

**Date:** August 25, 2020

**Place:** Virtual Meeting

**Format:** Regular Meeting started at 6:08 p.m.

**Board Members on Phone:** Jon Jones (WC), Roland Schirman (CC), Michael Talbott (CC), Brad Johnson (AC), Brian Shinn (AC), Bill Bowles (GC), Kris Fischer (CTUIR), and Justin Dixon (GC)

**Others on Phone:** Ali Fitzgerald (SRSRB), John Foltz (SRSRB), Ethan Crawford (WDFW), Joanna Cowles-Cleveland (WWCCD), and Jennifer Boie (Palouse CD)

### Verify Quorum / Public Comment

SRSRB Chairman Bowles called the meeting to order at 6:08 pm and verified a quorum (8 present via phone). No public comment. A motion was made by Justin Dixon to approve the agenda. It was seconded by Roland Schirman and the Board approved the motion.

### Approve Agenda and Consent Agenda:

1. July 2020 Expenses as follows:
  - (H2SR) RCO: \$11,773.16
  - (H2FW) LE: \$7,480.17
  - (H2B3) BPA: \$13,470.8713<sup>th</sup> Month 2020 Expenses as follows:
  - (H2SR) RCO: \$33,222.55
  - (H2FW) LE: \$6,172.90
  - (H2B3) BPA: \$34.14
2. July 28, 2020 Meeting notes

**Action 1** – A motion was made by Brian Shinn to approve the July 28<sup>th</sup>, 2020 meeting notes and July and 13<sup>th</sup> month expenses. The motion was seconded by Jon Jones and the Board approved the motion.

**Presentation: Asotin Fish Status and Trends Update** – Ethan Crawford presented results from ongoing Fish in/Fish Out studies in the Asotin Basin to the Board. This fish monitoring gathers data on juvenile and adult steelhead to help determine juvenile abundance, run timing and distribution, adult abundance, and population productivity. Data is gathered through adult trapping at weirs, juvenile trapping and tagging at smolt traps, and tag detections at in-basin and out-of-basin PIT arrays. Streams within the study area include Asotin, George, Alpowa, and Tenmile. Couse, Almota, and Tenmile are somewhat more difficult to monitor logistically. This data supports the Asotin IMW program and is critical for stock status reviews, recovery and ultimate delisting, we use VSP data such as this. This work is similar to work being conducted in the Touchet Basin as well.

**Discussion/Action: Fish and Wildlife Commission Harvest Policy C-3620** —John sent the SRSRB a letter from Legislators that was sent to the Chair of the Fish and Wildlife Commission and Director, in general they support maintaining concurrence with OR and want a commitment to recreational fishing side.

In receiving final signatures from Walla Walla County today, John will get the letter out with signatures from counties ahead of next commission meeting. The next commission meeting is September 10-12<sup>th</sup> when they will finalize this policy. We've reached out to eastside Fish and Wildlife Commissioners but it's unclear if we have support from them enough to move policy in direction we'd like. John and Chris Hyland will weigh in on behalf



of the SRSRB. The SRSRB is supportive of John advocating for general recommendations if they begin to deviate slightly from what we originally asked.

**Action: Cost of Living Adjustment Verification**— Following up on discussion from the last meeting regarding WWCC providing COLAs to College employees and if the SRSRB would like to do the same. The SRSRB normally follows WWCC direction on this, but wanted to formally vote on this given the Governor’s orders and pending insight from WWCC HR regarding audit risk. John followed up with WWCC HR, and as WWCC employees, we are eligible for COLAs and the SRSRB is not considered a state agency subject to the Governor’s order. Roland Schirman moved to approve the same cost of living adjustment that the WWCC approved, 3% starting July 1, 2020. Brian Shinn seconded the motion and it passed by consensus.

### **Update – Announcements and Items of Interest**

**Executive Call Actions** – Action was made to switch August SRSRB to remote format.

**RTT update**— The main topic of the RTT meeting was review and updates to priority restoration and protection reaches for SRFB funding. This process will continue over next few months and will ultimately be approved by RTT.

John also informed the Board of successful ongoing project implementation in the region despite COVID delays.

**Budget Reduction update**— John informed the Board that our portion of the LE shortfall budget reduction is now \$6,000 but we’re anticipating more reductions in the future. We were not able to contribute additional funds to cover the shortfall for other Lead Entities as the RCO Director could not guarantee it would not affect our future allocation.

**Board Legislative Outreach Meeting Update** — John sent letters to our district 9 and 16 legislators informing them that we would not be holding our annual outreach meeting in August due to COVID but that we were interested in scheduling something at a later date. John received several replies and our legislators expressed interest in meeting up even if it needed to be a remote meeting.

**Columbia Basin Partnership Phase 3 Update** — John provided a brief update on the NOAA-led federal process for pulling together stakeholders. Broad sense goals for all populations in Columbia River, including healthy and harvestable number, have been established in phase 1 of the process. In the next phases the Partnership will be looking at actions that can lead to achieving these goals at a Columbia Basin scale. Phase 2 is about to be complete with Phase 3 transitioning away from NOAA leadership. Currently it looks like the planned phase 3 leadership involves four state and federal entities, tribes, and representatives from environment/ports/utilities. While there’s not much information at this time, the Partnership has listed the Snake River Dams as an item of interest.

**Fish Barrier Removal Board Project List** — John informed the board that the Fish Barrier Removal Board statewide project list was approved last week. Three projects in the Snake Region were on the approved list including two Mill Creek projects (ranking 4 and 12) and the Cougar Creek Culvert Project (ranking 7). The list contains 88 projects and an ask of \$65 million dollars. If the legislature funds at least \$18 million, all



Snake Region projects should be funded. The Board noted this as an item to highlight for our future meeting with our legislators.

**Action: Approve September 22nd, 2020 for next Board meeting to be in Colfax, WA at the Best Western starting at 4:00 PM.** – A motion was made by Jon Jones and seconded by Michael Talbott to hold the next Board meeting on September 22, 2020 in Colfax, WA at 4:00 PM. The Board approved by consensus. John Foltz requested RSVPs to ensure there is a quorum. In the case that we cannot meet in-person, this meeting can be accomplished online if necessary.

Meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m. by Chair Bowles

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