

**Date:** February 28, 2023

**Place:** Dayton Best Western

**Format:** Regular Meeting started at 4:03 p.m.

**Board Members in Person:** Marty Hall (CC), Brad Johnson (AC), Kris Fischer (CTUIR), Don Jackson (CC), Michael Largent (WC), Mike Denny (WW), Justin Dixon (GC), Sean Thurston (CC), Jon Jones (WC), Marty Hall (CC), and Larry Hooker (WW).

**Board Members on Phone:** Bill Bowles (GC), Todd Kimball (WW), and Brian Shinn (AC).

**Others in Person:** John Foltz (SRSRB), Kris Buelow (SRSRB), Jim Peterson (Citizen), Joe Bumgarner (WDFW), Ben Kleist (CCD), Mike Herr (WDFW), and Jeremy Trump (WDFW).

**Others on Phone:** Ali Fitzgerald (SRSRB) and Joanna Cowles Cleveland (WWCCD).

### Verify Quorum / Public Comment

SRSRB Vice Chair Johnson called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm and verified a quorum (11 in person, 3 on phone). No public comment. A motion was made by Kris Fischer to approve the agenda. It was seconded by Mike Denny and the Board approved the motion.

### Approve Agenda and Consent Agenda:

1. January 2023 Expenses as follows:
  - (H2SR) RCO: \$49,746.35
  - (H2FW) LE: \$7,706.80
  - (H2B4) BPA: \$19,421.03
2. January 24, 2023, Meeting Notes

**Action 1** – A motion was made by Justin Dixon to approve the January expenses and January 24, 2023, Meeting Notes Marty Hall seconded the motion, and the Board approved the motion.

**Presentation: Regional Salmon and Steelhead Run Forecasts and Related Updates** — Joe Bumgarner provided a summary on current population trends and forecasts for 2023 for salmon and steelhead in the region. In summary, WDFW anticipates decent returns of Fall Chinook and Coho to the Tucannon but slightly lower than last year, Tucannon Spring Chinook returns are expected to be poor, Tucannon Summer Steelhead are looking low but stable. Touchet Summer Steelhead are hard to estimate based on limited data but look to be slightly better returns than last year with the Asotin Summer Steelhead expected to have similar returns.

Joe also briefly summarized hatchery programs. The Tucannon Spring Chinook program is looking at alternative release strategies such as barging and lower release sites to increase survival, the Snake River Fall Chinook program is going as planned with full releases at Lyons Ferry, Touchet Summer Steelhead is going as planned for Wallowa, 50k release planned for the Touchet, and the Tucannon will be below target at 60k release due to lack of broodstock. Potential changes for hatchery programs include working through details with NOAA regarding Kalama Falls releases, no progress on Tucannon Spring Chinook captive broodstock, converting from yearling to subyearling releases at Lyons Ferry, Tucannon Steelhead program is looking at options for a lower river trap, Touchet Spring Chinook first 4-year-old returns came this year but were able to get around the trap in high flows.

The Board asked if the coho in the Tucannon are strays – Joe thought that yes, they mostly are but there is some natural production based upon smolt trap data.

**Presentation: Mill Creek Fish Monitoring and Proposal** — Related to the topic above, WDFW along with CTUIR as co-managers have proposed a monitoring project for Mill Creek fish passage. Mike Herr gave an overview of the proposed project which includes tagging up to 15k fish per year through 2024. PIT arrays will be installed near the mouth of



Yellowhawk and Mill Creek to detect migrating fish. Currently there is no way to monitor adult salmonids coming into the Mill Creek system and these arrays will allow that. Spring Chinook will be tagged at the SFWW Hatchery and used as a surrogate to help determine passage timing and fill in data gaps. They make a good surrogate as they are not ESA-listed, have a large sample population (PIT tagged population), and migrate at times that are more challenging to navigate which would help determine challenging passage locations for steelhead as well. Arrays, once installed, can be used to collect data on any pit-tagged fish and will be maintained by the co-managers. Specific information learned will include migratory routes, conversion rates, travel times, and travel speeds. Fish passage monitoring to date has included physical passage assessment, as well as flow and depth monitoring with the fish passage treatments implemented – fish passage criteria are being met and exceeded, but no biological monitoring has occurred.

**Discussion/Action: Regional Monitoring Certification for Mill Creek Fish Passage Assessment Proposal –**

John summarized criteria for a monitoring project which includes a max of up to 10% of our regional allocation can go towards monitoring, the project also must be a high priority, address an existing data gap, not duplicate existing monitoring efforts, is compatible with existing monitoring methods and techniques, the data must be made publicly available, and cannot exceed 3 years. The SRSRB must approve a regional monitoring certificate letter for the project to be eligible for funding. John noted that the RTT has developed a list of key data gaps for fish and habitat. Mill Creek fish passage and setting the stage for acquiring steelhead associated viability, spatial structure, productivity and abundance information that we are poised to get from this project is one of the top data gap priorities.

A motion was made by Mike Denny to approve the regional monitoring certificate. Larry Hooker seconded the motion and the Board approved the motion. Kris Fischer abstained.

**Discussion/Action: Letter of Support for Columbia County Comprehensive Flood Hazard Management Plan Update –**

The letter is a formality for Columbia County to seek funds from DOE for a flood hazard management plan. The grant was returned last year due to staffing issues but they are ready to utilize the funding now. The benefit to having an approved plan on hand is that if there is a flood, any repairs or work done during flood response can be built following what is identified in the plan as opposed to being built back to the original condition if a plan is not in hand. The current plan is 20 years old and is in need of updating. This update would also open doors to future DOE funds.

A motion was made by Michael Largent to submit the letter of support as drafted by John. Sean Thurston seconded the motion and the Board approved the motion.

**Discussion/Action: Letter of Support for Marine Mammal Protection Act Section 120 Federal Funding –** This funding is a re-upping of a pilot program for lethal removal of California and Stellar Sea Lions for \$5M.

A motion was made by Justin Dixon to submit the letter as drafted by John. Marty Hall seconded the motion and the Board approved the motion. The Board was interested to know if there was a cheaper way to implement the program; John will follow-up with WDFW.

**Action: Approve BPA Tucannon Habitat Programmatic 2023 Budget –** John summarized the upcoming year of work for the Tucannon Programmatic including projects being implemented. This includes PA26 phases 3 and 4, PA5-15 Assessment, PA 27/28 Phase 2, Tualum Culvert, Cummings Creeks Restoration, Tucannon FLIR, PA13 Phase 2, and Tucannon Lidar data analysis and modeling.

A motion was made by Brian Shinn to approve the 2023 Tucannon Programmatic Budget. Justin Dixon seconded the motion and the Board approved the motion.

**Updates – Announcements and Items of Interest**

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

**Legislative Update –** John briefly summarized that HBS 1776, 1715, 1720, 1735 and SB 5297 are dead. HB 1138, 1322, 1686 are still alive.



**2023 SRFB Grant Round Update**— Ali gave a brief update about the current grant rounds and presentations to the RTT. The scoring meeting is March 23<sup>rd</sup> and board members are welcome to attend.

**Action: March 28, 2023 for next Board meeting to be held at the Best Western in Dayton, WA at 4:00PM. —**

A motion was made by Jon Jones and seconded by Marty Hall to hold the next Board meeting on March 28, 2023 at the Dayton Best Western at 4 PM in Dayton, WA. The Board approved by consensus.

Meeting adjourned at 5:49 p.m. by Vice Chair Johnson.

Signed By: Bill Bowles Date: 3/28/2023  
Bill Bowles, Chair, Snake River Salmon Recovery Board