Snake River Salmon Recovery

Date: February 24, 2026
Place: Dayton SRSRB Office
Format: Regular Meeting started at 4:00 p.m.
Board Members in Person: Bill Bowles (GC), Mike Denny (WW),
Board Members on the phone: Todd Kimball (WW), Kris Fischer (CTUIR), Brian Shinn (AC), Justin Dixon (GC), Michal Largent (WC), Brad Johnson (AC), Chad Whetzel (WC), Marty Hall (CC), Jon Jones (WC), Jerimiah Bonifer (CTUIR),
Others in Person: Ali Fitzgerald (SRSRB), Kris Buelow (SRSRB), Steve Martin (SRSRB),
Others on Phone: None

Verify Quorum / Agenda Approval and Public Comment

SRSRB Chair Bowles called the meeting to order at 4:01 pm and confirmed there was a quorum (2 in person, 10 on phone) A motion was made by Michael Largent to approve the agenda as changed. The motion was seconded by Mike Denny and passed by consensus.

Action – A motion was made by Michael Largent to approve the consent agenda as presented which included two items (1) January 2026 expenses, (2) January meeting notes. It was seconded by Justin Dixon and the Board approved the motion by consensus.

Discussion Items:

Debrief of Salmon Day in Olympia on February 4th—Steve reported that it was great day to meet with our legislators along with all 26 lead entities and 13 RFEGS. He had meetings with 4 of our 6 districts 9 and 16 legislators They are familiar with the SRSRB, its composition and mission, and supportive of our work in eastern WA. There were discussions about the importance of RFEGS funding and work that they do among other things. He emphasisexc importance of funding RFEG education and outreach including salmon in the classroom programs. Steve also highlighted topics addressed that were featured in our outreach brochure with a particular highlight for supporting the SRFB funding request by the RCO in the supplemental session.

Letter of support for Tri State Steelheaders Mill Creek project proposal to the Brian Abbot Fish Barrier Removal Board— Steve presented the draft letter of support for the FBRB applications for the 6th ave bridge removal and the underground portion of the flood control reach. This funding is separate from our SRFB funding.

Thoughts about priorities for the capital budget (~$45,000) item— Steve summarized that this funding can only be used for a capital project or elements that lead directly to a project. We've previously used these funds for PIT arrays/tags to inform habiat and flow

management projects, and for a fish freezer to support our nutrient enhancement project. Right now, it doesn't appear we will receive budget cuts in the immediate future so these funds could be used for supporting project(s) thi spring or be used for staff time that is spent on developing projects. Suggestions included assessments, floodplain analysis, support for operating a greenhouse for plant propagation, potential outreach or education to community. No action needed right now but something to think about for the upcoming months. Plan is to hold funds until we're certain but they do need to be obligated by June. We also purchased a drone which Reid is now certified to fly. Board asked Steve to distribute a suggested list of capital-eligible projects in advance of the next board meeting and Steve asked boardmembers to email him ideas that anyone has in mind.

Review history/milestones of the Snake River Salmon Recovery Board (management board) created in 2004 via RCW 39.34 to implement the Salmon Recovery Act RCW 77.85. — Steve reviewed the presentation he's been updating about the background and history of the SRSRB, and the initiative to form a new nonprofit organization as suggested by the state auditor's office. Topics included the Salmon Recovery Act (RCW 77.85) of 1999, creation of the SRSRB in 2004 via the Interlocal Agreement act (RCW 39.34), and implementation of the Salmon Recovery Act through our arrangement with WWCC as our fiscal agent.

Update on the status of creating new non-profit corporation— The efforts to create a nonprofit organization continue while staff work with WWCC and the Governors Samon Office and WWCC to better understand the basis for the recommendation to create a new nonprofit organization. For now, the SRSRB is officially defined as a management board with specific authorities as defined by RCW 77.85. That enabling legislation to form as a management board per Washington State law and the legislation that requested samon board to form (RCW 77.85, The Salmon Recovery Act) are being conveyed to the AAG and SAO. Challenges to change to a non-profit include time for the necessary legal, policy, and social review by local governments and Tribes, with potential statewide implications for the other 5 regions and 25 lead entities. This arrangement also benefits WWCC through enhanced education, training, and cost/leverage with SRSB funding (indirect fee). Last week Steve and WWCC leadership along with the Governors Salmon office reviewed the notes from the State Auditor's Office, that were used by SAO as basis to recommend the new nonprofit. There were errors and perhaps some misunderstandings in those notes that need communicated. Steve is working with WWCC and GSRO ito prepare a response to the SAO. An upcoming meeting with WWCC leadership, GSRO, Asst Attorney General will be held to discuss the enabling legislation, the interlocal agreement (RCW 39.34) and history of the board, WWCC and the Water Center.

The Board is not interested in changing its status from a management board to a nonprofit and is frustrated with the expense, time, and challenges to address a request that does not appear to be aligned with state law or legislative intent for Slamon Recovery, the Water Center or the spirit and intent of the interlocal agreement between the five counties and CTUIR.

Discuss revised by laws for new non-profit organization — No motion was made, so no action was taken

Discuss nominations for President, Treasurer, and Secretary— No motion was made, so no action was taken.

Update – Announcements and Items of Interest

Executive committee call actions: No actions

Approve letter of support for Tri State Steelheaders Mill Creek project – Mike Denney made a motion to approve the letter of support for TSS as discussed above. Brian Shinn seconded the motion and it passed by consensus.

Approve revised bylaws— No motion. Consider a work session in the future if needed.

Vote on officers— No motion.

Approve March 24th, 2026 for the next board meeting to be in Dayton, WA at 410B E Main Street starting at 4PM.

Brian Shinn made a motion to approve March 24th, 2026 for the next SRSRB meeting at the Dayton SRSRB office at 4 pm. Brad Johnson seconded and the motion passed by consensus.

Meeting adjourned at 4:38 by Chair Bowles.

Insert Billy Bowles Signature once approved by the board:

Date: _ __March 24th, 2026