

**Date:** December 14, 2021

**Place:** Dayton Best Western

**Format:** Regular Meeting started at 4:00 p.m.

**Board Members in Person:** Sean Thurston (CC), Jon Jones (WC) Marty Hall (CC), Kris Fischer (CTUIR), Don Jackson (CC), Todd Kimball (WW), Bill Bowles (GC), Justin Dixon (GC), and Larry Hooker (WW).

**Board Members on Phone:** Michael Largent (WC), Jerry Hendrickson (AC), and Brad Johnson (AC).

**Others in Person:** Ali Fitzgerald (SRSRB), John Foltz (SRSRB), Kris Buelow (SRSRB), and Jim Peterson (Citizen).

**Others on Phone:** Joanna Cowles-Cleveland (WWCCD), Amanda Jones (Wolf Water Resources), Allen Dysart (Wolf Water Resources), Lance Frederick (Pomeroy CD), Grant Traynor (WWCCD), Liz Eastman (NPT), Megan Stewart (ACCD), Terril Stevenson (Wolf Water Resources), and Aneesha Dieu (CCD).

### Verify Quorum / Public Comment

SRSRB Chair Bowles called the meeting to order at 4:02 pm and verified a quorum (9 in person, 3 on phone). No public comment was made. A motion was made by Kris Fischer to approve the agenda. It was seconded by Larry Hooker and the Board approved the motion.

### Approve Agenda and Consent Agenda:

1. October 26th, 2021 Meeting Notes

**Action 1** – A motion was made by Jon Jones to approve the October 26, 2021 meeting notes. Jerry Hendrickson seconded the motion and the Board approved the motion. John Foltz made a note that monthly expenses are still pending due to staffing changes at WWCC.

**Presentation: Tucannon King Grade Project-Area 28.1** – Kris Fischer along with Terril Stevenson, Allen Dysart, and Amanda Jones from Wolf Water Resources presented ongoing restoration and modelling for the Tucannon King Grade project by CTUIR. This project features multiple phases of design and restoration on PA 27-28.1. The project focuses on CTUIR River Vision Touchstones and restoring impaired processes including reduced large wood, reduced riparian and floodplain connection and function. These processes all impact native fishes including spring Chinook, summer steelhead among other species. The project goals were to increase connectivity, habitat complexity, side channels, and pools while simultaneously dissipating stream power.

A rigorous design process including detailed modelling of existing and future conditions helped to develop each of the design components such as floodplain grading, channel filling, and increasing floodplain roughness. The first phase was implemented in 2020 with a second phase completed in 2021. There has been tremendous habitat response in the reach. 911 LWD pieces were added, 81 pools created, 2231 m of perennial side channel, and 2410 m of high flow channel. Two more phases are planned to include an irrigation efficiency project. A fish salvage to move existing fish just downstream of the reach during construction counted 52 juvenile Chinook and 504 steelhead just in the project footprint.

The project includes \$1.4 million in funds along with \$300,000 for the irrigation project and there is a pending conservation easement. Because this project is very complex, it requires extensive modelling and permitting review prior to approval but large-scale projects like this are critical in restoring salmonid habitat in the region. This project is a good example of how the geomorphic assessment was used to develop a restoration design and how hydraulic modeling was used to inform the design and permitting requirements.

**Action: Review and approve update to the Board Mission Statement** — Following up on previous Board meetings and input, John presented to proposed changes as developed by Sean Thurston and John, to the Board Mission Statement with several options to choose from. The Board chose the updated mission to be: ***To collaboratively restore sustainable populations of salmonids and other aquatic species by protecting and restoring habitat consistent with the Washington State Snake River recovery plan.***

A motion was made by Brad Johnson and seconded by Todd Kimball to approve the revised mission statement. The Board approved by consensus.



**Action: Partner Contract with the Columbia County Flood Control Zone District** – John reintroduced this topic of discussion from previous meetings. An edited partner contract was provided for review as well. There is still some concern about this contract setting a precedent for funding similar contracts for other districts, as well as lack of support from the Dayton community as taxing levees on the ballot have failed in the past. This partnership however could be critical in facilitating interaction and support for restoration in the area. Marty Hall recommended tabling this discussion and action until a future meeting.

A motion was made by Jon Jones and seconded by Justin Dixon to table this action until the January meeting. The Board approved by consensus.

**Action: Review and Approve Bennington Dam fish passage letter of support** — John provided a letter of support for review. This letter requests funding support by the ACOE to implement fish passage designs at Bennington Dam and outlines the efforts that the Board has been working on and how the Bennington fish ladder project fits into the needs in Mill Creek. Previous funding attempts have failed but John also noted that we have for the first time to our knowledge been successful in elevating this project to its own ACOE budget line item. It has received support at the federal, state, and local level.

A motion was made by Justin Dixon and seconded by Jon Jones to approve the Bennington Dam letter of support with edits as proposed. The Board approved by consensus.

**Action: Approve 2022 Board Meeting Calendar** — John summarized the meeting calendar for 2022. Three options were presented including the status quo rotating locations, a similar schedule with the removal of the USFS meeting location due to potential meeting restrictions at the federal level, and a Dayton only option (with remote call in available). The Board chose to hold all meetings at the Dayton Best Western given ongoing COVID impacts to simplify any potential venue restrictions on gatherings – remote meeting options will be available as well. The August date is typically when the legislative outreach picnic is held so this date/location is pending.

A motion was made by Marty Hall to approve the 2022 Board Meeting Calendar with all meetings being held in Dayton with the August meeting location TBD. Brad Johnson seconded the motion and the Board approved by consensus.

**Action: Approve 2022 Executive Board Meeting Schedule and County Commissioner Representation** — John presented the Executive Meeting dates and rotating commissioner assignments with Todd Kimball volunteering to fill the vacant January 2022 slot.

A motion was made by Justin Dixon to approve the 2022 Executive Board Meeting Schedule as presented. Todd Kimball seconded the motion and the Board approved by consensus.

## **Update – Announcements and Items of Interest**

**Executive Call Actions** – No actions taken.

**RTT Update** – The RTT meeting is the day after the board meeting, no update currently. Topics will include additional priority reach discussion for other species, IMV review, 3-year workplan approval, beaver relocation, and more.

**Update on 2022 SRFB letters of intent** – Ali presented the Letters of Intent received in a table. She noted that while the initial funding request was high, we are anticipating a decent increase in grant round funding for 2022 and future years. It's important to recognize that this is a high-water mark and that projects can and will drop off the list. Budgets are also not final yet and additional sources of match usually are brought to the table. Additionally, we would prefer to have multiple project alternates to ensure we can fully utilize all funding in the event a project pulls last minute or returned funds are available. Additional project details will be made available after the February 7<sup>th</sup> partial draft deadline.



**Update on LSRD Assessment Process** – There has not been much additional information regarding this topic. The Governor’s Budget was released and included a line item for the LSRD process. Commissioner Shinn reached out to Senator Murray’s office and received an acknowledgement. John will provide more information as it’s made available.

**January Meeting Preparations** — January will likely include project implementation summary for the Tucannon Programmatic and planned projects for 2022, action regarding the Columbia County Flood Control Zone District, and an update on Lamprey from CTUIR.

**Action: January 25, 2022 for next Board meeting to be held at the Best Western in Dayton, WA at 4:00 PM.**

—A motion was made by Brad Johnson and seconded by Todd Kimball to hold the next Board meeting on January 25, 2022 at the Best Western in Dayton, WA at 4:00 PM. The Board approved by consensus.

Meeting adjourned at 6:04 p.m. by Chair Bowles.

Signed By:  Date: January 25, 2022  
Bill Bowles, Chair, Snake River Salmon Recovery Board