

Date: January 26, 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), and Kris Fischer (CTUIR)

Others on Phone: Ali Fitzgerald (SRSRB), John Foltz (SRSRB), Kris Buelow (SRSRB), Chris Hyland (WWBMP), Jeremy Trump (WDFW), Cynthia Wall (DOE), Aneesha Dieu (CCD), Paul Smith (Citizen), Joe Bumgarner (WDFW), Jake Hollopeter (Anderson Perry), Joanna Cleveland Cowles, Tim Copeland (BMLT), Amanda Martino (BMLT), Jennifer Boie (Palouse CD), Jim Peterson (Citizen), Dave Karl (WDFW), and Rob Hogg (CTUIR)

Verify Quorum / Public Comment

SRSRB Vice-Chair Brad Johnson called the meeting to order at 4:02 pm and verified a quorum (10 present via phone; Chair Bowles was in a location with poor cell service). No public comment. A motion was made by Justin Dixon to approve the agenda. It was seconded by Jerry Hendrickson and the Board approved the motion.

Approve Agenda and Consent Agenda:

1. November 2020 Expenses as follows:

(H2SR) RCO: \$63,506.29

(H2FW) LE: \$4,638.69

(H2B3) BPA: \$14,443.11

2. December 8th, 2020 Meeting notes

Action 1 – A motion was made by Bill Bowles to approve the December 8th, 2020 meeting notes and November monthly expenses. Roland Schirman 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 past workshops and RTT meetings for the priority reach update. This has been a year-long process, approved formally by RTT voting membership at the January meeting. A presentation to the SRSRB will occur in February. In addition, there were project partner updates as well as review and approval of the 3-5 year provisional workplan to use as basis for SRFB applications. 2021 SRFB project proposal updates will be presented at the next SRSRB meeting.

Legislative Update — John briefly summarized there are two house bills that may be of interest to the SRSRB: HB 1132 and HB 1385 pertaining to water rights. District 9/16 legislators December meeting recap: John received positive feedback from the Representatives and Senators in attendance. He has also followed up on questions asked regarding the invasive species provision and items in current budget with WDFW. John also briefly summarized the Governor's Budget which will now go through both the house and senate. It includes several capital line items, multiple salmon recovery items, and overall looks positive considering the potential effects of COVID on budgets this year. It is anticipated that there will be some disagreement between house/senate for capital projects. There is also potential for federal stimulus monies to help support the budget.

Discussion: Board support for a potential conversion on a Touchet Conservation Easement held by the Blue Mountain Land Trust – Marti Martino (BMLT) briefly presented the Touchet Conservation Easement in the context of a potential sale of property to the City of Dayton. This property is being considered as potential site for screening waterwater effluent through a series of wetlands on the property (per BMLT memo share with the Board). The proposed change would result in a conversion of the existing easement and there is discussion about whether the conversion is allowable given the original intent of the easement (BMLT is confirming with their attorney if the conversion is allowed). The BMLT, as the easement owner, has the decision authority provided there is a willing buyer and seller but wanted to ensure the SRSRB was aware of the potential project.



The SRSRB discussed some concerns about changing the existing land use of the property and whether the existing use was tillable or mostly appropriate for rangeland and whether the conversion was aligned with BMLT goals. John requested that any additional feedback be sent to him so that he could pass along to BMLT and asked that the BMLT keep the Board up-to-date on how things proceed.

Presentation: Tucannon spring Chinook update from WDFW – Joe Bumgarner presented a summary of the Tucannon spring Chinook program and the current dire situation of the population given the low return numbers. It included a history of past program activities and historical fish releases and returns as well as ongoing population monitoring efforts and broodstock collection/rearing strategies. With continued challenges resulting from poor ocean conditions, low returns, overshoot issues, and low outmigrant survival, WDFW will be attempting three different release groups for the 2021-2023 broodstock years. The release groups include Tucannon Hatchery, Mouth of the Tucannon, and Trucking smolts to Lyons Ferry and then barging directly to the ocean. These different strategies will help determine the most effective broodstock rearing/release strategy to maximize juvenile and ultimately returning adult numbers. There was interest from the Board to get an update on the Tucannon steelhead program in the future as well.

Action: Approve BPA Tucannon Habitat Programmatic 2021 Budget —John briefly reviewed this item as previously presented in October and December. It is technical support contract to include work toward projects in PA-26 Phase 2 (CCD), PA-34.1-34.2 Designs (CCD), PA-17/18 (CTUIR), PA-27-28.1 Phase 2 (CTUIR), Tualum Culvert Replacement (NPT), PA-13 implementation (WDFW) and the Tucannon Assessment and Conceptual Restoration Plan and associated LIDAR data analysis and modeling. The contract start date is April 1, 2021.

A motion was made by Roland Schirman and seconded by Bill Bowles to approve the BPA Tucannon Programmatic Budget as proposed. The Board approved by consensus.

Action: Letter of Support for City of Walla Walla Bridge Removal/Replacement Project — John informed the SRSRB of an initiative to consider potential removal and replacement of the 4th avenue bridge and removal of the 5th, and 6th Avenue bridges in downtown Walla Walla that cross Mill Creek. These three bridges are outdated and both the 5th and 6th avenue bridges (center piers) pose significant barriers to fish passage through the concrete channel due to velocity and flow barriers. A funding source has been identified by the City which is conducting outreach on their preferred approach to replace the 4th Ave bridge and remove the others. John is asking the SRSRB to approve the draft letter supporting the City's preferred approach and also committing staff time to support work towards securing FBRB funding as funding match for the fish passage eligible elements of the future projects. FBRB staff feel bridge removal at the 5th and 6th Avenue locations is eligible grant expense.

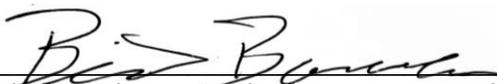
A motion was made by Brian Shinn and seconded by Todd Kimball to approve a letter of support for the City of Walla Walla Bridge Removal/Replacement Project. The Board approved by consensus.

Presentation: 2020 Project Implementation Update (continued) – Ali briefly summarized 2020 project implementation and successes for WRIA 35 projects excluding Tucannon projects that were presented previously. SRFB-funded projects included Cottonwood Creek Barrier, Tucannon PA 32, Asotin PALS, Steptoe PALS, Alpowa Phase 2 PALS, Tualum Beaver Relocation. Projects with other funding sources included Couse Creek PA 79, Tenmile Creek PA 65-67, And the Grande Ronde Assessment.

Action: February 23rd, 2021 for next Board meeting to be held by remote conference call starting at 4:00 PM. —A motion was made by Kris Fischer and seconded by Brian Shinn to hold the next Board meeting on February 23rd, 2021 remotely at 4:00 PM. The Board approved by consensus.

Meeting adjourned at 6:02 p.m. by Vice-Chair Johnson

Signed By:


Bill Bowles, Chair, Snake River Salmon Recovery Board

Date: 2-23-2021