



## **Columbia Basin Collaborative (CBC) Organizational Workshop**

Thursday, June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021, 12:00pm – 3:00pm PT/ 1:00pm – 4:00pm MT

Zoom Webinar – YouTube Livestream: <https://youtu.be/sbHH6aQeOSs>

### **Welcome, Opening Remarks, and Proposed Agenda**

Deb Nudelman, Kearns & West, opened the meeting, and invited Jeremy Takala of Yakama Nation to lead the opening prayer.

State representatives from Idaho's, Montana's, Oregon's, and Washington's Governors' Offices welcomed everyone to the meeting and shared context for the CBC Organizational Workshop. Mike Edmondson, Kerry Berg, Jim McKenna, and Guy Norman shared how the four states endorsed a basin-wide collaborative effort to achieve the Columbia Basin Partnership (CBP) Task Force Goals. The representatives shared how the Columbia Basin Collaborative can provide the weight and support of sovereigns and stakeholders, across sectors to support actions.

Deb reviewed the workshop agenda and the ground rules.

### **Workshop Introductions**

Deb led an interactive polling activity using Menti to understand the audience. The poll surveyed the audience for sector and interests. Audience members were asked to share what outcomes could be accomplished through a basin-wide approach, as well as the most important problems to solve. The ideas were captured in word clouds (Appendix I).

### **High-level Overview of CBC Purpose and Proposed Approach**

The four state representatives presented an overview of the purpose of the CBC as well as a proposed approach for a regional collaborative to achieve the CBP Task Force goals.

Mike Edmondson began by sharing about the history and context of the CBC. The CBC followed the collaborative work of the CBP Task Force that established qualitative and quantitative goals for recovering salmonid species in the Columbia River Basin. The Governors of Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington developed a Four-State Agreement to charge the four states with establishing a collaborative framework to advance the CBP goals. At the February Organizational Workshop, the state representatives heard valuable input into the process and structure and have worked since then to refine the vision for the collaborative. Mike spoke about how the CBC could complement legislative proposals, including Simpson's proposal as it progresses. He shared about how the CBC could add value to ongoing salmon recovery efforts.

Jim McKenna shared the overall process structure and described the proposed membership for the Integration/Recommendations Group and Topic-Specific Work Groups, and regional forum

representation. He also described the consensus decision-making process to support recommendations to be shared with sovereign and other external entities.

Guy Norman described how the work groups will work with the I/RG to focus on actions, assess feasibility, and support priority actions. Guy laid out biological criteria for prioritization looking at impacts on stocks.

Mike shared about the charter, outlined the elements and described next steps moving forward.

## **Opportunity for Input and Feedback**

Workshop participants were invited to share input and feedback on the presentation of the CBC.

Participants asked about how to get involved in the work groups and the I/RG. Anyone can volunteer to participate in the work groups. For the I/RG process the participation will be determined through a nomination process using a caucus method:

- Federal partners will identify up to four representatives
- Tribal partners are invited to nominate representatives and can have up to one seat per tribe.
- State partners will nominate one person from each state
- Stakeholders: each caucus can nominate up to two people per sector:
  - *Utilities*: BPA customers, PUDs, investor-owned utilities
  - *River Economies*: Agriculture, Ports, Transportation, Municipalities
  - *Non-tribal Fisheries*: Ocean and river, sport and commercial
  - *Conservation*: Environmental and energy NGOs

People with topic-specific technical expertise will be best suited for their respective topic-specific work groups, while people focused on policy would be more appropriate for the I/RG. A participant expressed concern that having an open process could lead to biases in the work groups. The four state representatives responded that they will make sure this moves forward objectively and considers all the particular ramifications of a decision.

The state representatives emphasized that they are convening the CBC to provide an opportunity for tribes, states, federal government, and stakeholders to collaborate to remove barriers and support actions on a basin-wide scale.

Participants asked how the CBC will connect to existing processes and overcome state and federal legislative barriers. The State Representatives answered that the CBC will coordinate with existing processes and seek to develop recommendations with the weight of the region that can be powerful in surmounting barriers. A key aspect of the CBC process is utilizing the knowledge and work of existing forums. A participant shared the importance of coordinating with tribal nations and requested the group to pay close attention to the Columbia River impacts in Canada. They also requested that the states ensure that leadership is coordinated especially with recent elections.

A participant asked how different land use impacts across jurisdictions will be factored into the CBC. The State representatives answered that active participation is needed across federal and state agencies. Ideally, voluntary measures could be implemented at local jurisdictions to support better local policies. With state representatives at the table, there are opportunities to coordinate at a local level, as well.

Participants asked how the CBC process differs from the Northwest Power and Conservation Council (NWPCC). The NWPCC's focus is on mitigation for hydropower system on the Columbia River. The CBC will integrate across ongoing forums and processes throughout the basin to review, support, and inspire actions coming from many forums around the region. The CBC is uniquely tasked with implementing the qualitative and quantitative goals for building up stocks to healthy levels.

A participant explained that warming temperatures are having negative impacts on salmonids and urged immediate action to fix problems now. The state representatives replied that there are some emergency actions that can be taken on a state-by-state basis, and they want to stand-up the CBC as soon as possible to act quickly.

Participants asked how the CBC will consider effects of salmon stocks on the southern resident killer whales in Puget Sound. The four state representatives answered that the CBC will consider ecological impacts of declining salmon populations in the working groups approach for priority actions.

A participant asked how stocks of salmon that have been extirpated in the blocked areas would be considered in the prioritization of actions. The four state representatives answered that they would fit into "low" status on the biological matrix and are included in that evaluation. The feasibility of taking action to address these stocks will also be factored into decisions.

A participant asked how the CBC will secure funding for the basin-wide process and for the recommended actions. The representatives answered that as opportunities arise, the CBC can use this process to make recommendations. There are opportunities to connect the CBC with federal legislative proposals, should funding come through.

A participant asked how the I/RG will achieve consensus to make hard decisions. The state representatives shared that having a neutral facilitation team helped to build consensus successfully at the Columbia Basin Partnership. The state representatives are considering engaging a facilitation team to help achieve consensus. The more people who are on board, the more strength the group will have to push for actions. A consensus recommendation is very powerful.

Deb thanked everyone for participating in the input and feedback section and shared an additional opportunity for people to submit written feedback through a survey.

### **Approach Going Forward, Confirm Upcoming Topics, Next Steps, and Summary**

Deb Nudelman shared the next steps from the workshop and invited Jim Mckenna to offer closing remarks. Jim thanked everyone for participating in the Organizational Workshop. He emphasized that the workshop is not the only opportunity to engage. He emphasized that the CBC will be effective with the involvement of tribal, federal, state, and stakeholder partners driving the process forward. Striving towards consensus is key for the success of this group. The weight of collective recommendations will help propel actions forward. The States are excited to move forward on time-critical issues as well as long-term sustainable impacts on salmon recovery.

*The meeting was adjourned at 3:00pm PT.*

