Date: January 27, 2026
Place: Dayton SRSRB Office
Format: Regular Meeting started at 4:00 p.m.
Board Members in Person: Jon Jones (WC), Kris Fischer (CTUIR), Brian Shinn (AC), Marty Hall (CC), Bill Bowles (GC), Mike Denny (WW), Sean Thurston (CC), Larry Hooker (WW), Todd Kimball (WW) Chad Whetzel (WC),
Board Members on the phone: Jerimiah Bonifer (CTUIR), Justin Dixon (GC), Michal Largent (WC),
Others in Person: Ali Fitzgerald (SRSRB), Kris Buelow (SRSRB), Steve Martin (SRSRB), Michael Herr (WDFW)
Others on Phone: Reid Camp (SRSRB)

Verify Quorum / Agenda Approval and Public Comment

SRSRB Chair Bowles called the meeting to order at 4:02 pm and confirmed there was a quorum (10 in person, 3 on phone) A motion was made by Brian Shinn to approve the agenda as changed. The motion was seconded by Mike Denny and passed by consensus.

Action – A motion was made by Marty Hall to approve the consent agenda as presented which included three items (1) November and December 2025 expenses, (2) December 2025 meeting notes, Calendar year 2026 meeting schedules. It was seconded by Mike Denny and the Board approved the motion by consensus.

Discussion Items:

Presentation of adult steelhead and salmon abundance for the Tucannon by Michael Herr, WDFW — Michael Herr presented on the Tucannon spring Chinook and Tucannon Steelhead. Spring Chinook numbers are depressed but better than the lows seen in the early 2020's. WDFW has been testing different release strategies and translocation efforts including barging. We need a few more years to see full returns but barging appears to have higher rates of straying (poor fidelity) and has been discontinued. Translocation efforts include 5 months rearing at Kalama Hatchery eliminating hydropower system impacts. Adults that return to and are captured at Kalama will be brought to Lyons Ferry for spawning. Future releases depend on adult fidelity back to Kalama.
For steelhead, escapement estimated by network of PIT Arrays. There are a lot of strays from other basins including most every other Columbia basin stock of steelhead. Adult trends: 2009 was the best years of returns and while overall steelhead escapement to the region is declining, natural origin Tucannon fish numbers are increasing. Now about 80% of the fish returning are Tucannon fish which is good. Currently seeing around 1,000 a year, in combination of natural and Tucannon origin hatchery steelhead. The pHOS (proportion of hatchery fish on the spawning grounds) is about 50%; goal is < 30%. The return goal is 1000 fish BUT they have

to be natural so we're hitting around 50% of our recovery goal. Looking to tweak lower river harvest policies to maximize natural adult steelhead returns.
In general, wild steelhead seem to be spawning higher upstream in the river but some spawning lower suggests focusing some habitat work lower in the system. A majority of the strays stay in the lower Tucannon River. The 2025 return year (adults will spawn spring of 2026): Forecasts looking good, potentially best in the last 10 years.

There was a brief discussion of out planting frozen fall chinook salmon carcasses from post spawn Lyons Ferry Hatchery for nutrient enhancement. Fish are tested for bacterial or viral diseases first. The freezer the SRSRB purchased is used for storing these carcasses. 1550 fall chinook salmon carcasses were planted throughout the Tucannon last week between Camp Wooten and highway 12.

Outreach brochure — Steve showed the third iteration of the brochure. The brochure intends to highlight regional work and accomplishments, the SRSRB, current state of the salmon, and case studies highlighting stream flows and water temperatures. Input wil shape the next version so let Steve know if you have any suggestions.

Legislative strategy and support of state agency salmon requests— Steve presented the handout he prepped for the Salmon Day on the Hill legislative outreach in support of the supplemental funding session. Steve will be meeting with our representatives along with the other salon recovery regions and lead entities in February.

Status of creating new non-profit, securing bookkeeping services, and CPA—
Discuss revised by laws for new non-profit organization
The proposed changes to the bylaws are (1) a couple routine housekeeping updates, (2) stating that all NGO members are directors, (3) including positions and roles of the officers - President, Secretary and Treasurer, and (4) describing our financial operations. State auditor's office said most regions are set up as nonprofits. Our work supports the WWCC mission but when it came up again last year, they recommended we set up as a nonprofit to separate us from WWCC. Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board has a bookkeeper who can support us. Steve met with a CPA who would do the filings and would handle an audit if needed. A legal firm has also been identified. Bylaws require changes making everyone being members and directors. WWCC will remain the employer. Bylaws have been updated to reflect those changes related to the organizational structure. The basis for the recommendation is not clearly understood so Steve plans to seek clarification in the coming month.

Discuss nominations for President, Treasurer, and Secretary— This action is deferred until the new bylaws are approved.

Update – Announcements and Items of Interest

Executive committee call actions: No actions

Approve 2026 meeting schedule- Brian Shinn made a motion to approve the 2026 meeting schedule as discussed above. Jon Jones seconded the motion and it passed by consensus.

Approve revised bylaws— No action taken because review of the proposed changes by the initiating governments and all board members is required and will take time.

Vote on officers— Tabled until bylaws are ready to be approved.

Approve February 24th, 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 February 24th, 2026 for the next SRSRB meeting at the Dayton SRSRB office at 4 pm. Todd Kimball seconded and the motion passed by consensus.

Meeting adjourned at 5:55 by Chair Bowles.

Insert Billy Bowles Signature once approved by the board:

Date: ____February 24, 2026