Snake River Salmon Recovery

Date: April 23rd, 2024
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), Brian Shinn (AC), Sean Thurston (CC), Bradley Johnson (AC), Kris Fischer, (CTUIR) Jerimiah Bonifer (CTUIR), Don Jackson (CC), Justin Dixon (GC) and Jerry Hendrickson (AC)
Board Members on Phone: Billy Bowles (GC), Michael Largent (WC), Jenny Mayberry (WW)
Others in Person: Steve Martin, (SRSRB), and Kris Buelow (SRSRB)
Others on Phone: Joanna Cowles (WWCCD), Kevin Scribner (Salmon Safe), Greer Maier (GSRO), and Ali Fitzgerald (SRSRB)

Verify Quorum / Agenda Approval and Public Comment

SRSRB vice-chair Johnson called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm and verified a quorum (12 in person, 2 on phone).
No public comment was provided.

A motion was made by Brian Shinn to approve the agenda. It was seconded by Justin Dixon and the Board approved the motion by consensus.

Action – A motion was made by Mike Denny to approve the consent agenda as presented which included two items (1) March 2024 expenses and (2)March 26, 2024 meeting notes. Jon Jones seconded the motion and the Board approved the motion by consensus.

Discussion Items:

- **Outreach and Community Engagement Initiative – Kevin Scribner, Salmon Safe**

Mr Scribner introduced himself and described his experience with the Columbia Basin Partnership and how that "organization" informed the Columbia Basin Restoration Initiative (we heard about the CBRI last month from Jeremiah Bonnifer) which is now working to execute its next priorities. One of those priorities is to create a method or path for providing and receiving information to /from the public about salmon recovery and restoration to increase public awareness and to inform policy and management decisions. In summary a more informed public and a more responsive course of action will likely improve success. To that end, Kevin has agreed to initiate a pilot program – A Public Forum and Learning Community. The CBRI work group supported that pilot program and has selected the Middle Columbia DPS as the pilot "watershed". Kevin will share more as things unfold.

- **Asotin Intensively Monitored Watershed Update – Stephen Bennett, Anabranch Solutions**

Dr. Bennett provided an overview of the prior monitoring and restoration in the upper Asotin watershed which includes the south fork, north fork and Charley Creek. A summary of the 15 year long Asotin IMW was provided to the board and is available upon request. The take home message is that the restoration was effective at producing more steelhead but not as much as potentially achievable so the plan is to elevate/increase the amount of restoration over the next 4 years then monitor outcome with the

hypothesis that greater floodplain connectivity and habitat complexity, there will be greater increases in steelhead production. Dr Bennett will keep the board and the Regional Technical Team updated.

- **Marine Derived Nutrient Augmentation**

Steve shared that the Lyons Ferry Fish Hatchery has a walk in freezer that was intended to store fish feed but it is no longer needed for that purpose. Several years ago, WDFW put spawned out salmon carcasses in the freezer that were later placed in the upper Tucannon River to augment marine derived nutrients to the watershed. The component to the freezer have failed and since WDFW has no need for the freezer, we were asked to consider partnering with the Tri State Steelheaders, WDFW and perhaps BPA to get the freezer repaired if we want to resume the nutrient augmentation program. Based on an estimate from a couple years ago, the cost is likely to be more than $40,000 but WDFW is currently waiting on a quote.

- **Science Coordinator/Technical Team Manger job description**

Steve shared the draft job description and two suggestiosn were offered that will be included in an updated description that will get posted for recruitment as soon as WWCC has created the position for us. Steve will solicit board members to create an interview committee once details become available.

- **Governor Inslee Drought Declaration**

Staff had no updates or information to share at the time of the meeting.

Action Items

- **Approve Science Coordinator/Technical Team Manager job description**

After changing the title from Science Coordinator and Technical Team Manager to Science Coordinator/Technical Team Manger, a motion was made by Brian Shinn and Seconded by Larry Hooker to approve the job description and recruit for the position. The motion was unanimously approved by a vote of the Board.

- **Approve up to $40,000 to purchase freezer for carcasses to support marine derived nutrient augmentation program**

A motion was made by Justin Dixon and seconded by Marty Hall to approve funding up to $40,000 to WDFW for the purchase of components necessary to repair walk in freezer at Lyons Ferry hatchery where carcasses will be stored untl ready for out planting into the Tucannon and other regional rivers. The motion was unanimously approved by a vote of the Board.

Update – Announcements and Items of Interest

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

- **Lead Entity Grant Round and RTT Update**

Ali provided an overview of the draft project list and noted that the next two days the Lead Entity Committee will be evaluating the draft proposals and scoring them to provide preliminary feedback to the sponsors. The project tour is scheduled for May 6 through May 9 and a detailed itinerary will be distributed once the final project list is known and the logistics figured out.

Kris Fischer noted that Jared McKee with US Fish and Wildlife presented a methodology to calculate floodplain area and potential gains in floodplain connectivity with restoration actions. The method is standardized for area so the result is a percentage, not an absolute number. This allows projects of different size to be compared to each other on percent gain approach.

Other Items

None

Action: May 28th, 2024 Board meeting to be held at the Best Western in Dayton, WA at 6 PM — A motion was made by Kris Fischer and seconded by Sean Thurston to hold the next Board meeting on May 28th, 2024 at the Best Western in Dayton, WA at 6 PM. The Board approved by consensus.

Meeting adjourned at 7:40 by Vice Chair Johnson.

Insert Billy Bowles Signature once approved:

Date: May 28, 2024