



MEETING NOTES – September 22nd, 2009

Place: 410B East Main, Dayton, WA 99328

Format: Regular

Board Members Present

Dayton: Del Groat (GC), Kelly Farnsworth (WC), Bill Bowles (GC), Doug Mattoon (AC), Gary Thorgaard (WC), Roland Schirman (CC), Bob Johnson (GC), Dick Jones (CC)

On Phone: Gary James (CTUIR), Cathy Schaeffer (WWC), Yancey Reser (WWC),

Others: Anne Chapman (SRSRB), Steve Martin (SRSRB), Kris Buelow (SRSRB), Larry Hooker (WWCCD),

On Phone: Brad Johnson (WRIA35)

Chairman Del Groat called the meeting to order and verified a quorum. (8 board members were present, 3 were on the phone.)

Welcome:

Del welcomed all to the meeting and introductions were made.

Public Comment:

Del stated that a good time was had by all who participated in fishing at Dick Ducharme's that afternoon. Many caught steelhead – including Doug Mattoon, Steve Martin, Gary Thorgaard and Anne Chapman. It was expressed that this opportunity was appreciated by all and Dick Ducharme though not present was thanked for letting us fish on his place!

Additions to the Agenda:

None

Approval of August 25th, 2009 meeting notes:

Discussion: Cathy Schaeffer stated that under the section "Approve final ranked list of approved projects and alternate projects", the date September 31st for a special meeting, should the projects not be passed should be changed to August 31st.

Action 1: Doug Mattoon moved to approve the August 25th, 2009 meeting notes with the change of date described by Cathy. Bill Bowles seconded the motion. There being no further discussion, the motion carried by consensus.

Approve August Monthly Expenses:

LE \$2,009.13

RCO \$15,894.02

IMW \$69,975.75

Action 2: Roland Schirman made a motion to approve the invoices/vouchers totaling \$15,894.02 expended in August 2009 in the RCO Budget, the invoices/vouchers totaling \$2,009.13 expended in August 2009 in the LE Budget and the invoices/vouchers totaling \$69,975.75 expended in August 2009 in the IMW Budget. Doug Mattoon seconded the motion. There being no further discussion, the motion carried by consensus. Del Groat Abstained.

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

Approve WWCD contract amendment to include GIS mapping (\$2500):

Discussion: Steve reported that staff had been searching for a cost-effective way to convert the current priority reaches maps from CAD Files drawings to geospatially referenced GIS maps, so that projects can be linked to specific locations and so that updates to the maps can be made by staff when the Board approves changes. The WW County Conservation District has an employee (Jonathan Thompson) who has the ability to update these maps. Steve, Kris and Anne met with Jonathan yesterday to discuss the task, timeline and approximate cost for the suggested contract amendment of \$2,500.

Dick Jones stated that it may need to be a new contract instead of an amendment to the LE contract since the monies will actually be being paid by the RCO funds. All agreed.

Action 3: Dick Jones moved to authorize a new contract with the WWCCD in the amount of \$2500.00 for GIS mapping. Gary Thorgaard seconded the motion. The motion carried by consensus.

Sport Fishing Panel Update:

Discussion: Del reminded everyone that he and Steve were appointed by WDFW to the sport fishing panel along with 6 others from the Columbia basin. He explained that this panel's assignment is to advise WDFW on how to manage the legislatively approved program and associated fee of \$7.50 for fishing salmon or steelhead in the Columbia basin. The fee is to be used to improve monitoring and enforcement because WDFW wants to increase fishing opportunities, but they do not want to do so without ensuring compliance and making sure they have sufficient data to accurately manage the fishery. Del further stated that it is really important for us individually and as a Board to inform the fishing public of the importance of this small fee in that it will enhance our ability to keep these fisheries open and perhaps expand them.

Questions about exactly how the collected monies will be handled then followed. The Sport Fishing Panel board will be advised if plans change and will have input. Fisheries and quotas for our area and the lower areas; Harvest quotas and the inequities of them concerning the lower and upper river; and Educating the public on the importance of harvesting hatchery fish vs. wild fish were all discussed. The concept of raising the limit to 5 and having everyone keep them was liked by Doug Mattoon. Del stated that the fishing regulations pamphlet and whether or not the small tributaries were open for fishing (example: Asotin Creek) when a stamp was purchased was mostly misunderstood and needed clarification.

Review of High Level Indicators for Salmon Recovery approved by the Monitoring Forum and draft watershed health indicators:

Discussion: Steve stated that after several years in the making, the Monitoring Forum approved the high level indicators for salmon recovery. He directed the board to the Forum charter in the meeting booklet. Steve explained that in a nutshell each of the recovery boards are represented along with most natural resource agencies and is responsible to the Governor for developing indicators for watershed health and salmon recovery and the protocols to be followed. The forum also reviews/recommends monitoring requests by the state agencies. He stated that the salmon recovery high level indicators were located in the meeting booklet on page 27 and the proposed draft watershed health indicators were on the next page for the board to review.

CREP Conservation Easement and the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program Discussion:

Del stated that Mike Denny & Steve have been appointed to the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP). He stated asked Steve to report on the CREP conservation easement WWRP program. Steve reported that this program is now authorized to take over CREP leases and convert them to semi-permanent or permanent conservation easements. A person with a current CREP contract can now go to the WWRP and get their easement converted to no less than a 25 year contract or more a more desirable in perpetuity easement. Steve stated that this is a \$40 million dollar project. All the individual people who want to do this will be bundled into one to present to the WWRP. To calculate the evaluation of a conservation easement they will look at the valuation of the last 20 years times the current monthly rental rate that they are getting in CREP. The ones eligible are proposed to be those who have a 75% survival rate in their current CREP program. Brad Johnson stated that this will pretty

much take care of all of the Asotin - Clarkston area, making most or all not eligible for this CREP program.

Review of meeting with Governor's Salmon Office and the Resource and Conservation Office held September 2nd:

Discussion: Del stated that the status, progress and obstacles each regional organization is dealing with are reviewed quarterly by the GSRO and RCO. He reminded that board that Steve had informed them that our review was September 2nd.

Steve reported that we missed one key deliverable which is a plan update that was due several months ago. He explained that the reviewers understand that we intentionally delayed this deliverable because we did not want to update our plan knowing that the middle Columbia DPS-wide recovery plan was being completed, that the hatchery reform actions are currently in a state of flux, and that the monitoring forum had not yet approved their high level indicators. Staff told the reviewers that it would be premature to make plan updates/revisions on these areas until statewide policies were in place. The reviewers acknowledged that decision, but suggested that we not wait because we have the knowledge and understanding to conduct plan updates based on the framework laid out in the recovery plan.

Staff then discussed with the reviewers the efficiencies with an emphasis on how well we are integrating watershed planning, salmon recovery, lead entity and the regional fisheries enhancement group. This discussion was prompted by the Governor's executive order that state agencies conduct a review of their existing operations and how they can become more efficient combined with policy by the SRFB that they consider allocating their money based on an evaluation of how efficient the various regions are.

Steve, Kris, Anne, Brad (on the phone in a separate meeting) and Matt from Cathy's office participated in the review. A report from the RCO and GSRO is anticipated to be available in October.

The last item was a review of our budget, expenditures and personnel issues. There were no issues with any of these items and Anne working with staff at WW Community College was praised for the quality of their documentation.

Steve reported that the reviewers did add one comment that is noteworthy – we need to develop a document or report that illustrates project accomplishments and changes in environmental indicators. This report needs to state the baseline condition, where we are today and what our target is so that the public and policy makers see that we have a target and how far we are or conversely what the gap is to hitting the target. Staff will present a recommended outline and framework for this at one of our upcoming board meetings.

I-5 mitigation funding request from Oregon DOT:

Discussion: Del reported that NOAA is requiring that the Oregon Department of Transportation mitigate the impacts from a proposed I-5 Bridge near Portland by restoring habitat in upper river watersheds with an emphasis on passage improvements and habitat restoration for Snake River stocks. Kris reviewed our 3 year work plan and presented some barriers according to it to the RTT for review at last week's meeting. The RTT reviewed this request and have identified half-dozen fish passage barriers on state highways, primarily in the Pataha that would be a good fit. Kris briefly described the barriers identified as priorities by the RTT for the board. Buford Creek and Rattlesnake Creek on the Grande Ronde were included. Del stated that at Cottonwood creek there is a significant barrier. Kris clarified that this is a very preliminary list. The RTT will be working on this in the future. Staff is putting together the information on these sites and will present it to ODOT for their consideration. Steve pointed out that this is yet another example of organizations outside of our region looking to us for pre-identified projects consistent with our recovery plan that they can fund.

Bull trout planning "interest":

Discussion: Steve put this on the agenda as a standalone item because it was brought up at the quarterly review meeting by the GSRO. The question being asked is do we want to take a proactive position and develop a specific bull trout recovery plan or stay with our position that the good work we are doing for salmon and steelhead are sufficient to aid in the recovery of bull trout. The USFWS is charged with developing a bull trout recovery plan. They had draft versions earlier that remain draft. USFWS also told Steve and John Andrews (WDFW) at a meeting in Spokane a few years ago that they might consider a locally developed plan but unlike NOAA they will be the final author and owner of the

plan. Steve asked the board if they wanted to develop a bull trout recovery plan for USFWS to consider adopting.

Discussion was that the bull trout are now being monitored or kept track of during current salmon recovery activities, if they are seen. There being no new monies for any extra bull trout work, and also the fact that generally what is good for salmon is also good for bull trout was the consensus of the group. All agreed to stay with the boards' current position at this time.

Project cost amendments – continued discussion from previous Board meeting:

Discussion: Del stated that at the last meeting staff informed us of our existing policy that requires a project sponsor to get co-lead (conservation district) approval of any project cost increases and that there have been a few that have been nearly \$100,000. The board discussed a threshold amount that would require full board approval. Steve asked if the board wanted to revise the lead entity by-laws to reflect this or continue with the boards' current existing policy. Steve stated that SRFB policy allows staff to recommend increases up to 20% with Director Approval, but more than 20% requires subcommittee approval of their Board.

Discussion then followed pertaining to this matter. Pros and Cons about projects that are marginal in board approval in the first place and asking for cost increases were expressed. Project integrity concerning initial cost estimates were expressed. Review by the board for requested cost increases was expressed as a duty of the board. Steve stated that he just wanted to get some reactions from the board so that he could put this on the agenda for next meeting as an action item. He requested that board members be thinking about participating in a subcommittee or how the board would like to handle these requests. (ie: as a special meeting handled like the executive committee meetings / whoever may call in).

Additional discussion about a discretionary pot of money (\$10,000) then followed for low cost project opportunities that come up and are needed to be implemented ASAP. These project opportunities do not fall into a normal project round and are usually not available during such rounds. LWD opportunities and the storage of LWD in prep for upcoming projects were mentioned as an example.

Announcements:

John Andrews (Regional Director of WDFW) would like to attend a board meeting in the near future, he wants to bring a hatchery management reform person with him.

There will be a Hatchery Review Team Stakeholders meeting at the Whitman in Walla Walla, Sept 29th at 2-4pm to unveil their recommendations for hatchery reform.

Confirm October 27th, 2009 Board meeting and location:

Discussion: Del, our chairman suggested that we go back to the ITV format with Steve in Clarkston for the next meeting. All Agreed. Del suggested thinking about having the next meeting in the Pullman area, due to those members traveling extensively during the last couple months.

The next meeting will be held at the WWCC Campus in Walla Walla at the WEC and in Clarkston at the WWCC Campus there (ITV Format).

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:45 pm.

Tasks & Actions

Review of Tasks					
TASK 1: Contract with WWCCD for GIS Mapping in the amount of \$2500.00.					
TASK 2: Develop a document or report that illustrates project accomplishments and changes in environmental indicators to present to the board.					
Review of Actions					
Action Title	Motion	Second	Consensus	Vote	Pass
Action 1: Motion to approve the August 25th, 2009 meeting notes	Doug Mattoon	Bill Bowles	Yes		
Action 2: Motion to approve August Expenses (RCO, WDFW, IMW)	Roland Schirman	Doug Mattoon	Yes – Del Groat Abstained		
Action 3: Motion to authorize a new contract with WWCCD in the amount of \$2500 for GIS Mapping	Dick Jones	Gary Thorgaard	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			Yes								
Jay Holzmilller	Yes											
Dick Ducharme	Yes		Yes									
Dick Jones	Yes			Yes								
Roland Schirman	Yes	Yes		Yes								
Gary James			Yes	Yes								
Del Groat	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes								
Cathy Schaeffer	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes								
Yancey Reser		Yes		Yes								
Stuart Durfee	Yes	Yes	Yes									
Michael Largent		Yes	Yes									
Gary Thorgaard	Yes			Yes								
Kelly Farnsworth	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes								
Bob Johnson	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes								
Billy Bowles		Yes	Yes	Yes								

*First meeting as a SRSRB Board Member