

Date: February 25, 2020

Place: Best Western, Dayton, WA

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

Board Members Present for Regular Business Meeting: Jon Jones (WC), Don Jackson (CC), Michael Talbott (CC), Kris Fischer (CTUIR), Larry Hooker (WW), Brian Shinn (AC), Justin Dixon (GC), Bill Bowles (GC), Todd Kimball (WW), Brad Johnson (AC).

Board Members on Phone: None.

Others Present: Aneesha Dieu (CCD), Lance Horning (WWCCD), Terry Bruegman (CCD), Dewayne Straube (citizen), Dick Ducharme (citizen), Jim Peterson (Citizen), Ali Fitzgerald (SRSRB), John Foltz (SRSRB), and Joanna Cowles-Cleveland (WWCCD). Kris Buelow (SRSRB), Duane Bartels (Pomeroy CD), and Joe Bumgarner (WDFW).

Others on Phone: Chris Hyland (WWWMP) and Megan Stewart (ACCD).

Verify Quorum / Public Comment

SRSRB Chairman Bowles called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm and verified a quorum (10 present, 0 on the phone for a total of 10). A motion was made by Brian Shinn to approve the agenda. It was seconded by Michael Talbott and the Board approved the motion.

Approve Agenda and Consent Agenda:

1. January 2020 Expenses as follows:
 - a. (H2SR) RCO: \$ 31,783.30
 - b. (H2FW) LE: \$ 7,518.49
 - c. (H2B2) BPA: \$ 15,026.68
2. January 28, 2020 Meeting notes

Action 1 – A correction was made to the January 28, 2020 minutes to add Todd Kimball to the attendees (phone). A motion was made by Brian Shinn to approve the January 28th, 2020 meeting notes and expenses, it was seconded by Mike Talbott and the Board approved the motion.

Update – Announcements and Items of Interest

Executive Call Actions – No action taken

Follow-up on Columbia River Policy (spring Chinook) – John updated the Board on spring Chinook upriver allocation. There are not many updates at this stage but the current policy stays in place if Oregon and Washington are not in concurrence. Currently, focus is being put on shifting the allocation toward and increase in commercial from sport fisheries. Chis Donley (WDFW) wanted the Board to know that there will be a Southeast WA stakeholder meeting later this spring (date TBD). Tributary overshoot should remain a concern but there is potential for a future spring Chinook terminal fishery on the Walla Walla River with reintroduced spring Chinook salmon.

2020 SRFB Project Update – Ali presented a brief summary of the current status of the 2020 grant round. Fourteen projects were submitted at the partial draft stage. The draft application deadline is March 4th, 2020. Following the deadline, project sponsors will present projects to the Lead Entity Committee at the draft scoring meeting on March 26th, 2020 at the Dayton Best Western. Projects include 8 Restoration projects, 5 designs, and one monitoring project that will be presented to the Board later in the meeting.



RRNW Film Event in Walla Walla March 5th – The Board was reminded of the upcoming River Restoration Northwest Film Festival at the GESA Theater in Walla Walla on March 5th.

Presentation: Snake River Salmon Recovery Board Mission Overview — John presented an overview and history of the SRSRB including the mission to protect and restore salmon habitat, consistent with the recovery plan, for current and future generations and vision to develop and maintain healthy ecosystems that contributes to the rebuilding of key fish populations by providing abundant, productive, and diverse populations of aquatic species that support the social, cultural, and economic well-being of the communities both within and outside of the recovery region. There are four H's (Hatchery, Harvest, Hydropower, and Habitat with a recent emphasis on Predation as well). Habitat is the focus of the SRSRB and local partners. The priorities of the SRSRB include overseeing the Snake River Salmon Recovery Plan implementation, monitoring progress, adaptively manage, and report on results. John highlighted the other H's, who is generally the lead, and how the Board can support those who have purview of that particular element.

Action: Letter to the editor regarding recent floods — John summarized the proposed letter to the editor from the SRSRB. This proposed letter would remind the public that these floods are natural occurrences and while devastating, are something we can try to plan for. It also would state that the SRSRB and local partners have habitat assessments in hand and are willing to work with landowners to identify potential long term solutions to help reduce future flood risk. The Board and other attendees discussed concerns with offering to fix problems on private property, flooding damage versus habitat benefits, and differing concerns regarding the ability to be allowed to build homes within known floodplains. Ultimately the Board decided that they did not support submitting a letter to the editor on this matter. Board members and the public expressed frustration with the emergency permit requirements process for private landowners.

Presentation: RTT Update and Flooding Overview — Kris Fischer presented a quick summary of flooding updates from regional partners at the RTT. The general impression is that that most projects faired relatively well during the floods. Regarding flood intervals, initial estimates put it at a 100 yr flood for the Walla Walla and Touchet Rivers, 25-30 yr flood for the Tucannon, and a 500 yr flood for the Umatilla River. He showed drone footage and images from multiple project reaches around the region with emphasis on the Tucannon. Initial estimates are that approximately 85% of the LWD structures held which is relatively good. He reminded everyone that while flooding isn't new, we need to be prepared for what to do next and to better prepare for these events and adapt in places where there were problems as part of adaptive management. The Board wanted to continue this discussion at future meetings to include specific examples of what worked and what didn't.

Presentation: Touchet River Smolt Trap Monitoring — Joe Bumgarner presented information on the current proposed WDFW Smolt Monitoring project for the 2020 SRFB grant round at John's request to determine if the Board would provide required regional monitoring certification to be eligible for SRFB funding. The SRSRB can choose to allocate up to 10% of the regional allocation for monitoring projects that address a high priority data gap, doesn't interfere with existing monitoring efforts, and must be publicly available and completed within 3 years. This project will provide the ability to obtain steelhead abundance and productivity estimates via PIT-tagging outmigrating juveniles and analyzing results of PIT tag detections on returning adults to headwater areas where they spawn. This information is critical for NOAA stock status review and the potential for delisting Mid-Columbia steelhead.

The Board discussed the need for a formal motion to support this project as a regional monitoring priority. Brad made a motion to support this project by providing the regional monitoring certification and to continue the application process. The motion was seconded by Brian Shinn and passed by consensus.

Presentation: 2019 Regional Project Implementation for (Part 1: WRIA 32 portion of region) — Deferred until March meeting due to time constraints.



Action: Approve March 18, 2020 for next Board meeting to be at the Walla Walla Community College in Clarkston, WA at 4:00 PM. – The Board had considered moving the March meeting to coincide with the North of Falcon meeting scheduled for March 18th in Clarkston but due to scheduling conflicts for multiple board members, the date did not work. A motion was made by Jon Jones and seconded by Larry Hooker to hold the next Board meeting at the originally planned date of 4 p.m. on March 24th, 2020 at the Walla Walla Community College in Clarkston, WA. The Board approved by consensus.

Meeting adjourned at 6:18 p.m. by Chair Bowles

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