

Date: October 15, 2019

Place: USFS Building, Pomeroy, WA

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

Board Members Present for Regular Business Meeting: Jon Jones (WC), Roland Schirman (CC), Don Jackson (CC), Michael Talbott (CC), Kris Fischer (CTUIR), Larry Hooker (WW).

Board Members on Phone: Justin Dixon (GC), Todd Kimball (WW), Michael Largent (WC), Brad Johnson (AC).

Others Present: Jay Hesse (Nez Perce Tribe), Duane Bartels (Pomeroy CD), Kris Buelow (SRSRB), Ali Fitzgerald (SRSRB), and John Foltz (SRSRB).

Others on Phone: Ritchie Graves (NOAA), Jeremy Trump (WDFW), and Joanna Cowles-Cleveland.

Verify Quorum / Public Comment

SRSRB Acting Chairman Schirman called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm and verified a quorum (6 present, 4 on the phone for a total of 10). Roland Schirman participated as acting chair as Chairman Bowles was absent and Vice-Chair Johnson was participating by phone. A motion was made by Michael Talbott to approve the agenda. It was seconded by Don Jackson and the Board approved the motion.

Approve Agenda and Consent Agenda:

1. September 2019 Expenses as follows: Not Available
2. September 24, 2019 Meeting notes

Action 1 – A motion was made by Mike Talbott to approve the September 24, 2019 meeting notes with the correction of adding Justin Dixon as present, it was seconded by Jon Jones and the Board approved the motion.

Update – Announcements and Items of Interest

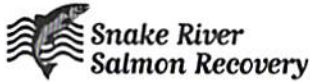
Executive Call Actions – No action taken

RTT update – No Updates. RTT meeting scheduled to occur the day after the SRSRB meeting in October.

Orca Task Force Lower Snake Dam Assessment Update – John summarized that the Assessment will not include collection of new data but will compile and summarize existing information. Fifty stakeholders were interviewed to provide input to the assessment. It is unclear the specific demographics of those stakeholders. John also updated the Board on the opportunity to schedule a meeting with Jim Kramer, hired consultant to facilitate the stakeholder process, to discuss the assessment process and to answer questions. The Board was interested. John will send out a doodle poll to schedule the meeting that will be hosted by Columbia County Commissioners in Dayton, WA.

Presentation and Discussion: Columbia River Hydro-system Biological Opinion – Ritchie Graves, Columbia Hydropower Branch, NOAA —Ritchie Graves presented an overview of the Columbia River Biological Opinion. This BiOp considers the effects of the Columbia River Hydropower System and related mitigation programs. He also highlighted the proposed “flexible spill” operation and how to provide additional fish benefits by increasing spill; manage power system costs and preserve hydro system flexibility; and retain operational feasibility. Ritchie concluded by thanking the Board for their efforts, noting that fresh water habitat is extremely important and we need more production of salmon and steelhead which comes from resilient habitat, that provide high quality smolts. He also stated that the final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and BiOp will be available before January 1, 2020.

Presentation and Discussion: Hydro-system operations 2019-2021 Spill Operations Agreement – Jay Hesse, Director of Biological Services, Nez Perce Tribe — Jay Hesse followed Ritchie Graves presentation and covered additional details



centered around the flexible spill option to balance fish, power, and sill operations. Models suggest that by operating under flexible spill guidelines, fish encounters with powerhouses decline while decreasing spill to generate more during higher energy demand time periods. The Flexible Spill EIS is expected to be released in September 2020.

Action: Public Comment Letter – Follow-up on Columbia River Policy Update (spring Chinook) — John attended the last Columbia River Policy meeting and reviewed the two actions that are currently still under consideration: OR/WA spring Chinook allocation and the commercial/recreational allocation. The Board discussed the need to submit a public comment letter in support of the 80%/20% recreational/commercial harvest split and a modest increase of 5% for the upper river allocation to 75%/25%. A motion was made by Larry Hooker to approve the draft letter and submit. The motion was seconded by Jon Jones and the Board approved by consensus. Todd will reach out to his Oregon County counterparts to remind them of this effort and to submit letters of support. Kris Fischer will reach out to CTUIR policy staff as well.

Discussion: Introduction to SRFB Planned Project List — John informed the Board of a request from RCO to develop a 3-year planned project forecast list. The intent is to develop a consolidated list of planned projects that are likely to be pursued in the next biennium. The list will be used to present to the Office of Financial Management and the Legislature in an effort to request additional funds for restoration work. The list does not need to be set in stone but should include project information such as name, location, costs, and other information if available. The list is something between what we have in our 3-5 year work plan and the annually approved SRFB grant round project list. Staff will continue to work with RCO on this list and will keep the Board updated; the Board would need to give some sort of support or approval of this list when the details get fleshed out in the future, likely around June or July of 2020.

Discussion and Action: 2020 Board Meeting Calendar — John presented the draft 2020 meeting dates for review and highlighted a shift for the October meeting date to the fourth Tuesday. Larry Hooker made a motion to approve the 2020 SRSRB Board Meeting calendar as described. Michael Talbott seconded and the motion passed by consensus.

Discussion: Executive Board Schedule and County Commissioner Representation — John presented the draft Executive Board Schedule and asked for a volunteer for January and Michael Talbott offered to be the representative. No formal action taken on this item.

Action: Approve December 10, 2019 for next Board meeting to be at the Dayton, WA Best Western at 4:00 PM. — A motion was made by Jon Jones and seconded by Larry Hooker to hold the next Board meeting at 4 p.m. on December 10th, 2019 at the Dayton, WA Best Western. The Board approved by consensus.

Meeting adjourned at 6:01 p.m. by Acting Chair Roland Schirman

Signed By: Bill Bowles
Bill Bowles, Chair, Snake River Salmon Recovery Board

Date: 1/28/20