Snake River Salmon Recovery

Date: July 22, 2025
Place: Virtual
Format: Regular Meeting started at 6:00 p.m.
Board Members in Person: N/A
Board Members on Phone: Mike Denny (WW), Brian Shinn (AC), Bill Bowles (GC), Brad Johnson (AC), Kris Fischer (CTUIR), Marty Hall (CC), Jerry Hendrickson (AC), Jon Jones (WC)
Others in Person: N/A
Others on Phone: Joanna Cowles-Cleveland (WWCCD), Ali Fitzgerald (SRSRB), Reid Camp (SRSRB), Kris Buelow (SRSRB),

Verify Quorum / Agenda Approval and Public Comment

SRSRB Chair Bowles called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm and verified a quorum (0 in person, 8 on phone). A motion was made by Brian Shinn to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Brad Johnson and passed by consensus.

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

Action—2025 Lead Entity Final Project Lists: Ali provided a brief update that all projects on our ranked lists are in the process of being cleared for funding with no POCs. Several project will likely have project conditions which are typically review checkpoints once projects are under contract to ensure updated designs are on track to meet project objectives. This is a common scenario and not cause for concern. We are currently using 50% of our biennial riparian funds and the remaining 50% will be carried over to next year's grant round. The regular SRFB ranked list has five projects funded in full, one partially funded, and one that fell below the funding line this year. There was discussion about if/what impacts we're seeing on federal funding. At this time we are still waiting for final confirmation that PCSRF funding is received. SRFB has advised us to proceed as usual and in the event that funding is not allocated, the SRFB will hold an emergency meeting to determine next steps. Funding in upcoming years could have different outcomes but at this stage we do not have any information on how that might change. Upon approval of the ranked lists, Ali will formally submit them to the SRFB who will award funding at the September SRFB meeting.

Brian Shinn made a motion to approve the ranked lists as presented. The motion was seconded by Bill Bowles. No further discussion. Approved by consensus.

Thoughts about a September legislative retreat board meeting: We host this retreat each year. Previously has been at different locations, like the SF Hatchery last year. Marty offered to barbecue again. There will be a presentation on the importance of this work locally and the economic impact on the community. SRSRB staff will work behind the scenes to flesh this out, but will need feedback from the board. Bill Bowles pointed out that we need to reach out to legislators to see what works for them – send letters with an invitation. Brian Shinn suggests not calling it a "retreat." Reiterated the importance of reaching out to the legislators ASAP. Mike Denny suggests providing maps to the legislators for clarity and suggested the little park in Waitsburg. Jon Jones agrees that having it on the Touchet River would be important so agrees that the park in Waitsburg would be a good location. Need to check on fire regulations at this city park. Need to check in with Steve about those particulars. Marty offered to host at their house. Brad Johnson suggests to send out a list of ideas and plans to the board for feedback and approval – also, presentations should focus on the immense importance of salmon funding for our region. Kris Fischer suggested the Walla Walla Water Center.

Next regular board meeting is August 26th, but board typically does not meet in August: The meeting schedule approved in December included skipping the usual August SRSRB meeting as agenda items are usually light.

Updates – Announcements and Items of Interest

Executive committee call actions: No actions

RTT update: Reid gave an update on the RTT including newly approved bylaws, a presentation by Ken Muir, and a presentation by Reid. Mike Denny discussed nutrients entering the stream was a major priority for riparian restoration but it was never successfully removing phosphates. Reid will look into getting a speaker to discuss phosphate removal using riparian restoration.

Action: September 23rd, 2025 board meeting to be held at the Dayton SRSRB office 410B East Main at 6 PM — A motion was made by Brad Johnson and seconded by Brian Shinn to hold the next Board meeting at an undetermined location and may potentially coincide with the legislative retreat. The Board approved by consensus.

Meeting adjourned at 6:43 by Chair Bowles.

Date: September 23, 2025