

Columbia Basin Collaborative Funding Sub-group

Meeting Summary

Monday, October 28, 2024, from 1:00pm – 3:00pm PT/ 2:00pm – 4:00pm MT

Attendees

Sub-group Members in Attendance: Michael Garrity (Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife), Erik Neatherlin (Washington State Governor's Salmon Recovery Office), Jerimiah Bonifer (Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation), Tom Iverson (Yakama Nation), Jim Mckenna (Oregon Governor's Office)

Facilitation Team: Samantha Meysohn (Kearns & West) and Sarah Davidson (Kearns & West)

Welcome, Agenda Review, and Context

Samantha Meysohn, Kearns & West (K&W), welcomed members to the Funding sub-group and noted that she would be filling in for Angela Hessenius (K&W) as facilitator for this meeting. Sam reviewed the meeting guidelines and provided an overview of the agenda. The topics included: 1) Review and Discuss Potential Funding Sources, 2) Develop Recommendation for I/RG, and 3) Review next steps and action items.

Review and Discuss Potential Funding Sources

Sam reviewed the topics discussed at the previous meeting, which occurred in August 2024, and gave an overview of the CBC Funding Sub-group Draft Workplan. Sam then shared the [Potential Funding Options Spreadsheet 8-15-2024](#) with the group for review and drafting.

Discussion, comments and questions were as follows:

- A group member brought up the Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF), noting that Oregon has other priorities for funding through PCSRF, and since CBC is classified as a tier 3 priority in PCSRF, they fear their overall proposal would be less competitive. It was also noted that PCSRF is out of consideration for the coming year because funding for the upcoming cycle has already been submitted.
- Group members discussed and identified short-term and long-term timelines and needs.
- The facilitation team noted that the annual budget for facilitation can vary with the level of desired effort and other cost assumptions. The group agreed that they should start by looking for short-term funding (February – June 2025), since current funding ends in February 2025.
- Group members noted that there is also a gap between the end of the state fiscal year (June 2025) and the end of the federal fiscal year (September 2025), which could be covered with additional funding requests.
- A group member noted that state legislature money would not be available until July 1, 2025 (possibly 2026) and that an interim funding plan is needed regardless, meaning that the group should target existing funds which could be re-programmed. Group members

suggested targeting state agencies to see if there is unused end-of-year money that could be re-allocated to support sustaining CBC operations, like Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife (WDFW) or equivalent agencies. A group member from Washington noted that they would inquire with WDFW but asked that the other states make similar inquiries to their state agencies.

- Since the project is an agreement between governors, it was noted that states should take the lead in identifying short-term funding. Group members suggested an equal three-way split between Idaho, Oregon and Washington, with Montana invited to contribute.
- A group member noted that there are sweeping cuts in the Oregon governor's recommended budget for the upcoming year and that it will be difficult for Oregon agencies to leverage existing money, but they can make inquiries.
- A group member suggested the I/RG make a formal request to state agencies for short-term funding.
- Group members noted that I/RG members who are staffers of states cannot make a request directly since they cannot lobby their states for funding but that a letter could be sent from I/RG collectively for that type of money. Group members noted that leveraging existing money does not require this approach.
- Another group member suggested a two-phased approach, in which states provide money for the CBC through the federal fiscal year and then the CBC requests money directly from the US government by emphasizing existing government commitments and highlighting the collaborative approach of the CBC. Funding could potentially come from National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), etc.
- Group members suggested reaching out to Nik Blosser for assistance in navigating federal funding, though his relationship with the Resilient Columbia Basin Agreement (RCBA) could be a complicating factor. Others noted that this is an opportunity for the federal government to engage beyond the RCBA.
- Group members suggested that the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission (CRITFC) could play a role in this.

Develop Recommendation for I/RG

Group members collaboratively worked on a draft recommendation for CBC Funding Options that will be shared with the I/RG.

Key edits and takeaways included:

- The funding recommendation will include asking for short-term funding from the four states (WA, ID, OR, MT) as well as from other CBC members for the time period of Feb – June 2025. For funding needs June – September 2025, an additional request to CBC members will be made.
- Any new funding requests to the legislature would begin July 1 after the end of the state fiscal year (though this likely won't appear in the governor's budget for this year) but this could ultimately be a long-term approach for securing funding. It was noted that non-state actors have an opportunity to approach state legislatures for long-term CBC funding, but this request cannot come from I/RG members that are state employees.
- CBC members should ask Nik Blosser for advice regarding short-term and long-term funding through the Columbia River Task Force in support of data of decision-making.

- Continued discussions about the funding model for the CBC would be prudent, as clarification on the funding needs, scope, and scale of the CBC is needed for moving forward. The Funding Sub-group can help move this discussion forward.
- Work group members supported pursuing funds from philanthropic organizations, as well.

Next Steps & Action Items

Sam thanked the group for the discussion and shared the following action items.

- **All:** Review the attached (and linked) draft Recommendation for CBC Funding Options to I/RG and provide feedback in track changes by end of day, Monday, 11/4.
- **KW:** Connect with Paul, Leslie, and Scott to ensure they have a chance to review and provide feedback on the draft Recommendation.
- **KW:** Draft a meeting summary and circulate to the work group for review by Friday, 11/8

Meeting adjourned at 3pm PT.