

Snake River Salmon Recovery Board

Meeting Notes June 24th, 2008,

Board Members Present:

Clarkston – Del Groat (GC), Dick Isaac (AC), Ed Schultz (WC), (GC), Gary Thorgaard (WC)

Others: Anne Chapman (SRSRB), Kris Buelow (SRSRB), Brad Johnson (WRIA 35)

Walla Walla - Roland Schirman (CC), Cathy Schaeffer (WWC), Yancey Reser (WWC), Stuart Durfee (WWC), Dick Jones (CC)

Via Phone: Dick Ducharme

Others: Steve Martin (SRSRB), Larry Hooker (WWCCD), Laila Parker (Cascadia Consulting), Kris Hyland

Vice Chair, Cathy Schaeffer called the meeting to order.

Cathy verified a quorum: 10 board members present (With the addition of Gary Thorgaard as the new Whitman County Board Member)

Welcome: – Thank-you to Ed Schultz for his 6 years of service on the SRSRB and welcome to Gary Thorgaard.

Approval of May 27th, Meeting Notes:

Action 1: Cathy asked for a motion to approve the May 27th board meeting notes. The motion was made by Roland Schirman and was seconded by Yancey Reser to approve the May 27th meeting notes with no corrections. There being no discussion, the motion carried by consensus.

Agenda Additions:

- 1.) Kris Hyland – Importance of Fish Management Quotas
- 2.) WDFW has a real active part in development of IMW and they have to have an ESA listed depart involved. SRSRB approval of \$10,000 contract with WDFW to help kickoff and get through first faze of IMW.

Action 2: A motion was made to approve the above listed additions to the agenda by Dick Jones, and the motion was seconded by Stuart Durfee. There being no further discussion the motion carried by Consensus.

Kris Hyland – Harvest Management Quotas:

Discussion: Kris stated that he was at the meeting just as an individual angler, even though he had worked with the Corp of Engineers in the past. He would like to request that the SRSRB write a letter to the Fish & Wildlife commission on the allocations of sport harvest. He stated that the two fish & wildlife commissions (WA and OR) set seasons and they are divided up down the river; one of those divisions being at the Bonneville Dam. He sees a bias as to how the seasons are set and where. He would like to see more percentage of the allocation up river.

Ed Schultz stated that unless you can tie this letter directly to a recovery action, then the issue is political and he is against the board getting involved in that. Kris stated that in years past there had been reports of Tucannon Hatchery Fish being caught down below Bonneville dam (When they clipped the fish), and that you can make an argument from a Spring Chinook standpoint that it is a recovery angle. Steve stated that

reduction in harvest quotas is in our recovery plan. Del Groat stated that this is real political issue and the Columbia Basin Fishing Report from what he remembers has just stated that Tribal take down river is more than they originally thought. We may be jumping the gun on this issue. There is a lot of unfairness in this issue and he thinks we really do not want to get involved in this political issue.

Task: Dick Jones suggested that Steve and Kris work on this and bring back a proposal for consideration at a future meeting. He stated he thinks it is more of an equity issue than political. The board agreed.

WDFW \$10,000 Contract Request:

Discussion: Steve stated that the WDFW would like us to contract for \$10,000 to get the IMW process started. These monies would come out of the RCO Grant Monies. If we do not do this, there are a couple things that could happen. Time Delays while the contractor has to get an approval of a Section 7 permit and essentially big time delays. Del stated that this is a cheap price for what we are asking them to do

Action 3: Dick Jones moved that we allocate \$10,000 from the RCO budget to the WDFW for the IMW process, Ed Schultz seconded the motion. There being no discussion the motion carried by consensus.

Approve May 2008 Expenditures:

Action 4: Ed Schultz made a motion to approve the invoices/vouchers totaling \$39,589.28 expended in May 2008 in the RCO Budget. Additionally he moved to approve the invoices/vouchers totaling \$9,657.36 expended in May 2008 in the WDFW Budget. Dick Isaacs seconded the motion. Del Groat Abstained. The motion carried by consensus.

Approve May Budget Adjustments:

Discussion: With the May Expenses approved there needs to be some adjustments to balance the budget. Anne has developed the adjustment above for us to consider.

Action 5: Ed Schultz made a motion to approve the budget adjustments listed below:

RCO Contingency to Mastin & Mastin	\$4500.00
RCO Contingency to Supplies	\$3000.00
WDFW Computer Services to Travel	\$1000.00

Dick Isaacs seconded the motion. Del Groat Abstained. The motion carried by consensus.

Draft report/update on comparison of conservation easement and land use policies – Laila Parker, Cascadia Consulting:

Discussion: Laila Parker of Cascadia Consulting provided a summary power point of her draft report comparing and contrasting conservation easements with land use policies across the Snake River region and asked the Board for input before finalizing the report next month

Task: The board requested that Anne prepare the Draft report and send to all board members for their review by the end of the week. The boards comments will be do back on the July 11th.

RTT/Co-lead/staff review of Lead Entity pre application proposals – update/next steps:

Discussion: Kris Buelow reported that the RTT along with LE citizens, conservation districts and Board/LE staff reviewed 32 pre applications. The total monies requested is approximately \$3 ½ million dollars not including the conservation easement requests. Kris directed the boards' attention to the summarized graph/memo that he had developed of the pre applications for the boards review. This is the first in many steps towards arriving at a final list in early September. Kris reported that full applications are due at Conservation Districts by July 18th. Steve thanked Kris for his really nice job summarizing all the pre-apps for the board. Steve suggested that the board address the conservation easement application issues and the amount of funding that they are willing to fund. Discussion about the projects and explanations then followed. On Aug 8th the LE and RTT will meet to rate the projects.

Executive Committee recommendations on fiscal year 2008-2009 contracts and tasks for co-leads and Planning Units; employee performance evaluations; and, discussing work load priorities:

Discussion: Cathy stated that at the last meeting the board expressed needs to address the above issues. Cathy reported that the executive committee supports the 08-09 work tasks and budgets for each co-lead and both planning units as well as the 08-09 operating budgets for the Lead Entity/WDFW grant and the Salmon Recovery/RCO grant. The 08-09 operating budget for each program reflects a \$10,000 pay raise for Kris based on his exceptional performance and that we hired this position with an understanding that the starting pay was intentionally low to allow us a review period. The budgets also include a 5% COLA for staff. These recommendations are action items later on the agenda; this is simply to inform the Board that the executive committee supports the reports and recommendations. Regarding performance evaluations and work load priorities.

TASK: The executive committee asked Steve to prepare a graph/pie chart highlighting where he, Kris and Anne spend time (tasks as well as location) for the next ex com meeting to help develop an approach at conducting evaluations.

Ed Schultz suggested that the board needs to develop some sort of task force or smaller organized groups to get some of these issues resolved. It is impossible to have the board as a whole make all of these kinds of decisions. Roland suggested committees, where certain board members specialized in certain areas, and also stated he would trust others to make decisions for the whole board. Dick Jones stated that in the past that was how the board operated, but it had not been successful. It may be easier now though due to having more telecommunications available.

Cathy stated that if we can't go to committees, then we may need to authorize the director to do more.

There will be an Executive Committee meeting July 15th, decisions will be made according to the staff info provided, and Cathy encouraged all board members to call in.

Del asked about the WWCC employee evaluation procedures. Cathy stated that for the Watershed alliance they are not structured the same as the regular WWCC employees. He volunteered to be on an evaluation committee for the employees of the SRSRB.

Hatchery Scientific Review Group meeting schedule for our region:

Discussion: Not much to report on here other than the HSRG continues to include Steve in their process and that they will be reviewing hatcheries in our region later this summer. Steve will send out notices/invitations to Board members as they occur.

Steve reported that he had received a email from Andy Appleby, Meeting on July 28th in LaGrande, 5 day meeting, 1st 2 days looking at 5 fish hatchery's on the Snake, the next day will be protocols, then the group will sequester themselves and develop recommendation, 5th day provide drafts.

Update from County Commissioners regarding local discussions about the regional road maintenance program and level of interest to proceed or not:

Discussion: Cathy reported that at the last Board meeting it was concluded that county-specific reports on internal support for proceeding with regional road maintenance programs would be better than proceeding with an RFP to do the work. She asked if there were any reports from the counties. Steve reported that he missed a call from Michael Largent today. Doug Matoon and Butch Klaveano emails were sent and he did not get a reply back as of yet.

Dick Jones reported that he has not heard anything back for the Col Co Public Works department. Dick stated that when he originally talked to him, he did not have a problem except for funding issues. Dick has not followed up, and needs to do that. Dick Ducharme stated that he has real reservations doing this, as the board knows, however he does think phase 2 is okay to do. Cathy reported that Commissioner Tompkins had joined her at the last meeting and in talking with their public works department they see no reason to not

proceed with the next step, as this step is only a risk assessment step. Del Groat commented that he had talked with Commissioner Klaveano and they have no reservations about going ahead with Phase 2.

Letter to the Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Authority regarding their summary of sub basin/recovery plans – it was sent June 12:

Discussion: Steve reported that he had submitted this letter based on approval at the last board meeting. It is included here just for the boards reference/files. THERE WERE NO OTHER COMMENTS FROM BOARD.

Update on Intensively Monitored Watershed project:

Discussion: Steve reported that this program is moving smoothly and rapidly forward. A couple notes: There will be unspent funds in our contractors' budget that will be spent on monitoring equipment and/or habitat treatments. There is opportunity to apply for upwards of \$200,000 this summer for treatments/monitoring and then again later this fall for next year's work. Dick moved that we go ahead and contract with Ecologic to finish the job. It was stated that there was no action required now, unless changing the contract already in place. Steve stated that at the July meeting he will have a contract ready for the board to approve for roughly \$150,000, that the board can then turn around and contract with a contractor of their choice. It was agreed to leave as is the existing contract with Ecologic.

Approve travel expense cost reimbursement from RCO contract for Tim Beechie, NOAA representative on the RTT not to exceed \$2,000 for fiscal year 2008-2009:

Discussion: Cathy reported that Tim is a real asset to us and the RTT providing both technical input on projects and plan updates but also helps us communicate with NOAA headquarters.

Action 6: Roland Schirman moved to approve the travel reimbursement for Tim Beechie, Stuart Durfee seconded.

Discussion: Ed asked why Tim's organization isn't paying for this. Del commented that there is no way to give him a check, if he is driving a government vehicle. It is a very tedious process; NOAA does not require him to be there. Is this going to set precedence for others to ask for travel reimbursements? Cathy commented that it is hard to sit in on the meetings when they are 6 hr meetings on a conference call. Dick Ducharme asked if this was a requirement of their contract and he has a concern about paying these kinds of people to do their job. ? Cathy stated that these exact questions and conversations were discussed during the executive committee meeting last week. Steve explained that the travel reimbursement would cover 5 trips plus per diem costs approximately.

Objections: Del would like to see an itemized list of exactly these expenses are going to be and also what others are charging for this to justify these expenses. Dick Jones agreed. Is the board ready to agree to set precedence like this? Del, Ed and Dick Isaacs asked why the SRSRB would be paying travel expenses for an organization involved in the recovery to implement their recovery plan?

Action 6: TABLED Recommendation to defer this to July and get a list as to what he will be being reimbursed for. Tim Beechie is a voting member of the RTT.

Approve 2008-2009 Lead Entity (WDFW) Operating Budget:

Discussion: Steve directed the boards' attention to the meeting handout and reported that the Executive committee recommends supporting this budget. He then explained the conservation contracts, staff payroll and the Interlocking software part of the budget. Steve also explained that this budget is reduced this year by \$7,000. Last years budget was \$72,500 and this years is \$65,000.00

Action 7: Ed Schultz moved to approve the proposed Lead Entity (WDFW) Operating Budget, Dick Isaacs seconded the motion, Del Groat Abstained, The motion carried by consensus.

Approve 2008-2009 SRSRB (RCO) Operating Budget:

Discussion: Steve then reported that the Executive committee recommends supporting this budget. Steve explained that the payroll reflects a \$10,000 post performance evaluation and 5% COLA for Kris, and 5% COLA for Steve and Anne. Steve explained that he would like to have Anne have more hrs. (26 hrs) This would classify her as a full time employee. Discussion about Anne's payroll, WRIA contracts and CTUIR contracts then followed. WRIA Contracts reflect a considerable reduction due to contract obligations being fulfilled. Brad Johnson stated that the IMW should be listed also as a subtask in the memo as part of the \$10,000.00 more in the WRIA 35 contract. Dick Jones requested that last year's budget and the new proposed budget be right beside each other on the same sheet of paper in the future. Anne stated that she could do that for next year.

Action 8: Dick Jones moved to approve the proposed SRSRB (RCO) Operating Budget, Dick Ducharme seconded. Del Groat Abstained, The motion carried by consensus

Action 9: Dick Jones moved to amend Anne's employee contract to Full Time employee (19 ½ to 26 hrs) with benefits, Stuart Durfee seconded the motion, no discussion followed and the motion carried by consensus.

Review Interoffice Memo: Lead Entity and Regional Coordination tasks and budgets:

Discussion: Cathy stated that the Executive committee recommends supporting these tasks and budgets and asked if the Board had any comments for the contract renewals. There being none Steve will convert these tasks/budgets into interagency contracts with the organizations and WWCC for Board review and approval in July.

Approve 2009-2011 state and federal agency priority actions:

Discussion: We have seen these actions several times now and at the last Board meeting we asked that the RTT put these into two or so Tiers; the RTT put them into 5 tiers based on their near-term benefits to implementing our recovery plan. The executive committee recommends approving this prioritized list. Cathy asked that Steve and Kris comment on this. Steve explained the table and tier order. This is just to initiate discussions with State agencies so that they can put these in their 09-11 budget. Dick Ducharme would like to see the RTT when they evaluate these projects also look at the cost of these projects and have a cost estimate included in their reports.

Kris stated that we need to wait and see what the assessment reports; it may be very inexpensive to fix some of the issues. Biop on Mill Creek has a cost estimate in it, Steve believes.

Discussion about many different projects listed on the table then followed.

Ed Schultz stated that all these changes are not going to change a thing, this table has been presented many times and these issues should have been addressed in meetings before.

Action 10: Dick Jones moved to approve the 2009-11 State/Fed Priority Actions table as amended. Amend the last project in Tier 1 to complete the Walla Walla River Flow enhancement study and begin implementation of preferred alternatives. Objective reads: Move towards goal (initially 20 cfs) with new water. Dick Ducharme Seconded the motion. No additional discussion. Motion carried by consensus.

Approve publishing RFP for developing regional Road Maintenance Program:

The executive committee did not make a recommendation on this other than to say the Board needs to hear from each county and if there is a "threshold" level of support for the Board to take action.

Action 11: Stuart moved to approve the RFP as shown in the handout. Yancey Reser Seconded the motion. Motion carried by consensus.

Summer-time Board and committee meeting schedule handout:

August 8th – Sponsors present projects

August 28th – Approval of projects

August meeting (4th Tuesday) may not be needed; Because of LE Review of Projects on August 28th. This board has to approve the list by the 15th of September. So the board may need a meeting before then. It was suggested that the August meeting may need to be rescheduled to sometime early in September.

Anne will post to our website a summer time Board and committee meeting schedule.

Special meeting July 1st – set or cancel:

Canceled

Next Board Meeting July 22nd in Clarkston, Walla Walla (WWCC – ITV):

The next Board Meeting will be July 22nd, 2008 at 6pm at the WWCC Campus in Clarkston and Walla Walla.

Anne will attend the meeting in Walla Walla and Steve will attend in Clarkston.

Del will chair the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:10pm.

Review of Tasks

Task Title

Task 1: Steve/Kris Harvest Management Quotas develop proposal letter for consideration.

Task 2: Anne prepare/send Cascadia Draft report to all board members.

Task 3: Steve - prepare a graph/pie chart highlighting employees spend time (Tasks as well as location) for the next ex com meeting to help develop an approach to conducting employee evaluations.

Task 4:

Task 5:

Review of Actions

Action Title	Motion	Second	Consensus	Vote	Pass
Approval of May 27th, Meeting Notes:	Roland Schirman	Yancey Reser	Yes		
Approve Agenda Additions	Dick Jones	Stuart Durfee	Yes		
Allocate \$10,000 from the RCO budget to the WDFW for the IMW process.	Dick Jones	Ed Schultz	Yes		
Approve May 2008 Expenditures for RCO and WDFW Budgets	Ed Schultz	Dick Isaacs	Yes		
Approve May Budget Adjustments	Ed Schultz	Dick Isaacs	Yes		
Approve Travel Expense Cost Reimbursement for Tim Beechie, NOAA Rep, for RTT.	Roland Schirman	Stuart Durfee	TABLED		
Approve 2008-09 Lead Entity (WDFW) Operating Budget	Ed Schultz	Dick Isaacs	Yes		
Approve 2008-2009 SRSRB (RCO) Operating Budget	Dick Jones	Dick Ducharme	Yes		
Amend Anne's Employee Contract from 19 ½ hrs to 26 hrs with benefits.	Dick Jones	Stuart Durfee	Yes		
Approve 2009-2011 state and federal agency priority actions	Dick Jones	Dick Ducharme	Yes		
Approve RFP for developing regional Road Maintenance Program	Stuart Durfee	Yancey Reser	Yes		

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

No meeting was conducted this month.

* First meeting as a SRSRB Board Member