Date: April 22, 2025
Place: Dayton Best Western
Format: Regular Meeting started at 6:00 p.m.
Board Members in Person: Marty Hall (CC), Jon Jones (WC), Brian Shinn (AC); Bradley Johnson (AC), Chad Whetzel (WC)
Board Members on Phone: Fischer (CTUIR); Jerimiah Bonifer (CTUIR), Justin Dixon (GC), Sean Thurston (CC)
Others in Person: Kris Buelow (SRSRB), Ali Fitzgerald (SRSRB), Steve Martin (SRSRB); Michael Herr (WDFW), Nell McGowan (WDFW)
Others on Phone: Reid Camp (SRSRB), Joanna Cowles Cleveland (WWCCD)

Verify Quorum / Agenda Approval and Public Comment

SRSRB Vice Chair Johnson called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm and verified a quorum (5 in person, 3 on phone). Two additions to the agenda include a discussion of the SRSRB and an action item to sign a letter pertaining to funding changes. A motion was made by Marty Hall to approve the agenda as changed. The motion was seconded by Brian Shinn and passed by consensus.

Action – A motion was made by Brian Shinn to approve the consent agenda as presented which included two items (1) March 2025 expenses and (2) March 2025 meeting notes. It was seconded by Jon Jones and the Board approved the motion by consensus.

Discussion Items:
Snake River Fall Chinook 2024 Run Status, 5-year trend and 2025 forecast—Michael and Nell provided updates for Fall Chinook estimates through run reconstruction. Beginning in 2016 fish would receive fin clips to determine parentage analysis as well. In 2024, ~38,000 returned with 11.5% jacks. Jack numbers were higher in hatchery versus wild fish. The proportion of wild fish has been fairly consistent during the past handful of years.

Broodstock collection at LFH yearly with goal of capitalizing on early returns for broodstock before steelhead start coming in. Trap rate gets lowered to minimize handling of ST. About ~11,500 FCH trapped, 3746 hauled for broodstock. Fish collection is aiming for larger and older fish as well as natural origin broodstock. Age composition shows higher composition of older fish (3 and 4 salt fish).

Juvenile production: yearling production was ended, now focusing on 1.6M sub-yearlings to focus on same number of fish coming back but larger/older fish, fewer jacks. Tucannon 2024 spawning ground surveys estimated about 600 redds with an estimated total escapement of ~1500 FaCH. Coho and Sockeye also documented. They're seeing more smolt outmigrants but also more predation. Currently looking at eDNA to try and determine predator distribution (SMB, northern Pikeminnow, and walleye recently).

Update on (1) salmon recovery message brochure and (2) handout regarding board roles and memberships, goals, accomplishments, and priorities—Steve sent out a copy of this document. The intent is to have a somewhat simple handout of the SRSRB. This is an initial first draft that needs to be further trimmed down to about 4 pages total. Steve is asking for feedback on this initial draft or things that should be added. The Salmon Mean Business brochure has not yet been updated. Steve mentioned we should get representation from the contractor type folks who do the physical implementation (ie: local jobs perspective). Interest in getting a presentation from contractors at an upcoming SRSRB meeting.

2025 Lead Entity Draft Project Proposal overview and next step(s)—Ali provided a brief update on next steps for the 2025 SRFB applications recognizing we don't yet know the final funding amounts for the grant round. She extended an invite to the project tours May 6-8 to see project proposals on the ground.

Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Funding (PCSRF) update. Things are up in the air...discussion of merging NOAA and USFWS. PCSRF is itemize din NOAAs budget...WA submitted their app last month, will know in June what we get. It's really up in the air as to what/how much we might get. Some goes to CRITFIC, WDFW monitoring, and bulk goes to LE programs....Wait and see mode.

Update – Announcements and Items of Interest
Executive committee call actions: No actions
RTT update: Reid shared RTT updates including bylaws update, 3-5 year workplan discussion and update, GIS Tucannon updates, Mike and Nell gave the same Fall Chinook presentation and discussion. May meeting will likely be cancelled due to site tours. June will likely include action effectiveness monitoring, Walla Walla basin assessment update, facilitated discussion on RTT needs/effectiveness/technical support.

Action: Letter of support for ACCD watershed-scale riparian assessment proposal for this year's grant round (SRFB)—Steve will be drafting a letter of support from the SRSRB for the ACCD and is asking for formal approval.

Brian Shinn made a motion to sign a letter of support for the ACCD as discussed. Marty Hall seconded the motion and it passed by consensus.

Action: Letter pertaining to Proposed Transfer of previously committed salmon funds— Steve summarized the supplemental budget in 2022 operating budget to fund capital projects. Because of the general fund shortfall, the senate is looking to identify cost savings and it appears $30M is unspent from 2022/2023. However, those projects are already implemented or in the process of gearing up for 2025 implementation. As such, the money is encumbered but not "officially" spent. Steve is asking the SRSRB to approve the letter asking the Senate to reconsider their proposal to take back those funds. This is an issue for other areas in WA as well, not just salmon recovery so we're unsure how we'll fare. This letter will also be sent to our district representatives as well.

Marty Hall made a motion to sign a letter of support for maintaining existing funding as discussed. Jon Jones seconded the motion and it passed by consensus.

Action: May 27th, 2025 board meeting to be held at the Dayton SRSRB office 410B East Main at 6 PM— A motion was made by Justin Dixon and seconded by Brian Shinn to hold the next Board meeting at the Dayton SRSRB Office. The Board approved by consensus.

Meeting adjourned at 7:28 by Vice Chair Johnson.

Date: May 27, 2025