



MEETING NOTES – August 25th, 2009

Place: 207 Front Street, Starbuck (Old Zink Building)

Format: Regular

Board Members Present

Starbuck: Del Groat (GC), Cathy Schaeffer (WWC), Michael Largent (WC), Kelly Farnsworth (WC), Bill Bowles (GC), Dick Ducharme (CC)

On Phone: Stuart Durfee (WWC), Gary James (CTUIR), Bob Johnson (GC – during project rnd vote)

Others: Anne Chapman (SRSRB), Steve Martin (SRSRB), Kris Buelow (SRSRB), Larry Hooker (WWCCD), Sandy Cunningham (ACCD), Alan Schroeder (Anderson Perry), Jill Wood (Citizen).

On Phone:

Chairman Del Groat called the meeting to order a quorum not present at time of start of meeting. (7 board members were present or on the phone.)

Welcome:

Del welcomed all to the meeting and introductions were made.

Public Comment:

Del stated that he would like to report to the Board that Terry Bruegman's condition has stabilized and he is showing signs of improvement although he remains in ICU. Anne has sent all of you an address by email so that you can use it to mail him cards but for now we have a card for all of us to sign to send to him.

Additions to the Agenda:

1. Send letter to DOE regional director requesting appointment of staff person to RTT
2. Washington Wildlife & Recreation Program – Parks Trails and boating facilities. The legislature approved a new project category to the program, which is conversion of CREP contracts into permanent or semi-permanent conservation easements. Considering adding CREP as part as their funding. They allocate about \$40 million dollars biennially for projects submitted to the WWRP board that must then be approved by the legislature. Steve and Mike Denny are two of the policy group advisors for this new element of the WWRP program.

Approval of July 28th, 2009 meeting notes:

Gary James joined the meeting via phone, establishing a quorum and allowing the board to take action on the below items.

Action 1: Kelly Farnsworth moved to approve the July 28th, 2009 meeting notes. Michael Largent seconded the motion. There being no further discussion, the motion carried by consensus.

Approve July Monthly Expenses:

WDFW \$1,714.23

RCO \$13,503.78

IMW \$1,691.37

Action 2: Kelly Farnsworth made a motion to approve the invoices/vouchers totaling \$13,503.78 expended in July 2009 in the RCO Budget, the invoices/vouchers totaling \$1,714.23 expended in July 2009 in the WDFW Budget and the invoices/vouchers totaling \$1,691.37 expended in July 2009 in the IMW Budget. Michael Largent seconded the motion. There being no further discussion, the motion carried by consensus. Del Groat Abstained.

Send letter to DOE regional director requesting appointment of staff person to RTT:

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

Action 3: Dick Ducharme moved to send a letter to DOE regional director requesting appointment of a staff person to the RTT, Billy Bowles Seconded the motion. Cathy asked for clarification. Discussion followed. Larry Hooker suggested talking to Greg Kinsinger for his recommendation of a person who would be qualified. Steve will follow up on a qualified person. There being no further discussion, the motion carried by consensus.

Washington Wildlife & Recreation Program – CREP Discussion:

Dick Ducharme stated that he would like to make sure that flexibility remains in this program meaning that it not be limited to just one sponsoring entity and that the terms of the easement be negotiable. Steve stated that this would only be specific to CREP contracts and there is on-going policy discussion regarding how the program would be administered (who can sponsor the projects, who holds title to the deed restrictions, how stewardship is negotiated, etc). The Board discussed perspectives and provided Steve direction that he will present at the next WWRP – CREP program meeting.

Del Groat - Apology:

Del stated that if anyone was not welcomed correctly by him as a guest speaker in the past meetings, he was sorry. It had been pointed out to him that things may not have been done properly and he wanted to express his regrets for not welcoming and thanking guests.

Salmon Recovery Funding Board – recent and emerging policy updates:

Steve updated everyone on the status of the community salmon fund program and progress to date regarding our ability to retain unspent funds from a grant round and carry it forward to the next grant round.

Update of the Community Salmon Fund: The Funds for Community Salmon are being cut in ½ from approximately \$3 million to \$1.5 million for the next round. Steve stated that the program is asking if it is better to run a lottery to select 13 of the 27 lead entities in one year then the remaining 14 the next year in order to keep the funding level similar to previous rounds or if it would be better to follow the regional allocation framework the SRFB uses. Steve advocated the regional allocation approach would actually result in an increase for the Snake because we receive 8.88% of the state SRFB funding allocation compared to a significant reduction if we followed the every-other year approach because as a single lead entity our allocation would be 1/27 of \$1.5 million or about \$50,000. Steve testified to the SRFB that the regional approach is much more predictable, stable and ensures an annual grant round as opposed to alternate years.

Unspent funds:

Project Amendments: It is common for projects to cost more than anticipated or to require other revisions. Currently, the co-leads (conservation districts) have authority to approve or deny such requests. The board discussed the possibility of setting policy concerning cost overruns and the request for adjustments of projects that have been funded by the SRFB. Possibilities ranged from setting amounts to a discussion of aligning with SRFB policy where staff have authority to approve up to 20% cost increase requests. If the costs are more than 20% then the request requires SRFB approval only after their review panel approves is. It was decided to discuss this issue in a future meeting.

Appointment of SRSRB member, staff or partner to the Walla Walla Watershed Management Partnership – Policy Advisory Group:

The Partnership sent Steve a letter requesting appointment of a representative from our organization to serve on the policy advisory group for the Walla Walla Watershed Partnership. This letter is on page 21 of our meeting packet.

Cathy stated that this is a committee that is required by legislation. It will be a 9 member group. They will meet quarterly. The request is for a SRSRB Board or staff member to participate on this committee.

Del asked for volunteers. Del stated that during the exec committee meeting last week, Roland Schirman had stated that he would be willing to be the committee member if he was appointed by the board.

ACTION 4: Billy Bowles made a motion to identify Roland Schirman as a representative from SRSRB to serve on the policy advisory group for the Walla Walla Watershed Partnership. Dick Ducharme seconded the motion. The motion carried by consensus.

WDFW Columbia River Salmon & Steelhead Recreational Angler Board – Member Appointment Update:

Del reported that Steve and he were selected as 2 of the 8 members on the WDFW Columbia River Salmon & Steelhead Recreational Angler board, and that their first meeting is to be September 10th, 2009 in Olympia. The letter of appointment is on page 22 of this meeting packet. Their travel expenses are covered by that program and they will report back to this board in September.

Review of Lead Entity Committee ranked project list for this grant round of SRFB funding:

Del reported that this grant round started back in the spring, 2009. At that time the SRSRB staff received about 30 pre-applications, conducted site reviews with the RTT and science panel from Olympia and had some board members and lead entity committee members participate in the site tours. Then, on July 20th the committee heard presentations from the project sponsors and the projects were pre-scored to provide the sponsors some sense of where their project ranked relative to the other projects. After more revision the 13 final applications were scored by the committee on August 11th at the Seneca building in Dayton. Board members present were Del Groat, Billy Bowles and Roland Schirman. The Lead Entity Committee (Don Howard, Larry Wilson, Del Groat, Jerry Hendrickson, Greg Farrens, Jed Volkman, and Mark Grandstaff) reviewed, scored and ranked the projects on the 11th. The results of that process appear on page 23 of this meeting booklet. The Committee did not re-rank any of the projects.

Summaries/descriptions, considerations and an assessment of the risk associated with funding or not funding each project were provided to the board in the July 28th meeting packet behind the pink page insert.

Del reminded the Board that at the last meeting they agreed to accept full applications from sponsors and establish a cut-line at the \$1.6 million level. Any application sponsor above the cut-line could voluntarily phase their project so that the line could be moved further down the list. The board would then obligate funding from next year’s grant round to the second phase of any project above the line.

Del then stated that Page 23 in this meeting booklet reflects what that policy results in and is supported by the Lead Entity Committee. This outcome is somewhat of a hybridization of the Board’s discussion in July where we debated this year’s list being a two year project list while being mindful that new/better projects may emerge next year. He reminded the board that if we approve the lead entity committee recommendation we would be obligating \$791,000 from next year’s project allocation, which would result in only \$800,000 being available for new projects.

ACTION 5: Dick Ducharme moved to send a Letter to commissioners stating that we are having to fund the easement projects because they are not setting proper regulations along the streams. Del Groat seconded the motion and then discussion ensued with no action taken. The motion was tabled.

Approve final ranked list of approved projects and alternate projects:

Bob Johnson joined the meeting by phone.

Action 6: Cathy Schaeffer made a motion to fund the Tucannon Ranch Design Feasibility Assessment as proposed contingent upon sponsor committing to some level of implementation. Cathy further moved to approve the projects as revised by the SRSRB Board (Listed below). Dick Ducharme Seconded the motion. There being no further discussion, the motion carried by consensus.

- 1 – Tucannon River Off Set Dike \$100,000 (commit balance to next round 2010)
- 2 – George Creek \$119,000
- 3 – Wolf Fork Easement (Fairchild) \$137,000
- 4 – Mill Creek Flume Transitions \$527,000
- 5 - Mill Creek Sills Passage \$112,426
- 6 – Touchet River Easement (Chatman) \$20,000
- 7 – North Touchet River Culvert \$124,000
- 8 – Touchet River Easement (Ford) \$35,000
- 9 – Toucet River Assessment Co Line to USFS \$205,000
- 10 - Headgate Dam Fish Passage Assess \$17,800
- 11 – South Patit Creek Ease (Fritze) \$20,000
- 12 – Tucannon Ranch Design Feasibility Assess \$178,804

Tucannon Dike Setback Implementation – Any unspent funds are applied to this project.

Due to a bare minimum quorum being present or on phone for this vote, Chairman Del Groat directed Steve to send out this approved project list, tomorrow morning. All board members would then have a chance to review this list and if anyone had real issues with an approved project on the list, a special teleconference meeting will be scheduled for Monday August 31st, 2009 @ 7pm. At that time,

those who call in will discuss the project and that project would either remain on the list or be removed. It would be impossible to revise the project at that time. Thursday noon will be the deadline for a board member to notify staff of their disapproval of any project.

Confirm September 22nd, 2009 Board meeting and location:

Discussion: All members present really liked the Starbuck facilities and location. Dick Ducharme invited everyone to come to his house for fishing before or after the meeting. Steve pointed out that Anne had stated that the remote locations were unsuitable due to phone capabilities and other technical difficulties. Dick then revised his invitation to state that all could come and fish and then the board meeting could be held in the Dayton Office at the regularly scheduled time.

All present were in agreement that this would be the best plan of action for the next meeting. The meeting is to be held in Dayton at the Dayton SRSRB Office @ 6pm. Fishing invitation before meeting at Dick Ducharme's!

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 5:00pm.

Tasks & Actions

Review of Tasks					
TASK 1: .					
Review of Actions					
Action Title	Motion	Second	Consensus	Vote	Pass
Action 1: Motion to approve the July 28 th , 2009 meeting notes	Kelly Farnsworth	Michael Largent	Yes - Del Groat Abstained		
Action 2: Motion to approve July Expenses (RCO, WDFW, IMW)	Kelly Farnsworth	Michael Largent	Yes – Del Groat Abstained		
Action 3: Motion to send a letter to DOE regional director requesting appointment of a staff person to the RTT	Dick Ducharme	Billy Bowles	Yes		
Action 4: Motion to identify Roland Schirman as a representative from SRSRB to serve on the policy advisory group for the Walla Walla Watershed Partnership	Billy Bowles	Dick Ducharme	Yes		
Action 5: Motion to send a Letter to commissioners stating that we are having to fund the easement projects because they are not setting proper regulations along the streams	Dick Ducharme	Del Groat	Tabled		
Action 6: Motion to fund the Tucannon Ranch Design Feasibility Assessment as proposed contingent upon sponsor committing to some level of implementation. Cathy further moved to approve the projects as revised by the SRSRB Board	Cathy Schaeffer	Dick Ducharme	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		Yes									
Dick Jones	Yes											
Roland Schirman	Yes	Yes										
Gary James			Yes									
Del Groat	Yes	Yes	Yes									
Cathy Schaeffer	Yes	Yes	Yes									
Yancey Reser		Yes										
Stuart Durfee	Yes	Yes	Yes									
Michael Largent		Yes	Yes									
Gary Thorgaard	Yes											
Kelly Farnsworth	Yes	Yes	Yes									
Bob Johnson	Yes	Yes	Yes									
Billy Bowles		Yes	Yes									

*First meeting as a SRSRB Board Member