

Date: December 8, 2020

Place: Virtual Meeting

Format: Regular Meeting started at 4:04 p.m.

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

Others on Phone: Ali Fitzgerald (SRSRB), John Foltz (SRSRB), Kris Buelow (SRSRB), Chris Hyland (WWBMP), Jeremy Trump (WDFW), Chris Donley (WDFW), Joe Schmick (State Representative- 9th District), Steve Pozzanghera (WDFW), Dave Johnson (NPT), Mary Dye (State Representative- 9th District), Mark Klicker (State Representative- 16th District), Perry Dozier (State Senator- 16th District), Emmit Taylor (NPT), Dick Ducharme.

Verify Quorum / Public Comment

SRSRB Chairman Bowles called the meeting to order at 4:04 pm and verified a quorum (13 present via phone). No public comment. A motion was made by Justin Dixon to approve the agenda. It was seconded by Brad Johnson and the Board approved the motion.

Presentation and Discussion: Discussion with District 9 and 16 Legislators and Staff – John presented briefly on what the SRSRB does and our focus on community-based salmon habitat restoration. John also highlighted current SRSRB legislative priorities:

- Continued support for Salmon State Capital and Operating Funding:
 - Recreation and Conservation Office
 - Salmon Recovery Funding Board Capital and Operating Funding
 - Brian Abbott Fish Barrier Removal Board Capital Funding
- Floodplains by Design through the Department of Ecology
- Columbia River Water Supply Development Program
- Critical recovery related budget requests from recovery partners
- Continued support for Federal Pacific Coast Salmon Recovery Fund
- Vocal support for tributary by-pass evaluation (federal)
- Mammal, avian, and non-native aquatic predation (statewide)
- Fishing opportunities – support for geographic equity for spring Chinook harvest, Columbia River Salmon and Steelhead Recreational Anglers Board, and hatchery production

John said that we are seeing physical habitat responses that directly benefit multiple life stages, with an emphasis on juvenile salmon. However, elucidating a fish response is more challenging given the multitude of other factors that directly impact salmonid populations out-of-basin. Our monitoring is showing increased juvenile productivity despite continued poor adult returns. John also summarized the numerous steps that go into an on-the-ground restoration project including Planning/Assessment, Data Collection, Outreach/Relationship-building, Conceptual Plan Development, Engineering and Design, Permitting/Consultation, Secure Funding, and finally, Construction. John also provided examples from the Tucannon that show how physical habitat responds to restoration work and how each habitat component directly provides adult and juvenile habitat.

Legislators discussed concerns of invasive species impacts to salmon populations and the need for hatcheries in order to support existing fish stocks. Representative Dye inquired about the WDFW proviso regarding invasive quagga and zebra mussels and providing additional inspections along the Hwy 12 corridor – John and Steve Pozzanghera would follow up directly with her. The Board noted that we need to keep supporting hatcheries and fish numbers. Gary James noted that the Board and CTUIR take a gravel to gravel approach and that the Board focuses on tributary habitat with the fisheries co-managers working on the hatchery components and are aware of the issues surrounding Chinook and steelhead. Steve also noted that the change in the Tucannon steelhead hatchery shift was a policy change required under the



hatchery genetic management plans (HGMP's). The Board continues to be interested in the latest information on hatchery issues and how they can support these efforts.

Representative Dye was also interested in the tributary headwater restoration efforts in the Missouri watershed and how those efforts have developed a world class fishery by reducing hatchery production – how does this relate to what we are doing in SE WA? There is some difference in the life histories of resident fish (Missouri watershed) and in the Columbia and Snake River's with anadromous fish – but the restoration concepts are similar to what the Board is working on with local partners.

Approve Agenda and Consent Agenda:

1. October 2020 Expenses as follows:

(H2SR) RCO: \$21,822.45

(H2FW) LE: \$2,806.23

(H2B3) BPA: \$17,346.33

2. October 27, 2020 Meeting notes

Action 1 – A motion was made by Roland Schirman to approve the October 27th, 2020 meeting notes and October monthly expenses. Michael Largent seconded the motion and the Board approved the motion.

Update – Announcements and Items of Interest

Executive Call Actions – No action taken. There was a request from BMLT for letter of participation for RCPP program through NRCS. The executive committee was supportive of the SRSRB submitting letter as BMLT work enhances the work SRSRB does.

RTT update— John updated the RRT meeting, including a presentation summarizing the Tucannon Geomorphic Plan Update presentation. The plan is out for review and there will be a presentation to the SRSRB once the plan is finalized. John also summarized the new FEMA habitat restoration exemption rescindment. This rescindment means that areas with defined floodplains no longer have restoration exemption and will need full hydraulic and hydrologic modeling to show 0-flood rise. This will increase design project costs in future. The updated 3 year provisional workplan was also presented to the RTT for review and edits. Finally, the priority reach updates continue and will be presented to the SRSRB once complete.

Recognition of Board Members (Addition to agenda): Chairman Bowles and John Foltz recognized Michael Talbott for his work and service on the Snake River Salmon Recovery Board. Other board members echoed their appreciation of his support and efforts on behalf of Columbia Co.

Discussion: Better understanding Eastern Washington perspective on LSRD's-request for engagement –

John informed the Board of study being proposed to the National Science Foundation by David Trimbach, a researcher from Oregon State University, on community perspectives of the Lower Snake River Dams. He will focus on engaging communities in SE WA and why dams matter and sense of place. David asked if the SRSRB might be interested in being a potential partner or source for information. The SRSRB decided against being listed as formal partner but can serve as a resource for contacts or information. The County Commissioners asked to have David's contact information from John.

Discussion: Follow-up on Tucannon Habitat Programmatic 2021 Project Planning for future budget approval –

John briefly summarized the plan for the 2021 Tucannon Programmatic for 2021 that Kris had presented in October and asked the SRSB if there was need for additional information prior to approving the budget in March. The SRSRB felt they



had received adequate information to date and did not need an additional presentation. The action can be added to the January agenda; questions or concerns should be conveyed to staff ahead of the next Board meeting.

Presentation: 2020 Project Implementation Update (continued) – Ali briefly summarized 2020 project implementation and successes for WRIA 32 projects. Work included SRFB-funded McCaw Phase 3, North Touchet RM 1.3-2.0, Touchet Conceptual Restoration Plan, and non-SRFB funded Gose Street Emergency Fish Passage, Upper Walla Walla Assessment, WW Water 2050, and several Mill Creek Design Projects. WRIA 35 accomplishments will be presented at the next meeting.

Action: January 26, 2021 for next Board meeting to be held by remote conference call starting at 4:00 PM. —A motion was made by Brian Shinn and seconded by Todd Kimball to hold the next Board meeting on January 26th, 2021 remotely at 4:00 PM. The Board approved by consensus.

Meeting adjourned at 5:53 p.m. by Chair Bowles

Former Board member Dick Ducharme shared information on two proposed water bills of importance – he will share the details with John who will pass along to the Board.

Signed By:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill Bowles". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Date: 1-26-2021

Bill Bowles, Chair, Snake River Salmon Recovery Board