

**Date:** May 28, 2019

**Place:** Walla Walla Community College, Walla Walla, WA

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

**Board Members Present for Regular Business Meeting:** Bill Bowles (GC), Michael Talbott (CC), Todd Kimball (WW), Jon Jones (WC), and Yancey Reser (WW).

**Board Members on Phone:** Michael Largent (WC), Brad Johnson (AC), and Justin Dixon (GC).

**Others Present:** Kris Fischer (CTUIR), Kris Buelow (SRSRB), Ali Fitzgerald (SRSRB), Joanna Cowles Cleveland (WWCCD), Chris Hyland (WWWMP), Renee Hadley (WWCCD) and John Foltz (SRSRB).

**Others on Phone:** Duane Bartles (Pomeroy CD).

### Verify Quorum / Public Comment

SRSRB Vice-Chair, Bill Bowles called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm and verified a quorum (5 present, 3 on the phone for a total of 8), asked if there were any modifications to the agenda and asked for introductions and public comment. A motion was made by Todd Kimball to approve the agenda. It was seconded by Mike Talbott and the Board approved the motion.

### Approve Agenda and Consent Agenda:

1. April 2019 Expenses as follows:
  - (H2SR) RCO: \$27,370.55
  - (H2FW) LE: \$13,297.35
  - (H2B1) BPA: \$2,979.42
  - (H2B2) BPA: \$12,947.67
2. April 23, 2019 Meeting notes

**Action 1** – A motion was made by Mike Talbott to approve the April 23, 2019 meeting notes and approve the April 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.

**Council of Regions NOAA meeting debrief** – John updated the Board on a recent meeting with the NOAA West Coast Regional Director and branch chiefs that included the topics of salmon stock delisting next steps, Columbia River BiOp and EIS draft, and monitoring funding. NOAA expressed appreciation for the regional recovery organizations work and would like to attend each of the regional board meetings in the future. NOAA expressed that one of their top interests across the state is to take a prioritized habitat restoration approach and supports strategic evaluation processes for getting priority projects as they relate to delisting on the ground rather than spreading funds around.

**Legislative Update** – John briefly summarized the final state capital and operating budgets. Most of the programs received a continuation or increase in funding including FBD, FBRB, SRFB. John also noted the Snake River Dams Assessment was funded as a Southern Resident Killer Whale recovery item and that he was able to get a few details from the Governor's Office of Financial Management (OFM). OFM has no position on the assessment but was interested to involve SE WA stakeholders in the process. The Board noted that it was unfortunate that the budget for this was passed, but that Board members should engage.



Bill Bowles updated the group that Columbia River Salmon and Steelhead Endorsement program funding was not renewed. John noted that we worked with our Columbia Basin partners to support renewal of the program, but that it failed as part of the WDFW fee package and was too late in the session to move forward as a separate bill. The path forward is unclear at this time.

**RTT Update** – Kris Fischer updated the Board on the last RTT meeting to include a brief presentation on a new USFS streamlined permitting process (ARBO – Aquatic Resources Biological Opinion) and a discussion about adaptive management/response triggers for restoration projects. It's important to learn from past projects, develop accurate goals/objectives, and identify potential needs for project revisits. We should be setting correct project expectations and that there are situations where multiple projects in certain areas may be required to restore the natural riverine processes (ie: initial project being a levee setback, then revisit later to install wood).

**Mill Creek GI Study Stakeholder Meeting and Public Meeting May 30th** – John alerted the Board to upcoming stakeholder meetings for the ongoing GI study. The meeting is located at the Walla Walla Marriott on May 30<sup>th</sup> from 5:30 to 7:00 pm.

**SRFB Project Tour June 4th – 6th (draft applications online)** – Ali reminded the Board of the upcoming project tours June 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> and asked for any final RSVPs. All project information is available on the website and a project tour booklet will also be provided to tour attendees.

**Presentation: Partner Update, Walla Walla County Conservation District** – Renee Hadley updated the Board on outreach activities including teaching classes at Burbank Elementary Schools, Make a Splash (ten 5ht grade classes), and Return to the River events.

**Presentation: River Channel Evolution** – Kris Fischer gave an overview and walked the Board through the Channel Evolution process and how it relates to current channel processes using the Tucannon River as an example. He also explained how floodplain connectivity and channel reconnection is beneficial for fish in terms of juvenile rearing and survival to explain why we work in river tributaries.

**Discussion: FY 2019 Budget** – John presented the SRSRB budget for discussion this meeting with intent to review and approve at next Board meeting. Discussion included funding for database management, financial services, LE contract, and plans for spending down carryover from last year. If the Board has questions as they review the planned budget, please reach out to John. The Board will seek approval of the budget at the next meeting in June.

**Action: Approval of Partner Contracts for FY19** – John provided an overview from the April Board meeting of the proposed partner contracts up for renewal. Proposed contracts included the following breakdown:

- WRIA 32 (WWBMP): \$19k
- WRIA 35 (Palouse CD): \$19k
- NPT: \$8k
- CTUIR: \$8k
- Palouse CD: \$10k
- Asotin CD: \$5k
- Pomeroy CD: \$4k
- Columbia CD: \$4k
- Walla Walla CD: \$4.5k

Michael Talbott moved to approve the July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020 partner contracts including proposed budgets and scopes of work. The motion was seconded by Jon Jones and the motion passed by consensus.



**Discussion:** Questions Board would like to address with state and federal agency partners, at a future meeting – John informed the Board that NOAA was interested in attending a future Board meeting. This is a good opportunity to tee up any questions we may have in advance of this meeting. Topics/questions 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. If the Board has any additional suggestions to let John know. John will also work to draft an invitation to NOAA, WDFW and other agencies as needed.

**Action:** Approve June 25, 2019 for next Board meeting to be in Dayton at the Best Western starting at 6:00 PM. – A motion was made by Michael Talbott and seconded by Jon Jones to hold the next Board meeting at 6 p.m. at the Dayton Best Western on June 25. The Board approved by consensus.

Meeting adjourned at 7:33 p.m. by SRSRB Vice-Chair, Bill Bowles.

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