

**Date:** May 26, 2020

**Place:** Virtual Meeting

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

**Board Members on Phone:** Kris Fischer (CTUIR), Jon Jones (WC), Art Swannack (WC - alternate for Michael Largent), Roland Schirman (CC), Michael Talbott (CC), Larry Hooker (WW), Brian Shinn (AC), Justin Dixon (GC), Bill Bowles (GC), and Todd Kimball (WW).

**Others on Phone:** Chris Hyland (WWWMP), Aneesha Dieu (CCD), Terry Bruegman (CCD), Ali Fitzgerald (SRSRB), John Foltz (SRSRB), Joanna Cowles-Cleveland (WWCCD), Kris Buelow (SRSRB), Jim Peterson (landowner), Renee Hadley (WWCCD).

### Verify Quorum / Public Comment

SRSRB Chairman Bowles called the meeting to order at 6:09 pm and verified a quorum (10 present via phone). A motion was made by Todd Kimball to approve the agenda. It was seconded by Brian Shinn and the Board approved the motion.

### Approve Agenda and Consent Agenda:

1. March 2020 Expenses as follows:
  - a. (H2SR) RCO: \$ 19,620.24
  - b. (H2FW) LE: \$3,324.18
  - c. (H2B2) BPA: \$13,771.45
- April 2020 Expenses as follows:
  - d. (H2SR) RCO: \$ 31,689.90
  - e. (H2FW) LE: \$ 3,626.07
  - f. (H2B2) BPA: \$ 3,655.84
  - g. (H2B3) BPA: \$ 13,458.60

2. April 28th, 2020 Meeting notes

**Action 1** – A motion was made by Todd Kimball to approve the April 28, 2020 meeting notes and March/April expenses, it was seconded by Brian Shinn and the Board approved the motion.

### Update – Announcements and Items of Interest

**Executive Call Actions** – Decision was made to change the meeting venue from Dayton to host the May 26<sup>th</sup> SRSRB meeting remotely.

**RTT update** – The RTT meeting was held remotely. At the meeting we:

- Had a check in with project partners to see which projects were still on schedule to implement in 2020 and which had been delayed, most of the planned work is still set to move forward, some will be delayed due as much to recent flooding and redesign work as the pandemic;
- Ethan Crawford provide an Asotin Fish Program update including status and trends. A presentation to the SRSRB will occur at a later date;
- Briefly discussed the NOAA 5-yr review and the information;
- Completed final review of the RCO PPFL and final technical input for the 2020 SRFB grant round project list;



**Staff Performance Reviews** – John informed the Board that staff evaluations would not occur until an in-person meeting is held.

**Presentation: Partner Update: Walla Walla County Conservation District** – Renee Hadley presented a brief update on what the Walla Walla County Conservation District has been working on. Work includes CREP contracts for 3,600 acres, a brief discussion on the potential for landowner interest and support for habitat restoration work on Mill Creek below Gose Street, and current Mill Creek application to Floodplains by Design that would include a 5-mile reach and 70 landowners if successful. Anticipated budget cuts are currently expected to be 15% statewide with details evolving.

**Discussion: Snake spring Chinook allocation update – May 27th Commission Meeting** – John briefly brought the Board up to speed on the latest discussion, including of short history of allocation and concerns of unequal distribution, harvest policy with OR, and lack of consideration for conservation needs. The SRSRB submitted a letter last month in addition to a letter from the five counties and 14 individual Commissioners that supported the Board's letter. The next meeting is scheduled for May 27<sup>th</sup> and is intended to finalize the draft harvest policy language. There was some language added to account for escapement goals but the allocation formula will not be changed and the policy is still not consistent with recovery goals and needs. John also mentioned that the Board has garnered some attention from GSRO, CTRITFC, and the Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board who are becoming interested in this topic and are engaging accordingly. John will send the meeting link out to the Board and will attend the meeting on the Board's behalf.

**Presentation/Discussion: 2020 SRFB Projects and Tour Update** – 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 were held remotely with SRFB Review Panel Members on May 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>. The review panel members were supportive of the projects and asked constructive questions throughout the tours. Summarized comments were sent out following the tour. Formal comment forms will be provided by June 5<sup>th</sup>. The final scoring meeting will be June 24<sup>th</sup>-details to follow. The Board will then seek to approve the final 2020 SRFB project list at the July Board meeting.

**Discussion: Planned Project Forecast List Review**—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, specifically the McNary Project (potentially phase?). The list has been reviewed multiple times with the intent of seeking approval at the June Board meeting

**Discussion: FY 2020/21 Budget** – John provided the Board with copies of the proposed budgets that need to be approved at the June meeting. We are anticipating some budget reductions but details are still evolving. Each budget has several scenarios to see effects of budget cuts. The BPA budget was approved at the April meeting and is anticipated to be stable for the next year and generally stable due to mitigation funding. The two budgets discussed included the base operating budget and the Lead Entity budget. We are anticipating a 15% reduction on operating funds effective immediately within the Lead Entity budget. The Region budget includes funding for staff time, partner contracts, goods and services, contracted services, HWS, etc. The Lead Entity budget includes staff time, partner contracts, and supplies/travel expenses. With current anticipated cuts, we can proceed with existing budget allocations. Shortfall scenarios were provided to see effects of 10, 20, and 30% reductions in the event they come to pass.

**Discussion: Partner Contracts for FY2020/21** – John also summarized partner contracts to include:

- WRIA 32
- WRIA 35
- Nez Perce Tribe
- Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation



- Walla Walla County CD
- Columbia CD
- Pomeroy CD
- Palouse CD
- Asotin CD

We can maintain funds to these contracts unless cuts are sustained to the operating budget that can't be reabsorbed in other areas. All budgets will need to be approved at the June board meeting.

**Presentation: 2020 Planned Tucannon Effort and 2019 Regional Project Implementation for (Part 2: WRIA 35**

**Tucannon portion of region)** – Kris Buelow presented briefly on the Tucannon projects planned for 2020 implementation (2019 project accomplishments deferred to later date). PA-13 will be delayed a year due to flooding and the need for redesign. Projects including PA 17/18 (CTUIR), the Tumulal Creek Culvert (NPT), and PA 26 (CCD) will move forward in 2021/2022. PA 32 (CCD), Tumulal beaver relocation (Pomeroy CD), and a portion of PA 27/28 (CTUIR) are expected to be implemented in 2020.

**Action: Approve June 23, 2020 for next Board meeting to be in Dayton, WA at the Dayton Best Western starting at 6:00 PM** – A motion was made by Mike Talbott and seconded by Brian Shinn to hold the next Board meeting on June 23, 2020 in Dayton, WA at the Best Western starting at 6:00 PM. The Board approved by consensus.

Meeting adjourned at 8:02 p.m. by Chair Bowles

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