



410 B East Main  
Dayton, WA 99328

phone: 509.382.4115  
fax: 509.382.4116

[www.snakeriverboard.org](http://www.snakeriverboard.org)

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**Meeting Notes February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2009  
WWCC Campus Walla Walla & Clarkston  
Teleconference (Dayton) 6pm**

**Board Members Present:**

**Via Phone Dayton:** Richard Jones (CC), Roland Schirman (CC), Dick Ducharme (CC)

**Clarkston:** Dick Isaac (AC), Jay Holzmiller (AC), Doug Mattoon (AC), Michael Largent (WC), Del Groat (GC), Gary Thorgaard (WC), Bob Johnson (GC), Bill Bowles (GC)

**Walla Walla:** Cathy Schaeffer (WWC), Stuart Durfee (WWC)

**Others:** Clarkston - Steve Martin (SRSRB), Brad Johnson (WRIA35), Bruce Heiner (WDFW), Kelly Farnsworth (WC), Dave Karl (WDFW), Terry Bruegman (CCD), Jason Schlee (ACCD)

Walla Walla - Kris Buelow (SRSRB), Larry Hooker (WWCCD), Gerald J Anhorn (WWCC), Jay Peninjer (WWCC)

Dayton - Anne Chapman (SRSRB), Larry Fairchild (CC Landowner)

Chairman Del Groat called the meeting to order and verified a quorum present. (13 board members present or on the phone)

**Welcome:**

Chairman Del Groat welcomed all to the meeting. Del welcomed the new members, Bob Johnson the new county commissioner replacing Butch Klaveano and Bill Bowles a new county citizen. Michael Largent introduced Kelly Farnsworth, equine surgeon at WSU, as a prospective new board member.

**Approval of January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2009 meeting notes:**

**Action 1:** Doug Mattoon moved to approve the January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2009 meeting notes. Cathy Schaeffer seconded the motion. There being no further discussion the motion carried by consensus.

**Approve January Expenses:**

**WDFW \$2,211.53 RCO \$32,304.61**

**Action 2:** Roland Schirman made a motion to approve the invoices/vouchers totaling \$32,304.61 expended in January 2009 in the RCO Budget. Additionally he moved to approve the invoices/vouchers totaling \$2,211.53 expended in January 2009 in the WDFW Budget. Stuart Durfee seconded the motion. The motion carried by consensus. Del Groat and Cathy Schaeffer abstained.

**Agenda Additions:**

*Additions to Agenda –*

Roland's treats explained; Cathy Schaeffer asked Roland to explain the treats for tonight. Roland stated that last month he had expected Butch Klaveano to be at his last meeting and wanted to pay tribute to him for his years of service on the board, but there was a communication mix up and he was told Butch was not going to be there, so Roland put the cake in freezer, he got it out today and brought it to this month's meeting instead.

April 15-16 Projects Conference – Steve announced that we have 3 featured projects that will be presented at the Projects Conference in Shelton. (The Mill Creek Passage Assessment, the Curl Lake Passage Project and the Urban Riparian Buffers Project in Walla Walla) These are innovative creative projects from our region. Others will present their innovative Projects. Steve will send out a email notice on how to register in the near future.

Lead Entity Calendar – Steve announced that the Co-leads met and set the 10<sup>th</sup> Grant Rnd Calendar. Kris has purple starred the meeting dates located in the meeting booklet that the board members might be interested in attending.

**ACTION 3:** Dick Ducharme moved to approve the Lead Entity Calendar. Doug Mattoon Seconded the motion. Explanations from Steve about Scoring and Ranking meetings and the benefits of board members attending then followed. The motion carried by consensus.

### **WWCC regional fish passage barrier assessment update:**

Discussion: Del introduced Jerry Anhorn of WWCC. Jerry stated that he is here to provide preliminary information on their project (The assessment of fish passage barriers on public roads and road right of ways) that the board approved funding for one of the previous grant rounds. Jerry explained the project saying that it was used to identify culverts and bridges that have barriers in the SR Region. They used 3 students through the summer; this work has been going on for approximately a year (Most work in Mid Sep through May). He introduced Jay Peninjer as a student who had participated in the work on this project in Walla Walla. Jerry turned the discussion over to Jay for explanation of the project. Jay explained that they have trained with the WDFW using their criteria to identify fish passability issues in the 5 county regions. There were 695 crossings identified (Public & Private), 260 of these are culverts, 409 are bridges and 26 are unknown due to being on private areas and there being no access/vision to the crossing. 129 of these crossings have been identified as barriers, 460 have no barriers, 17 are level b evaluations and 89 are unfinished. The data will be available throughout the state through the WDFW Database. The data was broken into 5 areas (Asotin Drainage, Grand Ronde Drainage, The Lower Snake, Tucannon and Walla Walla Drainages.) Every crossing will be identified in arc view on a map visually. Jerry stated that because they have gone the WDFW Shear criteria training, they have an actual WDFW # which is 150 or 151. That # will identify this team as the ones doing the work on this project in the data. Total expenditures to date are \$34950, total match \$5150.00. Jerry reported that this grant was really loaded with grant monies (\$265,000) and they will not even get close to using all the monies. They still will be designing culverts following the WDFW criteria hopefully this summer. They will not design road compaction or material.

Dick Ducharme asked what kind of interface they had with the county engineers and the road departments. Jerry stated that as of now there had been no contacts with the Dept of transportation. Jerry stated that they have worked with WDFW and their criteria and to their understanding it is WDFW responsibility to fix these identified barriers. They will then hand the information to the counties. Dick stated that it might be a good idea to give the engineers of each of these counties a heads up. So they can budget for these issues. Particularly if these are findings that are going to mandate fixes. Dick Jones concurred. Jerry stated that all they are doing is identifying, evaluating and assessing. Jerry stated that they will be handing this data to the SRSRB and they can do what they see fit with these results. Jerry agreed that all parties involved should be notified so that duplicate works does not happen. Dave Karl stated that WDFW has a contract with WSDOT to do all this work statewide. The work being done will not be replicated because Jerry and his team have gone through the training and it will be used by WDFW. Doug along with Dick Ducharme stated that it would be a simple meeting to get the 5 county engineers together and just let them know what they are doing and what the findings are. Doug also asked about the 129 barriers and where most were located. Jerry reported that most barriers are on public county roads in the Forest Service areas.

### **Head gate Dam fish passage assessment:**

Bruce Heiner - There is a concrete dam about 15 miles up Asotin Creek that is a partial barrier especially to juvenile salmon. It is critical that juvenile fish are able to move to and from the Intensively Monitored Watershed project site to ensure that our results/conclusions are not jeopardized by this structure. Steve, Kris, Jason Schlee, and Dave Karl met with Bruce Heiner last fall at this site and asked if he would develop some preliminary conceptual designs to provide passage. Bruce is an engineer for WDFW and designed the Curl Lake passage project we funded two years ago, as well as many other projects in our region. Bruce presented a power point presentation discussing 4 different options pros/cons to each for providing fish passage in this area. He stated that this is a fish passage project. Roland asked if he could provide the Power point to Steve so that Anne could post on website for those who could not see to review.

### **Predation rates by non-native species on listed species:**

Discussion: Del stated that we asked that the Watershed Steward and Kris work with the RTT to help us better understand this issue and to take a stab at quantifying the actual impact because we wanted scientific information to help us decide how far to press on this issue. Dave Karl (WDFW) presented the information that he and Kris had found. He stated that the findings were all over the board. He stated that the research states that there is predation occurring. There are areas that do protect some of these species. Washington state is one of the first states to put together a unit to start dealing with non native species. Prevention is key to fixing some of these issues.

### **Approve Community Salmon Fund Projects:**

Discussion: Del stated that the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation has a program called the Community Salmon Fund that funds salmon projects that have a strong community visibility/support element to them and that are also technically sound and consistent with salmon recovery plans. This year they have \$100,000 for the Snake Region. We received 6 applications that were reviewed by members of the Lead Entity committee and Kris has the results of that meeting in the booklet. The Board needs to approve the final project list. Dick Ducharme questioned the 6<sup>th</sup> project. Del stated that the 6<sup>th</sup> project due to available monies would not be funded anyway.

**Action 4:** Dick Ducharme moved to take the 6 project off of the list and any monies leftover be obligated equally to projects 4 & 5. Doug Mattoon seconded the motion. The motion carried by consensus with no further discussion.

### **Nature Conservancy, Public Broadcasting Service Salmon documentary movie outreach:**

Discussion: Steve was contacted last month by a broadcast affiliate working on a salmon documentary for the Columbia basin that was funded by the Natural Conservancy. The affiliate requested funding for expanding the documentary to include two elements (1) local input and (2) produce outreach materials. They want to work with regions on the Columbia basin and requested \$50,000 for these two items. Steve has contacted the other regional boards and the RCO to seek input and support. Steve has a conference call tomorrow morning with the RCO to discuss how to fund this work because of the conflict with SRFB and RCO direction not to spend out our budget, i.e., use it or lose it. The RCO has committed to carrying our unspent funds to next biennium so there is strong incentive not to spend it. Steve is hopeful that the RCO and other regions can contribute funding. Discussion then followed as to the pros/cons of funding such a project. If the documentary message came out unsupportive, the monies would not be well spent. Discussion about the fact that they will do this film with or without the boards' financial support then followed. If they want to convey the information accurately, they will do research without the boards' financial support and will come to us for information anyway. A proactive approach from the board should happen in making sure they have accurate information about our region and what is really happening.

**Action 5:** Doug Mattoon moved that we do not financially contribute to the Nature Conservancy, PBS salmon documentary. Dick Isaacs seconded the motion. There being no further discussion, the motion carried by consensus. The board instructed the staff to offer information to PBS if asked for. Any information that is offered should be with a guarantee that the board gets to review the final product before production and before we endorse anything. Steve will carry this perspective to the teleconference tomorrow.

### **SRFB funding forecast:**

Discussion: Steve reported that there is likely to be a 20% reduction in SRFB funding for the four programs they fund – Lead Entity-Regional Boards-Monitoring Forum-Projects. Steve testified earlier this month and received SRFB decision to only cut the Lead Entity and Regional Board funding by 8%. For now the understanding is that the 7 regions will work to achieve an average 8% reduction and that lead entities within a region will collectively work to achieve a 8% reduction. This is easy for the Snake because there is only one lead entity program. Steve and Anne are working on budget scenarios for Board discussion in March. Additional funding sources will be being looked at to fund the projects in our 3 year work plan. It will be May before we know exactly what this 8% cut will mean to us. Steve reported that in working with others in the region, it may mean a 9% cut for us. Jay Holzmilller stated that he did not believe that we should have to take any more than 8%. We have been out front in all of this and we should not have to suffer because others were not organized or whatever.

Discussion about WRIA 35 – and funding needs then followed. Del stated that in the WRIA meeting that he attended recently the unspent funds were discussed. The WRIA's have donated a lot of time and to turn back monies, it was not favored by them. Compensating some of these supporting entities might be an option that the board needs to look at between now and June. Steve stated that he needs to get together with people like Brad and see exactly what is needed and put a proposal together to present to the board.

### **Legislative update – Bills to integrate Salmon Recovery Act activities:**

Discussion: Under the Governors' initiative to increase efficiencies and reduce cost there was a bill introduced to close the Governor's Salmon Office, move the Salmon Act out of RCW 77 and into 79a (public recreation lands) and the lead entities to the RCO. Steve commented, with the assistance of Dick Ducharme, to the chairs of the committees that this would contradict the intent of the act by fracturing or splitting it into various agencies and RCW's, not result in cost savings and introduce confusion and minimize cohesion. The final bill that moved out of the senate to rules maintains the intent of the act = is stays under RCW 77, but moves the GSRO and lead entity program under the RCO for administrative purposes. The GSRO also retains its current name. A companion House bill did not get amended and will be heard in appropriations on Thursday. Steve will keep the board informed on the status of this issue.

### **Introduction and over-view of staff job descriptions:**

Discussion: At our request, Steve, Anne and Kris put together description of the tasks they are performing so we can better understand their work loads and to consider prioritization if budget reductions warranted such discussions. This is just an introductory document that we can think about and discuss in greater detail at the next meeting.

**TABLED:** Dick Ducharme moved that this be tabled until next meeting so that all can review. It was agreed.

### **Allocation of SRSRB funds – projects vs. operations:**

Discussion: We asked staff to provide a chart showing our operations and project expenses. Anne and Kris put these together for us and they are very understandable. Further, Kris broke out the project funding into the three categories so that we can evaluate how we are allocating our annual lead entity project dollars. Over the last four years you can see that we spend a little more than half on on-the-ground projects, a quarter on assessments/designs and a quarter on conservation easements. We should use this information as the basis for any policy decision we may want to make regarding the upcoming grant round. Doug stated that he really appreciated these charts and that this is the kind of information that needs to be shared with funding sources.

Dick Ducharme commended Kris for the Habitat Restoration and Protection Tables. He will appreciate looking over and reviewing it.

### **Upcoming Agenda March 24th:**

Steve commented that if the Board has any items that they want on the agenda it would be helpful if they would call in to the ex comm. Meeting one week before the meeting (3/17/09 @ 6pm). Already on the next agenda LE Bylaws, 3 yr work plan, comment letter to EPA (temp control structure on Brownly dam). Dick Ducharme stated he would like to see a report from the COR about the WEIR they put in around little Goose Dam. Cathy stated that Larry, Stuart, Roland and she had all participated in the pine creek presentation at different times. She stated that Gary James may be a source and may know what is going on there.

### **Confirm March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2009 SRSRB Board Meeting**

The March regularly scheduled meeting was scheduled to be in our usual format. (ITV) To be held at the Walla Walla Community College Campus' in Walla Walla and Clarkston.

**The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:15 pm.**

**Review of Tasks**

**Task Title**

**Review of Actions**

Action Title	Motion	Second	Consensus	Vote	Pass
ACTION 1: Approve January 27 <sup>th</sup> , 2009 Meeting Minutes	Doug Mattoon	Cathy Schaeffer	Yes		
ACTION 2: Approve January Expenses: WDFW \$2,211.53 - RCO \$32,304.61	Roland Schirman	Stuart Durfee	Yes		Cathy Schaeffer, Del Groat Abstained
ACTION 3: Dick Ducharme moved to approve the Lead Entity Calendar.	Dick Ducharme	Doug Mattoon	Yes		
Action 4: Approve the Community Salmon Fund Project list, taking the 6 <sup>th</sup> project off of the list and any monies leftover be obligated equally to projects 4 & 5.	Dick Ducharme	Doug Mattoon	Yes		
Action 5: Do not financially contribute to the Nature Conservancy, PBS salmon documentary.	Doug Mattoon	Dick Isaac	Yes		

Name	Attendance for 2008-2009											
	January 13 <sup>th</sup> , 2009	January 27 <sup>th</sup> , 2009	February 24 <sup>th</sup> , 2009	March	April	May	June	July				
Doug Mattoon	Yes	Yes	Yes									
Dick Isaac	Yes		Yes									
Jay Holzmilller	Yes	Yes	Yes									
Dick Ducharme	Yes	Yes	Yes									
Dick Jones	Yes	Yes	Yes									
Roland Schirman	Yes	Yes	Yes									
Gary James	Yes	Yes										
Del Groat		Yes	Yes									
Cathy Schaeffer	Yes	Yes	Yes									
Yancey Reser	Yes	Yes										
Stuart Durfee		Yes	Yes									
Michael Largent	Yes	Yes	Yes									
Gary Thorgaard	Yes		Yes									
Kelly Farnsworth			<i>Guest</i>									
Bob Johnson	Yes		Yes									
Billy Bowles			<i>Yes</i>									

No meeting was conducted this month.

\* First meeting as a SRSRB Board Member

