

**Date:** October 16, 2018

**Place:** USFS Office, Pomeroy, WA

**Format:** Regular Meeting started at 4:00 p.m.

**Board Members Present for Regular Business Meeting:** Larry Hooker (WW), Mike Talbott (CC), Roland Schirman (CC), Justin Dixon (GC), Bill Bowles (GC), Jon Jones (WC), Brian Shinn (AC), Jerry Hendrickson (AC), Jack Peasley (GC)

**Board Members on Phone:** Brad Johnson (AC), Michael Largent (WC)

**Others Present:** Megan Stewart (ACCD), Joanna Cowles (WWCCD), Terry Bruegman (CCD), Ali Fitzgerald (SRSRB), and John Foltz (SRSRB)

**Others on Phone:** Kris Fischer (CTUIR), Chris Hyland (WWWMP), and Kris Buelow (SRSRB).

### Verify Quorum

SRSRB Chair, Roland Schirman called the meeting to order at 4:00pm and verified a quorum (9 present, 2 on the phone for a total of 11), asked if there were any modifications to the agenda (none) and asked for introductions.

### Approve Agenda and Consent Agenda:

1. September 2018 Expenses as follows:
  - (H2SR) RCO: \$28,022.82
  - (H2FW) LE: \$3,145.19
  - (HCB9) BPA: \$14,660.10
2. September 25, 2018 meeting notes

**Action 1** – A motion was made by Michael Largent to approve the September 25, 2018 meeting notes and approve the September 2018 expenses, it was seconded by Jerry Hendrickson and the Board approved the motion.

### Update – Announcements and Items of Interest

**Executive Call Actions** – No executive call actions were taken.

**RTT Updates** – No updates as October RTT meeting has not been held yet (scheduled for October 17).

**Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission Meeting October 15th** – John provided public comment at the October 15<sup>th</sup> meeting on behalf of the Board and the counties represented by the Board. The next steps include a staff report and a WA/OR joint commission meeting on November 1<sup>st</sup> to align policies. The SRSRB and several counties have submitted letters of recommendations to the WA State Fish and Wildlife Commission. John noted that there is still time for other counties to submit letters as well and can provide a template for those interested.

**Lower Snake Compensation Program Budget Update** – John informed the Board of budget cuts to the Lower Snake Compensation Program and how this will potentially affect hatchery production, monitoring, and specifically construction of proposed steelhead ponds. Funding for engineering design for the ponds is secured and the design is being developed, but funding for building the ponds is yet to be secured. Based upon conversations with LSCP staff, it wouldn't be useful for the Board to weigh in at this point, but John wanted them to be aware of the situation.

**Discussion: Orca Task Force Draft Recommendations** – A draft list of potential recommendations was released on Sept for public comment. An Orca Task Force Meeting will be held October 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> to review, discuss, and adopt the



draft recommendations. John will attend this meeting to provide public comment on behalf of the Board. Talking points will include:

- Utilize existing locally created and federally approved recovery plans and organizations to align and implement actions,
- Hatchery increases could be beneficial, but need to be watershed and population specific and align with existing recovery plans,
- Urge caution regarding focus on LSRD removal, this is not the silver bullet that many believe and not to be confused with the Hells Canyon Complex dams, it could also negatively impact the positive work being done in SE Washington for recovery. While there are acknowledged negative impacts of the hydro system, we have stuck to the FCRPS BiOp and have been implementing a successful locally supported salmon and steelhead recovery plan.

Additional comment periods are expected as the process continues. The Board asked for John to speak on behalf of the Counties represented on the Board, in addition to the Board itself.

**Action 2: CRSSRAB Letter of Support** – The Columbia River Salmon and Steelhead Endorsement (CRSSE) program was established to help maintain and create new angler opportunities for salmon and steelhead managed by WDFW. John presented a draft letter to Legislative Districts 9 and 16 that expresses support for extending the funding for the Columbia River Salmon and Steelhead Endorsement (CRSSE) program that is set to expire June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2019. Brian Shinn made a motion to approve, sign, and send the letter of support. Larry Hooker seconded and the motion passed by consensus. John will wait to send out the letter to legislators until after elections.

**Discussion: SRSRB Legislative Priorities** – Steve Martin presented at the September meeting on the RCO budget request along with the Budget Buddy worksheet. John reviewed the budget line items and asked the Board to identify particular line items they would support in a letter submitted to first the Governor in December and then to our Districts 9 and 16 legislators after the Governor’s budget comes out. The Board wanted to consider salmon recovery at both the local scale and at the state scale, noting that we don’t just support our regional program specifically, but we also support others statewide. Board members asked John to draft a letter identifying the budget items he felt were the priorities for them to review and approve at the December meeting.

**Discussion and Action: 2019 Meeting Schedule** – One minor change to the schedule included moving the time of the July meeting from 4 PM to 6 PM. The Board ended up taking action to approve the proposed 2019 Meeting Schedule by consensus (no formal motion was made).

**Action 4: 2018 SRFB Project List Amendment** – Ali briefly summarized the current status of the 2018 Lead Entity Grant Round including two projects needing more information, one project that was conditionally approved, and one project of concern. Reviewer comments were addressed by project sponsors and we expect to hear updated project approval status later in the week. The final ranked list requires Board approval but is due before the next Board meeting.

Ali presented several potential outcomes that the Board would need to approve. Outcome 1 is that all projects are cleared by the SRFB review panel in which case \$12,175 would be shifted from the Buford budget to the Cottonwood budget to cover cost increases as discussed in the meeting. Outcome 2 would be to pull any projects that remained a project of concern, and redistribute \$12,175 to Cottonwood and the remainder to Buford.

Justin Dixon made a motion to approve the ranked list with a shift of \$12,175 from Buford to Cottonwood if all projects are approved by SRFB. Larry Hooker seconded and the motion passed by consensus.



Larry Hooker made a motion to pull any projects of concern if they remain after the final review by SRFB and reallocate \$12,175 to Cottonwood and the remainder to Buford. Jerry Hendrickson seconded and the motion passed by consensus.

**Discussion: SRFB Funding Policy** – Ali informed the Board that the Lead Entity Co-leads (Conservation Districts) met on October 4<sup>th</sup> to review the 2018 Grant Round process and scorecard. The Co-leads felt the scorecard worked well this year and did not request any changes to the scorecard for 2019. The Co-leads discussed the current funding policy limits of \$400,000 (with required 15% match) up to \$750,000 (with 50% required match for anything above \$400,000). Ali provided a handout summarizing the Co-leads concerns and recommendation to not further restrict funding caps for at least one more grant round. Co-leads and Board members discussed these considerations and there was general support for leaving the funding guidelines for another year. Thoughts provided from the Board and Co-Leads:

- We got a lot of big projects last year, would like to go down to \$350k for the policy, it didn't stop big projects from getting submitted,
- The Board likes to be able to spread some of the funding around,
- Don't want to see one project taking up the majority of funding,
- We need to fund priority projects, this year was different with three big project requests
- We don't know the impact of the funding policy in one year because it is based on projects in a given year, would like to see it go for 2-3 years,
- Want to diversify, don't put all our funding in one pot, and sponsors don't respect the Board's wishes on not bringing big requests,
- Most of the easy stuff is done, projects are more complex and difficult now, the cost of doing work has gone up and some projects can't be phased,
- Good example of projects this year, support the best projects if need to, also gives flexibility and allows staff to help find funding,
- Would like to evaluate projects on their benefit/merit, not on the funding request.

It was agreed that the Board would keep the current policy for another year, no formal action was taken.

**Discussion: 2018 Regional Project Implementation Presentation** – Ali briefly presented a portion of 2018 project accomplishments and ongoing work in the region, focusing on WRIA 32. Projects highlighted included SRFB-funded McCaw Phase 2 construction, Touchet River Conceptual Restoration Plan, Mill Creek- Park to Otis, Bridge to Bridge Phase 2, North Fork Touchet River Reach 2 Design, and non-SRFB funded North Fork Touchet Reach 3 Design, Jones Ditch Fish Screens, and the USACE Mill Creek GI Study.

**Other Topics of Discussion:** Chris Hyland noted the Mill Creek General Investigation Study scoping meeting hosted by the Army Corp of Engineers was upcoming – the WWBMP has submitted a letter that Chris will share. John noted that he will be attending the stakeholders meeting and will provide the Board's perspective on our priorities, recovery, passage, and past investments.

Justin Dixon provided an update on the spring Chinook allocation following conversations he has had with Fish and Wildlife Commissioner Jay Holzmillier. Justin passed along Jay's thoughts that he believes the focus should be on getting more fish in the system and to partner with the tribes to put more fish in the river. The Board discussed and noted that there are other issues that need to be addressed in addition to more fish, including predation, passage and overshoot through the hydro system, hatchery production in our region, and the potential of a terminal fishery. John also noted that an increased buffer for conservation purposes is also a need that was identified in the Board's letter to the Commission. The Board also noted that even if there are more fish, there is still an inequity in the allocation. The Board felt that we should keep up the allocation and/or management discussions to get more fish, but also work to increase fish numbers.



Brad Johnson noted that four environmental groups are suing to close down the steelhead fishery in the Clearwater. The Board asked Brad to get the details and bring to the next meeting for discussion.

**Action 4: Approve December 11, 2018 for next Board meeting to be in Dayton at the Best Western starting at 4:00 PM:** A motion was made by Brian Shinn and seconded by Bill Bowles to hold the next Board meeting at 4 p.m. in Dayton at the Best Western. The Board approved by consensus.

Meeting adjourned at 5:50 p.m. by SRSRB Chair, Roland Schirman.

Signed By: Roland Schirman Date: 12/11/2018  
Roland Schirman, Chair, Snake River Salmon Recovery Board