Date: June 24, 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), Justin Dixon (GC), Sean Thurston (CC),
Board Members on Phone: Chad Whetzel (WC), Bill Bowles (GC), Kris Fischer (CTUIR),
Others in Person: Ali Fitzgerald (SRSRB), Steve Martin (SRSRB)
Others on Phone: None

Verify Quorum / Agenda Approval and Public Comment

SRSRB Vice Chair Johnson called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm and verified a quorum (6 in person, 3 on phone). A motion was made by Marty Hall to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Justin Dixon and passed by consensus.

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

Discussion Items:

2025 Lead Entity Draft Project Proposal overview and next step(s): Ali shared the ranked lists for the SRFB and Riparian grant rounds and summarized the anticipate funding levels for each with a note about pending PCSRF funds potentially impacting the SRFB list int he event we do not receive them. The list needs to be approved by the SRSRB at the July 22nd meeting but we do not receive final review panel comments officially until the 25th so there's a small chance we could receive a POC and need to pull the project. Ali will try to get early information from Kendall if possible to inform the SRSRB. Ali will send out lists and summaries of projects for review as well.

Presentation by Reid Camp: conceptual display of priority restoration projects within a priority restoration reach: postponed

Federal funding (PCSRF) for operations of Regional Organization: We have averaged $333k for operations historically that goes towards rent, partner contracts, staff funding. The money is earmarked but has not yet been released and we're expecting to hear by September. WA is usually very competitive and receives $22M for operating dollars and projects. Funding would start October 1 but worst case scenario, we have some funds to make ends meet for a while.

State auditor office (SAO) recommendations for a modified SRSRB business model: The state auditors office would like to see a financial separation between RCO and WWCC dollars (ie: CPA) as well as independent legal assistance. We would not see any changes in day to day operations but would likely see about $10,000 cost for these services. We have about a year to move forward with this but there are some options. Steve will keep the Board in the loop. We currently pay 35% on salaries. If this scenario comes to pass, we can potentially negotiate the indirect rate with college to balance that out. Discussion to ask WWCC what happens if we decline the recommendation. Steve will check with the college.

Mill Creek fish passage restoration update; adult spring chinook response and the "light at the end of the tunnel": Steve summarized the history of Mill Creek and ongoing restoration through the 7-mile flood control reach. The intrinsic potential for several thousand steelhead and salmon and passage has been historically very poor. There's a mix of funding through BPA, SRFB, ECY, CTUIR, USACE, FBRB, RFEG, WDFW, SRSRB, and others have funded projects all informed by the Mill Creek Work Group. And now we're finally almost done with this 7-mi barrier after 20+ years. The last remaining pieces of the concrete channel are the underground section and the 6th ave bridge. The weir sections are in process now and will be done in 2026-2027. The USACE is also putting a new ladder in at Bennington Dam next year. 15,000pit tagged SPCH released, and they're coming back now. We're seeing dramatically faster travel times for fish navigating up Mill Creek now.

Update – Announcements and Items of Interest

Executive committee call actions: No actions
RTT update: Deferred until next meeting.

Action: Approve – federal regional operating budget option 1 (Q1), option 2 (Q1 and Q2) or alternative option, for FY 25: Steve should hear by September but until then, Steve has developed two options including a 3-month budget and a 6-month budget. Discussion supportive of going with a 3-month budget for now. Discussion about potential cost savings of eliminating the Dayton Office and adjusting travel. The office rental is a yearly lease renewing in December. Brian Shinn to approve the 3-month budget with the plan to reduce travel to $2,000 and eliminate equipment line item of $1,000 out of budget and re-evaluate in 3 months. The motion was seconded by Sean Thurston and it passed by consensus.

Snake River Salmon Recovery

PCSRF funding for regional operations			
RECOMMENDATION (3 month budget)			
"Typical spend rate for 3-months"			
3-Month Operating Budget awaiting FY 25 PCSRF Funding, anticipated Oct 2025			
Amend this budget at September meeting based on new info			
			Draft June 24, 2025
			Approved: June 24, 2025 SRSRB
~1.5 FTE for 3 months	SALARY		$45,000
	INDIRECT		$15,750
	FRINGE		$15,300
	GDSVC (rent, IT, misc contracts)		$6,000
	TRAVEL		$2,000
	EQUIPMENT		$0
	PARTNER CONTRACTS*		$10,000
		Total:	$94,050
	Estimated Available (unspent FY 24 funds)		$165,000
	* Intent is to fully fund our regional partners once we receive PCSRF operation funds, anticipated to occur in October 2025. For Q1, issue partner contracts equal to 1/4 of the FY 24 amounts		
Look at office rental agreement to see if it can be cancelled or if its annual agreement			

Action: July 22nd, 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 Justin Dixon to hold the next Board meeting at the Dayton SRSRB Office. The Board approved by consensus.

Meeting adjourned at 7:20 by Vice Chair Johnson.

Notes approved by the Board and signed by chairman Bowles:

Date: July 22, 2025