

MEETING NOTES – November 24, 2009

Place: Roland Schirman's House, 120 Weinhard Rd, Dayton, WA 99328

Format: Regular

Board Members Present: Del Groat (GC), Kelly Farnsworth (WC), Bob Johnson (GC), Roland Schirman (CC), Dick Jones (CC), Jay Holzmilller (AC)

On Phone: Yancey Reser (WWC), Dick Ducharme (CC) 6:39pm.

Others: Steve Martin (SRSRB), Terry Bruegman (CCD), Brad Johnson (WRIA35), Duane Bartels (PCD), Kris Buelow (SRSRB), Larry Hooker (WWCCD), Cathy Schaeffer (WRIA32), John Andrews (WDFW), Dave Karl (WDFW)

On Phone: Anne Chapman (SRSRB)

Chairman Del Groat called the meeting to order a quorum was established at 6:39pm. (6 Board members were present, 2 were on the phone, total of 8.) He then thanked Roland for the fish dinner.

Recognition of Cathy Schaeffer's Membership on the SRSRB Board:

Del took a moment to recognize Cathy as having served on the SRSRB Board. Cathy is one of the founding members of the board and has served since 2002. She has provided helpful insights and direction as a board member and while she is no longer a voting member she will be a key participant as we move forward with our planning unit partners. Del stated that he hoped she would remain active, calling in on the executive calls, etc; as her opinion is valued. Cathy stated that it has been a great experience.

Additions to the Agenda:

Steve stated that he would like to add an action item – The support of the SRSRB for the nomination of Billy Bowles to the RCO Land and Water Conservation Flood advisory Committee. He has volunteered to be on this board. The nomination would benefit if the board would support this nomination.

Shuffle of agenda while waiting for quorum to be established:

IMW Update and possible action to support a project proposal:

Discussion: Del stated that Steve has a power point with information regarding the IMW but since many board members are calling in he will provide it the next time we meet. The IMW is moving ahead with data collection on both fish and habitat and the contractor is on-time and under budget. The current contract ends the end of this year. Steve reported that he is working with WWCC and the RCO on the possibility of a contract extension as opposed to opening it up as a competitive process. The reason is that the tasks for the next phase are almost identical to the existing contract and scope of work. More information will be available at the next meeting.

Steve further drew the boards' attention to the fact that most of the area in the IMW is privately owned and that the proposed treatments require landowner support. It has been suggested that it would be great if this property was in public ownership so that we had 100% confidence and certainty that our restoration plan can be executed as described. Steve then introduced John Andrews (WDFW), who was in attendance to discuss a possible opportunity to acquire the property.

John then described the intent and asked for SRSRB support as a partner in their application to the RCO. He then presented some maps of the Charley Creek area for the board members review. He stated that discussions had happened between Cooks and WDFW about the purchase of their property in the past, before the passing of Mr. Cook. The WDFW is working with the county on their application to the RCO. WDFW would be willing to negotiate with the landowners in order to make the acquisition happen. (Example: the owners keeping their houses, etc...) Dick Jones stated that he was opposed to WDFW acquiring more lands. More discussion continued with concerns about funding and other issues that could be important in acquiring more land and the management of these lands. It was asked if

Voting Board Members: Perry Dozier, Yancey Reser, Stuart Durfee, Dick Ducharme, Dick Jones, Roland Schirman, Doug Mattoon, Jay Holzmilller, Bob Johnson, Bill Bowles, Del Groat, Michael Largent, Gary Thorgaard, Kelly Farnsworth, Confederated Tribe of Umatilla Indian Reservation

there was a possibility that these lands if acquired would be leased for grazing. Dick Ducharme stated that when lands are in state ownership, it is too easy for people to sue the state entities for the effects on watersheds, etc when grazing or other like activities are allowed. When it is a private landowner, it is not as easy. He further stated that easements might be a better way to go. This allows for the private landowner to keep the stewardship in their hands and the activities on the land is dictated by them, making it hard for these big entities to sue them.

Steve stated that he had had a conversation with Commissioner Mattoon on this issue. Doug was in support of this acquisition largely because of the IMW located in this area and the monies being spent on it.

John Andrews stated that they are seriously considering going ahead with this application for the acquisition of these lands, however if the board did not support this, they might reconsider their position.

Dick Ducharme asked if they would consider conservation easements. John stated that conservation easements are not high on their list due to the fact that as land passes through different owners and time goes by, the owners become unaware of what exactly the easement means and it gets hard to enforce the easement. Del stated that this is a different issue or special place. (Different than other issues.)

Del stated that the Forest service would be willing to square up boundaries.

John restated that the WDFW would like to have county and SRSRB support. There is an internal WDFW deadline of December 1, 2009. The WDFW will then rate their internal applications. Support from the SRSRB would help right now, but would also certainly help later on in the process. Del stated that he would not like to see any action done now due to board members not being strongly in attendance tonight. Dick Jones stated that he is strongly opposed to the purchase of these lands by a state entity and he would most likely not change his mind due to the public wishes of Columbia County. Discussion of each county and the differences of each county and the respect of the wishes of those counties followed. Dick Ducharme stated that because of the law suits that are trying to get the grazing permits discontinued from state lands he would not want to support this acquisition. He strongly believes that private owners would be in a better position to manage these lands.

Del stated that due to board members not present and it being apparent there was not going to be consensus on this issue, he would suggest that we table this issue until the next meeting.

Action 1: Dick Ducharme moved to table action to support/not support WDFW acquisition application of IMW property to RCO. Roland Schirman seconded the motion. The Motion carried by consensus.

Approval of October 27, 2009 meeting notes:

Discussion: No Discussion.

Action 2: Dick Ducharme moved to approve the October 27, 2009 meeting notes. Roland Schirman seconded the motion. There being no further discussion, the motion carried by consensus.

Approve October Monthly Expenses:

LE \$5, 562.60

RCO \$24,513.66

IMW \$45,679.21

Action 3: Roland Schirman made a motion to approve the invoices/vouchers totaling \$24,513.66 expended in October 2009 in the RCO Budget, the invoices/vouchers totaling \$5,562.60 expended in October 2009 in the LE Budget and the invoices/vouchers totaling \$45,679.21 expended in October 2009 in the IMW Budget. Dick Jones seconded the motion. There being no further discussion, the motion carried by consensus. Del Groat Abstained.

Appointment of Board Member(s) to assist in selection of contractor to Update/Revise SRSR Plan:

Steve reminded that board that we have \$80,000 for the purpose of revising and updating our plan and a contract with RCO that requires us to initiate this work this month. Steve has been working with WWCC to publish a request for proposals that is currently in the newspapers and journal of commerce. The closing date is early December and then a review of the proposals needs to be done and selection of a contractor. Steve asked if there was anyone willing to assist in this process.

Action 4: Dick Jones moved to appoint Kelly Farnsworth, Cathy Schaeffer, Brad Johnson and Roland Schirman to the committee to assist in the selection of a contractor to Update and Revise the SRSR Plan. The motion was seconded by Bob Johnson. The motion carried by consensus.

Review and Approve comment letter on Hatchery Reform Recommendations:

Discussion: Del stated that the letter was included in the meeting packet. Steve explained that the letter had been reviewed by a few board members, and asked if any others had suggested edits or revisions. He further stated he would like to get it signed and submitted to the HRT. Steve then reviewed the edits for the board members that were inserted with the suggestions of people like Glen Mendel, Gary James, Del Groat and others. Dick Jones pointed out a Typo to Steve.

Action 5: Dick Jones then moved to approve the Comment Letter on Hatchery Reform Recommendations with the typo fixed. Dick Ducharme seconded the motion. There being no further discussion, the motion carried by consensus.

Letter of Support to Congressman Dicks and House delegation for continued PCSRF Funding:

Discussion: Del reminded that board that they had supported a letter to Congresswoman Murray urging support for the PCSRF appropriation. It is understood that the Senate has passed legislation that includes an appropriation of \$80 million for the PCSRF account. The House version of the bill does not include a PCSRF appropriation. A House/Senate conference committee will be convened to resolve the differences in the two bills. In the interim Steve is asking for our approval to endorse the letter to Congressman Dicks that is included in our packet.

Action 6: Dick Ducharme moved to send a letter of support to Congressman Dicks and House delegation for continued PCSRF Funding. Dick Jones seconded the motion. There being no further discussion, the motion carried by consensus.

It was then recommended that this letter be sent to everyone.

Columbia County Levee Roundtable:

Discussion: Steve has been actively involved in the Columbia County Levee Roundtable along with Commissioner Jones. The roundtable is a group of local governments joined by WDFW, USACE, NOAA Fisheries, CTED, RCAC, Gerri Coleman with congresswoman McMorris, WaDOT, FEMA, and others to try and develop a plan that will satisfy the contradictory federal policies which are that the USACE requires vegetation to be removed from levees or jurisdictions lose their certification and therefore FEMA assistance in the event of a flood while NOAA and the EPA have critical habitat and TMDL requirements that need to be met by local governments and others. There are a few angles being taken which are (1) request a time extension under PL 84-99 like the state of California received, (2) conduct a watershed assessment to identify opportunities to reduce flood risk for which we approved funding for this assessment, and (3) demonstrate good faith by removing select/problem trees to retain certification while larger processes proceed. The roundtable meets the last Friday of every month and is being facilitated by WDFW. Letters describing this predicament and frustration have been sent to the USACE, DOT, and our federal congressional members. The City of Waitsburg has requested to be a new member of the roundtable.

Review comment letter on WDFW Sport Fishing Regulation Proposals:

Discussion: Thanks to Kelly Farnsworth, Gary James and Glen Mendel for their input on the letter to WDFW regarding the sport fishing regulation proposals. The letter is in the meeting booklet. Steve stated that he would like action on this tonight so that he can finalize this and get it signed and sent.

Action 7: Dick Jones moved to approve the letter to WDFW regarding the sport fishing regulation proposals. Bob Johnson Seconded the motion. There being no further discussion, the motion carried by consensus.

The support of the SRSRB for the nomination of Billy Bowles to the RCO Land and Water Conservation Flood advisory Committee:

Action 8: Roland Schirman moved that Steve draft a letter of support and send to the RCO Land and Water Conservation Flood Advisory Committee. Dick Jones Seconded the motion. There being no further discussion, the motion carried by consensus.

Confirm December 22, 2009 Board meeting & location:

Discussion: Considering that the 22nd is a couple days before Christmas we should discuss an alternative date if we are going to meet. Steve suggests we think about meeting via ITV because we may be ready to select our plan revisions contractor and because there are always incipient or on-going initiatives that he benefits by having board input and direction.

Action 9: Dick Ducharme moved to cancel the December meeting. Dick Jones seconded the motion. There being no further discussion, the motion carried by consensus.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:53 pm.

John Andrews announced that he was retiring and that he wanted to Thank the SRSRB Board for the service and good work of the board. He stated that his successor will be appointed to come down and meet and work with the board. He stated that it is important to look back and remember the advancements we have made in Salmon Recovery, in coordinating with WDFW as a partner, and everyone else for the benefit of salmon. He has been honored to work with his agency and the SRSRB.

Tasks & Actions

Review of Tasks					
TASK 1:					
TASK 2:					
Review of Actions					
Action Title	Motion	Second	Consensus	Vote	Pass
Action 1: Motion to table action to support/not support WDFW acquisition application of IMW property to RCO.	Dick Ducharme	Roland Schirman	Yes		
Action 2: Approve the October 27, 2009 meeting notes.	Dick Ducharme	Roland Schirman	Yes		
Action 3: Motion to approve the invoices/vouchers totaling \$24,513.66 expended in October 2009 in the RCO Budget, the invoices/vouchers totaling \$5,562.60 expended in October 2009 in the LE Budget and the invoices/vouchers totaling \$45,679.21 expended in October 2009 in the IMW Budget.	Roland Schirman	Dick Jones	Yes – Del Groat Abstained		
Action 4: Motion to appoint Kelly Farnsworth, Cathy Schaeffer, Brad Johnson and Roland Schirman to the committee to assist in the selection of a contractor to Update and Revise the SRSR Plan.	Dick Jones	Bob Johnson	Yes		
Action 5: Motion to approve the Comment Letter on Hatchery Reform Recommendations with the typo fixed.	Dick Jones	Dick Ducharme	Yes		
Action 6: Motion to send a letter of support to Congressman Dicks and House delegation for continued PCSRF Funding.	Dick Ducharme	Dick Jones	Yes		
Action 7: Motion to approve the letter to WDFW regarding the sport fishing regulation proposals.	Dick Jones	Bob Johnson	Yes		
Action 8: Motion that Steve draft a letter of support and send to the RCO Land and Water Conservation Flood Advisory Committee.	Roland Schirman	Dick Jones	Yes		
Action 9: Motion to cancel the December 2009 meeting.	Dick Ducharme	Dick Jones	Yes		

Attendance

Name	Attendance for 2009-2010											
	Jun 09	Jul 09	Aug 09	Sep 09	Oct 09	Nov 09	Dec 09	Jan 10	Feb 10	Mar 10	Apr 10	May 10
Doug Mattoon	Yes			Yes	Yes							
Jay Holzmilller	Yes					Yes						
Dick Ducharme	Yes		Yes			Yes						
Dick Jones	Yes			Yes	Yes	Yes						
Roland Schirman	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	Yes						
Gary James			Yes	Yes								
Del Groat	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes						
Perry Dozier					*Yes							
Yancey Reser		Yes		Yes	Yes	Yes						
Stuart Durfee	Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes							
Michael Largent		Yes	Yes		Yes							
Gary Thorgaard	Yes			Yes	Yes							
Kelly Farnsworth	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes						
Bob Johnson	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes						
Billy Bowles		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes							

*First meeting as a SRSRB Board Member