



**Date:** September 27, 2022  
**Place:** Dayton Best Western  
**Format:** Regular Meeting started at 6:00 p.m.

**Board Members in Person:** Jon Jones (WC), Marty Hall (CC), Larry Hooker (WW), Mike Denny (WW), Sean Thurston (CC), Kris Fischer (CTUIR), and Bill Bowles (GC).

**Board Members on Phone:** Jerry Hendrickson (AC), Justin Dixon (GC), Michael Largent (WC) Brad Johnson (AC), and Todd Kimball (WW).

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

**Others on Phone:** Steve Bennett (ELR), Megan Stewart (ACCD), and Kris Buelow (SRSRB).

### Verify Quorum / Public Comment/Approve Agenda

SRSRB Chair Bowles called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm and verified a quorum (7 in person, 5 on phone). No public comment.

**Action 1 – Approve Meeting Agenda** – A motion was made by Marty Hall to approve the agenda. It was seconded by Larry Hooker and the Board approved the motion.

### Approve Meeting Notes and Expenses

**Action 2 – Approve August 24, 2022, Meeting Notes** – A motion was made by Kris Fischer to approve the August 24, 2022, meeting notes. Mike Denny seconded the motion and the Board approved the motion.

### Approval of April through July Expenses

April through August 2022 Expenses:

	April-22	May-22	June-22	July-22	Aug-22
H2SR (RCO)	Approved	Approved	Approved	\$14,149.86	\$19,056.87
H2FW (LE)	\$3,935.69	\$2,267.45	\$20,217.90	\$3,434.49	\$2,455.55
H2B5 (BPA)	\$12,532.23	\$11,049.88	\$18,609.90	\$13,093.32	\$13,643.75

Expenses were delayed due to changing of computer system college-wide but should be presented regularly in the future. John was asked to check-in on partner contracts to make sure everyone got them via e-sign.

**Action 3** – A motion was made by Justin Dixon to approve the April through August expenses. Todd Kimball seconded the motion, and the Board approved the motion.

**Discussion: Board reflections from August Meeting** – The Board thought the legislative outreach meeting went well and there were good comments from the CTUIR and Legislators. The location was a



good idea and provided an example of what funding can do and what we need support from them. Additional Board member comments included that the tour and dinner provided an opportunity for good comradery, members were impressed with the understanding of our efforts that our legislators had and to keep sharing our efforts and needs, and that we received positive feedback and support from our legislators. The Board asked if we might be able to get more of our legislators in attendance in the future. The general thought was that it will be a challenge getting more attendance from legislators as they tend to divide duties and attendance among themselves and it's unlikely we will get 100% attendance, but greatly appreciated the attendance we did have.

**Action 4: Letter of Support for 640-Fresh Project** – John provided some background on the project being proposed by Bryan Jones, a citizen representative on our lead entity committee. The project is focused on protecting a 640-acre farm owned by the Jones family on upper Alkali Flat Creek, a minor spawning designated watershed for steelhead. The project would support education, outreach, and research opportunities, riparian planting, no till agriculture, improvement of water quality, and result in the acquisition of the property through the Palouse Conservation District as the project sponsor. This project would not be funded through SRFB funding; however, Bryan is seeking a letter of support which would be helpful for a grant proposal to the Department of Ecology.

A motion was made by Michael Largent to approve the letter of support for the 640 Fresh project. Marty Hall seconded the motion, and it passed by consensus.

**Action 5: Asotin IMW – PIT tag and environmental DNA sampling purchases** – The funding needed includes \$19,500 for a purchase of 6,500 PIT tags. This need is due to overall costs of goods increasing, a 5% reduction in funding and no cost increases being provided to the IMW program to account for inflation for a net result of about 20% funding reduction since 2008. The PIT tags allow for monitoring total abundance, growth/survival/ and production, and it's critical to avoid gap years as you lose an entire age class of data. Monitoring is critical in being able to show how our work is helping fish and the data can also support ongoing habitat work.

The eDNA research is part of an ongoing, funded bull trout project. Analyzing samples for other species such as steelhead, lamprey, Chinook, and mussels as well as non-native predator species requires additional funds, but are available at a reduced costs as an add-on to the bull trout work. The cost could range from \$5,400-\$10,000 depending on what analyses we want to run and potential funding cost share.

The Board was supportive of funding the eDNA samples but asked Steve to provide additional details and clarification on the costs and number of samples needed. Steve will communicate the specifics to John for future funding approval by the Board.

A motion was made by Jon Jones to approve the PIT tag purchase. Brad Johnson seconded the motion, and it passed by consensus.

**Presentation: Management Implications from Pacific Northwest Intensively Monitored Watersheds** – John gave a presentation of the efforts that he had been a part of with the Pacific Northwest Aquatic Monitoring Partnership summarizing the work and take-home management implications and recommendations from the multiple IMW projects. IMWs were established in the early 2000's and each had a specific restoration action to test and quantify results. While these research projects are still ongoing, there are data and some of the initial results were presented in a report. While it's challenging to draw comprehensive results among all the different habitat restoration treatment types, over 75% of habitat responses were positive, 23% no change, and 2% negative. Fish responses are much more complicated and are impacted by a variety of things outside the control of the IMW footprints. However, 53% showed a positive change, 44% no change, and 3% negative change. John



reminded the Board of the more focused Asotin IMW management implications workshop effort in 2021 that provided a two-page summary of take-home messages and implications. Some of these included habitat responses are flow dependent, habitat structures are forcing changes in streams, maintenance work is needed over the long term to maintain structures, fish responses are positive but there are markedly higher positive results in projects that force floodplain connection versus just instream habitat.

Kris Fischer noted that these results show that longitudinal and lateral connectivity are key and that we as the Snake River Salmon Recovery Board do elevate longitudinal connectivity in our project prioritization efforts – how do we elevate lateral connectivity to a greater degree? Jon Jones suggested that more points are available for floodplain projects already and asked if they need to be elevated further.

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

- 1. Executive Call Actions** – No actions taken.
- 2. Lower Snake River Dams: Benefit Replacement Report** – this is an FYI that the report was released with a list of recommendations, the hyperlink to the press release and report was provided in the agenda.
- 3. Brian Abbott Fish Barrier Removal Board meeting** – The snake region is hosting the Barrier Board meeting in Walla Walla and will tour Mill Creek passage projects as part of the meeting later this week.
- 4. State Salmon Recovery Funding Board Meeting** – The SRFB approved funding for our regionally ranked project lists as anticipated. This represents the formal conclusion of the 2022 grant round. Board staff will present the Mill Creek passage project for the supplemental large capital project funding opportunity at the December SRFB meeting.

**Action 6: October 25, 2022 for next Board meeting to be held at the Dayton Best Western at 4 PM.** – A motion was made by Brad Johnson and seconded by Marty Hall to hold the next Board meeting at the Dayton Best Western at 4 PM. The Board approved by consensus.

Meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m. by Chair Bowles.

Signed By:  Date: October 25, 2022  
Bill Bowles, Chair, Snake River Salmon Recovery Board