

**Date:** April 25, 2023

**Place:** Dayton Best Western

**Format:** Regular Meeting started at 6:00 p.m.

**Board Members in Person:** Marty Hall (CC), Brian Shinn (AC), Sean Thurston (CC), Larry Hooker (WW), and Mike Denny (WW).

**Board Members on Phone:** Bill Bowles (GC), Brad Johnson (AC), Todd Kimball (WW), Kris Fischer (CTUIR), and Justin Dixon (GC).

**Others in Person:** John Foltz (SRSRB), Kris Buelow (SRSRB), and Roland Schirman (Citizen).

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

### Verify Quorum / Public Comment

SRSRB Chair Bowles called the meeting to order at 6:08 pm and verified a quorum (5 in person, 5 on phone). No public comment. A motion was made by Brian Shinn to approve the agenda with two agenda additions for board staffing updates and two additional letters of support. It was seconded by Marty Hall and the Board approved the motion.

### Approve Agenda and Consent Agenda:

1. March 2023 Expenses as follows:
  - (H2SR) RCO: \$18,048.28
  - (H2FW) LE: \$3,865.20
  - (H2B4) BPA: \$25,530.42
2. March 28, 2023, Meeting Notes

**Action 1** – A motion was made by Brian Shinn to approve the March expenses and March 28, 2023, Meeting Notes. Marty Hall seconded the motion, and the Board approved the motion.

**Presentation: 2022 Regional Project Implementation Update** — Ali Provided a brief presentation of project implementation for 2022 including Mill Creek Division to Roosevelt, Russell Creek Barrier Removal, Coppei C7 Design, Touchet PA1 Design, Mill Creek 1.75 Design, Touchet MS 10 Design, Touchet MS 15 Design, Mill Gose Street Concepts, Tuusi Wana Design, Walla Walla B2B Phase 3 Design, Tucannon PA 13 Phase 1, Tumulum Creek Ph. 2, Tenmile Pals, Couse Creek Pals, Tucannon PA 34.1 Designs, Cougar Creek Passage Design, Couse 78 Design, and Asotin PA 06 Design.

**Discussion/Action: Budget Update and Year-End Planning** — John summarized the anticipated carryover for the existing budget of around \$90-\$140 which is somewhat dependent on if partners spend down their partner contracts or not. A few potential purchasing needs include PIT tags (\$25-\$50k), a flow meter (\$15k), FLIR, and temperature/flow monitoring. This would be able to spend down \$76-\$165k. John also informed the board of anticipated operating funding increases, and it should be around 1 FTE starting July 1 – John noted the need and value of adding an additional staff member to support project development and coordination in the region outside of the Tucannon, among other things.

Brian Shinn made a motion to approve the spending plan as presented. Sean Thurston seconded, and the Board approved the motion.

**Discussion/Action: Draft MOU with WWCC** — The draft MOU hasn't been sent as it's awaiting Attorney General review/approval first. It does include all proposed edits from the SRSRB and John will send it out when available.

**Action: Letter of Support for CTUIR's Touchet Water Smart Grant Proposal** — John presented the Tuusi Wana letter of support for the Smart Water Grant application.



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.

**Action: Letter of Support for Palouse CD's NRCS Grant Proposal** – John presented the Palouse CD's letter of support for outreach and technical assistance funding similar to letters submitted in previous years..

A motion was made by Sean Thurston to submit the letter of support as drafted by John. Mike Denny seconded the motion, and the Board approved the motion. Brad Johnson abstained.

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

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

**2023 SRFB Grant Round Update**— Ali gave a brief update about the current grant round reminding board members of the grant round timeline and the estimated regional allocation. She also invited board members to attend the upcoming site tours the first week in May. SRSRB staff continue to work with sponsors to try and find alternative funding sources wherever possible to help reduce budgets and stretch SRFB funds as far as possible.

**Letter of Support for CTUIR's Lower Walla Walla NFWF Grant Proposal** — This letter was discussed at the Executive Meeting and would be a letter of support for a pre-application stage so sponsors could hopefully be invited to submit a formal application. Brian Shinn made a motion to approve both letters of support as discussed. Mike Denny seconded the motion and that motion passed by consensus.

**Letter of Support for Nez Perce Tribe's Tucannon NFWF Grant Proposal** — This letter was discussed at the Executive Meeting and would be a letter of support for a pre-application stage so sponsors could hopefully be invited to submit a formal application. Brian Shinn made a motion to approve both letters of support as discussed. Mike Denny seconded the motion and that motion passed by consensus.

**Legislative Update** – John briefly summarized budget updates including \$3.4M for regional and lead entity operating funds and \$20M for SRFB capital budget. The FBRB also received funding which includes funding for two Mill Creek projects, 5<sup>th</sup> Ave Bridge and Roosevelt Street Extension. Additionally, the Walla Walla Water bill passed both houses unanimously.

**Salmon Recovery Conference** – John summarized conference highlights including IMW lessons learned, NOAA pinniped predation, as well as projects highlighted in our region.

**BPA Tributary Habitat Steering Committee Workshop** – Kris provided a recap of the THSC workshop. This two-day workshop brought together all the tributary habitat programs in the Columbia for presentations and workshop events with BPA.

**RTT Barrier and IMW Coordination Subcommittee Update** – John shared that there have been several RTT subcommittees meeting over the last month. The IMW coordination team meeting was held to help coordinate work and entities within the Asotin IMW. Steve Bennett gave a presentation including recent updates to scale back the current SRFB project proposal. Actions, while more substantial than previous IMW work, still fit within the original study plan and adaptive management plan. This work includes a mini excavator and sugar dike removal. Additional meetings including landowner outreach are in the works.

John also summarized ongoing barrier sub-committee work to update the list of active barriers in the region over the past two years. This includes filtering out completed barriers, removing those that were incorrectly categorized, and generally cleaning up the data set. This leaves approximately two dozen priority barriers left in the region excluding Mill Creek which remains a priority watershed for FBRB.

**May Meeting Staff Performance Reviews** – John summarized the plan for May staff evaluations to be similar to previous years. John will do staff reviews and present to the SRSRB and the SRSRB will do John's evaluation.



**Board Staffing Changes** — John announced his formal resignation from the SRSRB effective May 31 with a letter of resignation. He is working to develop a job description with the plan to fly the position as soon as possible to ensure continuity of staff as much as possible. The Board asked John to work with Bill and Brad on the job description, location, and salary range. The Board also asked for John to prepare a document with a summary of job duties and key contacts. There was discussion about potentially trying to hire a second person with the expected funding, but the SRSRB requested delaying that until a new ED is hired.

**Action: May 23rd, 2023 for next Board meeting to be held at the Best Western in Dayton, WA at 6:00PM. —**  
A motion was made by Brad Johnson and seconded by Brian Shinn to hold the next Board meeting on May 23rd, 2023 at the Dayton Best Western at 6 PM in Dayton, WA. The Board approved by consensus.

Meeting adjourned at 7:41 p.m. by Chair Bowles.

Signed By: Bill Bowles Date: 5-23-2023  
Bill Bowles, Chair, Snake River Salmon Recovery Board