

Date: February 22, 2022

Place: Dayton Best Western

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

Board Members in Person: Sean Thurston (CC), Jon Jones (WC), Kris Fischer (CTUIR), Don Jackson (CC), Todd Kimball (WW), Brian Shinn (AC), Brad Johnson (AC), and Marty Hall (CC).

Board Members on Phone: Larry Hooker (WW), Justin Dixon (GC), Mike Denny (WW), and Art Swannack (representing Whitman Co.).

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

Others on Phone: Joanna Cowles-Cleveland (WWCCD), Roland Schirman (Citizen), Adam McDaniel (Governor's Office), Jim Kramer (Kramer Consulting), Jerry Middel (CTUIR), Ali Fitzgerald (SRSRB), and Aneesha Dieu (CCD).

Verify Quorum / Public Comment

SRSRB Vice Chair Johnson called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm and verified a quorum (8 in person, 4 on phone) No public comment. A motion was made by Brian Shinn to approve the agenda. It was seconded by Marty Hall and the Board approved the motion.

Approve Agenda and Consent Agenda:

1. January 25, 2022 meeting notes
2. January 2022 expenses as follows:
 - (H2SR) RCO: \$18,248.27
 - (H2FW) LE: \$4,154.24
 - (H2B3) BPA: \$14,139.79

Action 1 – A motion was made by Kris Fischer to approve the January 25, 2022 meeting notes and the January 2022 expenses. Mike Denny seconded the motion and the Board approved the motion.

Presentation: North Fork Touchet Restoration Project – Jerry Middel presented a summary of the recently completed three phases of North Touchet River Restoration. Phase 1 was implemented in 2019 and included 1 mile of river treated, 18 acres of floodplain reconnected, 0.2 miles of berm removed, 13 logjams installed, 137 single log structures installed, and 8 acres planted. Phase 2 was implemented in 2020 and included 0.7 miles of river treated, 12 acres of floodplain reconnected, 0.7 miles of berm removed, 23 logjams installed, and 9 acres planted. Phase 3 was implemented in 2021 and included 1 mile of river treated, 16 acres of floodplain reconnected, 1 mile of berm removed, 1 logjam installed, and 15 acres planted. Funding came from SRFB, BPA, and FbD, and seeks to provide salmonid habitat benefits, agricultural benefits, and flood risk reduction benefits. There was discussion about landowner support and Jerry stated landowners in the project reach were complimentary of the projects and one had also stated that the project helped reduce flooding on their property. Sediment sorting was also very successful following the 2020 floods which provided enough stream power to significantly move gravels and allow for deposition and sorting through the completed reaches. Overall stream power in the project reach was reduced with additional space provided to the river.

Action: Approve BPA Tucannon Habitat Programmatic 2022 Budget – John summarized the Tucannon Programmatic proposed budget for 2022 which includes funding for Kris' time for project support, as well as BPA coordination, environmental compliance, inventory/assessment, equipment, and travel.

Don Jackson asked a question about Cummings Creek temperatures and asked for clarification on his understanding that the creek was "too cold" for salmonids based on discussions at a previous meeting. Clarification was provided that Cummings Creek is not too cold but rather is colder than the Tucannon which is generally preferred. It's more of a benefit in having stable, cold temperatures like those found in Cummings Creek versus widely variable stream temperatures which can be too hot in summer or too cold in winter (such as situations where anchor ice can occur or decreased growth in cold winter temperatures). Hyporheic flow and floodplain connectivity can help regulate temperatures throughout the year which is desirable. Mike noted that Cummings Creek supported tailed frogs, a cold-water indicator species.



A motion was made by Brian Shinn and seconded by Sean Thurston to approve the BPA Tucannon Programmatic 2022 Budget as presented at the January board meeting. The motion passed by consensus.

Action: Review and Approve Letter of Support for WWCCD's Mill Creek Floodplain by Design Project

Proposal — John provided a draft letter of support for review and signature in support of the ongoing Mill Creek Floodplains by Design project by WWCCD. John reminded the board that providing a letter of support does not require the SRSRB to provide funding for the project and that this funding is independent of the SRFB grant round process.

A motion was made by Justin Dixon and seconded by Mart Hall to sign the drafted letter of support for WWCCD's FbD letter of support. The motion passed by consensus.

Discussion: Potential Regional Riparian Assessment Effort — John briefly proposed an idea for how to be prepared and help inform future riparian bills similar to ones that were recently part of the legislative session. John proposed some sort of high-level summary of riparian work completed for each watershed. The idea would be to show current work, any available geomorphic or LiDAR analysis and recommendations for riparian needs based on watershed-specific information rather than something like site potential tree height. The effort would focus on voluntary solutions, be site specific, and use existing data to the best of our ability. The SRSRB was generally supportive and thought it could be a useful tool for conservation districts also. Brad recommended some caution to ensure any statements made wouldn't imply the lack of need for CREP for private landowners as a considerations when developing this idea. The SRSRB supported John's request to develop a more formalized budget and scope of work for review before utilizing carryover funds to hire contracted support for this task.

Presentation: Governor Inslee and Senator Patty Murray's Lower Snake River Dam Benefit Study – Adam McDaniel, Governor's Eastern Washington Regional Representative and Jim Kramer, Kramer Consulting –

This presentation was a follow up to the Board's request of the Governor's office seeking more information on this new study. Jim Kramer provided a summary of the Lower Snake Dam Benefit Study and highlighted that it is specifically looking at the benefits that the LSRD provide and potential alternatives to provide the same benefits should the dams be removed. There will be a public comment period in mid-May and the final report will be submitted in July. He stated that this is not a cost/benefit study and is specifically focused on the existing benefits of the dams and if they can be replaced. The website for more information is LSRDoptions.org. This report is largely focused on consolidating and updating existing information with information from current outreach efforts. Outreach includes talking with barge transport, agriculture, irrigation, and tourism/recreation representatives.

There were a lot of questions about how this study will accurately represent the strong concerns of local communities and industries in eastern Washington rather than pushing a specific agenda of dam removal. Many felt the outreach perhaps did not fairly include all the affected communities or businesses. Jim was asked to provide a list of representatives who will be writing the report in order to provide information and feedback to be incorporated. There was additional concern that this exercise doesn't include any kind of viability analysis (ie: maybe trains could replace barges in theory, but the money needed to make the necessary improvements is not available and therefore not feasible). This report is seeking to summarize, in a concise way, data from reports already developed, including what the costs are and the range and assumptions behind the cost estimates. The assumption is that if congress moves forward on dam removal that the benefits would have to be replaced.

The Board will not formally provide comment in accordance with past policy, but individual Board members can weigh in representing their individual constituents and stakeholder groups. John will send out a follow-up email with the website, list of representatives to contact, and the link to the survey mentioned by Jim.

Update – Announcements and Items of Interest

Executive Call Actions – No actions taken.

2022 SRFB Grant Round Updates – John briefly summarized that project presentations were given to the RTT at the last meeting and that comments are being compiled and distributed to project sponsors. Additional details will be provided at future meetings.

RTT Update – See above.

Legislative Session Updates — FHB1838 and 1653 are both dead for this legislative session. HB 1117 regarding salmon habitat in GMA and comprehensive planning is currently moving forward – please provide feedback and input



to staff. The revenue forecast is looking positive with an anticipated \$1.4 billion increase. John has put together some draft legislative priorities for the upcoming biennium as far as state agency requests are concerned and will share with the Board in the future for discussion.

Action: March 22nd, 2022 for next Board meeting to be held at the Best Western in Dayton, WA at 4:00 PM.

— A motion was made by Jon Jones and seconded by Brian Shinn to hold the next Board meeting on March 22nd, 2022 at the Best Western in Dayton, WA at 4:00 PM. The Board approved by consensus.

Meeting adjourned at 6:10 p.m. by Vice Chair Johnson.

Signed By:  Date: 3/22/2022
Bill Bowles, Chair, Snake River Salmon Recovery Board