

Date: January 28, 2020

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), Jerry Hendrickson (AC), Michael Largent (WC), Brian Shinn (AC), Justin Dixon (GC), Bill Bowles (GC), and Gary Ryan (WC),

Board Members on Phone: Brad Johnson (AC) and Todd Kimball (WW).

Others Present: Aneesha Dieu (CCD), Reid Camp (Cramer Fish Sciences), Paul Smith (Citizen), Jim Peterson (Citizen), Ali Fitzgerald (SRSRB), John Foltz (SRSRB), and Joanna Cowles-Cleveland (WWCCD).

Others on Phone: Chris Hyland (WWWMP) and Kris Buelow (SRSRB).

Verify Quorum / Public Comment

SRSRB Chairman Bowles called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm and verified a quorum (12 present, 1 on the phone for a total of 13). A motion was made by Brad Johnson to approve the agenda. It was seconded by Roland Schirman and the Board approved the motion.

Approve Agenda and Consent Agenda:

1. November 2019 expenses as follows:
 - a. (H2SR) RCO: \$ 21,058.28
 - b. (H2FW) LE: \$ 9,700.94
 - c. (H2B2) BPA: \$ 15,712.23
2. December 2019 Expenses as follows:
 - a. (H2SR) RCO: \$ 18,908.31
 - b. (H2FW) LE: \$ 3,933.87
 - c. (H2B2) BPA: \$ 13,458.69
3. December 3, 2019 Executive Committee Meeting Notes

Action 1 – The Board was supportive of the actions taken by the Executive Committee on December 3rd and agreed the meeting notes for that meeting should be approved. A motion was made by Roland Schirman to approve the consent agenda, Justin Dixon seconded it and the Board approved the motion.

Update – Announcements and Items of Interest

Executive Call Actions – No action taken

RTT update – Kris Fischer and John Foltz gave an overview on recent RTT updates including project partner updates as well as Fish Barrier Removal Board applications on Mill Creek and Cottonwood Creek, the Walla Walla 2050 effort, the Columbia Basin Partnership, and the Mill Creek GI study. The RTT also approved the 3-5 SRSRB workplan for 2020.

Orca Task Force Lower Snake Dam Assessment Update – John, Brad and the County Commissioners met with the Assessment facilitators. John felt the meeting provided some good perspective from eastern Washington. Public comment on the draft report is now closed. The report will be given to the Governor to help him determine whether to weigh in on the Federal EIS in February. Board members generally felt that the public meetings were balanced and approachable but not altogether unpredictable. Several Board members expressed frustration with



the cost of the report and associated effort and also the disappointment that there wasn't some appreciation given for hosting the meeting in Clarkston.

Follow-up on Columbia River Policy (spring Chinook) – John updated the Board that the November meeting was cancelled and Oregon pulled out of the Columbia River Policy review and next steps are currently unknown at this time, although we have heard second hand that there will be a meeting in southeast Washington in the spring. Columbia, Walla Walla, Asotin, Whitman, and Garfield Counties all submitted letters in support of spring Chinook allocation increases. The Board continues to believe that we need to get Oregon constituents to weigh in.

South Fork Walla Walla Hatchery Groundbreaking – John informed the Board of the official groundbreaking that occurred on January 10th. The target for spring Chinook returning is 1200 fish with a 50/50 split for tribal and sport harvest. Because spring Chinook were extirpated in the Walla Walla Basin, this reintroduced stock is not covered under ESA and will be managed as a terminal fishery. Fish will be unmarked (no ad clip) so they cannot be harvested in the lower river (Note: this was mischaracterized at the meeting – Gary James confirmed that these fish will be marked).

NOAA 5-year stock status review – John updated the Board on the ongoing stock status review and how it relates to the Snake River Salmon Recovery plan and 3-5 year workplan. The 5 year review is intended to provide information on the listing factors, including habitat, hatcheries, and harvest updates. The public comment period closes in March, however we will still be working with our NOAA contacts to provide relevant information throughout the year. At the end of the review, the report will state if a population status has changed or remains the same. Populations in our region under review include mid-Columbia steelhead (Walla Walla, Touchet, Mill Creek populations), Tucannon spring Chinook and summer steelhead, and the Asotin and Grande Ronde summer Steelhead.

Presentation: 2020 SRFB projects – letter of intent summary; SRFB grant round key dates — Ali summarized current information on the grant round. Fourteen projects have been proposed including 8 restoration projects, 5 design projects, and one monitoring project. She will work with sponsors to complete partial drafts by the January 31 deadline with presentations to the RTT for review and feedback on February 19th. Other key dates are available on the website and include the draft scoring meeting (March 26th), Project Tours (May 5-7) and final scoring meeting (June 24th). We anticipate a similar funding level to last year, approximately \$1.5 million.

Discussion: Website Update — Ali provided a run through of the new website and where to find associated documents and information. This is the last review piece following two emails sent out in October and November requesting feedback on the design. The Board was supportive of the website and liked the new design. There was interest in knowing some website statistics and analytics if possible. Ali will work with Yakindo Web Designs to finalize the website and launch it in the next month.

Presentation: Salmon Recovery Portal Update and Demonstration, including work plan and planned project forecast list — Reid Camp (Cramer Fish Sciences) gave a presentation highlighting work currently being done to overhaul the Snake River components of the Salmon Recovery Portal including extensive QA/QC of the 600+ projects. He also highlighted the benefits and uses for having this database that includes the ability to quickly and automatically generate reports such as the 3-5 workplan, planned project forecast list, and the State of the Salmon reports – all of which the Board is obligated to report on. In addition to reporting, the database is also useful for other planning efforts and funding requests at the state level. John noted that this effort has saved a great deal of time as we work to streamline and standardize the database – he is hopeful that the Board is supportive in continuing to support this effort in the future. In general, the Board was satisfied and supportive of the database effort.

Presentation/Action: 2020 BPA project budget review and approval — Kris summarized the BPA budget and components of which that include staff time as technical support to Tucannon projects, office supplies, travel,



monitoring plan work, habitat remote sensing, and channel monitoring. The contract would begin on April 1, 2020 and would include work toward projects in Project Areas 6, 13, 17, 26, 27, 28, 32, Tumalum Creek, and the Tucannon Assessment and Conceptual Restoration Plan with a total budget of \$189,000. Kris noted that each of the projects are in different phases of development, but these would be the primary efforts over the next three to five years.

Brian Shinn moved to approve the 2020 BPA project budget as presented. Michael Largent seconded and the motion passed 12-1; Don Jackson opposes.

Discussion/Action: Support for the River Restoration Northwest Film Showing in Walla Walla — The rotating film festival is coming back to Walla Walla and will highlight various films in relation to habitat restoration success stories as curated by RRNW. Last year, the event was attended by about 300 people and included a poster session – several Board members attended and thought it was a worthwhile event. The cost to sponsor is \$650.

Jerry Hendrickson made a motion to support the RRNW film showing in Walla Walla at the \$650 level. The motion was seconded by Justin Dixon and passed by consensus. John will share the showing date and details when they are available.

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

Action: Approve February 25, 2020 for next Board meeting to be at the Dayton, WA Best Western at 4:00 PM. – A motion was made by Michael Talbott and seconded by Larry Hooker to hold the next Board meeting at 4 p.m. on February 25, 2020 at the Dayton, WA Best Western. The Board approved by consensus.

Meeting adjourned at 6:05 p.m. by Chair Bowles

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