bill has been signed by the Governor. It will allow the direct sale of up to \$250,000 in timber from state lands to support habitat restoration projects. The concept for this bill originated from a discussion led by the Lower Columbia Fish Enhancement Group during a field tour with LCFRB and the Senate Agriculture, Water, Natural Resource and Parks Committee.

- State and Federal Budgets: With the uncertainty surrounding the state and federal budgets, staff are coordinating with the RCO on spending approaches for the remainder of 2025, and for 2025/27 biennium.

BUSINESS MEETING

Item #1 Consent Agenda

Member Staples-Bortner moved and Member Swanson seconded to approve the Consent Agenda with the revised meeting minutes.

No discussion. Motion carried.

Item #2 Adoption of the Port of Vancouver (POV) Small Grant Review Committee Ranked List

Mr. Manlow presented the item, and provided an overview on the program history, funding amounts, and how the grant round was managed and implemented.

The Director reviewed the PowerPoint presentation with the Board outlining each of the projects submitted. The Review Committee came to consensus on the ranked project list below.

1. 25-02 Stormwater Phos Filter Media Improvement – Fund
2. 25-01 Burnt Bridge Creek Lower Reach Restoration Final Design – Fund
3. 25-03 Cougar Creek Stormwater Reduction – Fund
4. 25-04 *Enhancing Stormwater Management at Weber Arboretum – Not Funded*

Board members provided the following questions and comments:

- Member Staples-Bortner stated she's impressed that the projects came together in such a short timeline and appreciates the work that staff has done.
- Chair Olson asked if this was a one-time grant round that would use all the available funds. Mr. Manlow stated yes.
- Member Orcutt asked if sponsors would maintain their project sites. Mr. Manlow stated yes for the life of their contract.

Member Little moved and Member Orcutt seconded to recommend the Board adopt the review committee scores, supporting rationales, and ranked list funding recommendation for the Port of Vancouver (POV) Small Grants Program grant round, and authorize the Director to enter into contracts with sponsors for project implementation.

No discussion. Motion Carried.

Item #3 Decision on Pacific Coast Salmon Recovery Fund Letters

Director Manlow presented the item. He explained that staff is requesting authorization to submit three letters to congressional delegates regarding the uncertainty of Pacific Coast Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF) program for federal funding for fiscal year 2026. He noted the letters would be sent to

LCFRB's local delegates as well as members of the Appropriations Committee, highlighted the importance of PCSRF, and stated that PCSRF dollars via RCO comprise 60% of LCFRB's operating funds, in addition to funding projects.

Board members raised the following questions/concerns:

- Member Little stated he just returned from Washington D.C. from meeting with congressional members and added there has been a lot of support on this issue. Clark County also wrote a letter of support for federal funding.
- Member Staples-Bortner stated that NOAA has sustained a lot of cuts and are down 50%. Mr. Manlow agreed and added that the cuts happened quickly with some employees opting for early retirement.
- Member Staples-Bortner asked if the Board should be on record regarding the staff reductions (in federal agencies), making it a separate issue from the congressional letters. Chair Olson suggested we could address the issue with our congressional delegation members.

Member Leckie moved and Member Little seconded to authorize the Chair to sign three letters on behalf of the Board, regarding the federal Pacific Coast Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF) program funding for Fiscal Year (FY) 2026: letter to Senators Murray and Cantwell, and representative Gluesenkamp-Perez; letter to Senators Moran and Van Hollen, and Representatives Rogers and Meng; and, joint letter to Senators Moran and Van Hollen, and Representatives Rogers and Meng from the Council of Regions.

No discussion. Motion carried.

Chair Olson stated before we move to the next action item, he wanted to address Board member Staples-Bortner's concerns regarding the impact on federal staffing levels.

- Mr. Manlow stated there are strong advocates in Senator Cantwell's office regarding PCSRF funding and NOAA and indicated he will work with Erik Neatherlin at GSRO about what is taking place in terms of staffing.
- Member Orcutt recommended the Board send a request asking they maintain adequate staffing levels to address and carry out specific work and to achieve the mission. Otherwise, if we generally state we have concerns about cuts, then we get into DOGE versus anti-DOGE.
- Member Sudar highlighted the important role of NOAA and NMFS in hatchery and harvest management and research.
- Member Leckie suggested talking with representative staff about messaging and what value would be added to be more effective.
- Member Orcutt stated the president can do a lot of things but ultimately Congress writes the budgets and provides the funding.

Item #4 Appointment of Finance Committee Member(s)

Chair Olson presented the item and noted that at the last meeting we discussed the Finance Committee membership. He thanked Member Phillips for joining that committee. He inquired about whether other members wanted to join and self-nominate. He suggested any interested members reach out to one of the current (Finance Committee) members if there are questions.

No nominations were given for additional Finance Committee members. No action taken.
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GOOD OF THE ORDER:

- Member Swanson stated there are a lot of seals and sea lions west of Longview.
- Member Orcutt stated he attended a Bonneville Dam Tour and it was noted that if the sea lions were moved to California, they would be in the area in two days.
- Member Swanson referenced the active ocean volcano west of Brookings Oregon.
- Member Fry stated sea lions come into tributaries chasing smelt.
- Member Staples-Bortner asked if staff participated in the survey that WDFW completed. Mr. Manlow replied yes and noted staff had two follow up discussions with WDFW fish managers and modelers on how to frame up management alternatives relative to recovery goals.
- Member Sudar stated the state doesn't manage impacts on ESA species in the ocean; they collect the data.
- The next LCFRB meeting is scheduled for June 6, 2025. It will be virtual and in-person at our office in Vancouver.

Adjourned at 1:35 p.m.

/lc

Approved in open session on 08/01/2025

Signed: _____

Todd Olson, Chairman