Date: May 27, 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), Kris Fischer (CTUIR), Don Howard (CC), Larry Hooker (WW)
Board Members on Phone: Jerimiah Bonifer (CTUIR), Justin Dixon (GC), Sean Thurston (CC), Chad Whetzel (WC), Bill Bowles (GC), Sean Thurston (CC)
Others in Person: Kris Buelow (SRSRB), Ali Fitzgerald (SRSRB), Steve Martin (SRSRB)
Others on Phone: Reid Camp (SRSRB), Joanna Cowles Cleveland (WWCCD), David Karl (WDFW)

Verify Quorum / Agenda Approval and Public Comment

SRSRB Vice Chair Johnson called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm and verified a quorum (7 in person, 6 on phone). A motion was made by Justin Dixon to approve the agenda with a slight change in presentation order. The motion was seconded by Brian Shinn and passed by consensus.

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

Discussion Items:
Presentation by Reid Camp: Overview of datasets, information, and imagery to inform recovery priorities—Reid gave an overview of what GIS is including data types with an emphasis on rasters (ie: imagery, FLIR, LiDAR, and landuse), and showed our existing info for our region, and what this data is used for and how we can look at this information over a time series. Tucannon FLIR shows continuous surface temperature data and Reid highlighted how you can look at relative temps among tribs in relation to the mainstem and how that could help shape future restoration work such as improving coldwater refugia during summer warm temperatures or alternatively trying to warm some areas that might be prone to ice in the winter. Another way to look at this data is using the rate of temperature change to pick out areas of interest (ie: cooling effect of beaver dams in areas). LiDAR is 1m scale continuous elevation that provides a lot of detail to watersheds using a relative elevation model. Reid showed examples on the Touchet River highlighting how you can see inset floodplains, levees,

floodplain pockets, and especially historic flowpaths. This also highlights how rivers are stuck in a modern inset floodplain and can't return to full function when locked in.

This data can be used to inform our prioritization framework for restoration in the region, help understand lateral and longitudinal habitats, human disturbance, natural disturbance, large-scale habitat status and trends, and cost savings for sponsors through providing DEMS and early conceptual designs.

Presentation by Nick Legg (Lichen Land Water Consulting) regarding floodplain calculator and informing how much is enough—Nick Legg summarized the Tucannon River Space Assessment and highlighted how much room the river needs to function properly. He built on the discussion Reid provided on the importance of floodplains for diversity from the ground up as well as for people on the landscape. The Wooten Wildlife Area includes 10 miles of river that is critical for species and is heavily utilized by people as well. The important question is how to make toe best use of the existing space. The existing footprint has a lot of restrictions to the river through infrastructure on the floodplain. The lakes are also becoming old a dilapidated. Key questions include what is the state of the floodplain, benefits of space, and space needs. Currently 25% of floodplain is still connected. 37% is disconnected by incision and 34% is disconnected laterally. Benefits of reconnection includes reduced stream power and erosion, which will in turn improve infrastructure resilience and ecosystem function. Analysis shows the streambed is relatively stable when at least 450 ft wide for the Tucannon in this area generally. This gives us a path forward of how to focus on project restoration to make sure restoration accomplishes this multipurpose goal on the Tucannon.

2025 Lead Entity Draft Project Proposal overview and next step(s)—Ali provided a brief update on the 2025 SRFB applications and the onsite project tours as well as currently anticipated funding amounts of $1,519,200 for the SRFB grant round and another $1,519,200 for riparian funding. Review panel comments are expected by the end of this week. There were discussions about how to best monitor riparian effectiveness and discussion on scoring of riparian assessments versus restoration.

Regional Organization operating budget (federal funds) update—Steve does not yet have an update for PCSRF funding that funds our operation dollars. $333,000 a year is our anticipated budget.

Lead Entity operating budget (state funds) update—Steve summarized $293,158 for the Lead Entity that is close to previous years as shown in the excel sheet. Steve suggests allocating salary time to capital expenses (ie: for modeling/project development), with using federal dollars when they come in for goods or additional staff time. Indirect higher than in FY 24 because indirect is charged on salaries and this proposed budget shows more budget towards salary ($45,000 for salary vs capital)

therefore the indirect, 35% of salaries, is higher than in FY 24. The federal budget will have lower total indirect than in FY 24.
The state funded lead entity and regional program support budget as presented:

State Funded Lead Entity Program Budget

Budget Item		
SALARY		$106,000
CAPITAL EXPENSE (SALARY eligible)		*$46,580*
INDIRECT		$53,403
FRINGE		$51,877
GDSVC		$2,000
TRAVEL		$2,248
PARTNER CONTRACTS		$31,050
	Total:	$293,158
Amount Available:		$293,158

Update – Announcements and Items of Interest
Executive committee call actions: No actions
RTT update: Reid shared RTT agenda items including grant round updates, presentations from WDFW riparian biologist, a presentation on the upper Walla Walla River assessment, as well as discussions on regional needs and imitations and a group round table.

Action: Approve FY 26 Lead Entity Operating Budget and partner agreement amendments—Brian Shinn made a motion to approve the Lead Entity Operating Budget and partner agreements as presented by Steve. Jon Jones seconded the motion and it passed by consensus.

Action: June 24th, 2025 board meeting to be held at the Dayton SRSRB office 410B East Main at 6 PM— A motion was made by Marty Hall and seconded by Kris Fischer to hold the next Board meeting at the Dayton SRSRB Office. The Board approved by consensus.

Meeting adjourned at 7:50 by Vice Chair Johnson.

Date: June 24, 2025