Date: Dec 9, 2025
Place: Dayton SRSRB Office, 410 E Main, Dayton, WA 99328
Format: Regular Meeting started at 4:00 p.m.
Board Members in Person: Jon Jones (WC), Kris Fischer (CTUIR), Larry Hooker (WW), Michal Largent (WC), Brad Johnson (AC), Brian Shinn (AC), Justin Dixon (GC); Marty Hall (CC)
Board Members on the phone: Jerimiah Bonifer (CTUIR), Chad Whetzel (WC), Bertha Clayton (WW)
Others in Person: Ali Fitzgerald (SRSRB), Kris Buelow (SRSRB), Steve Martin (SRSRB), Rob Hogg (CTUIR)
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 4:06 pm and confirmed there was a quorum (8 in person, 3 on phone) A motion was made by Brian Shinn 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) September and October 2025 expenses and (2) September 2025 meeting notes. No October notes due to lack of quorum. It was seconded by Jon Jones and the Board approved the motion by consensus.

Discussion Items:

Draft 2026 Board meeting schedule—Steve presented the draft meeting schedule with slightly reduced frequency (no meetings in April, August, and November). Board supportive of meeting schedule with request to send out calendar invites once calendar is formally approved.

Walla Walla Status and Trends—Rob Hogg highlighted work including steelhead returns to Nursery Bridge Dam and monitoring through the ladder. Run timing was a bit early seeing fish in December and beyond. Last year returned 380 fish compared to the running average of around 500. Rotary trapping operations include both Spring Chinook and Steelhead. Rotary trapping is more of an index count as some spawning has been known to occur below the trap but limited. Limited flow makes trapping challenging because you need enough flow to rotate the traps. Migration year 2025 begins summer 2024 and they hit Bonneville around June of the next year. Mark recapture shows long term average of 24k smolts with last year being a bit below that. Discussion about detection rates at dams vary among the juvenile bypass versus fish passing over the dam. Survival is only ~30%. 70% are gone by the time they hit McNary. Smolt to Adult returns have a 3-year time lag in with dam conversion to Bonneville of 1.26%, McNary at 1.04%, and Walla Walla at 0.57%.

Outreach Brochure—Allison Crowley helped develop the SRSRB handout that Steve presented. Steve is asking for edits and comments from the SRSRB for January. A few additions coming including pool data and fish passage through time. Maybe include flow and water temps for Tucannon. Consider moving state of the salmon information to front page.

2025-2026 Federal Budget for Regional Operations and Partners—Steve presented the budget as shown in the attachment including carryover from the 2024-2025 fiscal year. This budget plans for $188,000 in carryover for next year as shown in the provided budget documents. This includes funding for usual expenses as well as potential costs to switch to a nonprofit.

Legislative Strategy and support for state agency salmon requests— Supplemental session is ongoing and includes agency requests. RCO requested $22M while federal funding was pending at the time of the agency decision package requests. While we did receive the federal money, the state climate commitment act means we have potential for funding for targeted investment, riparian funding, or augmenting our regular SRFB grant round. In that vein, we are developing a handout that highlights our work and shared priorities for salmon benefit. Ultimately, we want to figure out a dedicated capital funding stream that could focus on one or two projects per year consistently. Steve will be attending the salmon day on the hill in February.

Fiscal agent recommendation—Steve summarized the recommendation from the State Auditor's Office and concerns about WWCC serving as our fiscal agent. They have since recommended us be reorganized as a nonprofit organization to avoid perceived conflict of interest. This will reduce WWCC indirect but those costs will then go towards paying for our own bookkeeper. This is an ongoing discussion. Steve spoke with Upper Columbia, Lower Columbia, and Puget Sound about how their organizations work. We have until next spring to implement this recommendation. Discussion about potential options for how to address this or otherwise avoid this route if not required. Steve has been working with a local attorney's office to get the organization set up. The process seems a little more straightforward than originally thought. Discussion about if we should be a membership organization or a formal board of directors. The Upper Columbia Fish Recovery Board could be our bookkeepers and we now just need to find a CPA. Steve will send out information as he gets it.

Update – Announcements and Items of Interest

Executive committee call actions: No actions

Approve 2025-2026 Regional Operations budget- Justin Dixon made a motion to approve the Regional Budget as discussed above. Marty Hall seconded the motion and it passed by consensus.

Approve January 27th, 2026 for the next board meeting to be in Dayton, WA at 410B E Main Street starting at 4PM.

Marty Hall made a motion to approve January 27th, 2025 for the next SRSRB meeting at the Dayton SRSRB office at 4 pm. Larry Hooker seconded and the motion passed by consensus.

Meeting adjourned at 6:00 by Vice Chair Johnson.

Insert Billy Bowles Signature once approved by the board:

Date: _January 27, 2026