

Date: March 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), Marty Hall (CC), Larry Hooker (WW), and Mike Denny (WW).

Board Members on Phone: Justin Dixon (GC), Gary James (CTUIR), and Bill Bowles.

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

Others on Phone: Joanna Cowles-Cleveland (WWCCD), Jeremy Trump (WDFW), and Lance Frederick (Pomeroy CD).

Verify Quorum / Public Comment

SRSRB Chair Bowles called the meeting to order at 4:01 pm and verified a quorum (10 in person, 1 on phone).

Public comment: Jim Peterson thanked the Board for the work they do and asked everyone to consider partnering with fish monitoring programs, particularly on the Tucannon. He also asked for continued outreach and discussion of our priorities with state representatives. There was brief discussion of how the SRSRB works with and supports fish monitoring including funding ongoing FIFO monitoring through our SRFB grant round funding as well as submitting letters of support for monitoring funding requests and programs. Additional work is ongoing to advocate for reallocation of SRFB funds to monitoring projects – the Board might consider submitting a letter to the SRFB on monitoring funding allocations in June. Outreach to state representatives also occurs at our annual barbeque where all representatives are invited to attend.

John requested to add an agenda item regarding a draft letter of support regarding federal funding for the pinniped removal program give the time sensitivity of the deadline for letter submission. A motion was made by Jon Jones to approve the agenda with one addition to the agenda regarding a draft letter of support for the pinniped removal program. It was seconded by Todd Kimball and the Board approved the motion.

Approve Agenda and Consent Agenda:

1. February 22, 2022, meeting notes
2. February expenses as follows:
 - (H2SR) RCO: \$67,760.64
 - (H2FW) LE: \$6,794.58
 - (H2B3) BPA: \$14,944.20

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

Action: Approve and Sign Letter of Support for Pinniped Removal Program— John recently was made aware of a new request for continued funding for a pinniped removal program that was started as a pilot program. The new request includes funding for personnel time to run the program. The SRSRB sent a letter of support in July 2021 and this letter would echo those original sentiments. A letter of support of the program would be sent to our congressional delegates through a WDFW representative. The letter is due April 5th, so it requires quick turnaround.

A motion was made by Brian Shinn to approve the letter as drafted with edits from Gary James incorporated and with Chair Bowles signing on behalf of the SRSRB. Larry Hooker seconded the motion, and the Board approved the motion.

Presentation: Overview of the Walla Walla Spring Chinook Hatchery and Program – Gary James presented an overview of the new CTUIR spring Chinook hatchery on the South Fork Walla Walla River with the overall mission to provide sustainable harvest for tribal and recreational fisheries while protecting and restoring native aquatic populations and their habitat. The target return is 5,000 adults. This hatchery has been an ongoing effort with the first stage being constructed in 1996 and used for adult holding/spawning. Adult and smolt outplants have been occurring since 2000 with the first adult return in 2004. The construction completed in 2021 included egg incubation, early and final rearing,



administrative area, public viewing area, and a shop. Fish are collected at Nursery Bridge Dam. Juvenile releases are planned for NE Oregon (400,000) and Washington (100,000 in North Touchet and/or Mill Creek).

The hatchery is part of a larger restoration effort including restoring flow in the basin, improving fish passage, and reducing mortality through screening. This work will have a multitude of benefits including hatchery production, fisheries, and boosts to the local economy. Gary extended an invite for a hatchery tour and/or hosting a SRSRB meeting in the future.

Presentation: 2021 Regional Project Implementation Summary — Ali Fitzgerald provided a high-level overview of project work completed in the 2021 implementation window, skipping Tucannon projects that were previously presented by Kris Buelow. Project work included North Touchet Phase 3, WWR Bridge to Bridge Ph. 2, Mill Creek Otis to Division, Touchet River Smolt Trap Monitoring, Touchet RM 42 Designs, Tucannon PA26 Ph 2, Tucannon PA 34.1 Design, Steptoe PALS, Asotin PALS, Tenmile Pals, Couse Creek Pals, Grande Ronde Assessment, Tualum Beaver Relocation, Pataha PALS, Tucannon PA13. Projects funded outside of SRFB included Upper Walla Walla Assessment and Action Plan, WW Water 2050, Mill Creek FbD Projects, Mill Creek 3rd-6th Ave Design, Mill Creek Spokane to Park design, and Bennington Dam Fish Ladder Design, Tucannon PA 27/King Grade, Tualum Culvert Replacement Design, and Tucannon PA 17 Design.

Discussion: Board Operating Budget Check-in — John gave the SRSRB a summary of where the budget stands as we enter Q4 and what remains in terms of funding. He is working to develop next years' budget for operating expenses with a draft expected in May, needing approval in June. We have leftover funding because of carryover of previous funding, returned funds from partners, as well as a cost saving due to almost no travel during the fiscal year due to COVID restrictions. The Lead Entity contract is for \$65k and is used to fund staff and partner contracts. The regional budget is \$333k and we're anticipating \$80-120K left over. We likely won't be allowed to carryover as much as in previous years. John suggested using surplus funds to pay for contracted help in developing a riparian assessment scope of work, purchase new PIT tag arrays lost during the fire, potentially some data analysis needs for eDNA, Lidar or other needs, and any partner contract needs if they exist, and additional work can be performed. The Board was supportive of what was presented and discussed, and John will provide further information as budgets are developed and options fleshed out.

Secondly, the College is upgrading their accounting software and database and will be in a shutdown period from the end of this month through June. Staff have made as many preparations as can be made and we won't likely have expenses to review and approve during this time.

Update – Announcements and Items of Interest

Executive Call Actions – No actions taken.

2022 SRFB Grant Round Updates – Ali provided a brief update on the current grant round including 19 projects still in the process, the plan for the draft scoring meeting on Mach 24th, and the upcoming project tours the first week of May. She also briefed the SRSRB on the SRFB Targeted Investment funding pot and the funding guidelines, scoring process, and our proposed project for the region, Tucannon PA26. While receiving targeted investment funds may not come to fruition, if received, we can remove the PA26 project from our SRFB ranked list to free up funds for more projects in the region. More details to follow.

RTT Update – CTUIR collected LiDAR for the upper WW watershed and it will be made available soon. The USFS received \$2M in funding and plans to use some of those funds for the L. Tucannon Bridge, roadwork, etc. Steve Bennett presented an update on the Asotin IMW recent efforts and the annual report has been uploaded to the SRSRB website; an IMW update to the Board will occur at a later date. There were updates on the WDFW Tucannon Adult Trap and passage efficiency and timing for that project. The regional fish passage inventory and prioritization modeling effort is ongoing, we are seeking review and QA/QC of 400-600 dots labeled as "barriers". The cleanup effort to remove dots that aren't barriers or are outside fish-bearing areas will help. More details to come.

Legislative Session Updates — The short legislative session wrapped up. FHB1838 and 1653 are both dead for this legislative session. HB 1117 is dead and not moving forward. The Conservation Commission received \$10M for



riparian projects. An authorization was made to include \$50M for SRFB habitat projects greater than \$5M and \$25M for projects less than \$5M. Additional information will be provided when available.

North of Falcon Meetings — Jeremy Trump shared that the North of Falcon meetings are ongoing to share information on salmon and steelhead fishing seasons and seek public input. Northeast of McNary meetings were recorded and should be posted to the North of Falcon website soon. Spring Chinook are looking a little better with anticipated fisheries at Little Goose/Lower Granite with Clarkston pending. There may be a fishery for non-ad clipped below Lower Granite potentially. Steelhead will likely be similar to last year with reduced harvest limits.

Action: April 26th, 2022 for next Board meeting to be held at the Best Western in Dayton, WA at 6:00 PM.

— A motion was made by Larry Hooker and seconded by Sean Thurston to hold the next Board meeting on April 26th, 2022 at the Best Western in Dayton, WA at 6:00 PM. The Board approved by consensus.

Meeting adjourned at 5:51 p.m. by Chair Bowles.

Signed By:  Date: 4/26/2022
Bill Bowles, Chair, Snake River Salmon Recovery Board