

Snake River Salmon Recovery Board

Meeting Notes December 4th, 2007

Board Members Present:

WWCC (Walla Walla) Cathy Schaeffer, Stuart Durfee, Yancey Reser, Dick Ducharme

WWCC (Clarkston) Dick Isaac, Doug Mattoon, Del Groat, Ed Schultz, Butch Klaveano, Jay Holzmilller

Others:

WWCC (Clarkston) Steve Martin, Brian Sangster

WWCC (Walla Walla) Anne Chapman, Beth Thiel (Blue Mt Land Trust), Jennifer Hudson (Umatilla Tribe)

Jay Holzmilller called the meeting to order and turned it over to Steve.

Steve verified the quorum. 10 members

Welcome – Steve welcomed everyone and reiterated that this meeting was again an experiment and would be in Video Format.

Approval of October 23rd Board Minutes

Action 1: Steve asked for a motion to approve the October 23rd board meeting notes. The motion was made by Cathy Schaeffer to approve the meeting minutes with some spelling corrections to names of board members; the motion was seconded by Doug Mattoon. The motion carried.

Agenda Additions:

Steve announced that Cathy had notified him today that there is a Fish Conference in Walla Walla @ Whitman College, December 5, 6, & 7th. There are some abstracts provided in the meeting handout booklet. Steve stated that we did not receive any notice about this conference but wanted to make the board aware of it if they are interested. Doug Mattoon stated he was concerned that there may be some kind of disconnect. Why was the Salmon Board not notified?

Approve October, 2007 Expenditures:

Discussion: Dick Ducharme questioned the Conservation District budgeted amounts July 1, 2007 through June 30th, 2009 asking if those monies were not monies paid to them to develop projects. How many projects were developed through these conservation entities this last round? (Asotin – 4, Walla Walla – 1, Columbia – 0, Pomeroy – 0).

Conservation District duties under contract are:

- 1 – Work with landowners to develop project proposals
- 2 – Assist board in document review
- 3 – Provide information for habitat work schedule
- 4 – Public outreach coordination

Maybe those budgeted amounts could be better used elsewhere to get more projects developed. Jay Holzmilller stated that some of the Conservation offices may have projects from rounds before that

are not completed, etc.... this maybe why there were none introduced for this last round. Steve will ask questions as to why there were not any projects developed this last round and report back to the board at the next meeting. He will also look at the amount of projects proposed by the conservation districts in the last 7 years to give a perspective on how the conservation districts have contributed. Cathy Schaeffer offered that there may be some value in sharing what kind of work the Conservation Districts, WRIA's are billing for so that the board understands the work being done by them.

Action 2: Ed Schultz made a motion to approve the invoices/vouchers totaling \$25,713.78 expended for October in the RCO Budget. Dick Isaacs seconded the motion. Cathy Schaeffer and Del Groat abstained. The motion carried.

Action 3: Cathy Schaeffer made a motion to approve the invoices/vouchers totaling \$8,720.69 expended for October in the Lead Entity Budget. Jay Holzmilller seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Approve Project Coordinator Candidate – Kris Buelow

Discussion: Steve announced that the Project Coordinator Interview committee, consisting of Steve Martin, Del Groat, Mark Schuck, Yancey Reser and Brad Johnson, had finished the interview process and has selected Kris Buelow as their choice for the Project Coordinator Position.

Action 4: Doug Mattoon made a motion to take the Project Coordinator Interview Committees advice and hire Kris Buelow as the new Project Coordinator for the Snake River Salmon Recovery Board. Ed Schultz Seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Approve letter of support for WDFW lead entity capacity request.

Action 5: The WDFW letter in the meeting booklet was review by the board members. Dick Ducharme made the motion to approve and send the letter. Doug Mattoon seconded the motion. The motion carried and Steve will submit the letter on behalf of the Board.

Approve letter of support for WRIA 32 shared governance initiative from Board to DOE Director

The WRIA 32 letter in the meeting booklet was reviewed by the board members.

Discussion: Cathy Schaeffer stated that there is another Shared Governance meeting working group meeting tomorrow. The board has already conveyed their feelings of support to her verbally. She suggested that the board not send the letter at this time. She will have a better feel for what kind of a support letter is needed as more local evaluation will be occurring in the next 6 weeks. She felt there is no urgency in sending a letter. Ed Schultz moved to take Cathy's advice and table the letter. The Board tabled the letter.

Approve moving \$1,000 from Travel to Rent in Lead Entity Budget:

Action 6: - Ed Schultz made a motion to move \$1000 of Budgeted Travel monies to Rent. Jay Holzmilller seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Develop a joint RFP and scope of work with other Columbia Basin regions to develop an implementation funding plan; present to Board at next meeting for approval to publish:

Discussion: Steve explained that this is a request from him to have the go ahead to develop a collaborative implementation funding plan with the Lower Columbia, Yakima and the Upper Columbia regions.

Action 7 – Dick Ducharme made a motion to move forward to develop a RFP with the other 3 groups for the board to consider at the January Board Meeting. Dick Isaacs seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Approve (1) RFP for land use and conservation easement analysis; (2) establish contractor review committee; (3) decide if Board wants to pre-approve committee selection:

After lengthy discussion the Board agreed to move forward with development of an RFP for these purposes but that no decision on contracting will occur until after applicants submit their proposals and the Board has opportunity for review.

Action 8 – Doug Mattoon made a motion that the executive director move forward in developing and publishing a RFP, the RFP will then be presented to the board in January for their consideration before it goes into contract.

Butch Klaveano seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Update from Stacey Horton on Northwest Power and Conservation Council Fish and Wildlife Program Amendment Process:

Stacey Horton and Phil Miller (GSRO) joined the meeting via phone. Stacy updated the board on the status of the NWPCC Amendment process.

Steve stated that there is a series of identified needs that are bulleted on page three under the NWPCC tab in the meeting booklet. The council has identified a clear need for recommendations as they pertain to Monitoring and Evaluation, Research, Data Management, Program Implementation, Coordination and Project Review. These are many of the functions this board provides.

Question to Stacey: is the council serious about considering a recommendation that may come out of this organization that deals with coordination and prioritization of projects, as well as project review. Those are 3 of the things that the council has identified as being in need of significant revision or elaboration. Steve then gave examples of how the council could amend their plan.

Synchronizing the amendment with the next call for project proposals?

For clarification, the SRSRB will not be redoing their recovery plan.

Steve will draft a series of recommendations for the January meeting. The board can approve for presentation to Stacey after review and comment/revision.

Regional project funding allocation options paper and Board Recommendation:

Currently the SRFB has policy that allocates 9% of its project funding to the Snake River Region. location. It has always been understood as transitional. The RCO is considering 3 different options.

(1) Leave funding as is:

(2) Revisit the criteria of where the funding goes:

(3) Interactive discussion with the lead entities to see if there is some give and take.

Steve stated that he would not be adverse to our budget being revised, since we have not spent our total allocated amounts in the last few grant rounds, so long as the unspent monies carry over to the next round and stay in this region.

Del Groat is not sure that taking a cut in our monies would be the right answer. Doug Mattoon stated that we have really been concerned about monitoring and evaluation. Maybe one of the solutions would be to specifically allocate some of these monies to monitoring and evaluating. Dick Isaacs stated that the monitoring and evaluating needs to be on an even scale.

Steve will present recommendations to the Board for its consideration at the January meeting.

Bull Trout Population Crisis in the Tucannon Watershed and speculation as to why:

Steve directed the boards' attention to the meeting booklets Fish Crisis tab. These publications were provided by Glen Mendel of WDFW. Glen has reported that there is something prohibiting bull trout from getting to the spawning areas in the Tucannon. The numbers have gone from 260 to 52 this year. Glen just wanted to raise awareness that this is happening. The board suggested that Fish and Wildlife needs to walk the river and find the barrier. It was commented that the BPA funding was cut this last summer; this is a factor as to why the WDFW have not walked the river as of last summer (2006)

Status of vacant Columbia County Seat:

The commissioners have asked Eric Myers to reconsider and rejoin the SRSRB. Eric is considering and will notify the board as to his decision by the end of December. If Eric decides not to come back, the commissioners will then advertise for the position.

Intensively Monitored Watershed contractor selected – schedule update:

A contractor has been selected by the RTT and an experimental design should be in place by July 2008.

The 2007 Lead Entity project list will be considered by the SRFB on December 13th; a Board member or two to participate along with Steve would be valuable:

Steve reported that there are 3 projects in question.

Two are assessments on the Touchet below Waitsburg and one is the installation of large wood on the Touchet below Waitsburg. The review panel wants the two independent reach assessments to come together and use the same methodology and also to have the upstream assessment to go further upstream and include the city of Waitsburg. Alex Ammonette has made those provisions. She has gotten 7 more land owners and the City of Waitsburg to agree to do an assessment all the way

through her reach. The second assessment has stated that they intend to use the same personnel, but can't guarantee it. The Large wood project the panel has stated that they will not fund this until the assessment is done.

The board's position has always been that the two assessments need to use the same methodology.

Stuart Durfee asked why this does not go to the lowest bidder.

Doug Mattoon clarified that this is a RFP process and not a bidding process. So you do not have to award the work to the lowest bid.

The discussion of the board conveyed that the project that is in the priority reach area should be fought for. Due to the fact that the other has not agreed to use the same methodology and is not in the priority reach area, it would not be of the same importance. Doug Mattoon stated that the board position should be to push the priority reach project and then the large debris project. If funding is available then try to coordinate the last project with the other.

Steve asked for a volunteer board member to go with him next Thursday to the review panel meeting in Olympia. He suggested they call him if interested.

Steve Thanked Beth Thiel for working with the review panel and getting her project approved. He officially stated that her project is no longer a project of concern.

Assessing interest in re-structuring Board to have an active chair person and a vice-chair; By-laws call for elections of co-chairs every two years so the Board needs to hold an election the first of next year or re-structure and then elect chair and vice-chair:

Discussion: Steve stated that it is past time to have an election for Co-Chairs. The By-laws state that this should happen every two years.

Dick Isaacs stated that Steve is an employee of the board and he feels that the board needs to do more to support him. It is a good way to do business. Steve is highly skilled and educated and he needs to be doing what he is trained to do. The board needs to have an active chair to help set up meetings.

Etc. Cathy Schaeffer stated that she is on other boards and this structure is in place. It is beneficial.

The board probably also needs to revisit the committees (Budget and Executive).

The By-laws could be restructured to have a term of only 1 year if that would help.

Discussion then followed about board policies and how there really is not anything wrong with how things are done. There is just a real need for an election. Jay Holzmilller reiterated that Steve does a great job. Steve stated that he has never had any problems carrying out what the board wants him to do. The board is always real clear on what they want done.

It was stated that the addition of Anne, as Steve's assistant, and the new Project Manager (Kris Below) should lessen the load for Steve.

It was decided that there will be elections for co-chair held at the January meeting. Further discussion is warranted in the future. Restructuring will wait until we get the Project Manager on board.

Funding a professor to talk to local communities/individual about the importance of levee setbacks and success stories from elsewhere:

Steve stated that there is a professor (Dr. Colin Thorne) who could be coming to this area to talk with our local communities and council meetings to talk about Levee set backs and channel realignments. He will be able to provide more information in January.

Doug stated that the US Army Corps of Engineers have washed their hand of the levees. Basically their position is that they built them and if you touch them, it's your problem. He thinks it would be useful to look into it more and see if we can impact decision makers who make the decisions.

Stuart Durfee suggested that Steve contact Brian Wolcott about the levee set back project in Milton Freewater. (Lamson's Property).

Next Board Meeting

Next Board Meeting will be January 22nd, 2008 at 6pm. WWCC Campus (Clarkston and Walla Walla). ITV Room.

The meeting was adjourned.

Review of Tasks

Task Title

Task 1: Talk to conservation offices about project status and development.

Task 2: Send Approved WDFW letter.

Task 3: WRIA 32 shared governance initiative letter of support (tabled)

Task 4: Develop joint RFP and scope of work with other Columbia Basin Regions (funding plan) present to board at January Meeting.

Task 5: Develop and publish a RFP for land use and conservation easement analysis; present at next board meeting.

Task 6: Draft a series of recommendations for the NWPCC, present to board at January meeting.


Task 7: Co Chair Elections.

Task 8: Provide information about Professor for Levee setbacks and channel realignments.

Review of Actions

Action Title	Motion	Second	Consensus	Vote	Pass
Meeting Minutes- October 23rd, 2007	Cathy Schaeffer	Doug Mattoon	Yes		
Approve October 2007 Expenditures, RCO	Ed Schultz	Dick Isaacs	Yes		
Approve October 2007 Expenditures, Lead Entity	Cathy Schaeffer	Jay Holzmilller	Yes		
Approve Project Coordinator - Kris Below	Doug Mattoon	Ed Schultz	Yes		
Approve Letter of Support for WDFW	Dick Ducharme	Doug Mattoon	Yes		
Approve Moving \$1000 from Travel to Rent in Lead Entity Budget	Ed Schultz	Jay Holzmilller	Yes		
Develop a joint RFP with Columbia Basin Regions	Dick Ducharme	Dick Isaacs	Yes		
Approve (1) RFP for land use and conservation easement analysis; (2) establish contractor review committee; (3) decide if Board wants to pre-approve committee selection:	Doug Mattoon	Butch Klaveano	Yes		

Name	Attendance for 2007											
	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
Doug Mattoon		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes
Dick Isaac		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes
Jay Holzmilller	Yes	Yes	Yes				Yes	Yes	Yes			Yes
Dick Ducharme				Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes		Yes
Dick Jones		Yes		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		
Eric Myers	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes			
Gary James	Yes	Yes						Yes	Yes	Yes		
Virgil Klaveano	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes			Yes				Yes
Del Groat	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes			Yes
Gary Cole												
Cathy Schaeffer	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes		Yes
Yancey Reser		Yes	Yes	Yes			Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes
Stuart Durfee	Yes	Yes	Yes				Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes
Michael Largent	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes				Yes	Yes	Yes		
Ed Schultz			Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes		Yes

 No meeting was conducted this month.

