

**Date:** October 26th, 2021

**Place:** Dayton Best Western

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

**Board Members in Person:** Jerry Hendrickson (AC), Sean Thurston (CC), Jon Jones (WC) Marty Hall (CC), Kris Fischer (CTUIR), Brad Johnson (AC), Brian Shinn (AC), Don Jackson (CC), and Michael Largent (WC).

**Board Members on Phone:** Todd Kimball (WW), Larry Hooker (WW), and Bill Bowles (GC).

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

**Others on Phone:** Joanna Cowles-Cleveland (WWCCD) and Jennifer Boie (Palouse CD).

#### **Verify Quorum / Public Comment**

SRSRB Vice-Chair Johnson called the meeting to order at 4:02 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 Jerry Hendrickson and the Board approved the motion.

#### **Approve Agenda and Consent Agenda:**

1. September 28th, 2021 Meeting Notes

**Action 1** – A motion was made by Michael Largent to approve the September 28, 2021 meeting notes. Jon Jones seconded the motion and the Board approved the motion. John Foltz made a note that monthly expenses are still pending due to a retirement at WWCC.

**Discussion: 2021 SRFB grant round wrap-up and Board feedback** — (this item was moved up in the agenda) Ali summarized the completion of the 2021 SRFB Grant Round that funded 10 project proposals, 2 cost increases and assisted in funding one downstream project. This grant round was partially virtual and required some adaptations due to COVID meeting restrictions. The SRSRB expressed interest in ideally moving back to in person meetings and site tours for 2022. Ali will work with sponsors and the Lead Entity Committee to and give as much advance notice as possible regarding meeting/tour details. Short presentations ahead of the project tours were recommended as being useful if possible.

#### **Discussion: Potential Partner Contract with the Columbia County Flood Control Zone District**

– John summarized the background of the CCFCZD and the past Board conversations. The district is interested in seeking a partnership of sorts with SRSRB that could support both flood risk and habitat goals. The potential options could include early participation in design review and vetting of both flood risk and habitat projects to ensure mutually beneficial, project outreach, construction modifications, permit reviews, etc. The district is asking for \$2,500/year for meeting participation and project review; John shared the draft scope of work for the partner contract that he was asked to develop. There was discussion about how to ensure this partnership would focus on mutual benefits to flood risk management as well as salmon habitat restoration. Some expressed concerns that there is an existing lack of communication/response from the CCFCZD. The SRSRB asked to put this on a future agenda for further review and discussion of details of the proposed partnership. The SRSRB was also in favor of considering funding on a yearly basis to ensure it's a beneficial partnership and asked that John update the scope of work to add specific details on meeting participation (LE at start of grant round, RTT, etc.) and to include communication on permitting.

**Discussion: Review Board Mission Statement** — Board member Sean Thurston asked for a conversation about the Board's mission – as a new Board member he has had several conversations with



John about the Board's mission and role. Specifically, he hopes to share what the Board does and how we do it more transparent, especial to the public and he believes that a complete mission statement with our vision statement on website could be helpful starting point.

Our mission tells what we do and who we do it for, but it does not tell how we do it. If we take an excerpt from our by-laws and insert it into the mission it could read as: Protect and restore salmon habitat, through planning and by recommending policies, programs, and funding consistent with the recovery plan, for current and future generations. This would make a more complete mission statement but may need additional refinement. The Board was supportive of updating the mission and asked for John, Sean, and any other interested board members to develop a few options for the December meeting with a decision to follow.

**Discussion: Board reflections on September Meeting** — The SRSRB thought the picnic was a good success despite a few last-minute cancellations. Representative Joe Schmick seemed engaged, and it also provided good discussion among regional partners and concerned citizens. There was also the feeling that the business meeting before dinner was a good format.

**Presentation: Partner Update (continued from August): Alpowa and Steptoe Story Maps with Palouse Conservation District Brad Johnson, Middle Snake Watershed Manager** — Brad presented a summary of project work in Alpowa and Steptoe Creeks as well as the completion of the two storymaps for each project. The storymaps were produced with help from Americorps volunteers. Project work included installing well over 1,000 post-assisted logs structures by hand with materials donated from the USFS. The two projects have helped keep water on the landscape longer, increased pool depths, provided instream fish habitat, and increased overall floodplain connection. The Board appreciated the storymaps and thought they could be useful for other watersheds as well if there was capacity and funding to develop them.

**Discussion: Review Draft 2022 Board Meeting Calendar** — John distributed the draft meeting calendar for 2022. Given COVID restrictions, there was discussion about whether to continue holding meetings in Dayton for the time being or if the SRSRB would like to revert back to rotating locations. The meetings must have advanced notice of location to comply with the Open Public Meetings Act and for staff planning purposes. The Board also noted the remote meeting options more readily available and used. The Board asked John to bring back three different potential meeting location options to the December meeting for final review and approval, one just meeting in Dayton, one with the regular rotation including the USFS meeting location in Pomeroy, and one with the regular meeting rotation minus Pomeroy (may not be able to meet at the Ranger Station due to restrictions).

**Discussion: Review Draft 2022 Executive Board Meeting Schedule and County Commissioner Representation** — John presented the drafted Executive Meeting dates and rotating commissioner assignments. Todd Kimball volunteered to fill the vacant January 2022 slot.

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

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

**RTT Update** – CTUIR presented on Mill Creek and Touchet River Fish IN-Fish Out (FIFO) monitoring. A lot of great information was summarized and may be presented to the SRSRB at a later date. The RTT also discussed updating/creating priority reaches or fish distribution maps for lamprey, whitefish, bull trout, and coho along with native mussels.

**Independent Science Review Panel (ISRP) Update** – Kris updated the Board on the ISRP review of the Tucannon Habitat Programmatic as he works as the lead on that effort with our



regional partners. The ISRP comments were returned with one common comment about a potential lack of coordination among habitat and fish monitoring programs. Sponsors will respond to these comments with a matrix showing what organizations are monitoring what information. Comments are due late November.

**December Meeting Preparations** — The December meeting is a combination of November and December due to holidays impacting the normal meeting times. At this meeting, the Board will seek to approve the 2022 meeting schedule, review the planned 2022 Tucannon habitat programmatic work schedule and the work completed in 2021, and get an in-depth project update and hydraulic modeling review from CTUIR on the Tucannon King Grade project.

**Action: December 14th, 2021 for next Board meeting to be held at the Best Western in Dayton, WA at 4:00 PM.** —A motion was made by Brian Shinn and seconded by Jerry Hendrickson to hold the next Board meeting on December 14th, 2021 at the Best Western in Dayton, WA at 4:00 PM. The Board approved by consensus.

Meeting adjourned at 6:07 p.m. by Chair Bowles.

Signed By:  \_\_\_\_\_ Date: 12-14-2021  
Bill Bowles, Chair, Snake River Salmon Recovery Board