

Date: April 28, 2020

Place: Virtual Meeting

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

Board Members on Phone: Jon Jones (WC), Michael Largent (WC), Don Jackson (CC), Michael Talbott (CC), Larry Hooker (WW), Brian Shinn (AC), Justin Dixon (GC), Bill Bowles (GC), Todd Kimball (WW), and Brad Johnson (AC).

Others on Phone: Chris Hyland (WWWMP), Megan Stewart (ACCD), Terry Bruegman (CCD), Ali Fitzgerald (SRSRB), John Foltz (SRSRB), and Joanna Cowles-Cleveland (WWCCD). Kris Buelow (SRSRB).

Verify Quorum / Public Comment

SRSRB Chairman Bowles called the meeting to order at 6:07 pm and verified a quorum (10 present via phone). A motion was made by Justin Dixon to approve the agenda. It was seconded by Brian Shinn and the Board approved the motion.

Approve Agenda and Consent Agenda:

1. February 2020 Expenses as follows:
 - a. (H2SR) RCO: \$22,087.13
 - b. (H2FW) LE: \$4,323.48
 - c. (H2B2) BPA: \$13,675.63
2. February 25, 2020 Meeting notes

Action 1 – A motion was made by Mike Talbott to approve the February 25th, 2020 meeting notes and expenses, it was seconded by Brian Shinn and the Board approved the motion.

Update – Announcements and Items of Interest

Executive Call Actions

Executive Call Actions – Decision was made to change the meeting venue from Dayton to host April 28th SRSRB remotely.

SRSRB operations summary regarding pandemic – John updated the Board on work tasks and accomplishments for SRSRB during COVID and telecommuting. Staff are maintaining a high operating level with the exception of not being able to lead in-person meetings or field work. The conference call service was upgraded to handle additional capacity. Some work tasks include the Tucannon/Touchet Conceptual Plans, SRFB Grant Round, annual reporting, stock status review, Fish Barrier Removal Board applications, COVID responses, meetings, CEIS comments, budgeting, addressing COVID response with WWCC admin among other things. John thanked the Executive Committee for their help in adjusting to changes in operation.

Statewide Salmon Strategy – John informed the Board that the survey is now closed and a draft report will be coming with details to follow. Erik Netherlin plans to present the draft Strategy to the Board when available.

Staff Performance Reviews – John outlined the Board on the staff review process which will be similar to years past. He will conduct reviews of Kris and Ali and present summaries and salary recommendations to the Board in May. The Board will conduct John's evaluation in executive session. If COVID prevents an in-person meeting, this may be reevaluated.



North of Falcon Meetings – In response to COVID-19, local public meetings were cancelled and fisheries are to remain closed. There is no word if there will be remote meeting options at this time but John asked folks to provide that information if they hear anything.

2020 flood event update – John summarized the current status of the flood damage and work in the region. Areas of concern have been identified. Columbia County and Mike Talbott are working with Kris Buelow and Kris Fischer to apply for NRCS grant funding to provide emergency fixes to infrastructure and are also working with BPA to retrofit and adaptively manage several projects post flood. Some areas and projects did great but there are some areas of concern that should be addressed. FEMA flood assistance funding does not appear to have come through for private residences but public infrastructure money is available.

Columbia River Draft EIS – The comment period is now closed but SRSRB staff developed comments that touched on predation, overshoot, and value to local economics in their comments submitted. John felt the SRSRB's involvement in the Snake River Dam process seemed influential in shaping comments submitted by Washington.

RTT update— The RTT meeting was held remotely with around 30 people calling in. At the meeting we:

- Learned about the upcoming Upper Walla Walla Assessment from CTUIR, this project is just starting and includes the upper Walla Walla mainstem to the headwaters in Oregon;
- Received and update on the WWW 2050 planning process and Bi-State flow study from Chris Hyland;
- Briefly discussed the NOAA 5-yr review and the information that SRSRB staff are compiling for habitat action;
- Reviewed the RCO PPFL and received a request for additional projects that we will share with the Board tonight; and
- Received an update on the Tucannon salmonid survival project from WDFW. Some of the interesting take home points where:
 - Spring Chinook habitat has improved with restoration; that showed in the analysis with treatment pools having a higher density that control pools.
 - Overwinter survival downstream of UTR PIT array (near Marengo) is a priority, as is anywhere we can make more soft/slow water and create pools.
 - Close proximity to diverse habitat is needed (thermal refugia in winter and summer, in addition to refugia from high flows).
 - Study highlighted potential productivity problems that we believe have been an ongoing issue.
 - Reinforced the idea that we can impact juvenile productivity and resiliency more than any other life stages.

Presentation: 2020 SRFB Project Update and Planned Project Forecast List – Ali presented a brief summary of the current status of the 2020 grant round. Fourteen projects were submitted at the partial draft stage with one project being withdrawn prior to the draft application stage. The draft scoring meeting was cancelled and the site tours are scheduled to be virtual with SRFB Review Panel Members on May 5th and 6th. RTT, Lead Entity Committee and the Board will have access to recorded presentations to watch and provide comment on if desired. Ali also summarized the RCO request for regional Planned Project Forecast Lists that include all projects that have the potential to move forward in the 2021 and 2022 Grant Rounds. The intent is that these lists will help support an increased budget request for SRFB project funding to the Legislature. Board members had a few questions about several high dollar projects listed that Ali would follow up on. The list needs to be approved locally in order to be submitted to RCO by August; the Board will review the list prior to the May Board meeting where it will be discussed with the goal of seeking approval at the June Board meeting

Discussion (Note that this turned into an Action Item): Snake spring Chinook allocation update and follow up letter – John updated the Board on spring Chinook upriver allocation and asked the SRSRB for comments and input on the draft letter John had sent out for review. Ultimately, the Board recommended that the SRSRB would send an initial letter and



John would send out a template 1-page summary letter for each county to sign individually. Brian Shinn made a motion to submit a letter from the SRSRB that the counties could then send supporting letters if desired. Todd Kimball and Larry Hooker seconded the motion and it passed by consensus.

Presentation: 2019 Regional Project Implementation for (Part 1: WRIA 32 portion of region) — Ali provided a brief presentation on projects implemented in 2019 in WRIA 32. Projects included Walla Walla River RM 35.5 Design, Cottonwood Creek PALs, Mill Creek- 6th Ave Extension Design, Mill Creek Passage- Park to Otis, Bridge to Bridge Phase II, Touchet River Conceptual Restoration Plan, North Fork Touchet River Reach 2 Design, and North Touchet RM 3.3-4.3 Implementation.

Action: Approve May 26, 2020 for next Board meeting to be in Walla Walla, WA at Walla Walla Community College starting at 6:00 PM. — A motion was made by Larry Hooker and seconded by Mike Talbott to hold the next Board meeting on May 26, 2020 in Walla Walla, WA at Walla Walla Community College starting at 6:00 PM. The Board approved by consensus.

Meeting adjourned at 7:54 p.m. by Chair Bowles

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