

# Columbia Basin Collaborative Charter Review Subgroup Meeting

## Meeting Summary

Tuesday, May 14th, 2024, from 10:00 am – 12:00 pm PT/ 11:00 am – 1:00 pm MT

### Attendees

**Working Group Members in Attendance:** B.J. Kieffer (Spokane Tribe of Indians), Brent Hall (Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs), Ed Bowles (State of Oregon), Jeremiah Bonifer (Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation), Jim McKenna (State of Oregon), Joel Kawahara (Non-tribal Fisheries), Joseph Oatman (Nez Perce Tribe), Kevin Scribner (Conservation Representative), Liliana Elliott (Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation), Michael Garrity (State of Washington), Michael Tehan (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries), Paul Arrington (River Economies Representative), Robert Lessard (Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission), Robert Masonis (Conservation Representative), Roland Springer (Bureau of Reclamation), Scott Hoefer (Bureau of Reclamation), and Tom Iverson (Yakama Nation).

**Facilitation Team:** Grant Simmons (Kearns & West), Liz Mack (Kearns & West), and Samantha Meysohn (Kearns & West).

### Welcome, Agenda Review, and Context

Liz Mack, Kearns & West, provided an overview of the agenda and meeting guidelines. The topics included: 1) Columbia Basin Collaborative (CBC) process proposals and updates, 2) Confirming no charter changes, and 3) Confirming the next steps and action items.

### Process Proposals and Updates

#### Scope Sub-Group

Liz recapped the potential short-term scope changes. The proposal covered priorities for the short-term, like salmon funding for FY25/26, exploring structured decision making (SDM) and scenario approaches, and actions with potential for consensus recommendations. Additionally, the proposal included taking a short-term pause, for the remainder for 2024, on making recommendations on the Lower Snake River Dam breach, hydro system operations, hatcheries and harvest, and the Upper Columbia blocked area.

A high-level summary of the discussion is below:

- A few members requested that the proposal be clear that the group will revisit the pause on the identified topics in 2025 rather than guarantee that all of the paused topics will be discussed for recommendations in 2025. Several participants shared that they believe the topics included in short-term scope would provide plenty of work for the CBC in the coming months. Another member reflected that the CBC hasn't yet demonstrated a sense of urgency, but the group is trying to be mindful of how to work on these sensitive topics.
- Several members shared an interest in not taking topics off the table permanently and appreciated the idea of revisiting a pause in early 2025. One participant shared that at some point, the group will have to discuss all topics, even the difficult ones together. Several members

expressed an interest in integrating all threat categories to achieve the Columbia Basin Partnership Goals while also honoring tribal and treaty rights.

- One member requested greater clarity on how external forums would provide informational updates to the I/RG and requested that these updates not include circulating reports/reviews advancing a certain perspective. Another member clarified that updates would be related to activities occurring in other forums and potential funding opportunities.
- A member expressed an interest in changing how the hatcheries and harvest discussions happen in the CBC in the future if a pause is lifted. One participant shared that they felt tribal harvest is not an appropriate topic for the CBC. Some parties noted there is more room to have a hatcheries conversation than a harvest one, but members would need to spend more time figuring out how to have productive conversation on the topic. Another member requested that marine harvest discussions include the non-tribal fisheries representatives. The group agreed to not relitigate court determined hatchery/harvest issues in the CBC context, and that future small group discussions will be useful to determine how best to have productive conversations about these topics.

### Structured Decision Making (SDM) Proposal

Liz shared an update about the SDM sub-group, noting that the SDM sub-group has aligned on a proposal for a pilot effort to explore using SDM and a scenario approach to develop recommendations. Liz shared that the draft proposal was being reviewed by the sub-group and will be discussed at the June I/RG meeting.

### Tribal I/RG Representatives Discussion

Liz shared that the I/RG Tribal representatives met to discuss the possibility of adding tribal representation to the project team. Tribal leaders are reviewing the draft proposal which will be shared prior to the June I/RG meeting.

A high-level summary of the discussion is below:

- One member asked if the I/RG could determine who was on the project team. Liz responded that the charter specifies that the four states can invite additional members to the Project Team and the Project Team will notify the I/RG in advance.
- One member specified that not all Tribes are considered co-managers, but that they were supportive of Tribes with stewardship interests participating on the Project Team along with co-manager tribes.

### Confirm No Charter Changes

Liz summarized the proposals coming to the I/RG to address participant feedback on the process.

Proposed change	Description	Feedback Addressed
<b>Short-term scope changes</b>	Proposal developed by scope subgroup	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Challenges with discussing topics that are in a confidential process.</li> <li>Need to honor sovereignty.</li> <li>Need for upholding tribal treaty rights and sovereignty.</li> <li>FMCS process had complicated CBC</li> </ul>
<b>Explore scenario-based approach and SDM</b>	Specific proposal will come from the SDM subgroup to the I/RG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Not creating coherent recovery strategies for each stock as described in the Objectives.</li> <li>Some issues are challenging to address at a basin-wide scale.</li> <li>Questions about topics specific vs integrated approach</li> <li>Recommendations don't meet bold action called for by CBPTF</li> </ul>
<b>Add Tribal representation to the Project Team</b>	Specific structure being reviewed internally by Tribes and will be shared prior to the I/RG meeting.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Need for stronger leadership.</li> <li>Interest in emphasizing and prioritizing co-manger roles and stewardship interest.</li> <li>Need for upholding tribal treaty and non-treaty rights and sovereignty</li> </ul>
<b>Modify Work Group Consensus Process</b>	Work Group strive for consensus, and if work groups struggle to reach full consensus but are close, elevate issue to I/RG. The I/RG would receive more narrative of the pros/cons of the recommendation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Challenges with current consensus model</li> </ul>

Liz highlighted that all the proposals were process changes rather than changes to the charter itself. Liz asked the group to confirm that there were no proposed edits to the charter at this time, and for input on when to review the charter again.

- One member requested clarification on the proposal to modify consensus at the work group level. They emphasized the importance of work groups striving for consensus, and if it could not be achieved, the pros and cons would be documented and shared with the I/RG. Liz confirmed that the work groups would first strive for consensus before sending recommendations to the I/RG.
- Several members stated that topics should be revisited at a later date, if necessary, but that it was not necessary to schedule a charter review.
- There were no comments about any revisions to the charter.

## Confirm Next Steps and Action Items

Liz thanked everyone for the meeting and confirmed the action items from this meeting including:

- **KW:** Incorporate edits to the CBC Scope Short-term Change Proposal (attached) and circulate to the full I/RG for discussion at the June I/RG Meeting.
- **All:** Fill out I/RG RSVP form for the June 26-27 I/RG meeting if you have not already done so.

*Meeting adjourned at 11:30am PT.*