

Date: March 28th, 2023

Place: Dayton Best Western

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

Board Members in Person: Marty Hall (CC), Brian Shinn (AC), Brad Johnson (AC), Don Jackson (CC), Sean Thurston (CC), Jon Jones (WC), Larry Hooker (WW), Bill Bowles (GC), and Jerry Hendrickson (AC).

Board Members on Phone: Todd Kimball (WW), Kris Fischer (CTUIR), and Mike Denny (WW).

Others in Person: John Foltz (SRSRB), Kris Buelow (SRSRB), Ben Kleist (CCD), Roland Schirman (Citizen), and Mark Wachtel (WDFW).

Others on Phone: Ali Fitzgerald (SRSRB), Aneasha Dieu (CCD), Steve Bennett (ELR), and Steve Martin (WDFW).

Verify Quorum / Public Comment

SRSRB Chair Bowles called the meeting to order at 4:01 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 with one agenda addition for the North of Falcon meeting information. It was seconded by Brad Johnson and the Board approved the motion.

Approve Agenda and Consent Agenda:

1. February 2023 Expenses as follows:
 - (H2SR) RCO: \$19,291.00
 - (H2FW) LE: \$3,570.14
 - (H2B4) BPA: \$12,466.86
2. February 28, 2023 Meeting Notes

Action 1 – A motion was made by Brad Johnson to approve the February expenses and February 28, 2023 Meeting Notes. Jerry Hendrickson seconded the motion and the Board approved the motion.

Presentation: Asotin IMW: Summary Update and Anticipated Next Steps — Steve Bennett summarized IMW efforts to date which began in 2005. IMWs were designed to study various types of restoration on a large scale to see if there were benefits to restoration which is often hard to determine with stochastic noise inherent to biological systems. Bridge Creek and Asotin Creek had similar study designs looking at the impacts of BDAs or PALS on restoring habitat and floodplain reconnection. Asotin Creek IMW included Charley, North Fork, and South Fork Asotin Creeks and were generally simplified, streams with a lack of wood present. PALS were installed to widen the channel, build gravel bars, scour pools, and aggrade the channel to promote overbank flow and riparian growth.

Adaptive management plans included developing a set of triggers to know when to go back in and add to existing work. 2012 was a trial year with 12 PALS. Over the next 3 years, an additional 650 PALS were installed. 2016 included another 120 PALS that were larger in size to try and get a greater response. While there was a moderate fish response, the degradation on these streams took hundreds of years and it's expected that restoration will not be a one-and-done type situation. 20-40 BDAs were also added and 1. Into monitoring, they are documenting positive results. Take homes are that low tech restoration shows a positive habitat and fish response and is scalable. It's clear beaver and wood increase floodplain connection but takes a lot of work, requires maintenance, and often multiple phases.

The 2023 proposal is building on existing work with the goal of forcing more floodplain connection. The upper control sites will remain intact, and the lower treatments will receive additional work. With the study design (BACI staircase), additional treatments will not compromise study results.

Discussion: IMW Certification Memo — For projects occurring within an IMW footprint, RCO requires a certification memo signed from the SRSRB confirming the project is will not negatively impact the IMW. John also ran the project being proposed in the IMW by the SRFB Monitoring Panel who did not have concerns about the project negatively impacting the IMW and fit within the study plan. John asked the SRSRB if they had any concerns with the proposed



project. Brad Johnson was concerned about the increased expectations of floodplain connection on small streams and wanted it known that even with minimal floodplain reconnection, there are still instream habitat benefits with PALS.

Brad Johnson made a motion to sign the IMW Certification Memo. Jon Jones seconded, and the Board approved the motion.

Discussion: State Audit Briefing – The state auditor’s office met with the salmon recovery regions and determined that some of the regions, depending on their structure, are subject to audits. Through this inquiry, the auditor’s office had a question about the authority for the WWCC to be the fiscal agent for a salmon recovery region. John and WWCC have been working with the Attorney General’s office to determine if WWCC is able to be a fiscal agent. It was determined that WWCC is an allowable fiscal agent, but we need a MOU in place between WWCC and the SRSRB to cover roles and responsibilities.

Discussion: Draft MOU with WWCC — John sent out a draft MOU for edits and review. The Board also discussed the need for periodic review of MOUs with counties and tribes. There were no major concerns with the draft MOU so John will update it, get it approved with WWCC with signature from the Board and follow up with the Auditors Office.

Discussion: Budget Update and Year-End Planning – John summarized the 3 budgets for the SRSRB, the Tucannon Budget that was recently approved and the remaining regional budget and lead entity budget, both with July 1 start dates. With just over one quarter remaining, we have \$272k remaining with around ~\$100k that would need to be utilized for priority needs that weren’t originally budgeted for due to underspent contracts. John asked for input on priorities for spending. A few ideas from SRSRB staff included potentially covering the costs of PIT tags for our regional monitoring project as well as office staffing. Kris Fischer suggested a GPS-enabled flow meter for monitoring and data collection. A few other board suggestions included temperature monitoring or infrared cameras. John will develop a list of needs and priorities for the next board meeting.

Discussion/Action: Letter of Support for Hatchery Infrastructure Funding – John shared a draft letter with minor edits for the updated request amount. This letter was similar to the one the SRSRB submitted last year that went unfunded. WDFW has continued to work towards funding this request. BPA is providing \$25 Million but the total request is \$215M in federal funds. The letter of support would be given to WDFW to submit with their funding request to the Washington Congressional Delegation.

A motion was made by Brad Johnson to submit the letter of support as drafted by John. Marty Hall seconded the motion, and the Board approved the motion.

Update – Announcements and Items of Interest:

Executive Call Actions – No actions taken.

Governor’s Visit – John summarized the visit with Governor Inslee which included a visit to Mill Creek with project partners, tribes, and members of the SRSRB. John will share the news article when released.

North of Falcon meeting – John announced a meeting for North of Falcon for the March 29th for season setting for salmon and steelhead fishing. It’s from 6-8 PM at the Benton PUD.

Legislative Update – John briefly summarized ongoing updates including CREP, VSP, the riparian grant program, SRFB, Centennial Clean Water Program, FBRB, and other programs of interest.

RTT Barrier Subcommittee Update – John summarized ongoing work to update the list of active barriers in the region. This includes filtering out completed barriers, removing those that were incorrectly categorized, and generally cleaning up the data set. This leaves about a dozen barriers excluding Mill Creek. Future meetings will include discussion on if remaining barriers are priorities for removal.

2023 SRFB Grant Round Update— Ali gave a brief update about the current grant round and summarized the results of the draft scoring meeting. With 17 projects on the list, it makes for a competitive grant round. The SRSRB



discussed concerns about how few projects are currently above the funding line as well as how floodplain scoring may impact rankings. SRSRB staff will work with sponsors to try and find alternative funding sources wherever possible to help reduce budgets and stretch SRFB funds as far as possible.

Action: April 25, 2023 for next Board meeting to be held at the Best Western in Dayton, WA at 6:00PM. — A motion was made by Jerry Hendrickson and seconded by Brad Johnson to hold the next Board meeting on April 25, 2023 at the Dayton Best Western at 4 PM in Dayton, WA. The Board approved by consensus.

Meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m. by Chair Bowles.

Signed By: Bill Bowles Date: 4/25/2023
Bill Bowles, Chair, Snake River Salmon Recovery Board