Snake River Salmon Recovery

Date: June 26, 2018
Place: Best Western Hotel Conference Room, Dayton, WA
Format: Regular Meeting started at 6:00 p.m.
Board Members Present for Regular Business Meeting: Mike Talbott (CC), Roland Schirman (CC), Don Jackson (CC), Justin Dixon (GC), Billy Bowles (GC), Jack Peasley (GC), Brad Johnson (AC), Jon Jones (WC), and Gary Ryan (WC).
Board Members on Phone: Yancey Reser (WWC) and Michael Largent (WC).
Others Present: Jim Peterson, Dick Ducharme, Terry Bruegman (CCD), Kris Fischer (CTUIR), Duane Bartels (PCD), Megan Stewart (ACCD), Chris Hyland (WWWMP), Joanna Cowles (WWCCD), Steve Pozaanghera (WDFW), Jeremy Trump (WDFW), Jim Waddell, Kelly Iriye (Dam Sense), Ali Fitzgerald (SRSRB), and John Foltz (SRSRB).
Others on Phone: None.

Verify Quorum

SRSRB Chair, Roland Schirman called the meeting to order at 6:00pm 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. Following introductions, Roland asked for public comments.

Dick Ducharme provided public comment regarding to predation on native salmon and steelhead. He is concerned about walleye, northern pike predation and other non-native fish, birds, and mammals. He followed up on his previous comments suggesting that that Board shouldn't be bothered about discussing this issue in the region, these issues are system-wide. His suggestions included 1. Recommending that BPA/Power Council fund the predation issue, 2. Need to shift priorities and resources to predator control from habitat in the total fish and wildlife budget, and 3. Require non-natives to be kept and not thrown back when caught and implement the marine mammal act revision. Roland asked Brad to initiate a draft letter addressing these points intended for BPA and/or the NW Power Council for review by the Board.

Approve Agenda and Consent Agenda:

1. May 2018 Expenses as follows:
   (HCSR) RCO: $13,884.16
   (HCFW) LE: $8,094.98
   (HCB9) BPA: $11,964.62
2. May 22, 2018 Meeting notes

Action 1: A motion was made by Bill Bowles to approve the May 22, 2018 meeting notes and approve the May 2018 expenses, it was seconded by Michael Largent and the Board approved the motion.

Update: Announcements and Items of Interest

Executive Call Actions – Roland noted that no action was taken during the Executive Committee conference call.

Sp. Chinook Stakeholder Meeting Invitation, Steve Pozzanghera (WDFW) – Steve invited Board members to the Spring Chinook Stakeholder Kick-off meeting on July 18th at the Benton PUD. He is working on an agenda that will include Columbia River Policy on fishing allocations and what does the 75/25% allocation mean for harvest. This meeting is partially in response to the letters that the Board sent in 2017 and 2018, along with letters from the SE Washington Counties.

RTT Updates – Kris Fischer shared a few key items of interest from the June RTT meeting:

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- The Fish Barrier Removal Board (FBRB) Update: the FBRB aids restoration of healthy and harvestable levels of salmon and steelhead statewide through the coordinated and strategic removal of barriers to fish passage (RCW 77.95.160)
    - The board has 2 pathways for funding; Watershed pathway and Coordinated pathway. The discussion was about the watershed pathway's priority area?
    - The priority area for the Snake River region since the FBRB started has been the Snake River tributaries. (past/current projects included Bufford, Cottonwood & Cougar Creeks)
    - The RTT voted to change this priority area from the Snake River tributaries to Mill Creek starting with this FY's funding cycle. (Currently there's a $40M project list for Mill Ck)
    - This still allows non-Mill Creek projects to be funded under the Coordinated pathway.

  John noted that this recommended shift for the watershed pathway program for Mill Creek, if supported by the FBRB, will be instrumental in our efforts to secure Mill Creek passage funding from other funding sources outside of the Board. He will be attending the next FBRB meeting to present the request. The Board provided their general support of this proposed shift.

- Tucannon Restoration Science Workshop
    - In January 2017, ISRP recommended that the Tucannon Programmatic host a scientific workshop to showcase its restoration efforts.
    - The 1st Tucannon Restoration Science Workshop was held at WWCC in May 2018. The 2-day meeting consisted of one day of presentations and one day of project tours.
    - Presentations were given by the Tucannon implementer's and by the various groups monitoring both restoration and fish survival in the Tucannon.
    - Project tours were held at Project Area 10 and 18 (Hartsock), both on WDFW property.
    - Currently the workshop planning group is still working on the proceedings from the meeting.

- Tucannon Monitoring... or lack of?
    - BPA is seeking interested RTT participants to serve on a monitoring prioritization subcommittee (regional or Tucannon focused)
    - Interested participants included: WDFW, NPT, CTUIR
    - More to come on monitoring later...

- WDFW 2018 Steelhead update

  Natural origin steelhead (adults) returns:
    - Asotin Creek: ~150 – Average 650
    - George Creek: ~80 – Average 200
    - 10 Mile Creek: 20 – Average 0-40
    - Alpowa Creek: ~24 – Average 150
    - Tucannon River: Hatchery 120 – Average 320; Natural Origin 90 – Average 215

    - Conclusion: poor migration conditions in 2015 (low water and high temps) & poor ocean conditions

    - Good news: This spring 5,500 juvenile steelhead were counted leaving Asotin Creek (+ George CK), which is the most fish ever tagged for the project.

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2018 SRFB Grant Round update – John updated the Board on the current status of projects, noting that we were able to find funding for the Asotin IMW Monitoring proposal through PSMFC, additional funding for Buford Creek Fish Passage working with the FBRB, and the WWCCD found funding for the Jones Ditch Fish Screen project.

Brian Shinn had passed along his desire to revisit the funding policy for the next SRFB grant round given that we had two proposals of more than $500,000 this grant round. John noted that we also don't want to get into a situation where we are returning funding if it is needed. A few Board members seemed happy with the policy – this topic will be added as a future meeting discussion item.

Staffing update – John introduced Ali Fitzgerald as the new Project Funding Coordinator for the Board. Ali started just this week and we are very glad to add her as part of the team.

Presentation: Cost and Economics of the four lower Snake River Dams – Jim Waddell

Jim, a retired civil engineer for the Army Corp on Engineers, had requested time on the agenda to present on the cost and economics of the four lower Snake River Dams. He presented information on the overarching economic and cost drivers of the four dams from information that he has collected and developed over the years that arrives at the conclusion that they are not economically viable. Multiple Board members expressed their general opposition of dam removal, and specific concerns with the economic analysis and disagreement with the concussions, including the success story of 10,000 wild fall Chinook over the lower Snake dams annually, concerns with fish management and predation, the inability to get a water right if the dams were ever removed, and inaccurate cost benefits from recreation among others. The Board asked Jim, if a similar cost estimate were performed on all dams in the Columbia basin, which ones are cost beneficial?

Action 2: WDFW Riparian Guidelines

John first brought the draft WDFW Riparian Guideline document to the Board's attention at the May meeting. Comments are due on July 17th if the Board wishes to submit any; several suggestions and comments were provided.

Jon Jones moved to form a committee to develop comments for submission by the July 17th deadline, Bill Bowles seconded the motion, which passed by consensus. Comments are to be submitted via web, as clarification, the submission would be in the required format and not in a letter format. Jon Jones, Brad Johnson, Duane Bartels and Megan Stewart volunteered to form the committee and work with John to put together comments.

Action 3: Approval of Partner Contracts for FY19

John had sent out the draft partner contract scopes of work and budgets with the meeting material to Board members for review having had received direction on budgets at the last Board meeting and in the summary table presented at the meeting. From the table:

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Partner	Proposed Funding by Task		Total for FY19
	Task 1 & 2: *Project Coordination and Tech Assistance and Participation in Regional Salmon Recovery Mtgs, Conferences, Symposia, Workshops*		
WRIA 32	$19,000		$19,000
WRIA 35	$19,000		$19,000
	Task 1 & 2: *Participation in Regional Recovery Meetings and Coordination of actions and activities.*		
NPT	$6,000		$6,000
CTUIR	$6,000		$6,000
	Task 1 & 2: *Participation in Regional Recovery Meetings and Lead Entity Co-Lead*	***Task 3:*** *Outreach and Education*	
Palouse CD	$4,000	$6,000	$10,000
ACCD	$4,000	$1,000	$5,000
Pomeroy CD	$4,000	$0	$4,000
CCD	$4,000	$0	$4,000
WWCCD	$4,000	$500	$4,500

Justin Dixon moved to approve the partner contract scopes of work as presented and budgets in the amounts of $19,000 for both WRIA 32 and 35, $6,000 for both Tribes, and $10,000 for Palouse CD, $5,000 for Asotin County CD, $4,000 for Columbia CD, $4,000 for Pomeroy CD, and $4,500 for Walla Walla County Cd. Mike Talbott seconded the motion which passed by consensus. Brad Johnson abstained.

Action 4: RCO Authorizing Resolution for FY19 Contract

John shared the RCO Authorizing Resolution for the FY19 contract and provided background on the form. The Authorizing Resolution simply identifies who the authorized signatory is for the Board so that RCO knows who is able to sign the contract – in this case, it is the Board Chair.

Mike Talbott moved to authorize the Board Chair to sign the authorizing resolution, Bill Bowles seconded the motion which passed by consensus.

Action 5: WWCC indirect rate for FY19 Business Services Support

With the arrival of the new fiscal year, the Board needs to approve an updated indirect rate for the WWCC business services. John provided the background information and spreadsheet showing what the rate and expenses were. From that spreadsheet:

Base Ops	Lead Entity	Total
$333,000	$65,000	$398,000
$45,931 16% indirect	$3,679 6% indirect	$49,610

Indirect charged on all expenses, per agreement with SRSRB

FY 18/19 Estimated Salaries charged to Base Ops and Lead Entity	Indirect
$150,250	$52,682 (1+ FTE)

Indirect charged on salaries only, per Federal Indirect Rate agreement

Per RCO (Mark Jarasitis), limit to indirect charged is amount allowed by Federal Indirect agreement / 35% of all salaries.

Cost to SRSRB ---------- -$3,072

Does not include cost saving for Office Mgr. replacement, 75% of duties picked up by WWCC. (~$29,000 when 60% time, ~$10,000 when 20% time)

Does not include carry over indirect

Base Ops - Est. FY 17/18 Carry Forward
$120,000
$16,552 16% Indirect (savings)

John noted that these services constitute more than 1 FTE, in his opinion, for fiscal and auditing overhead, meeting space, employee benefits, technology support, contract review and posting, and HR support among other things. Board members noted their appreciation for the work and the services that the WWCC has provided for the Board.

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Brad Johnson moved to accept the indirect rate of 35% on salaries only (not benefits), targeting the $52,628 figure. Bill Bowles seconded the motion which passed by consensus.

Action 6: Approve July 24, 2018 for next Board meeting to be held in Dayton at the Best Western at 6:00 PM.

The Board discussed if the meeting needed to start at 4:00pm, or if it could start at the regular 6:00pm given the SRFB project update. The Board thought that the extra time was not needed this year. The Board also discussed inviting Districts 9 & 16 legislators to the August Board meeting, which is planned to be a BBQ at Roland's house. A motion was made by Mike Talbott and seconded by Justin Dixon to hold the next Board meeting at 6 p.m. in Pomeroy at the USFS Building. The Board approved by consensus.

Meeting adjourned at 8:01 p.m. by SRSRB Chair, Roland Schirman.

Signed By: Roland Schirman Date: 9/23/2018
Roland Schirman, Chair, Snake River Salmon Recovery Board