

Date: January 22, 2019

Place: USFS Building, Pomeroy, WA

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

Board Members Present for Regular Business Meeting: Jack Peasley (GC), Larry Hooker (WW), Mike Talbott (CC), Roland Schirman (CC), Jon Jones (WC), Brian Shinn (AC), Gary Ryan (WC), Don Jackson (CC), Justin Dixon (GC).

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

Others Present: Jim Peterson, Jeremy Trump (WDFW), Joe Bumgarner (WDFW), Duane Bartels (Pomeroy CD), Joanna Cowles Cleveland (WWCCD), Terry Bruegman (CCD), Kris Fischer (CTUIR), Kris Buelow (SRSRB), Ali Fitzgerald (SRSRB), and John Foltz (SRSRB).

Others on Phone: Chris Hyland (WWWMP).

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) and asked for introductions and public comment.

Approve Agenda and Consent Agenda:

1. November 2018 Expenses as follows:
 - (H2SR) RCO: \$29,550.31
 - (H2FW) LE: \$4,058.95
 - (H2B1) BPA: \$13,133.92December 2018 Expenses as follows:
 - (H2SR) RCO: \$17,368.04
 - (H2FW) LE: \$2,954.56
 - (H2B1) BPA: \$11,688.31
2. December 11, 2018 Meeting notes

Action 1 – A motion was made by Brian Shinn to approve the December 11, 2018 meeting notes and approve the November 2018 and December 2018 expenses, it was seconded by Michael Talbott and the Board approved the motion.

Update – Announcements and Items of Interest

Executive Call Actions – No executive call actions.

Clearwater Steelhead Fishery Details – Brad Johnson reported that there were no new details or action needed given the ongoing government shutdown.

RTT Updates – Kris Fischer summarized the primary goals for the RTT in 2019 which included providing technical support to salmon recovery efforts through the SRSRB and the Lead Entity process, serve as an information exchange for regional practitioners, provide input to assessments and restoration plans (Tucannon, Touchet, Grande Ronde, etc.), monitoring sub-committee, Mid-Columbia Steelhead Investment Strategy, invite relevant presenters, and outreach. Data gaps and monitoring priorities were also discussed. John noted that the Board might be approached to help support future monitoring and outreach efforts identified.



Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission Col. River Policy Update – John provided the Board with a brief update that a sub-committee has been developed to delve further into the Columbia River fisheries policies and report back to the WA and OR Commissions. No action has been taken yet as the process is ongoing.

Board Website Update – Ali informed the Board that a contractor, Yakindo Web Designs, had been selected to develop a new website. The final price will be determined based on features, number of pages, and plugins needed for the site but that the contractor felt comfortable in keeping the price under the approved budget of \$10,000. The Board supported moving forward with the selected contractor as discussed. No action taken.

State Budget Update — John updated the Board on the current Governor’s Budget funding allocations. This includes \$35 million for SRFB, \$25 million for Fish Barrier Removal Board, \$42.8 for Floodplains by Design, with WDFW portions looking like there is progress but not entirely clear at this point. Board members expressed concerns over amount of money being allocated to Snake River Dams study and general impacts on taxes. The Board also noted their support for hatchery runs in the region. Bill also noted that some legislators do not support re-authorizing the Columbia River Salmon and Steelhead Endorsement Program which is set to expire; this program is critical to maintain fishing opportunities in the region.

Senate Bill 3119 — This Bill would allow lethal removal of pinnipeds that prey on salmonids. The bill has passed the House and Senate and is currently awaiting review and signature from the President.

Presentation — SE Washington Hatchery Program Updates: Joe Bumgarner gave a presentation to the Board on WDFW Hatchery Production and the Lower Snake River Compensation Program. He specifically addressed the Tucannon Steelhead program, hatchery release numbers and factors that affect these numbers, and why changes in fish numbers don’t always mirror changes in habitat or hatchery actions. He also provided an overview of the LSRCP, adult return goals, past and current production numbers (noting that there haven’t been any hatchery production cuts to the program in general), and funding concerns that could affect the program. Of note were a new Touchet spring Chinook release (beyond what CTUIR plans for), an increase in Tucannon steelhead hatchery releases with meeting full broodstock recently, and an increase in the fish returns to our local watershed as a percentage of the total returns in many cases. He also addressed why there has been a limited response in some of the recent hatchery and habitat efforts, citing that it is likely a life history effect of salmon and steelhead where it takes multiple generations to see a response. He concluded by summarizing ways in which the Board might be able to support the LSRCP which included continued support and emphasis on habitat restoration (noting positive changes and emphasizing patience), support of new infrastructure at Lyons Ferry Hatchery, support for addressing the tributary overshoot issue, and supporting management of pinniped/fish/avian predation issues (highlighting the limited information we have on fish and avian predation in the Lower Snake).

The Board asked if there is a genetic difference between wild and hatchery fish (specifically Tucannon steelhead) – Joe noted that genetic sampling shows little difference between the Lyons Ferry fish and Tucannon fish. The Board noted that the Tucannon steelhead fishery has been killed. Joe agreed, but noted that WDFW is not permitted to release Lyons Ferry hatchery fish and that won’t change.

Presentation — 2018 Regional Project Implementation Presentation: Ali briefly highlighted project accomplishments from the 2018 implementation season. This was the last of a three-part presentation and highlighted SRFB-funded Asotin County Assessment and Conceptual Restoration Plan, Buford Creek Fish Barrier Passage, Asotin IMW, Alpowa PALs Phase II, Restoring Native Vegetation on Pataha Creek, Penawawa Creek Instream Habitat Rehabilitation, Asotin Creek Riparian Protection Project, and non-SRFB funded Grande Ronde LiDAR.



Action 2: Mill Creek General Investigation (GI) Study Letter to ACOE– John provided the Board with revisions to the SRSRB letter to the ACOE with a few grammatical edits. The Board felt the letter appropriately identified that the GI Study should focus on more than just flood risk management.

A motion was made by Michael Talbott and seconded by Larry Hooker to accept revisions, sign and deliver the letter to the ACOE. The motion passed with consensus.

Action 3: Purchase a fish electro-shocker for project support: John highlighted the purpose of and need for a new fish electro-shocker and the associated cost-saving by not needing to contract out that service on habitat restoration projects for fish salvage. There was brief discussion of the ways in which electro-shockers are used in this area to move fish out of construction areas.

Brian Shinn made a motion to approve the purchase of an electro-shocker for use in stream restoration projects. The motion was seconded by Jon Jones and passed by consensus.

Action 4: Salmon Recovery Conference Registration for Board Members (if interested): John informed the Board of the upcoming bi-annual conference to be held April 8-9, 2019 in Tacoma and identified the cost per Board Member of approximately \$587 to cover registration and lodging fees. He asked if any Board members would be interested in attending. The Board recommended sending a poll out to see who might be interested in participating. The Board was interested to know if staff would be attending – John noted that all three staff were planning to attend.

Jon Jones made a motion to approve the attendance of up to two board members at the 2019 Salmon Recovery Conference on April 8-9th, 2019. Brian Shinn seconded and the motion passed by consensus.

Action 5: 2019 BPA project budget approval: Kris provided the Board with a brief presentation of planned 2019 work in the Tucannon Basin including Project Areas (PA) 13, 16/17, 28, 32, Tumalum Creek Culvert, and the Tucannon Conceptual Restoration Plan update. The proposed BPA Tucannon Programmatic Budget for April 1, 2019 to March 31, 2020 includes \$800,000 for PA 13 construction and \$175,000 for parent operations, including Kris' time and effort on the other projects identified.

Mike Talbott made a motion to approve the 2019 BPA Tucannon Programmatic Budget as presented. Justin Dixon seconded and the motion passed with consensus.

Action 6: February 26, 2019 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 Larry Hooker to hold the next Board meeting at 4 p.m. in Dayton at the Best Western. The Board approved by consensus.

Meeting adjourned at 5:57 p.m. by SRSRB Chair, Roland Schirman.

Signed By: Roland Schirman Date: 3/26/2019
Roland Schirman, Chair, Snake River Salmon Recovery Board