

Date: April 26, 2022

Place: Dayton Best Western

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

Board Members in Person: Sean Thurston (CC), Jon Jones (WC), Kris Fischer (CTUIR), Don Jackson (CC), Brian Shinn (AC) Marty Hall (CC), Larry Hooker (WW), Mike Denny (WW), Bill Bowles (GC), and Jerry Hendrickson (AC).

Board Members on Phone: Justin Dixon (GC) and Brad Johnson (AC).

Others in Person: John Foltz (SRSRB), Kris Buelow (SRSRB), Ali Fitzgerald (SRSRB), Jim Peterson (Citizen), Roland Schirman (Citizen), Joe Bumgarner (WDFW), and Aneesha Dieu (CCD).

Others on Phone: Steve Martin (WDFW) and Joanna Cowles-Cleveland.

Verify Quorum / Public Comment

SRSRB Chair Bowles called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm and verified a quorum (10 in person, 2 on phone). There was no public comment. A motion was made by Brian Shinn to approve the agenda. It was seconded by Mike Denny and the Board approved the motion.

Approve Agenda and Consent Agenda:

1. March 22, 2022, meeting notes
2. March expenses as follows:
 - (H2SR) RCO: \$23,132.46
 - (H2FW) LE: \$4,132.13
 - (H2B4) BPA: \$19,104.80
 - (H2B5) BPA: \$357.75

Action 1 – A motion was made by Marty Hall to approve the March 22, 2022, meeting notes and the March expenses. Jerry Hendrickson seconded the motion, and the Board approved the motion.

Presentation: Regional Salmon and Steelhead Run Forecasts and Related Updates – Joe Bumgarner presented a recap of population estimates and survey efforts for steelhead, spring Chinook, and fall Chinook. The presentation included detailed graphs for multiple species and populations. Generally, Tucannon spring Chinook returns look to be about the same as last year which were relatively poor and Snake River fall Chinook look to be slightly higher than last year. Steelhead are tricky given their variable life histories but look to potentially be higher than last year. Joe and John highlighted a NOAA stoplight chart that summarizes general ocean trends through a variety of factors. It appears that in 2021, ocean trends finally appeared to be trending positively. Joe also summarized current hatchery production. With poor returns, they fell short of their Tucannon spring Chinook production goal. With high out-migrant mortality, they will attempt a modified release strategy including releasing a subset at the mouth of the Tucannon as compared to releasing at the hatchery. Next year, they plan to barge an additional group of juveniles to test survival of fish from different release points. Snake River fall Chinook production is slightly below set goal. Summer steelhead are ok with the exception of no fish released at the Cottonwood Acclimation Pond due to an accidental release at Lyon's Ferry. Joe also provided an overview of adult trapping efforts on Wallowa, Touchet, and Tucannon rivers. A few potential program changes on the horizon that are being considered: Captive brookstock for spring Chinook, release location changes, conversion from yearling to subyearling for fall Chinook, setting up a lower Tucannon steelhead trap.

Presentation: Partner Update from the Columbia Conservation District — Aneesha Dieu provided an update of ongoing work at the Columbia Conservation District. Like many project partners, the ISRP review process took much of her time over the last year but resulted in some good feedback. Project work included implementing a project on Tucannon PA32 over the summer. Tucannon PA26 is working through design development and is proposed for 2022 SRFB funding. She is also applying for SRFB Targeted Investment (TI) funding. If TI funding is received, this project would be removed from our 2022 SRFB ranked list to free up funding for more projects. Tucannon PA 34.1-2 is also in design development with plans to be proposed for the 2023 SRFB grant round. Other updates included receiving additional state



funds for riparian work, ongoing projects on the Touchet River immediately downstream of Dayton, and a concerning trend in landowners removing their properties from CREP or not re-enrolling due in part due to relatively low payments.

Discussion: Legislature Approved Salmon Recovery Funding Board Funding Increase — John provided an update on an additional \$75 million in state funding and potential scenarios for its distribution. \$25 million is allocated for projects <\$5 million each and the remaining \$50 million is for large projects over \$5 million. The Council of Regions and Lead Entities advocated for the \$25 million to be divided according to existing allocation percentages of our SRFB funding and allow LEs to put that money towards their 2022 or 2023 grant rounds as they see fit (~8% for the Snake Region). A funding decision is anticipated to be made by the SRFB at their June meeting.

The \$50 million is less well-defined in terms of details of exactly how it might be allocated across the state. For our region, staff estimate that there are three potential projects that might fit the \$5 million requirement from the work-plan and planned project forecast list based upon the criteria of being ready to implement in the next 2-3 years and being a high priority. They include Mill Creek passage work, Tucannon floodplain restoration project phases, and Touchet floodplain restoration. John suggested he draft a letter of support for SRSRB review and approval in May that could highlight our feedback for how to allocate the funding to best support ongoing habitat work in the region. The SRSRB agreed to that suggestion.

Action: Letter of Support for Tucannon Project Area 26 Targeted Investment Funding — John also discussed the existing Targeted Investment pot of money. The SRFB allocated an additional \$5 million to this fund with the current priority of "Southern Resident Orca Prey Stocks" based on a report by WDFW. One project per region may be proposed for this funding pot. Scoring criteria were released after the start of the grant round but of current project proposals, Tucannon PA26 has the highest potential score of our proposed projects. It's unlikely to receive funding as it's a very competitive pot of money across the state but the CCD is asking for \$792,000 from TI. If it receives funding, it would be removed from our existing SRFB list. The TI application requires a letter of support from the region. The one modification to the letter was to point out the PA 26 ranked first on our draft ranked list.

A motion was made by Larry Hooker to approve the letter with the modification noting it is our #1 ranked project. Brian Shinn seconded the motion and it passed by consensus.

Discussion: Draft Planned Project Forecast List (PPFL) Review — Ali and John provided a brief update on the PPFL and that it's similar to our 3-5 year workplan but highlights projects that would potentially apply for SRFB funding in the 2023 or 2024 grant rounds and sponsors would have the capacity to complete. This list is used by RCO to demonstrate funding need and provide legislators with examples of how additional funding might be utilized. The PPFL does not preclude our local scoring/ranking/review process, nor does it guarantee funding. Ali is asking for any edits from sponsors now and will present a final draft for SRSRB approval in May.

Presentation: RTT Updates and Summary of CTUIR Pacific Lamprey Program and Regional Fish Barrier Prioritization — Aaron Jackson of CTUIR gave an in-depth presentation at the last RTT meeting on their work with lamprey reintroduction in the region. They evolved 450 million years ago, and we have three species in the area: western brook lamprey, river lamprey, and Pacific lamprey. The CTUIR lamprey program goal is to reintroduce extirpated Pacific lamprey to the Umatilla, Grande Ronde, Tucannon, Asotin, and Walla Walla river basins. Reintroduction has included a combination of adult and juvenile outplants. In 2021, 500,000 juveniles were released in the Tucannon River. They have also seen some initial adult returns with the first tribal harvest in recent years occurring in the Umatilla River in 2021. Their work will continue but it's encouraging to see positive signs from reintroduction efforts.

Due to the lack of time, John held off on sharing the Regional Fish Barrier Prioritization project update and will provide this update at the May meeting.

Update – Announcements and Items of Interest

Executive Call Actions – No actions taken.

Staff Performance Reviews – John will be conducting staff reviews and presenting those the SRSRB at the May meeting. Those reviews and his evaluation will occur during executive session.



2022 SRFB Grant Round Updates – Ali provided a brief update on the current grant round including 18 projects still in the process after the draft scoring meeting. Site tours are May 3-6, 2022, and SRSRB members are welcome to attend.

May Meeting Preparations — John highlighted that the Board would review draft FY22-23 budgets and draft partner contracts at the May meeting for a planned June approval, and he is looking into if the CTUIR SFWW hatchery could host the June SRSRB meeting and allow for a tour of the facility. Details TBD.

Action: May 24, 2022, for next Board meeting to be held at the Best Western in Dayton, WA at 6:00 PM. —
A motion was made by Jon Jones and seconded by Justin Dixon to hold the next Board meeting on May 24, 2022, at the Best Western in Dayton, WA at 6:00 PM. The Board approved by consensus.

Meeting adjourned at 8:07 p.m. by Chair Bowles.

Signed By:  Date: 5-24-2022
Bill Bowles, Chair, Snake River Salmon Recovery Board