

**Date:** January 25<sup>th</sup>, 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), Bill Bowles (GC), Larry Hooker (WW), Brian Shinn (AC), and Michael Largent (WC).

**Board Members on Phone:** Brad Johnson (AC), Justin Dixon (GC), and Mike Denny (WW).

**Others in Person:** Roland Schirman (Past Board Member), John Foltz (SRSRB), Kris Buelow (SRSRB), Jim Peterson (Citizen), Aneesha Dieu (CCD), Alison Crowley (WWCCD),

**Others on Phone:** Joanna Cowles-Cleveland (WWCCD), Lance Frederick (Pomeroy CD), and Ali Fitzgerald (SRSRB).

#### Verify Quorum / Public Comment

SRSRB Chair Bowles called the meeting to order at 4:01 pm and verified a quorum (9 in person, 3 on phone) No public comment. A motion was made by Brian Shinn to approve the agenda. It was seconded by Todd Kimball and the Board approved the motion. Introductions were made by all those in attendance.

Public Comment: Jim Peterson expressed concern about low numbers of Tucannon steelhead returning to the system compared to the number of out-of-basin strays. He asked if we could push to strengthen and enhance hatcheries. John summarized the steps the SRSRB has taken including letters sent to congressional delegates supporting capital infrastructure improvement for hatcheries. Local smolt trapping has been funded through SRFB and we're also finally seeing some improvement in ocean conditions. John will follow-up with Jim outside of the meeting.

#### Approve Agenda and Consent Agenda:

1. December 14, 2021 Meeting Notes
2. August, September, October, November, and December Expenses

	Aug-21	Sep-21	Oct-21	Nov-21	Dec-21
H2SR (RCO)	\$15,117.04	\$23,023.79	\$25,081.19	\$20,844.14	\$99,455.40
H2FW (LE)	\$2,487.52	\$2,455.09	\$4,667.37	\$2,890.32	\$4,452.48
H2B4 (BPA)	\$11,287.18	\$11,685.06	\$21,902.62	\$14,804.49	\$14,221.21

**Action: Approval of December 14, 2021 Meeting Notes** – A motion was made by Jon Jones to approve the December 14th, 2021 meeting notes. Todd Kimball seconded the motion and the Board approved the motion.

**Action: Approval of August through December 2021 Expenses** – John presented the August-December 2021 expenses noting that this makes the Board current on expenses to-date. He also made a note that December included a line item for LiDAR for the CTUIR which was the reason for the larger expense amount. Potential funding surplus will need to be discussed on how best to utilize funding over the next few months as well. A motion was made by Brian Shinn to approve the August-December 2021 expenses. Todd Kimball seconded the motion and the Board approved the motion.

**Update and Discussion: Feedback on SB5727/HB1838 -- Protecting, Restoring and Maintaining Habitat for Salmon Recovery** — John provided a summary update on current bills of importance to SRSRB through the legislative session. HB1838 (Lorraine Loomis Act) would establish a comprehensive program to protect and restore riparian habitat to be applied at state and local levels and would have enforcement through WDFW and is not voluntary. HB1869 would implement a similar but voluntary program. HB1653 would target coordination of salmon recovery by forming a new Salmon Cabinet consisting of state agencies, tribes, and legislative members to foster interagency relationships and improve salmon recovery efforts. SRSRB members raised several concerns around the riparian requirements proposed in a regulatory manner that would greatly impact our private landowner relationships and ability to work in as a voluntary program; CTUIR tribal council testified in support of the draft legislation. Membership decided that input on the draft legislation should come from directly from individual Board members and/or the entities they represent if so desired. Don shared the House Committee phone number if people would like to call directly (564-888-2321).



**Presentation: Mill Creek Floodplain by Design Project Presentation Seeking Letter of Support** – Alison Crowley presented an ongoing Mill Creek Floodplains by Design project and a request for a letter of support for the next phase of the project that is applying for funding for the next grant round cycle. Phase 1 of 3 has been funded and is underway and includes the most upstream reach of Wickersham Bridge to Blue Creek confluence. The overall project will run down to the USACE property approximately 6.5 miles downstream. The project plans to improve floodplain reconnection, increase riparian growth, reconnect side channels, and decrease stream power with additional hopes of reducing damage to private property. She added that WWCCD is interested in seeking review and input from stakeholders including the MCWG, RTT, and landowners. Generally, the SRSRB was supportive but there were a few questions about how to reduce stream power or establish riparian in a highly unstable system.

John will provide a letter of support for review and decision on signature at the February SRSRB meeting.

**Action: Review and Approve CTUIR's Touchet River Ranch project proposal letter of support for Department of Ecology Stream Flow Restoration Grant Application** — John gave a brief overview of the project seeking a letter of support for the Dept. of Ecology streamflow grant for the CTUIR. The project spans 3 miles of the lower Touchet River with a single landowner and is identified in our 3-year workplan. SRSRB staff have visited onsite with the landowner and CTUIR staff. A letter of support does not preclude our review process for SRFB projects and does not guarantee funding. The SRSRB had a few questions about if this project was in a priority area. John clarified it is located in the migration priority reach, but it is outside of a major spawning area. The SRSRB decided that they were in general support and glad that the project was seeking non-SRFB funds, but noted that a letter of support does not guarantee project would be funded through 2022 SRFB grant round and would need to score high enough to warrant SRFB funding as match.

A motion was made by Jon Jones and seconded by Brian Shinn to sign a letter of support as drafted and the motion passed by consensus. Kris Fischer abstained.

**Presentation: 2021 Tucannon Implementation Update and 2022 Project Planning for future budget approval** — Kris presented an overview of the Tucannon Programmatic and how SRSRB staff support regional project sponsors and their ongoing project implementation. 2021 projects included PA 26 Phase 2 (CCD), PA 27-28.1 Phase 1 (CTUIR), Lidar Data acquisition and analysis (CTUIR), And the initial start of PA 13 (WDFW). Planned work for 2022 includes work toward projects in PA-26 Phase 3-4 (CCD), PA-34.1-34.2 Designs (CCD), PA15.1/15.2 Design (CTUIR), PA-17/18 (CTUIR), PA-27-28.1 Phase 2 (CTUIR), Tualum Culvert Replacement (NPT), Cummins Creek Restoration Design (NPT), PA-4-6 Concept Design (NPT) PA-13 implementation (WDFW) and the continuation of the Tucannon Assessment and Conceptual Restoration Plan and associated LIDAR data analysis and modeling.

The programmatic budget year runs from April 1 – March 31 and funds Kris' time for project support, as well as BPA coordination, environmental compliance, inventory/assessment, equipment, and travel. The Board will seek to approve the Tucannon Programmatic BPA budget in February, if there are questions about the planned work and budget, please communicate those to staff.

**Discussion/Action: Partner Contract with the Columbia County Flood Control Zone District (Tabled Item from December Meeting)** – John reintroduced this topic of discussion from previous meetings. The SRSRB discussed potential issues and benefits to funding the contract. There were several members who expressed concerns and uncertainty. It was also noted that the Comprehensive Flood Management Plan update was just funded by Ecology, is something that the Board needs to be engaged in and might provide the funding that is needed. Ultimately, the Board chose to keep the topic tabled for the time being with no action taken.

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

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

**RTT Update** – Topics included 3-year workplan approval, USFWS Bull Trout species status update presentation noting that Bull Trout continue to do poorly and data is lacking, and the lamprey presentation was rescheduled.



**February Meeting Preparations** — February will include approval of programmatic budget, 2021 project updates, and updates from the legislative session if available.

**Action: February 22, 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 February 22, 2022, at the Best Western in Dayton, WA at 4:00 PM. The Board approved by consensus.

Meeting adjourned at 5:56 p.m. by Chair Bowles.

Signed By:  Date: 2-22-2021  
Bill Bowles, Chair, Snake River Salmon Recovery Board