

**Date:** December 11, 2018

**Place:** Best Western, Dayton, 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), Jon Jones (WC), Brian Shinn (AC), Michael Largent (WC), Gary Ryan (WC), Don Jackson (CC), and Todd Kimball (WW).

**Board Members on Phone:** Brad Johnson (AC) and Bill Bowles (GC).

**Others Present:** Jim Peterson, Kris Fischer (CTUIR), Kris Buelow (SRSRB), Ali Fitzgerald (SRSRB), and John Foltz (SRSRB).

**Others on Phone:** Chris Hyland (WWWMP) and Steve Martin (GSRO).

### Verify Quorum / Public Comment

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 at the time, note that additional discussion regarding hatchery production was included at the end of the meeting) and asked for introductions and public comment.

Jim Peterson attended the Tri-State Steelheaders Annual Meeting and commended Kris Buelow and Kris Fischer for an excellent presentation titled "Working with large wood in the Tucannon River to restore floodplains and fish habitat".

### Approve Agenda and Consent Agenda:

1. October 2018 Expenses as follows:
  - (H2SR) RCO: \$18,323.90
  - (H2FW) LE: \$4,984.44
  - (HCB9) BPA: \$11,476.94
1. October 16, 2018 meeting notes

**Action 1** – A motion was made by Michael Largent to approve the October 16, 2018 meeting notes and approve the October 2018 expenses, it was seconded by Brian Shinn and the Board approved the motion.

### Update – Announcements and Items of Interest

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

**Clearwater Steelhead Fishery Details** – John summarized the current Idaho steelhead closure and while there is no action currently proposed, Board members should consider providing comments on the NOAA Biological Opinion. Brad Johnson stated he would send out an email with information on how to provide comments by December 13<sup>th</sup>.

**RTT Updates** – Kris Fischer provided an update for the November RRT meeting which focused on the Asotin IMW. The IMW is studying the effects of low-tech, process-based restoration in North and South Forks of Asotin Creek and Charley Creek to determine how placing large wood quickly and cheaply would affect instream salmonid production. Fourteen miles of stream was treated with implementation ending in 2016. Monitoring is ongoing for the next two years but tentative results show a 150% increase in large woody debris presence, 75% increase in pool habitat and between 150-200% increase in juvenile steelhead production; it was noted that Asotin Creek is a natural origin steelhead population.



**2018 SRFB Grant Round** — Ali provided a brief update on the 2018 SRFB grant round. All projects were cleared by the SRFB technical review panel in late October. As discussed at the October Board Meeting, \$12,175 was shifted from the Buford Creek project to the Cottonwood Creek project to cover a budget increase due to scope changes. Ali and John attended the SRFB Grant Awards Meeting in Olympia December 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> where the Salmon Recovery Funding Board formally approved the Snake River Region 2018 Ranked List for funding. The Snake Region received high praise for producing a good project list. John added that the 2019 Lead Entity Grant Round Kick-off Meeting was scheduled for Thursday, December 13<sup>th</sup> and Board members were welcome to attend.

**Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission Col. River Policy Update** – John provided the Board with a brief update on the Fish and Wildlife Commission meeting scheduled for December 14-15<sup>th</sup> where the Columbia River Policy would be an agenda item. John told the Board that if they were interested in participating, the agenda had been posted online and the meeting would also be televised on TVW. John noted that he has been in communication with Commissioners Thorburn, Graybill and Holzmilller regarding the Board's concerns. Chis Hyland mentioned that the discussion seemed centered around gill-netters and was concerned that the Board's comments could get lost in the shuffle.

**Orca Task Force Final Recommendations** – John informed the Board that the final Orca Task Force Report had been released and had previously sent it to the Board. Roland noted that the main emphasis seems to be on production in other areas, and while hatchery production was emphasized, the Snake Region wasn't specifically highlighted. Brian noted that the counties have sent comments in throughout the process and that there seemed to be a lack of concern for the Snake Region in the discussion.

**Mill Creek General Investigation Study** — John informed the Board of several stakeholder meetings that had been held for the GI Study. The USACE advanced several scenarios to develop further. John provided comments to the GI Study stating that process should consider the habitat working currently being done by project sponsors and integrate that work into the GI process. John provided the Board with a copy of CTUIR comments on the GI Study as well. Brian Shinn recommended the Board continue to provide comment and support in the form of a letter highlighting the points they support. John will add this to the January agenda for discussion and direction on how to proceed.

**Action 2: SRSRB Legislative Priorities letter to Governor and District 9 and 16 Legislators** – As a follow up to the discussion at the October Board Meeting, John drafted a letter to the Governor highlighting the programs that the SRSRB supports funding. The intent of the letter is to provide direction to SRSRB staff on where they can focus outreach and support. The Board supported the letter with a few proposed edits, including putting the RCO budget support first. John agreed to make proposed changes prior to Chairman Schirman signing. The letter would then be distributed to Governor Inslee and District 9 and 16 Legislative Representatives. The plan is to follow up on specific budget items after the Governor's budget comes out, and during the legislative session.

Larry Hooker made a motion to approve the revisions to the legislative priorities letter, signature, and distribution to Governor Inslee and District 9 & 16 Legislators. Brian Shinn seconded and the motion passed with consensus.

**Action 3: Contract support for Board Website:** Ali briefly summarized the need for a new SRSRB website and some preliminary ideas on pricing for what would be needed. Costs could reasonably be up to \$10,000 based on informal quotes and discussions with several web designers who were recommended by other lead entities. John asked the Board if they had any additional guidance on how to proceed or if they felt comfortable with approving an expenditure up to \$10,000. The Board suggested a few critical components (meeting information, projects, a track record of what has been accomplished) but suggested there is too much information on the site currently and that it needs to be simplified and streamlined while keeping important information. They felt staff had a good idea of what the Board would like and



after discussing prices for other websites they were aware of, they felt a maximum of \$10,000 was appropriate and noted that recent county website updates have cost between \$25,000 and \$35,000.

Mike Talbott moved to approve a website expenditure of up to \$10,000 and for staff to bring back a recommendation for action to the January meeting. Michael Largent seconded the motion and motion passed with consensus.

**Discussion: Executive Board Schedule and County Commissioner Representation:** John provided a 2019 Executive Call Schedule for Board review. He expressed his appreciation for participation from the county commissioners throughout the 2018 call schedule. Michael Largent volunteered to fill the vacancy for the January call and the other Commissioner Board members supported the proposed 2019 Executive Board Schedule.

**Presentation: 2018 Regional Project Implementation Presentation:** Kris briefly presented a portion of 2018 project accomplishments and ongoing work in the region, focusing on the Tucannon Basin. Projects highlighted included SRFB-funded Little Tucannon PALs, PA-28 Phase III, PA-32 Design, and non-SRFB funded PA-13 Design 60%, PA-17 Design Assessment, Conceptual Restoration Plan Update, Tucannon LiDAR Acquisition, and PA-3 Wood Loading.

**Discussion (added agenda item): Support for Hatchery Programs (Discussion Request from Board Member Don Jackson)**

The Board discussed Don's thoughts on how we might be able to impact or influence more than just habitat, particularly hatchery efforts in the Tucannon. The Board discussed the fact that the Board's mission and the funding under their preview is for habitat and monitoring projects, but that they can support hatchery efforts. The Board discussed some potential options, and noted that part of the issue is a matter of politics. The Board would like to have WDFW come and give a presentation on hatchery production in the region along with any insight on what the Board might be able to help influence to support and/or increase production. Additionally, the Board felt that it would be worth inviting Fish and Wildlife Commissioner Jay Holzmilller to come and visit with the Board to discuss hatchery and fish related topics. The Board also noted that some of the issue is on the federal side and that we should discuss hatchery production with our congressional delegation. It was also noted that our region isn't the only area that has poor adult returns recently, that the entire Columbia basin is experiencing some of the worst adult returns in a long time.

**Action 4: January 22, 2019 for next Board meeting to be in Pomeroy at the USFS Building starting at 4:00 PM.** – A motion was made by Larry Hooker and seconded by Michael Largent to hold the next Board meeting at 4 p.m. in Pomeroy at the USFS Office. The Board approved by consensus.

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

Signed By:  Date: 1/22/2019  
Roland Schirman, Chair, Snake River Salmon Recovery Board