

Snake River Salmon Recovery Board

Meeting Notes January 22, 2008

Board Members Present:

WWCC (Walla Walla) - Dick Jones, Cathy Schaeffer, Dick Ducharme, Stuart Durfee, Yancey Reser, Gary James.

WWCC (Clarkston) – Butch Klaveano, Jay Holzmiller, Del Groat, Doug Matoon, Ed Schultz.

Others:

WWCC (Clarkston) Brad Johnson, Anne Chapman, Mark Reany.

WWCC (Walla Walla) Steve Martin, Kris Buelow.

Co Chairman, Jay Holzmiller called the meeting to order and turned it over to Steve.

Steve verified the quorum: 11 members present

Welcome – Steve welcomed Kris Buelow as our new Project Coordinator for the Snake River Salmon Recovery Board.

Approval of December 4th, 2007 - Board Minutes

Action 1: Steve asked for a motion to approve the December 4th, 2007 board meeting notes. The motion was made by Ed Schultz and was seconded by Butch Klaveano. There being no discussion, the motion carried by consensus.

Agenda Additions:

None

Approve November/December 2007 Expenditures:

Discussion: Anne explained a few line items in the budget, stating that some adjustments to the budget need to be made. Steve and Anne will be looking at these items in the future.

Action 2: Doug Matoon made a motion to approve the invoices/vouchers totaling \$24,206.29 expended in November and totaling \$14,887.35 expended in December in the RCO Budget. Additionally he moved to approve the invoices/vouchers totaling \$6,911.87 expended in November and totaling \$4,909.26 expended in December in the WDFW Budget. Ed Schultz seconded the motion. Del Groat abstained.
The motion carried by consensus.

Approve interim (2008) conservation easement criteria and recommendations table

Discussion: Steve summarized the conservation easement handout in the meeting packet. He called the board's attention to the 5 priorities/requirements at the top of the handout.

It was suggested that a guiding principal statement should be listed at the top of the page.

Dick Ducharme stated that the 50' minimum area should be a preference not a requirement; there are certain places that this 50' minimum is just not feasible. Doug Matoon concurred. Cathy Schaeffer stated that these are not hard and fast rules, that it makes sense to put the 50' minimum in the requirements, this will help to get good easements. She suggested to leave the 50' minimum in the requirements recognizing that this may be adjusted according to the circumstances of the easement.

Doug Matoon asked if there was any question about public access for recreational purposes. Steve stated that there really wasn't. Doug Matoon stated that there are public access dollars (tax dollars) for conservation purposes for Open Space Recreation.

Dick Ducharme stated that if you give unlimited public open space access, who is going to enforce it? As a landowner he would never sign an easement with this on it. Dick Jones stated this is a very valid point. Private owners are better stewards than public lands just because of funding.

Gary James stated that the main principle is to protect the riparian areas and a fully functioning flood plain.

Brad Johnson stated that he would just delete the 50' minimum in the requirements section. He drew the boards attention to the fact that there is a preference also in the Buffer Width and Size Consideration.

Gary James suggested that under Restoration Requirements a preference to the use of Native trees and vegetation should be stated. He also suggested a weed control requirement. It was noted that the weed control requirement was already addressed in the requirements under the Site Management plan statement.

Steve stated that what he had heard in the discussion was 3 things;

1. A recommendation to provide a guiding principal statement at the top.
2. Remove the 50' minimum buffer requirement at the top; noting that the issue is addressed in the preferences section under Buffer size and width
3. Add use of Native trees and vegetation preferred under restoration requirements. Weed control is already listed in Site Management Plan at top.

Action 3: Ed Schultz moved to approve the interim (2008) conservation easement criteria and recommendations table with the below changes:

**To provide a guiding principal statement at the top

**Remove the 50' minimum buffer requirement from the top 5 (It is already listed in the preferred section)

**Add use of Native trees and vegetation preferred under Restoration requirements. (Weed control was noted as already listed in Site Management Plan at the top.

Stuart Durfee Seconded the motion. There being no further discussion, the motion carried by consensus.

Authorize Co-Leads to make Lead Entity management and administrative decisions, revise Board by-laws accordingly:

Steve discussed the Lead Entity Bylaws and explained the management and administrative decisions of the SRSRB vs. the Lead Entity. He called the boards' attention to the yellow section on page 6 of the SRSRB Bylaws. The first two lines are already there and the rest is proposed additions.

Dick Ducharme stated that the Lead Entity Committee is not made up of SRSRB members except for Yancey. The Bylaws need to clearly state who comprises the Lead Entity. Currently the lead entity committee has only one SRSRB member and does not accurately reflect continuity with the SRSRB. It was also stated that the board actually acts as a project review and ranking committee as a whole so there is no need for a committee. Steve clarified by stating that the committee has been in existence since 1999 and provides essential prioritization framework for projects, project review and project ranking. The Board, which is the Lead Entity, then finalizes the ranked list for submittal to the SRFB for funding consideration.

In further discussion the board agreed there are many places in the by-laws that need to be updated, revised, etc.....Doug Matoon suggested that Steve and Anne get together and do a major rewrite of the bylaws, define some of these bylaws, streamlining, removing duplications, etc....He pointed out that in section 1.5 for example the first few lines do not belong in the by-laws at all. The board agreed with Doug's suggestion to revise the bylaws and provide clarity regarding the composition and roles of the SRSRB, Lead Entity and Lead Entity Committee.

Action 4: Steve and Anne will work on a revised addition of bylaws. Steve in the next few weeks will send out a revised/condensed version for board review as well as a description of the Lead Entity and the Lead Entity Committee. All other actions pertaining to the by-laws were TABLED.

Approve an RFP and scope of work to ensure collaborative development of an implementation financing plan with the other Columbia Basin Regions:

Action 5: Steve explained that the RFP had not yet been received by him. So he suggested this matter be TABLED unless others had something to discuss. There was no further discussion and the matter was TABLED.

Authorize payment of travel expenses for Professor Colin Thorne to talk with local communities/individuals about levee setbacks and success stories from elsewhere:

Action 6: Dick Ducharme moved that the board approve Travel expenses up to but not to exceed \$2000 for Professor Colin Thorne to come to our area and talk about levee setbacks and success stories. Doug Matoon seconded the motion.

Discussion: Dick Jones asked if we were approving him just talking to the commissioners or to the general public? His preference was for him to talk to the general public. After some discussion it was stated that the details could be worked out after the approval of travel expenses.

Jay Holzmilller called for a vote. Steve reviewed the motion and there being no further discussion. The motion was approved by consensus.

Election of co-chairs; Options: volunteers, nominations, develop nominating committee:

Action 7: Dick Jones suggested a Chair, and a Vice Chair structure might be a better one. The board agreed.

Ed Schultz nominated Del Groat to be Chairman; the motion was seconded by Doug Matoon

Doug Matoon nominated Cathy Schaeffer for Vice Chairman; the motion was seconded by Ed Schultz.

Doug Matoon stated that there should be equal representation from both east and west sides, so he believed that these were great nominations. The board was in complete agreement.

Cathy Schaeffer stated that she would like to take this opportunity to thank Jay Holzmilller for a job well done and for all his years as co chair, the board agreed.

There being no further discussion a vote was called for. The Elections carried by Consensus.

Review of historic level of Conservation District habitat and assessment project proposals for SRSRB:

Steve called the board's attention to the meeting handout under the Conservation Proposal tab.

He stated that the PRISM web-based system was not available, so he was going by files he had on his computer. He asked Brad Johnson and Del Groat if the table was pretty accurate. They concurred that it was. Dick Ducharme asked if this was an anomaly this year that the conservation districts did not have many

projects this last grant round. It was stated by Brad and Steve that they believe that it is an anomaly. Brad stated that because of the School and Columbia Complex fires there was outside funding available from many different sources. This funding was time critical and tied up the work forces of many of our conservation districts.

Steve stated that there are a lot of restrictions under NOAA's permitting requirements that may have also contributed to projects not being brought forward. This is a great opportunity to get projects on lists, work with Kris Buelow to get these projects teed up and on his 3 yr implementation list.

Jay Holzmilller stated that he thinks we get a great service for the amount of monies we are spending with the conservation districts to get projects.

It was agreed that the board will monitor the projects proposed by the conservation districts in the future.

Discuss preliminary recommendations to the NWPCC regarding fish and wildlife program amendments:

Steve stated that there was a real sense of urgency when Stacey Horton spoke to the board at the last December board meeting for the board to present their recommendations to NWPCC. The date has now changed to April. By the 4th Tuesday in March Steve should have a document ready for board approval. A draft will be presented at the February meeting for board review.

Dick Ducharme stated that the SRSRB could have a recommendation that deals with predators. (Small mouth bass and walleyes) and their elimination instead of dealing with the limitations.

Del stated that these issues are being addressed right now by the Columbia Basin, etc.... he applauds the board for being proactive and talking about these issues. There are at least 3 articles addressing these issues in the article he sent Steve today. It addresses at least 120 predatory species.

Steve reviewed the NWPCC handout in the meeting booklet and asked the Board for direction.

Response and direction to the draft program amendment letter provide by Steve:

Discussion of all 6 items on the list occurred and confirmation of the items as priority positions was provided except for a request for more time to assess how much of a role the Board seeks for coordination and requesting funding for coordination. In addition the Board requested the following be incorporated into one of the six or added as an additional item:

Highlight the importance of implementing the actions identified in the mainstem modules as mainstem actions will multiply our tributary efforts.

Request synchronization of the program with other programs and embrace the priorities and efforts of the planning efforts completed thus far.

State that the benefits from previous, on-going and planned actions will take at least 7 years to be realized and request that no plan revisions occur during this time.

Encourage the Council and its Program to drive the funding allocations by BPA rather than the Council to ask BPA for the amount available.

The Board will consider its level of intensity pertaining to its role of coordinating the process and funding, and provide input at the February meeting.

Status update on selection of consultant for land use policy and conservation easement program review/compare/contrast analysis [RFP published Jan 15, response due Feb 1, Board action February 26]:

Steve updated the board on the status of the RFP. He stated we could set up a review committee. He would like to bring a recommendation to the board in February; he would like it to not be his recommendation but a committee recommendation. Doug suggested that based on the amount of proposals received Steve set up a committee to review the proposals. Doug would volunteer for the Asotin county faction, Ed Schultz agreed. Steve stated that there is an executive meeting scheduled for Tuesday, February 19th and also a RTT Meeting. It might be possible to coordinate and have the selection committee meet on that day. Cathy Schaeffer, Brad Johnson and Doug Matoon all agreed to be on the selection committee. Dick Jones stated that if he was available he would also help and asked Steve to please email him with the details. Doug suggested doing this electronically or in a conference call format. Pending the magnitude of responses to the RFP a meeting may be warranted or the review/recommendation may occur via phone.

Interlocal agreement review and revision discussion – two versions exists:

Steve stated that there are two versions. He asked if the board is comfortable with the two versions. Cathy stated that the Bylaws are what the board is governed by. Dick stated it is in the bylaws. All agreed that we just need to state that it is in our bylaws and this is what the board is governed by. The interlocal agreements will be reviewed after the revised bylaws are approved to assess whether a new interlocal agreement is needed or not.

Status of vacant Columbia County seat:

Eric Myers has decided that he will not return to his position on the board. Dick Jones stated that a letter from whoever is interested can be sent to the commissioners’ office, that person can then be appointed to the position. The position will also be published in the paper soon. Butch Klaveano stated that Mark Kasseto (spelling?) will probably be stepping into the Garfield county seat replacing Gary Cole.

Regional project funding allocation options paper and Board recommendation:

Steve directed the boards’ attention to the meeting handout tab, Regional Project Funding. He explained the position of the RCO to reduce the Snake Regions allocation by .5%. Dick stated that there is a real need to prioritize projects so that we can get the funding and not lose the funding. Cathy Schaeffer stated that in the past the graph pretty much showed that the projects were originally being offered by the conservation districts and now that is changing to different entities. It was stated that this is exactly why Kris Buelow is now on Board. Discussion of the bulleted items then followed and there was confirmation that the items are the priority of the Board at this time.

Regional Board’s policy summit, May 16 in Vancouver – develop understanding and identify participants:

An all day discussion of monitoring, integration, and implementation funding will be happening with other various entities on May 16 in Vancouver. Steve would really like to ask each board member to consider participating in this summit so that the SRSRB is strongly represented.

3 yr Implementation Worksheet:

Kris Buelow presented briefly a 3 year implementation work plan that he has been working on. He advised the SRSRB to become familiar with the table and be aware that it is being developed. This table will become more populated as time goes on. Kris asked that those present be thinking of projects they have completed in the past and those they would like to do in the future, and then get that information to Kris to be inserted into the Table. The worksheet presented was identified as a brief example.

Special Meeting January 29th – set or cancel: Canceled

Next Board Meeting

Next Board Meeting will be February 26th, 2008 at 6pm.

WWCC Campus

Clarkston – Room #164

Walla Walla – Water and Environmental Center

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:40.

Review of Tasks


Task Title

- Task 1: Budget Item adjustments
- Task 2: Conservation Easement Criteria adjustments
- Task 3: SRSRB Bylaw Revision
- Task 4: Develop Preliminary recommendations to NWPCC
- Task 5: Select Consultant for Land Use Policy and Conservation Easement
- Task 6: Fill Columbia County Vacant Seat
- Task 7: Regional Project Funding Allocation
- Task 8: Regional Boards Policy Summit

Review of Actions

Action Title	Motion	Second	Consensus	Vote	Pass
Meeting Minutes- December 4th, 2007	Ed Schultz	Butch Klaveano	Yes		
Approve Nov/Dec 2007 Expenditures RCO and WDFW Budgets	Doug Matoon	Ed Schultz	Yes		
Approve Conservation Easement Criteria and Recommendations Table	Ed Schultz	Stuart Durfee	Yes		
Authorize Co-Leads to make Lead Entity Management and Administrative decisions, revise By-laws accordingly	TABLED	TABLED			
Approve RFP and scope of work to ensure collaborative development of an implementation financing plan with the other Columbia Basin Regions	TABLED	TABLED			
Authorize payment of travel expenses for Professor Colin Thorne	Dick Ducharme	Doug Matoon	Yes		
Election of Chairman (Del Groat)	Ed Schultz	Doug Matoon	Yes		
Election of Vice Chairman (Cathy Schaeffer)	Doug Matoon	Ed Schultz	Yes		

Name	Attendance for 2008											
	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
Doug Mattoon	Yes											
Dick Isaac												
Jay Holzmilller	Yes											
Dick Ducharme	Yes											
Dick Jones	Yes											
Gary James	Yes											
Virgil Klaveano	Yes											
Del Groat	Yes											
Gary Cole												
Cathy Schaeffer	Yes											
Yancey Reser	Yes											
Stuart Durfee	Yes											
Michael Largent												
Ed Schultz	Yes											

 No meeting was conducted this month.

