

Date: April 27, 2021

Place: Best Western Conference Room, Dayton, WA.

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

Board Members in Person: Jon Jones (WC), Roland Schirman (CC), Brad Johnson (AC), Brian Shinn (AC), Bill Bowles (GC), Michael Largent (WC), Marty Hall (CC) and Kris Fischer (CTUIR).

Board Members on Phone: Justin Dixon (GC), Todd Kimball (WW), and Larry Hooker (WW).

Others in Person: Ali Fitzgerald (SRSRB), John Foltz (SRSRB), Kris Buelow (SRSRB), Aneesha Dieu (CCD), and Duane Bartels (Pomeroy CD).

Others on Phone: George Pess (NOAA), Jim Mital (NOAA), Kat Sarensen (USFWS), Megan Stewart (ACCD), Jennifer Gatzke (NOAA), Andre L'Heureux (BPA), and Joanna Cleveland Cowles (WWCCD).

Verify Quorum / Public Comment

SRSRB Chair Bowles called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm and verified a quorum (8 in person, 3 via phone). No public comment. A motion was made by Michael Largent to approve the agenda. It was seconded by Brad Johnson and the Board approved the motion.

Approve Agenda and Consent Agenda:

1. March 2021 Expenses as follows:
 - (H2SR) RCO: \$22,214.22
 - (H2FW) LE: \$2,807.83
 - (H2B3) BPA: \$14,404.67
2. March 23, 2021 Meeting Notes

Action 1 – A motion was made by Roland Schirman to approve the March 23, 2021 meeting notes and March monthly expenses. Brian Shinn seconded the motion, and the Board approved the motion.

Presentation: The multipurpose benefits of floodplains – George Pess, Watershed Program Manager for the Northwest Fisheries Science Center, and member of the BPA Tributary Habitat Steering Committee –

George Pess highlighted the importance of floodplains and how they are defined through the lens of geomorphology, hydrology, and ecology. Floodplains are flat areas of the river valley that are subject to 100-year flows and are areas periodically flooded with a biologic community representative of that habitat. Floodplains have a huge value for biota and the human community as they provide a repository for wood and sediment, increased habitat value and space for aquatic and terrestrial plants and animals, enhanced low flows and cooler temperatures, and reduced flood risk through peak flow attenuation. We have altered floodplains through isolation, disconnection and simplification of river systems which greatly reduces potential ecosystem and community benefits. To restore these ecosystem functions and services, we need to work backwards and allow the river to return to a more natural system. This can be done through levee removal or setbacks which gives the river room to reestablish side channels, reconnect isolated historical channels through excavation, install logjams to force water onto the floodplain and to create instream habitat, and plant trees to begin reestablishing critical riparian trees. George's presentation slides were requested, and John will share them along with the references cited.

Presentation: 2021 SRFB Grant Round Update and Check-in – Ali provided an overview of the current grant round process and the results from the virtual draft scoring meeting (see summary handout). Eleven projects are currently in the running for the current grant round including three restoration projects, seven design projects, and one monitoring project. Full proposals are available on the SRSRB website and comments and feedback can be sent to Ali. Overall, the Lead Entity Committee was supportive of the project proposals and felt there were no fatal flaws in the projects. Site tours will be virtual as well and similar in content to the scoring meeting, so we are recommending reducing participation



to sponsors, SRSRB staff, and the SRFB review panel and grant manager to maximize discussion and q&a with the panel – however Board members can participate if desired. All comments and questions received from the RTT, draft scoring meeting, and the SRFB Review Panel from the site tours will be distributed to the Board when the site tour comment forms are made available June 4th. The final scoring meeting is anticipated to be in person on June 23rd with funding decisions made by the SRSRB at the July Board meeting.

Update – Announcements and Items of Interest

Executive Call Actions – No action taken.

RTT update — Meeting Cancelled.

WWW2050 Planning Effort — John summarized that the WWW2050 draft plan is going out for public comment May 10th and is expected to be submitted in June.

Staff Performance Reviews – John summarized how previous evaluations were done and how he provided reviews for staff and the Board would conduct John’s evaluation in a closed session. The Board supported doing evaluations in a similar format to years past.

Tucannon ISRP Review Update – Kris provided an update on the ongoing ISRP review. All applications for RME, hatchery, and habitat projects in the Columbia Basin are in review now. CCD, ACCD, CTUIR, NPT, and WDFW all coordinated their proposals as a region to ensure continuity in applications. There will be ISRP presentations on June 17th with comments returned in September. The Board was interested to learn more about the habitat metrics that went into the proposal, especially as it relates to the Tucannon spring Chinook and Steelhead, which are both struggling with the spring Chinook population on the verge of extirpation.

May Meeting Preparations— John updated the Board that Katie Jagt will be presenting her rescheduled presentation. Other topics will include evaluations, presenting the 2021/2022 budgets for review with goal of approving in June for a July 1st start. Other items will include Board Chair signature authorization and partner contracts.

Legislative Update— The capital operating budget was passed with \$30 million to Salmon Recovery Funding Board which means funding levels are looking good for 2021 with potentially higher funding in 2022. Fish Barrier Removal Board was also funded with \$485,000 to our local Cougar Creek Passage Project and \$2.6 million to two phases of the Mill Creek fish passage project.

Action: May 25th, 2021 for next Board meeting to be held at the Dayton, WA Best Western at 6:00 PM. —A motion was made by Brad Johnson and seconded by Brian Shinn to hold the next Board meeting on May 25th, 2021 at the Dayton, WA Best Western at 6:00 PM. The Board approved by consensus.

Meeting adjourned at 7:46 p.m. by Chair Bowles.

Signed By:  _____ Date: 5-25-2021
Bill Bowles, Chair, Snake River Salmon Recovery Board