

Date: February 23, 2021

Place: Virtual Meeting

Format: Regular Meeting started at 4:02 p.m.

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

Others on Phone: Ali Fitzgerald (SRSRB), John Foltz (SRSRB), Kris Buelow (SRSRB), Chris Hyland (WWBMP), Aneesha Dieu (CCD), Joanna Cleveland Cowles (WWCCD), Jennifer Boie (Palouse CD), Jim Peterson (Citizen), Jeannie Abbott (GSRO), Erik Neatherlin (GSRO), and Keith Dublanica (GSRO).

Verify Quorum / Public Comment

SRSRB Chair Bowles called the meeting to order at 4:02 pm and verified a quorum (14 present via phone) No public comment. A motion was made by Jerry Hendrickson to approve the agenda. It was seconded by Roland Schirman and the Board approved the motion.

Approve Agenda and Consent Agenda:

1. December 2020 Expenses as follows:

(H2SR) RCO: \$18,487.64

(H2FW) LE: \$2,806.23

(H2B3) BPA: \$13,853.45

- January 2021 Expenses as follows:

(H2SR) RCO: \$34,027.99

(H2FW) LE: \$6,381.73

(H2B3) BPA: \$13,853.45

2. January 26, 2021 Meeting notes

Action 1 – A motion was made by Justin Dixon to approve the January 26th, 2021 meeting notes and December and January monthly expenses. Brian Shinn seconded the motion and the Board approved the motion.

Update – Announcements and Items of Interest

Executive Call Actions – No action taken

RTT update — John summarized project partner updates as well as approval of the 3-5 year provisional workplan to use as basis for SRFB applications. 2021 SRFB project proposals were presented to the RTT for review and feedback. The RTT also approved the regional priority reach update, which is itself a presentation later in the meeting.

2021 SRFB Grant Round Update — Ali briefly summarized the current project application list of 11 projects including 3 restoration projects, 7 design projects, and one monitoring project. RTT members didn't identify any fatal flaws at this stage of project development and provided constructive feedback for sponsors to consider. Ali also reiterated key dates for the SRFB grant round, including the March 25th Lead Entity Committee draft scoring meeting, the remote project tours May 4th-6th, and the June 23rd Lead Entity Committee final scoring meeting. Lastly, monitoring projects require a regional letter of support from the Lead Entity. The Board requested a presentation of the project at an upcoming meeting.

Legislative Update — John did not have any additional updates for this topic from the last meeting and there were no additional questions from the Board.

City of Walla Walla Bridge Outreach Update (Mill Creek fish passage) — John provided a brief update that the Board submitted a letter of support for the removal of the 5th and 6th avenue bridges and the replacement of the



4th avenue bridge in downtown Walla Walla. The modification or removal of these bridges will improve fish passage through the concrete channel. The City of Walla Walla finished their public outreach effort. The city council approved the draft plan which will include moving forward to seeking federal grant funding this year for the replacement of the 4th avenue bridge and the removal of the 5th avenue bridge. The final plan for the 6th avenue bridge is still pending as additional outreach was needed to make a decision. SRSRB staff time will be used to assist the city in applying for FBRB funding as match for existing city funding on the 5th avenue bridge removal for fish passage.

Presentation/Discussion: Statewide Salmon Recovery Strategy Update – Erik Neatherlin and Jeannie Abbott from the Governor’s Salmon Recovery Office – Erik Neatherlin presented an overview of the Governor’s Salmon Recovery Office and the roles of the four staff. GSRO coordinates activities directly with state and federal agencies, tribes, legislature, congressional delegates, and state and regional partners. Erik highlighted the states engagement with the Columbia Basin Partnership, which is now shifting into the state and tribal led Columbia Basin Collaborative.

Erik also highlighted the Statewide Salmon Recovery Strategy, which lays out Washington State’s approach to bringing this iconic fish back from the brink of extinction. It includes an assessment of the status of salmon, how the recovery partners should organize, action areas, and measures of progress. As currently written, the Strategy does not address the effects of more contemporary issues including climate change, predation by fish-eating birds and marine mammals, invasive species, and water pollution. The update has been underway for 1.5 years and is set to wrap up in 2021.

Erik referenced the 2020 State of Salmon in Watersheds report to the legislature. The Board noted the bleak picture it presented and wondered how the report would inform the update to the statewide salmon strategy. Erik believes that it would in terms of prioritizing how infrastructure functions for salmon, thinking broadly about climate change, potential new funding pathways and working to increase both federal and private funding, incorporating recovery plans, increasing coordination between state and federal agencies, and incorporating lessons learned and adaptive management. The Board also asked how we can work better on flooding with regulations and agencies – Erik thought that we implement recovery at the local scale and referenced the thought that we need to be prioritizing how infrastructure functions for salmon.

Erik noted his desire for GSRO to have a biennial check-in with the Board and looks forward to having regular interaction.

Discussion/Action: Draft letter regarding Lower Snake River Dam concept from Idaho Representative Simpson – John summarized current information on the draft proposal from ID Representative Simpson and that the counties and SRSRB were not approached for input to date. The Executive Team had some brief discussions on strategy and approach to align with the Board’s mission and previous stance on the LSRD, which has been to remain neutral on the subject with individual Board members weighing in, including the Counties and Tribe. The Executive Committee wanted to make sure that the SRSRB was aware of the proposal and wanted to provide the Board with a draft letter asking Simpson to provide more information for their consideration.

The SRSRB discussed the potential gains of sending a letter and while it feels as if Simpson likely won’t change course, there’s no harm in asking for more information but leaving official stances to the Counties and Tribes to submit if they desire. The Board also didn’t feel that asking for more information was the same thing as supporting dam removal and also felt that we could provide additional information on what is needed for salmon recovery regardless of what happens with the dams. There was also concern noted that if future legislation passes, funding doesn’t always follow. Michael Largent made a motion to submit the letter as edited from the SRSRB asking for information on the proposal. Brian Shinn seconded and the motion passed by consensus.

Presentation: Regional Priority Reach Updates from the Regional Technical Team – Ali summarized the results of the priority reach update as developed and approved by the RTT at the January meeting. Priority reach designations help guide the types of projects we see through the annual grant round process and help to ensure that limited resources go towards projects that have a direct benefit to ESA-listed salmonids. Changes to reaches were guided by new information such as fish use data, recently completed geomorphic assessments and restoration plans, and recently completed projects (ie: resolved fish barriers). The update was an extensive process that had last been completed in 2011 with limited documentation. Moving forward, updates will occur alongside 5-year stock status reviews to ensure priorities are updated regularly, with updates being well documented. The SRSRB funding booklet will be revised with the updated priority reaches for reference in the near future.



Action: March 23rd, 2021 for next Board meeting to be held by remote conference call starting at 4:00 PM.

—A motion was made by Justin Dixon and seconded by Kris Fischer to hold the next Board meeting on March 23rd, 2021 remotely at 4:00 PM. The Board approved by consensus.

Meeting adjourned at 5:56 p.m. by Chair Bowles

Signed By:

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Bill Bowles", written over a horizontal line.

Date: 3-23-2021

Bill Bowles, Chair, Snake River Salmon Recovery Board