



MEETING NOTES – June 23, 2009

Place: Walla Walla Community College Campus (Clarkston / Walla Walla)

Format: ITV

Board Members Present

Clarkston: Del Groat (GC), Bob Johnson (GC), Kelly Farnsworth (WC), Doug Mattoon (AC), Jay Holzmiller (AC), Gary Thorgaard (WC)

Others: Brad Johnson (WRIA35), Jason Schlee (ACCD), Sandy Cunningham (ACCD), Duane Bartels (PCD), Anne Chapman (SRSRB)

Walla Walla: Richard Jones (CC), Dick Ducharme (CC), Cathy Schaeffer (WWC), Stuart Durfee (WWC)

Others: Kris Buelow (SRSRB), Steve Martin (SRSRB), Larry Hooker (WWCCD), Greg Farrens (LEC- WWC), Dave Karl (WDFW)

On Phone: Roland Schirman (CC), Lyn Hatcher (NOAA) Phil Miller (GSRO)

Chairman Del Groat called the meeting to order and verified a quorum present. (11 board members present.)

Welcome:

Del welcomed all to the meeting and introductions were made.

Approval of May 26th, 2009 meeting notes:

Action 1: Dick Jones moved to approve the May 26th, 2009 meeting notes. Doug Mattoon seconded the motion. There being no further discussion the motion carried by consensus.

Approve May Expenses: WDFW \$16,729.53 / RCO \$ 40,220.84

Action 2: Doug Mattoon made a motion to approve the invoices/vouchers totaling \$40,220.84 expended in May 2009 in the RCO Budget. Additionally he moved to approve the invoices/vouchers totaling \$ 16,729.53 expended in May 2009 in the WDFW Budget. Gary Thorgaard seconded the motion. There being no further discussion, the motion carried by consensus. Del Groat Abstained.

Additions to the Agenda:

WDFW re: Harvest Allocation

Del asked that we approve a Letter to WDFW interim Director Phil Anderson requesting a more conservative recreational fishing harvest allocation in the lower Columbia for salmon. Take a look at the letter behind the pink page and I will entertain a motion to approve. Doug Mattoon suggested that after tribal governments, first line, second paragraph, the words "and citizens" be added. Dick Ducharme stated that we should add something about keeping public support throughout the state, and by giving disproportionate harvest allocations it's hard to do that. Steve stated that the Yakima Recovery Board has submitted the same kind of letter last week. Dick Jones suggested taking out in 3rd paragraph the first couple of sentences and insert Dick's wording. Steve stated he would add the wording: To maintain public support for salmon recovery efforts in watersheds upstream from Bonneville we believe it critical to provide balanced salmon harvest opportunities.

Action 3: Dick Ducharme moved to send letter with changes discussed. Dick Jones seconded the motion. There being no further discussion, the motion carried by consensus.

Voting Board Members: Cathy Schaeffer, Yancey Reser, Stuart Durfee, Dick Ducharme, Dick Jones, Roland Schirman, Doug Mattoon, Jay Holzmiller, Bob Johnson, Bill Bowles, Del Groat, Michael Largent, Gary Thorgaard, Kelly Farnsworth, Confederated Tribe of Umatilla Indian Reservation

Economic Stimulus Update:

Del asked Steve to update us on our projects submitted. Steve reported that as the board should recall we approved 3 projects that were supported by the Governor but we have not heard anything back from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act program. Del asked Lynn Hatcher of NOAA if he had any news. Lynn had nothing new to report.

Letter to Governor Gregoire requesting southeastern Washington representation on Fish and Wildlife Commission:

Del stated that the board asked Steve to prepare a letter to the Governor seeking appointment of a vacant seat on the Fish and Wildlife Commission. The draft letter in your booklet is located behind the blue page. Dick Jones commented on the letter stating that he was concerned about the Governor's initiative to eliminate boards/commissions. Dick Ducharme stated that they will have a hard time eliminating this board without a statutory change. Roland Schirman stated that he needed to clarify in his mind what the board is trying to do. Are we trying to state that the board is ineffective and that we need to have representatives from all corners of the state. Or are we trying to fill the board to further our own objectives? Jay Holzmilller stated that he has interviewed for this position several times and has turned it down. Del asked if there needed to be wording changes. Roland stated that he wanted to go forward with the letter, but felt that some of the wording probably might make the Governor feel we are trying to move forward with our own objectives. Steve will work with Roland to rewrite the letter. Dick Ducharme stated that we need to point out in the letter that the Snake River is a major salmon producing area in the state and representation is missing from the Snake River region – there needs to be balance on the board. Cathy Schaeffer stated that maybe a more indirect way is to point out that there is no appointee from southeast Washington. Dick Jones stated that we need to emphasize the importance of filling the position with someone from southeast Washington who has knowledge of salmon, steelhead, bull trout, etc., in this area. Doug Mattoon suggested using wording stating from the Snake River Watershed area instead of Southeast Washington.

Action 4: Doug Mattoon moved that we authorize our chairmen to send the letter asking to provide balance to the commission by filling the seat with representation from the Snake River watershed area and using other suggestions discussed. Roland Schirman seconded the motion. There being no further discussion, the motion carried by consensus.

Perspective from NOAA and the Governor's Salmon Recovery Office:

Both NOAA and the GSRO have been on travel restrictions and unable to attend our meetings recently but wanted the opportunity to share their perspectives on the importance of regional salmon recovery boards. Phil Miller (GSRO) and Lynn Hatcher (NOAA) are on the phone.

Lynn Hatcher of NOAA stated that he basically wanted to review NOAA's and the states perspective of the purpose and need for the local recovery boards. NOAA is responsible for conducting several legal mandates of the endangered species act throughout the state. Building recovery plans, evaluating them every 5 years and implementing them are some of NOAA's responsibilities. Supporting the funding of local regional recovery boards is part of NOAA's plan to accomplish these objectives. This did not happen in Oregon and Idaho, however in Washington there is an incredibly strong network of recovery boards throughout the state. These recovery boards are still meeting monthly, lobbying regularly in Olympia and staying active in overseeing the implementation of projects in their areas. Having local county commissioners and local citizen members on these local recovery boards are key to coordinating and implementing projects for NOAA.

Phil Miller (GSRO) wanted to second everything that Lynn Hatcher had stated. He stated that we have something really special happening in the individual areas across Washington state. The Recovery Boards are the key ingredient. The Snake River Region has a unique relationship with NOAA. A lot of interesting things are going on in the Walla Walla region with water flows, in the tucannon with habitat improvement (Power System Biop), in fact significant habitat restoration in our whole region. Our region is starting to look more and more at hatchery improvement and harvest relationships. A relationship with state/federal agencies is prevalent and very important and that relationship needs to be continued in our region. It takes work to maintain these relationships/partnerships. Phil wanted to applaud our efforts for the past 8 -10 years.

Steve thanked both Lynn and Phil for calling in and touching base with us. Phil apologized for not being here in person. He thinks that one on one is important. Travel restrictions are in effect and he promised that they will get here sooner or later.

2004 Inter-local agreement:

Steve explained that he had reviewed our 2004 Inter-local Agreement and noticed that the term has expired. It was located behind the yellow page in the meeting booklet. He is looking for two things (1) review the yellow sections that he added that seems to more accurately reflect our work and (2) approve the document so he can schedule meetings with the boards of county commissioners and CTUIR for signature. The Nez Perce did not sign, they wanted to maintain their independence. Discussion of having WWCC as a signer included was because of Page 4, Section 7.

On Page 2, last paragraph. All agreed to switch the first paragraph on page 3 with the last on page two. On page 3, second paragraph change protection and restoration to management.

On page 4, Section 111. Duration. A 5 year term was suggested, making this agreement expire in 2014.

Action 5: Kelly Farnsworth moved to approve the inter-local agreement with the previously stated changes. Roland Schirman seconded the motion. There being no further discussion the motion carried by consensus.

Round 10 Project Submittal update & SRFB Tours report June 18th & 19th (Kris):

Del stated that the SRFB visited several of the proposed projects for this year's lead entity/SRFB grant round last week and Kris has a summary of the projects and the tours behind the purple page in the meeting booklet for us tonight.

ROUND 10 PROJECT SUBMITTAL: Kris reported that there were approximately 17 projects submitted by June 2nd, 2009 deadline for the 10th Grant Round. The projects totaled \$3.6 million in SRFB Requested Monies of which there is \$1.6 million available, \$1.4 in match monies. He directed the board members attention to the pie chart and the map to show type and locations of projects in the meeting booklet.

SRFB TOURS: Kris reported that the SRFB toured 2 projects in Asotin County and 2 in the Tucannon with 15 participants on June 18th. On June 19th there were approximately 10 people touring projects in Columbia County on the Touchet (5 projects) and 2 projects in Walla Walla. Del asked about the SRFB Review panels comments. Kris reported that comments from the review panel are due to come out on July 2nd. More complex/bigger projects are being seen and the review panel understands the need for assessments. Dave Karl reported that there were a lot of nice comments from the review board. Steve stated that it is note-worthy that the quality and amounts of the projects is way over the limit of our allotted project monies. He thanked the sponsors for their work on these projects and their submittals. Steve also stated that July 20th is an important pre-scoring meeting date for these projects. A 10 minute presentation will be done by the project sponsors at that time. All projects applications are on the SRSRB website under the lead entity tab, follow the 10th grant round links. Del strongly recommended that all board members go to the website and review the projects as we are going to have to turn down many of these projects. August 11th is the final scoring/ranking date and August 25th, 2009 is the date that we will have a board meeting and finalize the prioritized list.

COMMENTS: Dick Ducharme asked if the easement agreements were on the website. Kris stated that they were not at this time, but that they will be for the final application. Dick commented that the costs per acre in these easement applications were varied. He stated he thought that the board needs to know what is going to be allowed and not allowed on these easements, so that the board knows what they are buying. (Zoning, CREP, Farming, etc....)

Tucannon Ranch – restore property loss to function? (Is it partly CREP – how much more restoration necessary???)

On the Tucannon River Offset Dike – 130 acres - what are we paying for- CREP outside of a dike - why would we pay for CREP outside of a dike? Normal River function has already been restored there.

Dick would like to also know how Blue Mt Land Trust functions and if they benefit from these projects.

A project should get approved on what it does for the recovery of salmonids, not who the sponsor is.

Del thanked Dick for his comments, he advised Kris to go back and review his comments, because he felt that the board is in agreement with Dick.

Dave Karl – The WDFW perspective is that they should not be competing with local sponsors. Dick Ducharme stated that there are pretty definitive guidelines as to the type of projects the board likes.

Dick Jones stated that projects that really benefit fish if brought forward by WDFW should be looked at or the board would be recalcitrant to not look at them.

Dick Jones stated that as much as Dick Ducharme supports easements, Dick Jones does not.

Dick Ducharme wants to see the agreements on the easements and costs per acre before scoring rounds. He stated that he will not approve any of them, if he does not see those.

KRIS TASK 1: Pull out easements agreement information.

STEVE: Do you want all of the monies, donated monies, or SRFB requested monies? Doug Mattoon what is the current zoning or land use restrictions on that property. Are we paying for a conservation easement on land that they can't develop anyway?

Dayton Senior High School Student Project and Travel Expense Approval – David Frame:

We were asked by the high school senior advisor if we would benefit from a senior high school student in the context of an "internship". Steve suggested that a photo journal of our region would be useful and the advisor suggested David Frame. If the Board approves this request, David will travel around the region generally with staff or as part of a tour like last week's project tour and take photographs and video with the final project being a coffee table book with photos and captions of activities in our region.

Steve stated that this is a requirement of a Dayton Junior High School student for graduation. Steve will occasionally ask David to use his personal vehicle to travel to an event so Steve is asking us to approve travel expense reimbursement for David not to exceed \$1,000. The student will remain under the schools liability policy as far as insurance.

Action 6: Dick Jones moved to approve Dayton Senior High School Student (David Frames) Project and travel expenses not to exceed \$1000 travel expenses. Dick Ducharme seconded the motion. There being no further discussion the motion carried by consensus.

IMW Update:

Steve reported that EcoLogical is now under contract through February 2010 for collecting fish and habitat data in upper Asotin Creek. One change to their study plan was reviewed by the RTT which was to use ground-based surveying as opposed to LiDAR. LiDAR is great for evaluating topography, riparian width, channel sinuosity etc but is not detailed enough to detect micro-changes in habitat conditions. It was stated that the cost of LIDAR is mobilization and demobilization of the aircraft, once in the air you might as well do more area because it is not that much more expensive.

Approve 09-11 master contract and partner (PU/CTUIR/CD) contracts:

Steve worked with the Governor's Salmon Office to put together the master contract based on direction we provided him in May which was to "keep our partners whole and negotiate the tasks we ask of them", continue with existing staff levels and operating expenses. The Master Contract is behind the green inserted page and has three scopes of work which are (1) base operations, (2) lead entity program and (3) plan revisions. There is no budget detail in the plan revisions SOW as this task will be contracted out to a firm this fall that does this type of work. This is a biennial contract so staff took the annual budget amounts and doubled them but noted in the contract that the partner contracts are one-year contracts subject to change next fiscal year. Also noteworthy is that while this is a biennial contract, the RCO contract with WDFW contains language allowing for termination at any time. Last month it was agreed we would not change fiscal agents in this fiscal year.

Also included are the partner contracts behind the pink and then purple inserted pages for approval in the following amounts for a one-year period.

- WRIA 32 - \$22,200 which is an increase of \$2,000 from the 08-09 period
- WRIA 35 - \$34,500 which is a \$4,500 increase from the 08-09 period
- CTUIR - \$7,500 which is a \$2,500 decrease from the 08-09 period
- ACCD - \$12,000 which is a \$2,000 increase from the 08-09 period
- CCD - \$10,000 which is no change from 08-09
- WWCCD - \$10,000 which is no change from 08-09
- PCD - \$5,000 which is a \$2,000 increase from 08-09

Del asked for a motion to approve the 2009-2011 Plan Implementation Contract with its three scopes of work and budgets as well as the 7 partner contracts and budgets.

ACTION 6: Doug Mattoon made a motion to approve the 2009-2011 Plan Implementation Contract with its three scopes of work and budgets as well as the 7 partner contracts and budgets. Gary Thorgaard seconded the motion. There being no further discussion, the motion carried by consensus.

Report on Terry Bruegman – Steve stated that Terry had a perforated colon and had been released from the hospital he believed that afternoon. Cathy asked if they kicked Terry out of the hospital!!!

JULY 20th MEETING Explanation: Kris explained that all sponsors will be coming to the meeting and have approximately 10 minutes to present their projects, starting @ 8am.

Confirm July 28th, 2009 Board meeting and location:

ACTION 7: Stuart Durfee moved to have the July 28th, 2009 meeting in Dayton at 6pm. Cathy Schaeffer seconded the motion. The motion carried by consensus.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:36 pm.

Tasks & Actions

Review of Tasks					
Task 1: (Kris) Pull out easements agreement information and ready for board members					
Task 2: (Steve) Work with Roland on Fish & Wildlife letter and send to Governor Gregoire.					
Review of Actions					
Action Title	Motion	Second	Consensus	Vote	Pass
Action 1: Approval of May 26 th Meeting Minutes	Dick Jones	Doug Mattoon	Yes		
Action 2: Approve May Expenses: WDFW \$16729.53/ RCO \$40,220.84	Doug Mattoon	Gary Thorgaard	Yes Del Groat Abstained		
Action 3: Approve Letter with changes to WDFW interim Director Phil Anderson and send.	Dick Ducharme	Dick Jones	Yes		
Action 4: Authorize our chairmen to send letter to Governor Gregoire asking to provide balance to the Fish & Wildlife commission by filling the seat with representation from the Snake River watershed area and using other suggestions discussed.	Doug Mattoon	Roland Schirman	Yes		
Action 5: Approve the 2004 inter-local agreement with stated amendments.	Kelly Farnsworth	Roland Schirman	Yes		
Action 6: Approve the 09-11 Plan Implementation Contract with its three scopes of work and budgets as well as the 7 partner contracts and budgets	Doug Mattoon	Gary Thorgaard	Yes		
Action 7: Moved to have the next SRSRB, July 28 th , 2009 meeting in Dayton @ 6pm.	Stuart Durfee	Cathy Schaeffer	Yes		

Attendance

Name	Attendance for 2009-2010											
	Jun 09	Jul 09	Aug 09	Sep 09	Oct 09	Nov 09	Dec 09	Jan 10	Feb 10	Mar 10	Apr 10	May 10
Doug Mattoon	Yes											
Jay Holzmilller	Yes											
Dick Ducharme	Yes											
Dick Jones	Yes											
Roland Schirman	Yes											
Gary James												
Del Groat	Yes											
Cathy Schaeffer	Yes											
Yancey Reser												
Stuart Durfee	Yes											
Michael Largent												
Gary Thorgaard	Yes											
Kelly Farnsworth	Yes											
Bob Johnson	Yes											
Billy Bowles												

*First meeting as a SRSRB Board Member