Date: February 25, 2025
Place: Dayton Best Western
Format: Regular Meeting started at 4:00 p.m.
Board Members in Person: Marty Hall (CC), Mike Denny (WW), Billy Bowles (GC), Jon Jones (WC), Sean Thurston (CC)
Board Members on Phone: Jerimiah Bonifer (CTUIR), Bradley Johnson (AC), Justin Dixon (GC), Betha Clayton (WW), Brian Shinn (AC)
Others in Person: Kris Buelow (SRSRB), Ali Fitzgerald (SRSRB)
Others on Phone: none

Verify Quorum / Agenda Approval and Public Comment

SRSRB Chair Bowles called the meeting to order at 4:03 pm and verified a quorum (5 in person, 5 on phone). A motion was made by Mike Denny to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Marty Hall and passed by consensus.

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

Discussion Items:
Director Martin is out until the 1st of March for routine surgery and recovery— Steve will be out for a bit for recovery, please reach out to Kris or Ali.

Tucannon Plan Project Update 2025—Kris gave a brief presentation on Tucannon goal to expand from single channel to multi-channel system with less incision. Having a multi-thread channel creates much more complex habitat. Having a functioning floodplain allows for energy dissipation and storing water on the landscape. To convert the single channel to a multi-channel system, we work to remove/relocate infrastructure/levees, adding LWD, but it has provided limited reconnection. We then learned we need to bring the channel up by reducing it's capacity to encourage water to get out of the river banks in areas that are able to support that. This leads to natural recruitment of riparian trees with much less effort. Habitat changes due to floodplain connectivity include increased channel length, gravel sorting and deposition, increased floodplain connectivity, increased habitat for adult holding, juvenile summer and winter rearing, and spawning habitat.

Upcoming 2025 planned projects: Tumalum Creek Fish Passage, Cummings Creek Pals Phase 2, and PA 34.1-34.2 plus some Beaver Watson repairs, chip-sealing, and projects including Little Tucannon and Hickson Creek passage (pending USFS funding). Cummings Creek is about a mile long and focuses on improving channel conditions through PALS placement and is a NPT project. The Tumalum project is replacing the culvert under the Tucannon Road Bridge with a bottomless arch culvert. The NPT is the main sponsor for this project as well. The last SRFB

project is the PA34.1-34.2 project sponsored by the CCD. Pile-driven large wood structures with the goal to help start creating deeper pools and reconnecting floodplain for habitat along 1.25 miles of the lower Tucannon.

Update – Announcements and Items of Interest
Executive committee call actions: No actions
RTT update: FLIR dataset results presented to see water temps across the basin. Restored reaches seemed to have water that was about 4 degrees cooler than the surrounding areas. A temp/flow analysis of Tucannon data was also presented. We hired a contractor to analyze historical data. Findings showed between 2000-2010 temps dropped and have stayed stable since then despite ambient air temps increasing. Also saw an increase in winter base flows and a modest increase in summer base flows.
Lead Entity program grant round update: 9 projects still currently in the proposal stage. At the moment, the total ask would total up to about $3.5M. We are anticipating roughly $2M in funding pending the legislative session. We were advised to hold a Riparian Grant Round this year as there's some likelihood that we will get a chunk of Riparian similar to last year. 3 projects proposed at this stage but allowing a bit more flexibility.
Regional monitoring proposals: This was a discussion point during the RTT meeting. Kicking around the idea of an Asotin IMW project.
Tucannon PA 5 – 15 Assessment: Kris provided a brief update looking at floodplain assessment in the Wooten Wildlife Mgmt Area. Currently developing alternatives and seeing what sort of options are available. A minimum floodplain width was developed (450 ft floodplain width), there is a meeting and tour coming up on March 11th and 12th. More to come.
Field trip of bottom 6 miles of the Walla Walla River on March 15th beginning at 8 AM for the Wallula Habitat Unit at the mouth of the Walla Walla.
Action: March 25th, 2025 board meeting to be held at the Dayton SRSRB office 410B East Main at 4 PM— A motion was made by Justin Dixon and seconded by Sean Thurston to hold the next Board meeting at the Dayton SRSRB Office. The Board approved by consensus.

Meeting adjourned at 5:00 by Chair Bowles.

Date: March 25, 2025