

Snake River Salmon Recovery Board

Meeting Minutes August 24, 2004

Board Members Present: Don Scheibe, Dick Isaac, Jay Holzmilller, Dick Ducharme, Dick Jones, Eric Myers, Butch Klaveano, Del Groat, Cathy LaRoque, Yancey Reser, Les Wigen, Ed Schultz

Board Members Present By Phone: Paul Kraynak

Others: John Marsh (Parametrix), Greg Tompkins (Walla Walla County Commissioner), Chris Drivdahl (GSRO), Nora Berwick (NOAA Fisheries), David Carey (Walla Walla County Commissioners), Terry Bruegman (CCD), Bob Bugert (GSRO), Lynn Hatcher (NOAA Fisheries), Steve Martin, Juli Post

Steve verified the quorum, 12 members present at the time the quorum was reviewed.

Welcome

Jay Holzmilller opened the meeting by welcoming the Board members and others present.

Action Items

Approval of the July 27, 2004 Meeting Minutes

Steve introduced the meeting minutes from July 27th and gave board members time to review. Steve asked for any questions or comments on the July 27, 2004 meeting minutes. No questions or comments were raised.

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| Cathy LaRoque made a motion to accept the July 27, 2004 as presented. The motion was seconded and the board came to positive consensus that the minutes would be accepted as presented. |
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Approval of the revised Interlocal agreement (pending)

At this point the Interlocal agreement hasn't been returned from the CTUIR so no action was taken. Steve commented that CTUIR is in the process of review and hopes to complete soon. Cathy LaRoque suggested looking at the Interlocal Agreement that was sent by the Nez Perce. The group perceived no value in looking at the interim document.

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Authorizing executive committee or budget committee to approve pending contract with NWPC for sub-basin response loop

Tony Grover (NWPC) gave a presentation on the status of the sub-basin plans. Asotin, Lower Snake, Tucannon are adoptable in their present form. Walla Walla sub-basin has some slight revisions that need to be addressed. The main deficiency in all the documents was the prioritization of geographic areas and research-monitoring and evaluation. Tony

explained in their process of analyzing each sub-basin for adoption was a very specific set of criteria. If the plan addressed those criteria it was considered adoptable. Steve suggested that the fix-it-loop contract not include the regional board because only one of the four subbasins required additional work and that adding the board in would be inefficient and unnecessary. Originally, the thought was that each of the four subbasins would receive contracts for further work and that a single, regional contract for such work would be most efficiently managed by the Board.

The motion was for Steve to work with Cathy to develop a contract with the NWPCC to fix deficiencies in the Walla Walla Sub-basin plan. The Board will not be in the contract. Dick Ducharme made a motion to approve and Dick Jones seconded. The board approved by consensus.

Approval to update membership list in the By-laws/Operating Rules

Steve presented the membership list from the By-law to the board. He wanted to affirm that membership on the board is understood as presented. Board members confirmed the roster. Steve also notified the board that Garfield County has nominated a new member to the board. His name is Gary Cole he is a landowner in Garfield County. Steve also mentioned that he would ask Paul Kraynak about a replacement for Darryl Reuben. CTUIR board membership is also very unclear at this time. Steve will attempt to clarify who is representing CTUIR.

The motion wasn't necessary. The board affirmed that the membership list should be updated to reflect the corrections made for the boards review.

Affirming executive committee's recommendation that we not contract for services to assist the Board and the eastern Washington regions communicate our long-term administrative leadership needs (GSRO replacement issue).

Steve recounted the events that have occurred to retain Dave Mastin to represent the Snake River Salmon Recovery Board interests regarding our long term administrative leadership needs. After getting provisional approval by the board at last month's meeting it went to the budget committee who could not come to consensus on the scope of the work. So on the 17th of August it was presented to the Executive Committee, who decided that more work could be pursued by Steve before initiating the contract with Dave Mastin. Steve explained how he wanted to scope out a plan, and then position the board in a pro active not reactive approach to administration and the legislature.

Chris Drivdahl of the Governor's Salmon Recovery Office explained what has transpired up to this point with GSRO. That the Office of Financial Management is working on resolving a billion dollar shortfall. To that end the Governor's Salmon Recovery Office was deemed one of the agencies that were expendable.

Board members wanted to understand the position of the Budget Committee. Steve explained that Jed Volkman could not see any urgency in committing budget toward engaging Dave Mastin. Jed stated that Steve was capable of doing most of the work himself instead of requesting of Mastin. The executive committee reached the same conclusion as the budget committee, i.e., we may need assistance by lets wait until we know more before contracting this work.

Chris gave more background on how the budget office is attempting to streamline all watershed issues into a single entity. This will include the lead entity process (HB2496), watershed planning (HB2514) and salmon recovery. Dick Ducharme stated it is best to be proactive and ensure we have a say in how these planning processes will be administered and implemented in the future. The State and NOAA believes that the Salmon Recovery Board should be proactive.

Dick Ducharme made a motion to not affirm the Ex Comm. decision. Yancey Reser seconded. The board came to positive consensus that the decision would not be accepted as presented.

At this point the question of reinstating negotiations for the contract with Dave Mastin came up. The by-laws were reviewed to determine whether an action could be acted upon without the advanced notice. On page 3; second paragraph of the by-laws it states: *Any member may submit agenda items through the Co-Chair. Items for Board consideration shall be scheduled for discussion at least one meeting prior to any scheduled action thereon; EXCEPT, upon agreement of Board members an item first presented for discussion may be acted upon at the same meeting, subject to further review and reconsideration by members at the following meeting.*

Dick Jones made a motion to allow Steve to complete contract negotiations with Dave Mastin. Ed Schultz seconded. The board came to positive consensus that a contract for policy guidance with Dave Mastin would be accepted. Dick requested a report on progress at 30 days and a final report at 60 days to coincide with the September and October board meetings.

Paul Kraynak then made a statement to the Board, “ I want to notify you that I withdraw my involvement from this board until the Interlocal agreement is signed.”

Information Updates

Assurance mechanisms and other incentives/justifications for developing regional recovery plan; summary of response to Assurance Memo

Steve asked Lynn Hatcher to come and speak about regulatory assurance from NOAA. Chris Drivdahl provided the state’s perspective. In advance of the Board meeting, Steve sent out letters about assurances and he received responses from some board members. A quick encapsulation was from the response was that member felt that they wanted some type of regulatory assurances for actions that we can fully describe and commit to but that the incentives (funding, streamlined permitting, certainty) were the primary interests of the Board.

Lynn Hatcher, Salmon Recovery Coordinator, NOAA; provided background for himself and the assurance issue. He said that recovery plans have been worked on for 30 years but seldom implemented because they lack local input. The feds are now very interested in hearing the ideas of the community. Nora Berwick, NOAA Fisheries; explained that she has prepared a document that provides a series of assurance scenarios. This document can be used for situation review. Lynn stressed that we can tell the “feds” how we are going to manage our plan. This will provide us with insight into regulatory coverage options, NOAA can provide prosecutorial discretion to local governments so long as we are moving forward with the plan and there is support to implement the plan. Planning and commitments help NOAA resolve issues instead of just a regulatory/prosecution approach. Chris Drivdahl’s

message from the State perspective was to provide more incentives to recovery commitments made by regional groups and that recovery funding would occur faster and be less cumbersome.

Regional Technical Team Update

A first meeting was convened on August 18th with seven people attending. The group consisted of Del Groat, Chris Pinney, Bill Neve, Kate Terrell, Carmen Andonaegui. Steve gave background for the group and what their functions would be:

1. Interact with the NOAA TRT
2. Assist but not become involved in policy discussions regarding strategy and actions and whether they will get us to the 4 population viability criteria described by NOAA

Letters of appointment from the agencies have been provided for Del Groat (USFS), Chris Pinney (USACE) and Glen Mendel (WDFW). In addition to these three, Steve has suggested to the agencies and the RTT that Bill Neve, Becky Ashe and Jessie Schwartz be members of the RTT. Participating in the RTT but not voting members will be Kate Terrell (USFWS), Jason Flore (USFWS), Lynn Hatchery (NOAA) and Carmen Andonaegui (WDFW). Carmen and Kate are members of the upper Columbia RTT and attend the meeting on August 18th. They provided a large amount of helpful advise for the function and operation of the Team. The RTT is scheduled to meet monthly on the third Wednesday at 10.

Current status and future of the GSRO; reconnaissance update and contract for professional services.

Refer to action item 5 above. Steve mentioned that he would be attending the Council of Regions meeting to discuss the future of the Governor's Salmon Recovery Office. Steve provided a handout written by Chris Drivdahl examining the different approaches to both Salmon Recovery and Watershed Health issues. Steve conveyed that state recovery organizations felt it important to portray a unified voice in the matter of the continuation of the Governor's Salmon Office work. To that end Steve envisions a forum between the Yakima, Upper Columbia and Snake River Region to provide guidance to the state for activities in Eastern Washington related to salmon and water.

Recovery Road-shows - Public Workshops

Recovery Road-show will be held on the following dates and locations:

September 14, 2004 Clarkston Campus WWCC

September 15, 2004 Pomeroy High School


September 16, 2004 Walla Walla Regional Airport in the Millcreek and Blue Mountain Room

September 22, 2004 Dayton Elementary School Multipurpose Room. 5:30 to 7:30 P.M.

Steve encouraged board members to attend when the road show was conducted in their county.

Bob Bugert – Chapter 4 Quarterly Review

Bob Bugert, GRISO, reported that the agencies received Chapter 4 and a quarterly review was conducted. The commentary on the document so far is very positive. Both quarters have been given a provisional approval and the agency representatives are very comfortable with the results of our endeavors.

 Final question for the evening was what happened to the Salmon Summit. Steve promised to advance it with Chris Drivdahl. Chris explained that the biggest impediment to convening this meeting was finding a mutual date for the five presenters.