Snake River Salmon Recovery

Date: May 25th, 2021
Place: Dayton Best Western
Format: Regular Meeting started at 6:04 p.m.
Board Members in Person: Jon Jones (WC), Roland Schirman (CC), Brad Johnson (AC), Brian Shinn (AC), Marty Hall (CC), and Kris Fischer (CTUIR).
Board Members on Phone: Justin Dixon (GC), Larry Hooker (WW), Bill Bowles (GC), and Michael Largent (WC).
Others in Person: Ali Fitzgerald (SRSRB), John Foltz (SRSRB), Kris Buelow (SRSRB), and Chuck Eaton (Columbia County).
Others on Phone: Tom Schirm (WDFW), Paul Smith (Citizen), Katie Jagt (Watershed Science and Design), Morgan Bond, Andre L'Heureux (BPA), Scott O'Daniel (CTUIR), and Aneesha Dieu (CCD).

Verify Quorum / Public Comment

SRSRB Vice Chair Brad Johnson called the meeting to order at 6:04 pm and verified a quorum (6 in person, 4 via phone). No public comment. A motion was made by Roland Schirman to approve the agenda. It was seconded by Kris Fischer and the Board approved the motion.

Approve Agenda and Consent Agenda:

1. April 2021 Expenses as follows:
   (H2SR) RCO: $32,695.50
   (H2FW) LE: $8,130.93
   (H2B3) BPA: $10,297.32
   (H2B4) BPA: $13,798.32
2. April 27, 2021 Meeting Notes

Action 1 – A motion was made by Brian Shinn to approve the April 27, 2021 meeting notes and April monthly expenses. Roland Schirman seconded the motion, and the Board approved the motion.

Presentation: Flood Hazard Identification: Rivers move water, sediment, and debris during high flows. Planning for the characteristics and impacts of all three is imperative for both community safety and ecosystem renewal – Katie Jagt of Watershed Science and Design presented the above topic with the lens of how to develop a prioritization system for restoration that allows for river restoration while reducing risk for flood damage. Key takeaways about rivers are that they need space. Rivers aren't just water but also move sediments and debris. Traditional flood mapping looks and the inundation zone but fails to account for the interactive effects of water, sediment, and debris that can change how river energy moves. Katie introduced the concept of a "fluvial hazard zone" that is defined as a zone of influence in an area where river flows have occupied, could occupy, or could influence in the future. Mapping of this zone allows for informed decisions on how to integrate restoration while reducing flood hazards, including future conditions with flood flows (sediment and flow) and how energy moves through a system – something not captured in FEMA flood maps and hydrologic models. Generally, this includes looking for areas upstream of towns, cities, and assets to dissipate energy. This mapping effort, called the Fluvial Hazard Zone Program was funded by the Colorado State Legislature and more information can be found at www.coloradofhz.com. The Board asked if this effort was coordinated with river restoration efforts – Katie noted that it was very integrated and requires a shift to working in a river corridor and not just in-channel.

Discussion: FY 2021/22 Budget: review in preparation for approval in June (including WWCC indirect rate and RCO authorizing resolution) – John reminded the Board that the Tucannon Programmatic portion of the budget has already been approved and that what's being presented is for the remainder of the operating costs. John provided handouts with more detail, but the regional budget includes staff time for John, Ali, database management, and partner contracts. It also includes 1.5 FTE worth of administrative assistance through WWCC. The WWBMP is sunsetting and will no longer require a partner contract. He recommends keeping that funding set aside for a future partner to take over the water management role in the basin. Board members wanted to ensure that if there is a need for the funds in the interim,

to not let them sit unused. The other unknown at this point is the finalized indirect rate for WWCC which must be approved at the federal level. John anticipates WWCC would honor any previously agreed to rate should it change after the budget is approved. The Board will seek approval of the budgets at the June meeting for a July 1st start. In general, the budget is similar to years past, with less travel planned and more technology/remote meeting expenses planned. There weren't any concerns from the Board at this time.

Discussion: Partner Contracts for FY2021/22 – review in preparation for approval in June – John summarized the planned partner contracts to include funding for WRIAs 32 and 35, Nez Perce Tribe, CTUIR, ACCD, Palouse CD, Pomeroy CD, CCD, and WWCCD. There is potential to increase the education portion of funding if John receives requests from any of the partners; this was supported by the Board as outreach, especially to landowners and stakeholders, is key to the Board's work.

Update – Announcements and Items of Interest

Executive Call Actions – The Executive Committee approved the non-native fish policy letter and the joint IMW support letter with the Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board due to time sensitivity.

RTT update — John informed the Board of the Asotin IMW presentation highlighting key management implications. There was also a Grande Ronde Assessment and Conceptual Restoration Plan presentation with an open public comment period. The WWW2050 Plan comment period is now closed, and the Phase 2 report is due in June.

Non-native Fishing Policy Letter (submitted) — Previously approved at the Executive Call, this letter was submitted in response to WDFW proposed policy changes regarding bag limits for non-native game fishes. SRSRB is in support of removing bag limits for non-native species.

Letter of Support to SRFB on Asotin IMW (submitted)— John informed the Board of the joint letter from the SRSRB and Lower Columbia Salmon Recovery Board to the State Salmon Recovery Funding Board in support of ongoing IMW programs. The letter was be sent to the Salmon Recovery Funding Board in preparation for the upcoming funding decision meeting in June.

SRFB Update – Virtual Project Tours and Regional Allocation – Ali gave a brief check in on the current grant round. Project tours were held virtually May 4-5th with comment forms expected by June 4th. The final scoring meeting is June 23rd and is tentatively going to be in person with a remote option. She also informed the Board on the potential funding scenarios for the 2021 grant round which could include an increase in our regional allocation. An update will be provided at the next meeting.

June Meeting Preparations— John updated the Board that Becky Johnson from the Nez Perce Tribe will be giving a presentation related Columbia Hatchery programs. We will also need to do a final budget approval and partner contracts approval for FY21/22 as well as review the Board bylaws.

Executive Session: To review the performance of Board staff – Board Chair to announce the time when the executive session will be concluded. The Vice-Chair announced that the Board would go into Executive session to review the performance of Board staff and that the session would end at 8:10pm; a second call-in line was made available for Board members participating remotely. The executive session began at 7:38 PM and ended at 8:10 PM when the Board returned to the open public meeting.

Action: Evaluations and Salary Recommendations for Staff – John summarized the executive session with the recommendation for 3% salary increases for the Tucannon Program Lead and Project Funding Coordinator, to begin on July 1, 2021 any addition to any college-approved COLAs. He also publicly shared a brief summary of positive performance evaluations to support the request and shared his appreciation for both Kris and Ali's hard work over the last year. A motion was made Brian Shinn to approve the 3% raises for The Tucannon Program Lead, the Project Funding Coordinator, and the Executive Director, including any college-approved COLA's, beginning July 1, 2021. It was seconded by Marty Hall and passed by consensus. The SRSRB expressed their appreciation for staff.

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Action: June 22, 2021 for next Board meeting to be held at the Dayton, WA Best Western at 6:00 PM. —A motion was made by Roland Schirman and seconded by Brian Shinn to hold the next Board meeting on June 22, 2021 at the Dayton, WA Best Western at 6:00 PM. The Board approved by consensus.

Meeting adjourned at 8:17 p.m. by Vice Chair Johnson

Signed By: Bradley J. Johnson (vice chair for Bill) Date: 6/22/2021

Bill Bowles, Chair, Snake River Salmon Recovery Board