Snake River Salmon Recovery

Date: March 26, 2019
Place: WWCC Clarkston Campus, Clarkston, WA
Format: Regular Meeting started at 4:00 p.m.
Board Members Present for Regular Business Meeting: Larry Hooker (WW), Roland Schirman (CC), Jerry Hendrickson (AC), Jon Jones (WC), Brad Johnson (AC), Bill Bowles (GC), Michael Talbott (CC), Gary Ryan (WC), and Justin Dixon (GC).
Board Members on Phone: Michael Largent (WC), Yancey Reser (WW), and Todd Kimball (WW).
Others Present: Terry Bruegman (CCD), Kris Fischer (CTUIR), Kris Buelow (SRSRB), Ali Fitzgerald (SRSRB), Megan Stewart (ACCD), Jennifer Boie (Palouse CD), and John Foltz (SRSRB).
Others on Phone: Joanna Cowles Cleveland (WWCCD), Chris Hyland (WWWMP), and Joy Bader (WW County)

Verify Quorum / Public Comment

SRSRB Chair, Roland Schirman called the meeting to order at 4:00pm and verified a quorum (9 present, 3 on the phone for a total of 12), asked if there were any modifications to the agenda and asked for introductions and public comment. The agenda was modified to move the Mill Creek GI presentation up in the agenda schedule. A motion was made by Jerry Hendrickson to approve the modified agenda. It was seconded by Brad Johnson and the Board approved the motion.

Approve Agenda and Consent Agenda:

1. January 2019 Expenses as follows:
   (H2SR) RCO: $33,422.75
   (H2FW) LE: $2,981.47
   (H2B1) BPA: $17,208.84
2. February 26, 2019 Meeting notes

Action 1 – A motion was made by Bill Bowles to approve the February 26, 2019 meeting notes and approve the February 2019 expenses, it was seconded by Michael Talbott and the Board approved the motion.

Update – Announcements and Items of Interest

Mill Creek General Investigation Study – Joy Bader with Walla Walla County Public Works provided a brief update on the Mill Creek General Investigation Study. The flood risk study will ultimately select a plan based on economic analysis with the option to select a locally preferred alternative. The County, as the local non-federal project lead, submitted a locally preferred plan that would ideally include increased water storage for flood control, expanded access to Mill Creek, aesthetic enhancements, and enhanced floodplain/fish passage. The USACE is expected to select a plan by October 2019. If the locally-preferred plan is selected, any costs above and beyond the USACE National Economic Development plan must be paid by the sponsor and funds must be identified by October 2019 and in hand by summer of 2020. A public meeting is expected in May of 2019. Joy shared the following timeline:

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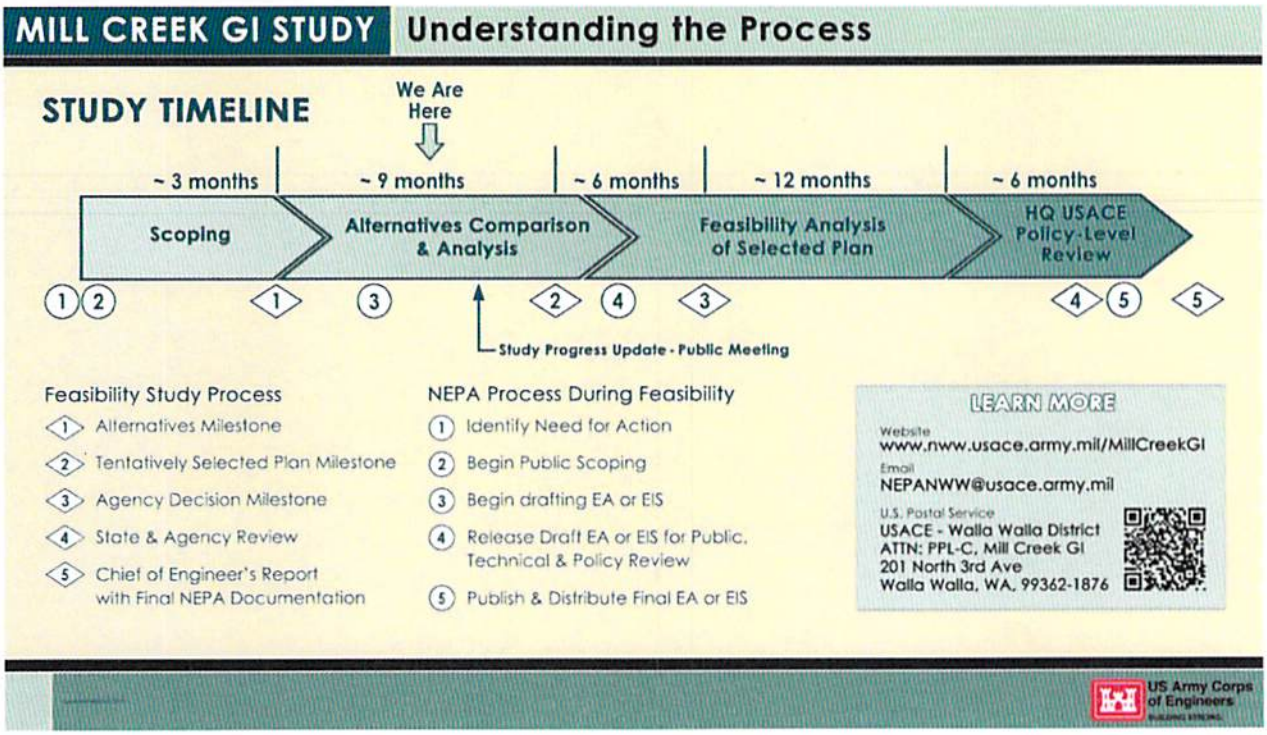

Executive Call Actions – No executive call actions.

RTT Updates – Kris Fischer provided an update that the RTT approved the SRSRB 3-year work plan. The rest of the meeting was used to hear presentations from 2019 SRFB project sponsor proposals and provide feedback and ask questions.

CRSSRAB Update – Bill Bowles updated the group on the annual meeting held in February. CRSSRAB funding is currently set to expire in June unless WDFW can receive approval for this line item in the budget currently under review in the House and Senate. It does not seem likely that the funding will be approved which could lead to the closure of sport-fishing with no creel monitoring. The Board discussed sending another letter of support or sending a copy of the letter that was submitted previously by the Board to our district 9 and 16 legislators. The Board agreed to resend the letter with an addition stating that there will be no fishing above Bonneville without the CRSSRAB funding (John to resend letter).

Mid-C Capital Funding Request to SRFB – John updated the Board on the current progress of a targeted Mid-Columbia Steelhead investment strategy. While the state did not fund the targeted investment this biennium, they asked for a proposal for achieving viability needed for delisting. The plan is to submit the targeted investment request for the next biennium. A draft proposal is in progress and will be shared with the Board when ready.

North of Falcon Meeting Dates (March 27th in Kennewick and 28th in Clarkston) – John briefly reminded the Board of the upcoming North of Falcon Meetings in Kennewick and Clarkston.

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Partner update – WRIA 35 Watershed Planning and Palouse CD: Brad Johnson gave a brief presentation of current work including a demonstration of an interactive VSP map for Whitman and Garfield counties. He highlighted where landowners can voluntarily add their projects to the site without disclosing private information (see www.WhitmanCountyVSP.org). He also highlighted progress on protection and enhancement goals including 22,000 acres of direct seed already completed voluntarily by landowners. Jennifer Boie also briefly update the Board on education outreach activities completed by the Palouse CD to include multiple forms of print advertisements, salmon in the classroom, winter talk series, and orca day.

Presentation — Holistic gravel to gravel restoration: Kris Fischer provided a presentation highlighting the history of salmon restoration in broad strokes including the development of Lead Entities and our local SRSRB and how they fit into salmon restoration across the state. He grounded the presentation in the Board's Mission and Vision noting:

- The SRSRB defined its mission "as protection and restoration of salmon habitat, consistent with the recovery plan, for current and future generations"
- Snake River Salmon Recovery Plan vision "Develop and maintain a healthy ecosystem that contributes to the rebuilding of key fish populations by providing abundant, productive, and diverse populations of aquatic species that support the social, cultural and economic well-being of the communities within and outside the recovery region."
- The SRSRB considers the recovery plan to be based primarily on the subbasin plans developed by the Northwest Power and Conservation Council's Fish and Wildlife Program and that the SRSRB's primary approach to salmon, steelhead, and bull trout recovery is through voluntary habitat restoration and protection.
  The SRSRB believes that hydropower, hatchery and harvest issues are being addressed in other forums and while integral for recovery of salmonids, they are outside of the purview of the SRSRB.
- The SRSRB through the RTT prioritized streams for restoration and assesses the reasons for salmonid declines on a stream-by-stream basis.

Kris also talked about the lifecycle of salmon in terms of "gravel to gravel". Due to the complex and long lifecycles, he pointed out that there are many factors that can and do affect survival including ocean conditions, predation, hatcheries, etc. While many of those factors are out of our direct control, we have the opportunity to really move the needle with habitat restoration. By providing critical spawning and rearing habitat, we add resiliency to the life cycle process and buffer the effects of bad ocean conditions or other negative impacts on salmon. This enables populations to rebound faster and while we will still see stochasticity in the numbers, we expect those low troughs in population graphs to be shorter and less severe with improved habitat. By increasing survival at the egg-to-smolt stage, we will get the most effective response in fish numbers.

The Board noted their appreciation of the presentation and tying it to the mission.

Discussion — Brief Review of SRFB Pre-Applications: Ali gave a brief update on the applications received to date for the 2019 SRFB grant round. We received 13 pre-applications including three design projects, one assessment, and nine restoration project proposals. Projects were presented at the March RTT meeting to give an opportunity for technical review and feedback. Additional updates will be provided after the draft application deadline and scoring meeting.

Discussion — SRSRB Budget Update: John updated the Board on the current budget and plans to spend down surplus funding that was a result in staff vacancies and delay in funding from state budget delay. A request was

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made to RCO to carryover any unspent funding, which will likely be about $250,000. John is currently working on an RFP for a data steward to replace existing staff vacancy. John also highlighted plans for partner contracts and monitoring needs. Board members discussed a few other spending needs such as if any electronics or other line items were needed, we should look into purchasing them now while we have the budget.

Action 2: March 262 – Approve April 23, 2019 for next Board meeting to be in Dayton at the Best Western starting at 6:00 PM. – A motion was made by Bill Bowles and seconded by Justin Dixon to hold the next Board meeting at 6 p.m. in Dayton at the Best Western. The Board approved by consensus.

Meeting adjourned at 5:40 p.m. by SRSRB Chair, Roland Schirman.

Signed By: Roland Schirman Date: 4/23/209

Roland Schirman, Chair, Snake River Salmon Recovery Board

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Meeting Attendance Snake River Salmon Recovery Board Members and Conservation District Managers

Name	Attendance for July 2018 – June 2019										
Board Members	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
*Brian Shinn	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N			
Brad Johnson	Y	Y	Y-	Y-	Y-	Y-	Y-	Y			
Jerry Hendrickson	N	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Y			
Don Jackson	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	N			
Roland Schirman	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y			
*Mike Talbott	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y			
*Justin Dixon	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N	Y			
Jack Peasley	Y	N	N	Y	N	Y	N	N			
Bill Bowles	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y-	Y-	N	Y			
*Todd Kimball	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N	N	Y-			
Larry Hooker	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y			
Yancey Reser	Y-	N	Y-	N	N	N	N	Y-			
Gary Ryan	N	N	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y			
*Michael Largent	Y	N	N	Y-	Y	N	Y-	Y-			
Jon Jones	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y-	Y			
Gary James	Y-	N	N	N	N	N	N	N			
CONSERVATION MGRS											
Duane Bartels	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N			
Jennifer Boie	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y			
Terry Bruegman	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y			
Megan Stewart	N	N	Y-	Y	N	N	N	Y			
J Cowles/ R Hadley	Y-	Y	Y-	Y	N	Y	Y	Y			
CTUIR Tech. Rep. Kris Fischer	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y			

* County Commissioner
! First Meeting as a Board Member
Last Meeting as a SRSRB Member
- Call In by Phone