

Date: June 25, 2019

Place: Dayton Best Western, Dayton, WA

Format: Regular Meeting started at 6:00 p.m.

Board Members Present for Regular Business Meeting: Michael Talbott (CC), Jon Jones (WC), Brad Johnson (AC), Justin Dixon (GC), Roland Schirman (CC), Gary Ryan (WC), Don Jackson (CC), and Larry Hooker (WW).

Board Members on Phone: Yancey Reser (WW)

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

Others on Phone: Chris Hyland (WWWMP), Kris Buelow (SRSRB), and Ali Fitzgerald (SRSRB).

Verify Quorum / Public Comment

SRSRB Chair Schirman called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm and verified a quorum (8 present, 1 on the phone for a total of 9), asked if there were any modifications to the agenda and asked for introductions and public comment. A motion was made by Justin Dixon to approve the agenda. It was seconded by Jon Jones and the Board approved the motion.

Approve Agenda and Consent Agenda:

1. May 2019 Expenses as follows:
 - (H2SR) RCO: \$19,824.88
 - (H2FW) LE: \$3,813.13
 - (H2B2) BPA: \$13,141.55
 - (H2B1) BPA: \$8,400.00
2. May 28, 2019 Meeting notes

Action 1 – A motion was made by Justin Dixon to approve the May 21, 2019 meeting notes and approve the May 2019 expenses, it was seconded by Jon Jones and the Board approved the motion.

Update – Announcements and Items of Interest

Executive Call Actions – No executive call actions.

RTT Update – Kris Fischer updated the Board on the last RTT meeting to include a presentation on BPA Action Effectiveness Monitoring by Phil Roni. This presentation summarized the work done to date to determine reach-scale project effectiveness in order to guide project implementation and be more cost effective. Phil Roni commended the SRSRB for implementing good projects. A second presentation on Northern Pike Suppression by Joe Maroney will be summarized later in the meeting.

SRFB Project Update – Ali briefly updated the Board on where projects are in the grant round process. Project tours were held June 4-6th and received positive feedback from the SRFB review panel. The review panel noted the importance and value in the level of design and integration with other programs. Comment forms were received June 24th with the final local scoring meeting on July 18th. Following that meeting, Ali will present the final ranked list to the Board at the July 23rd meeting for review, comment/edits, and approval to submit to SRFB.

Review of Bylaws and Committee Chair nominations: Chair Schirman reminded the Board of the need to review bylaws every other year and nominate individuals for Chairman and Vice-Chairman positions. Chairman Schirman appointed Mike Talbott and Jerry Hendrickson to recommend a nomination for the Board Chair position. Brian Shinn, Jon Jones and Larry Hooker were appointed review and propose any changes to the bylaws needed. Roland asked both groups to report back to the Board in July.

Presentation: Northern Pike Suppression Update – John gave a presentation using materials provided/presented by Joe Maroney of the Kalispell Tribe on efforts to suppress invasive Northern Pike in Box Canyon Reservoir at the June RTT meeting. Northern Pike are a voracious, non-native predator to ESA-listed salmonids in the region. The Kalispell Tribe implemented a suppression effort beginning in 2010 (pilot) with a full suppression program beginning in 2012. While the suppression work is proving very successful in reducing populations, it must be understood that Northern Pike will never be fully eradicated and the suppression effort is similar to mowing the lawn in terms of ongoing maintenance. This low-level effort however will be critical given the impacts on native salmonids and the economic losses that will occur as Northern Pike expand their range and are not managed effectively. Next steps for the Board to consider are to urge local biologists to get training and experience in working with northern pike and to also continue to support the \$500,000 emergency response fund request from RCO for invasive species control (the Board supported this in the last legislative session, but it wasn't funded).

Action: FY 2019 Budget – John provided a brief overview of the FY 2019 SRSRB budget details presented at the May Board Meeting. Discussion included funding for database management, WWCC financial services at a rate of 35% of salaries only, LE contract, and plans for spending down carryover from last year. A motion was made by Mike Talbott and seconded by Justin Dixon to approve the FY 2019 SRSRB Budget as presented. Brad Johnson abstained and the motion passed by consensus. The Chairman has the authority to sign grant contracts and authorizing resolutions for the anticipated RCO contracts.

Discussion: Preparations for August Board Meeting – The Board plans to invite our districts 9 and 16 legislators to the August Board meeting and dinner. In preparation for that meeting, the Board discussed topics and questions they would like to hear from our legislators about. In addition to thanking our legislators for the support over the last year, the Board was interested in a general update, learning about what the plan is for orca recovery efforts and the nexus with hatcheries and hatchery releases, where we are at on the Snake River Dam study, Columbia River sport fishing allocations and the fate of the Columbia River Salmon and Steelhead Endorsement (CRSSE) – all framed in the context of the restoration work that the Board and Board partners have completed.

Discussion: Discuss questions that the Board would like to address with our state and/or federal agency partners at a future Board meeting – WDFW staff will provide a partner update at the September Board meeting. The Board continued to discuss topics and questions they would like to hear from WDFW about. The topics/questions already proposed included lower/upper Columbia fisheries, CRSSE program future, hatchery production funding in the future, and discussion about escapement and not being able to meet broodstock collection targets. John will be reaching out to our other partners as well, including NOAA.

Jim Peterson asked if there was a template of what to do and if we are being successful in fish returns. The Board discussed the fact that adult fish returns are a tough metric to base our success on, which is why we have focused our goals on habitat restoration and measuring habitat improvements for which we have shown success. Adult fish return numbers haven't been good recently, and this is something of an uphill battle given all of the factors that are out of our control, including ocean conditions, mainstem conditions, and hatchery and harvest management for the most part. With habitat improvements we are trying to build resiliency so that populations can rebound quickly, hold on and not blink out like some of our populations, including Touchet/Walla Walla and Asotin Chinook. We have been meeting habitat goals where we have been able to measure and have also seen increases in juvenile abundance (Tucannon and Asotin). Don noted that management has been a big issue and asked the Board to consider supporting the Snake River dams and oppose breaching. The Board noted this conversation has occurred in the past and that the Counties are likely better suited to weigh in on the topic, but that they would like to discuss the topic at the July meeting and hold off on taking action.



Action: Approve July 23, 2019 for next Board meeting to be in Pomeroy at the USFS Building starting at 6:00 PM. – A motion was made by Larry Hooker and seconded by Mike Talbott to hold the next Board meeting at 6 p.m. on July 23rd, 2019 at the USFS Building in Pomeroy. The Board approved by consensus.

Meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m. by SRSRB Chair Schirman

Signed By: Roland Schirman Date: 7/23/2019
Roland Schirman, Chair, Snake River Salmon Recovery Board