

**Date:** July 27th, 2021

**Place:** Dayton Best Western

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

**Board Members in Person:** Jon Jones (WC), Roland Schirman (CC), Brad Johnson (AC), Brian Shinn (AC), Marty Hall (CC), Larry Hooker (WW), Justin Dixon (GC), Don Jackson (CC), Bill Bowles (GC), and Kris Fischer (CTUIR).

**Board Members on Phone:** Todd Kimball (WW) and Michael Largent (WC).

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

**Others on Phone:** Grant Trainer (WWCCD), Aneesha Dieu (CCD), Jeremy Trump (WDFW), Andre L'Heureux (BPA), Travis Olsen (CTUIR).

### Verify Quorum / Public Comment

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

### Approve Agenda and Consent Agenda:

1. June 2021 Expenses as follows:
  - (H2SR) RCO: \$24,901.79
  - (H2FW) LE: \$17,138.20
  - (H2B3) BPA: \$7,931.11
  - (H2B4) BPA: \$14,285.69
2. June 22nd, 2021 Meeting Notes

**Action 1** – A motion was made by Roland Schirman to approve the June 22nd, 2021 meeting notes and June monthly expenses. Justin Dixon seconded the motion and the Board approved the motion.

**Presentation: *Snake River Spring/Summer Chinook Declines* – Jay Hesse, Biological Services Division Director, Nez Perce Tribe Department of Fisheries Resource Management** – Jay presented a recent study completed by the Tribe on the most recent population trends for the 38 populations (32 listed, 6 non-listed) Snake River spring Chinook with a focus on the Tucannon population. Unfortunately the declining population trend is not unique to the Tucannon. 42% (13 populations) of snake spring/summer Chinook are at or below the quasi-extinction threshold meaning there is an uncertainty if the populations will persist. The quasi-extinction threshold is defined as 50 or fewer adult spawners over a 5-year period. Trends are similar across the region which points to additional outside pressure such as poor ocean conditions that affect all populations with an average of a 19% decline annually. If there are no changes, in five years, 24 populations will be at or below quasi-extinction levels. Snake River steelhead populations are showing similar trends but slightly less dire results. Currently 3 populations out of 25 are below quasi-extinction levels with anticipated declines to 7 populations below quasi-extinction levels in five years. Climate models overlaid on current conditions suggest poor conditions to continue. Jay cited the critical need for good in-river conditions to help reduce the impacts of ocean mortality. He summarized by saying that we need to improve and maximize freshwater survival and seek actions to address the current crisis. He also noted that the Simpson proposal would benefit salmon stocks as well.

**Action: Approve ranked project list for the Salmon Recovery Funding Board.** – Ali summarized the grant round beginning with letters of intent (15 projects requesting \$2.5 million) and stepped the Board through the scoring meetings, review process and finally, the ranked list as approved by the Lead Entity Committee in June. Project summaries were shared with the Board through the grant round with full applications available for review on the Board's website, including technical feedback, comment, and project conditions if applicable. One project was voluntarily pulled from the list after becoming a project of concern through the state SRFB review process leaving the Board to consider 10 projects and 2



cost increases from 2020. Due to additional funding being received partway through the grant round along with several projects being pulled throughout the process, surplus funding was recommended to be given to the Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board to help fund projects in the lower river that could have positive benefits for our local stocks when juveniles out-migrate and as a result of the lower Columbia sharing funding with the SRSRB in the past for IMW monitoring.

Ali and John expressed their appreciation to the Lead Entity Committee and Board members who participated in project reviews, as well as regional project sponsors for their efforts over the last year. John and the Board thanked Ali for her efforts in coordinating the grant round to a successful completion. The state SRFB is expected to approve grant awards as recommended by the SRSRB at the September 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting.

Justin Dixon made a motion to approve the ranked list as presented with surplus funds going towards the Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board project list. Larry Hooker seconded the motion and it passed by consensus.

**Break: Celebrate Roland Schirman's participation on the SRSRB and a member and chair** – this was Roland's last Board meeting as a voting member, The Board and staff expressed their appreciation for his service.

**Discussion/Action: Letter of support – federal hatchery infrastructure** – John provided a letter for the Board to review in support of funding the critical infrastructure repair needs for hatcheries throughout the state. This is a follow-up on Becky Johnson's presentation from the June meeting on how the Board could support hatchery needs. This letter was modified from one developed by the WDFW Congressional Liaison and the CRITFC developed for interested parties to consider sending to Washington's Senators and Representatives from congressional districts 4 and 5.

Brian Shinn made a motion to approve and submit a letter of support for federal hatchery infrastructure. Brad Johnson seconded the motion and it passed by consensus.

**Discussion/Action: Letter of support – federal pinniped management** – John provided a draft letter summarizing our local support for implementing the Marine Mammal Protection Act Section 120(f) permit authorizing take of California and Steller Sea Lions. Similar to the last letter, John has been working with CRITFC and the other recovery regions on identifying ways to support predation suppression. If approved, the letter will be sent to Senators Murray and Cantwell.

Brad Johnson made a motion to approve and submit a letter of support of pinniped management. Brian Shinn seconded the motion and it passed by consensus.

**Presentation: Tucannon Habitat Programmatic ISRP presentation highlights** – Staff just presented our Tucannon habitat project to the BPA Independent Science Review Panel Review, which typically occurs every five years. Kris led this effort and worked to coordinate the presentation session with our Tucannon habitat program partners. The Board was interested in hearing a summary of the proposal and learning about the positive habitat status and trends observed. As such, Kris presented some of the key takeaways of the programmatic as well as plans for what items to cover during the upcoming legislative outreach meeting. SRSRB though not an implementer works closely with project implementers including CTUIR, NPT, WDFW, and CCD to get projects on the ground to restore habitat with a focus on spring Chinook as well as steelhead, fall Chinook, and bull trout. Initial restoration focused on removing barriers, adding fish screens, and reducing sedimentation. With those factors being largely addressed, current work focuses on restoring floodplain connectivity and improving habitat and natural riverine processes. Important results from 29 projects include removing 2 miles of levee, adding 6,000 logs and 500 log jams. Habitat response includes reconnecting miles of perennial side channels, doubling key log pieces, increasing pools per kilometer along with increased surface area and depth with statistical significance. While air temperatures continue to increase, we see average daily maximum stream temperature decreasing in the Tucannon – while we don't have the data to link directly to restoration, it is an interesting trend. A more simplified version of this information as recommended to be placed in bullet form for handouts at the legislative outreach meeting.

**Action: CTUIR partner contract cost increase**— John briefly reviewed budget approvals from the June meeting with a placeholder for potential partner contract cost increases, including an unknown cost increase for LiDAR data analysis in



the Tucannon. CTUIR received contract bids since the last meeting --- this funding increase of \$35,000 would be used for LIDAR change detection analysis from 2017 to 2020 flights to determine habitat changes and habitat suitability index to start to relate biological response to changes in habitat.

Brian Shinn made a motion to approve the CTUIR partner contract increase of \$35,000 for LIDAR analysis. Justin Dixon seconded the motion and it passed by consensus.

**Discussion: Support for Columbia County Flood Control Zone District**— John explained the purpose of the newly formed Columbia County Flood Control Zone District (CCFCZD) that has separate jurisdiction from the County but would coordinate their work with salmon recovery work ongoing in the basin. Chuck Eaton, the District Administrator, is seeking support for a partner contract to include outreach and technical design review of projects. A contract could be extended on a trial basis if the Board is supportive. The group asked what level of participation would the district provide to our work (ie: LE/RTT participation?). One question brought up was whether considering a contract for CCFCZD would mean we need to extend an invite to all districts (ie: Waitsburg recently reactivated)? The Board asked if we could invite CCFCZD to a meeting to give an overview of the district and discuss a potential partnership and participation. John will follow-up with Chuck to ask him to present at a future meeting.

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

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

**RTT update** — Meeting was cancelled.

**Tucannon Lamprey Release** — Rescheduled to future meeting but John noted the first lamprey releases in the Tucannon have occurred.

**Walla Walla Spring Chinook Hatchery Dedication Announcement** — Scheduled for August 27<sup>th</sup>. Board members were invited to attend by Gary James. Gary had presented the goals of the hatchery at a past Board meeting, which include significantly bolstering the reintroduction efforts in the Walla Walla, Touchet, and Mill Creek (once passage work is done). This will provide a terminal harvest opportunity that hasn't been available in the Walla Walla watershed and tributaries in decades.

**August Meeting Preparations** — Topics will include the Asotin IMW management implications pending confirmation. The legislative meeting has been moved to September at Roland's house.

**Action: August 24th, 2021 for next Board meeting to be held at the Dayton, WA Best Western at 6:00 PM.**  
—A motion was made by Brad Johnson and seconded by Marty Hall to hold the next Board meeting on August 24th, 2021 at the Dayton, WA Best Western at 6:00 PM. The Board approved by consensus.

Meeting adjourned at 8:13 p.m. by Chair Bowles

Signed By:  Date: 8-24-2021  
Bill Bowles, Chair, Snake River Salmon Recovery Board