



Snake River Salmon Recovery Board  
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## Snake River Salmon Recovery Board

Meeting Minutes November 18, 2003

**Board Members Present:** Don Scheibe, Dick Jones, Ed Schultz, Les Wigen, Eric Myers, Jed Volkman, Cathy LaRoque, Stuart Durfee, Clay Barr, Yancey Reser

**Board Members Present Via Phone:** Emmitt Taylor

**Others:** Steve Martin, Bradley Johnson, Del Groat, Megan Stewart, Tom Sherm, Mark Wachtel, Lynn Hatcher, Juli Post

Steve verified the quorum, 9 members present at the time the quorum was reviewed.

### Review and Approval of October 8<sup>th</sup> Meeting Minutes

Meeting minutes were approved.

### Revised Bylaws

Copies of the revised bylaws were provided to the board.

### Calendar

Steve explained that there was a need to have a calendar of the Salmon Recovery Board meetings. Steve reiterated the importance for the public meeting act of having a schedule so that we can announce the meetings in advance. The fourth Tuesday of each month was chosen as the date for the Salmon Recovery Board meetings.

Juli will be sending out a revised copy of the calendar.

### USFS as a Voting Member

Del Groat presented to the board a desire by the United States Forest Service to be a voting member on the board. He suggested that it would be the district ranger or one of the district ranger's staff.

Ed Schultz commented that maybe all the agencies should be invited to join. Mark Wachtel mentioned that it has come up in discussion for Washington Fish and Wildlife. They want to be involved and attend meetings but have no desire to be voting members.

A comment was made that we would need to amend the bylaws to reflect this change in policy of the board.

Dick Jones commented that if Pomeroy District Forest Service was involved that the board should also invite the Walla Walla agency. There was concern raised that all the agencies would dominate the board.

Cathy LaRoque questioned whether the agencies would be subject to the inter-local agreement. Visiting guest Lynn Hatcher mentioned that historically the Forest Service has been on the technical side.

Discussion ensued about starting the “Technical Advisory Committee”. Steve reminded everyone that at this point many of the people who need to be on this committee aren’t available because they are working on the sub-basin planning units. It was voiced by the group that they do want Del Groat to keep attending and asked him if a letter needed to be sent to his superiors to make sure they understand the importance of his attendance.

Jed Volkman voice concern that if we don’t have a representative/voting member from each of the agencies, the Salmon Board won’t get by off from those agencies.

It was requested by the board the Steve/Juli send a letter to all the pertinent agencies, requesting there involvement in the Salmon Board meetings.

Cathy LaRoque also requested that we add this to the May agenda to revisit this issue of federal and state agencies as voting members to the board and to start forming the technical committee.

## **Memorandum of Understanding**

Steve Martin explained to the board that the Columbia County Commissioners agreed to act as the fiscal agent of the Snake River Salmon Recovery Board. He also explained that all that was left to do was to ask to vote that having Columbia Count as the fiscal agent was what the board desired.

A question came up from a board member wanting to know how Columbia County was going to be compensated for their role as the fiscal agent. Steve explained that they would be compensated by charging the board a composite rate of their employees’ costs. This rate would actually be that composite rate and half because they already have fulltime work in their offices so in a sense this would be overtime. A question came up as to why some entity had to be the fiscal agent; Steve explained that IAC had to have a government agency to grant the monies to.

Jed Volkman didn’t like the third sentence of the MOU and asked that that sentence be struck. Steve agreed and Juli will amend document and send it out to all members for comments.

Steve then explained how the budget committee would be sent all the information about monthly expenditures from Juli and would be given 5 days to respond if they had concerns.

The board voted to approve the shift of contract to Columbia County.
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## **Inter-local Agreement**

Steve stated that Emmitt Taylor and Paul Kraynak were the only two board members that submitted changes to the draft of the Interlocal Agreement. Steve then explained the steps that Rob Caldwell outlined for the Snake River Salmon Recovery Board to become a Quasi-Governmental agency.

- 1) Inter-local Agreement

- 2) Political Reconnaissance (the cost mentioned was \$3000 and a two month timeframe).
- 3) Write legislation to be presented to the state.

Discussion ensued about who Rob Caldwell was and why we should follow this suggestion. Steve mentioned that Rob has worked with Dan Evans on many projects with water and fish recovery in the Puget Sound area. Stuart Durfee stated that he had a lot of confidence in Rob Caldwell and shared an anecdotal story about Rob being one of the individuals who served notice on the irrigation district. Stuart explained how Rob impressed him at that time with his common sense approach to the problem and resolving it.

Lynn Hatcher mentioned as an employee of NOAA, that the government wants to sign legal documents with quasi-governmental agencies rather than citizen committees.

Jed Volkman was concerned that this would conflict with ordinances already in place.

Someone voiced that the inter-local agreement states that it would not preempt any preceding agreements. Steve mentioned that Dan Evans supports quasi-governmental agencies.

A suggestion was made that we need to rewrite section 8 of the agreement.

A suggestion was made that we need to attach a cover sheet to this document explaining the pros and cons of signing this agreement. Dick Jones suggested that Rob Caldwell could write the letter Steve stressed that if it was to be presented before this year legislative session that the board would need to start working on it immediately. A date for getting it back from the prosecuting attorney's for each county was mentioned of December 1<sup>st</sup>. Yancey Reser said that you can get a statute without this agreement. Steve was concerned that the legislation wouldn't occur if it was perceived that there was no local support. Jed Volkman wanted to talk to an attorney that wasn't going to receive more work out of the deal. Jed doesn't feel comfortable with an agreement of this nature and doesn't see the value of changing the board from their current status.

Cathy LaRoque stated that in terms of planning and implementation of the fish recovery plans that the board becoming a quasi-government agency was crucial to making things happen. That it would have a huge impact on how the board functions. Cathy also said that an ability for the board to have staff and process its own work. Cathy also wants to see a better coordination of efforts that she feels would come from having the board actually a government agency. She visualizes that the SRSRB would have the power to oversee projects. At this time the board is just a set of concerned citizens.

We revisited the issue of how the firm the Rob Caldwell works for gets its funds.

Approved by the board, sending out a cover letter with the inter-local agreement "stamped draft" to all the County Commissioners and Tribes for their counsels to review and comment on. Also attach a copy of the by-laws. Comments to be returned by January 20 <sup>th</sup> , 2004
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Also Steve/Juli will do some research on the Lower Columbia Interlocal Agreement.

## **Request for Qualifications**

Steve explained that it was time to advertise RFQ's for the next phase on the Public Involvement Plan and Fish Planning. A discussion ensued as to where the advertising should be placed. Steve explained that each add for the RFQ's for the Admin Asst position was around \$55, he mentioned this so the board would be aware of costs.

Board approved that the advertising for the contractors would run for 2 times per week for 2 weeks in three newspapers, (Spokesman-Review, Tri-City Herald & Lewiston Tribune). Ed Schultz suggested also putting it on the website.
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## **Bi-Annual Contract**

Steve explained this contract would be overseen by both the Governor's Salmon Office and NOAA. This document shows the progress of the process with dates and suggested budgets.

Action item was to fix the February date.

## **Lead Entity Process**

Steve went over the chart he had provided to describe that relationship between the board, staff and lead entity. Steve explained that the lead entity portion of the strategy was the non-regulatory portion. Steve also mentioned that the board needed to come up with a good list of projects as there is at least \$1.1 million and up to \$2 million available for projects in our region. Jed Volkman clarified that the projects will reside around habitat restoration.

## **Recovery Plan Table**

Steve also went over the recovery plan table, to explain how he envisions the process for Salmon Recovery.

## **Review of Steve's Workload**

- 1) Worked on policy for base level funding at one of the meetings that he had attended. The importance of a less competitive process for gaining funds.
- 2) Local technical review.
- 3) Meeting with Governor Locke, provided him with a snap shot of the peer to peer relationship that the Recovery Board promotes. Also sub-basin planning.
- 4) Attended two Lead Entity meetings on Brad Johnson behalf.

Steve also mentioned a letter from Bob Lohn which praised the efforts of Washington State Salmon recovery plans.

Next meeting will be January 27<sup>th</sup>.

Juli will email out a copy of the new calendar to all board members and interested parties.