**Minutes**

**LSRD Advocacy Group Conference Call**

**June 11, 2021, 11:30-1:00 PDT**

**Join Zoom Meeting**

[**https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81446036838?pwd=VlNaa05jM0J5N3FiNzkvdkVoUk14Zz09**](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81446036838?pwd=VlNaa05jM0J5N3FiNzkvdkVoUk14Zz09)

**Meeting ID: 814 4603 6838**

**Passcode: 350376**

**Find your local number:** [**https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kluLeA6jv**](https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kluLeA6jv)

**LSRD committee GG email: lower-snake-river-dams-committee@googlgroups.com.**

**11:30 - 11:35** Intros- Pam, Amy Stuart capturing minutes. Attendees: Barbara Phalen, Teri Wright, Pam Conley, Karen Davis, Katya Spiecker, Laurie Kerr, Krestine Reed, Debra Ellers, Su Libby, Amy Stuart, Joanne Richter

**11:35 - 11:40** Process for spending LSRD funds. Report hours spent on LSRD work last month - Please type into Chat . Each participant needs to record time (hours) on LSRD. Have $925 in account. Debra 49. Karen 20. Barbara 3. Amy 3. Teri 30. Joanne 3. Pam 6. Krestine 30

 Process will be: Get approval from committee for expenditures either at meeting or through email. Keep receipts and submit to Pam Conley, the Chair. Pam will send on to National who will send the reimbursement. Allow committee members emergency authorization for $50 although send a heads up email to committee on expenditures. Allow $200 for emergencies, in $50 increments. Once spent, we can re “up” another chunk of funds for emergencies. Let other members know ASAP. Otherwise do an email trail for approval with the committee. Keep responsive to emergencies but generally use the democratic process (run it by the whole committee) to get approval.

**11:40 - 11:55 1-** Rep. Simpson’s “Northwest In Transition” concept - Mostly just tracking concept.

 **2**- H.R. 1588 Hydropower Clean Energy Future Act - Krestine
To modernize the hydropower licensing process and to promote next generation hydropower projects and for other purposes. Not in Committee yet, so no discussion at this time, just keeping an eye on it.
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/19959WfpPwLDQIfRXFfNKsZXvKVDMOLWU/view?usp=sharing>. Stalled legislation due to the Simpson process.

**11:55 - 12:00** Columbia Basin Collaborative- meeting report. Will move forward in fall. Will

 allow 2 people from the environmental community on “deciders group” formally known as the Integration/Recommendations Group which will have 20-30

 members. Has to be done by July 31.

 This group will take a lot of time and bureaucracy but maybe not much value. Ambitious format by December. Broads could support someone from Idaho Rivers United and Idaho Conservation League. Pam will bring that up at the next Idaho Salmon Partnership meeting.

**12:00 - 12:10 1-** State Salmon Coalition reports-. e.g. Idaho Salmon Partnership, Washington group.

 No one has heard back from participants. Idaho working on keeping the issue in the media. Not pushing Gov Little since he’s in a tough primary with some extreme right wing candidates. .Washington sends out lots of new stories but is redundant with other messaging (like FB). Purpose is to coordinate environmental groups and avoid turf problems and conflicts. e.g. Idaho has Sierra Club, American Rivers, Idaho Rivers United, Backcountry Hunters & Anglers, etc.

 Teri - OPB - Latter Day Saints and Gates Foundation buying farmland along Columbia River in Washington. Concern - need to follow the money, not just political will. Wall Street firms trying to buy Columbia River water rights. Need to counteract the picture being portrayed that removing the dams will hurt small farmers when it is actually big money buying up land, big agri farms buying up small family farms and not engaged with climate impacts. Gates is one of the largest farm land owners in the country. Big Ag in Tri Cities are owned by large investment firms. Need to collect this information and put information in the Big Ag Folder under LSRD. Krestine has some info on this subject and will put it there. Big Ag buying up farms along Columbia -<https://www.opb.org/article/2021/06/10/cattlegate-2-land-titans-vie-for-massive-swath-of-easterday-property-in-southeast-washington/>

 **12:10 - 12:30** Actions and Activities:

1. Simpson Plan Outreach Blitz - **Do we want more postcards?** - Krestine
Postcard Reports: How many have been sent out? = 500. Boise Broads took 150. Krestine reported all but a few are gone. It’s less about reaching the politicians but more a way to get the public engaged and aware. Many people don’t know what “Free the Snake” means. The new message is “Restore the Snake River”. Yes to more postcards. **Krestine will arrange to print 500 more with a couple of backgrounds.** <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1O9KLKdNzx5RsMefMgj43QaBb9XrzqA0B?usp=sharing>
2. Letter in support of Waddell, Pinney, Balcomb Breach letter to Biden letter- We are supporting. Krestine - Draft is ready for approval or edits. Krestine will send a note to the LSRD committee for a short time (2 weeks) to edit. Once approved, Pam will send out and bc the rest of us on the committee. <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1C1fTMJPik4Acp3C-Q0kv7U2Gti63wewrePw3187UKnE/edit?usp=sharing>
[Waddell\_Pinney\_Balcomb-2.23.21 Dam Breaching ExSum.pdf](https://drive.google.com/file/d/10_IahkPk-r_4etqzZrNBWXg2c5C6o5uf/view?usp=sharing)
3. Letter in support of Affiliated Tribes of the Northwest (ATNI) **RESOLUTION #2021 – 00,** <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1knLefaCrXvPSdTjO9paReEoVTi0o6I1UuxozdOX3ZP8/edit?usp=sharing>
Debra and Krestine finished wordsmithing. Letter signed by Shelley Silbert and ready to be sent to the state representative(s). Krestine has mailed letters to Washington reps and senators, Biden, and others. Anyone can access this letter and send it to their own officials.
4. **Individual Action** - [Fisheries Off West Coast States; West Coast Salmon Fisheries; Amendment 21 to the Pacific Coast Salmon Fishery Management Plan](https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2021/06/02/2021-11540/fisheries-off-west-coast-states-west-coast-salmon-fisheries-amendment-21-to-the-pacific-coast-salmon)Personal comments on Amendment 21 must be received by August 2, 2021. Both of these actions require comments to NOAA (#4 and #5). NOAA is supposed to recover salmon and orcas and should be high on the target list for failing to do what they are supposed to do, recover species. Comments need to be made at local level by Broadbands for this BRAT. Most current study shows that lack of salmon is causing orcas to move toward extinction. Both sign on to a joint letter as org through LSRD committee and have individual Broad bands send their own letter. Pam can sign on as chair to the LSRD committee. Orcas need an allotment for salmon as well as commercial and recreational fisheries. Need bullet points for Broads to write comments. **LSRD committee will sign on Teri’s letter.**
5. **Individual Action** - [Initiation of 5-Year Review for Southern Resident Killer Whales | NOAA Fisheries](https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/action/initiation-5-year-review-southern-resident-killer-whales?fbclid=IwAR30DirzdSO6-m5UAoj8zZmhGvZzdoo0Ho1LVOuuFwnDyqQPLw8gc4uDaYE) . "To allow us adequate time to conduct this review, we [NOAA] must receive your information **no later than June 21, 2021.** While we [NOAA] continue to accept new information about any listed species at any time, **information received after the date stated above may not be considered for purposes of this 5-year review**." NOAA trying to decide if Southern Resident orca are still endangered. NOAA could write biological opinions that support the best way to restore endangered salmon and steelhead by breaching the dams. Also these comments could be the basis of future litigation. Right now, only 8 comments on the federal register. Maria Cantwell putting out misinformation (lies!) on the status of salmon.

Comments need to be made at local level by Broadbands for this BRAT. Both sign on to a joint letter as org through LSRD committee and have individual Broad bands send their own letter. Pam can sign on as chair to the LSRD committee. Need bullet points for Broads to write comments. **LSRD committee will sign on Teri’s letter.**

1. Review Bill Chertwood videos on your own and then discuss during meeting time for inclusion to the Don’t Dam Salmon web page.
Bill Chetwood of Lewiston, Idaho began fishing for steelhead in the Clearwater, Selway and Lochsa Rivers in 1946. Now in his 91st year, Bill continues to support the breaching of the lower Snake River dams in frequent letters-to-the-editor of the *Lewiston Morning Tribune* and conversations with Lewiston residents.
The Bill Chetwood Story, Part I: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5NhR5QcyiLI>
The Bill Chetwood Story, Part II: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wnHL4Bn9izc>
2. Red Road to DC Totem Pole stop in Clarkston WA on July 15.
3. “Rally for the River” event will be in many cities on August 7. Info coming soon.

**12:45 - 1:00** Campaign Planning with Katya & Lisa to hone the cmte’s 2021 Goals (see below)

Pam will get with Katya, Lisa and committee and set up a time for a workshop to help us fix up our goals.

**Next meeting date:** FridayJuly 9, 2021

PNW Broads Activities Flow chart

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ScVKNCfTYh1niMaRpL-v1hbJQrX_Goeb/view?usp=sharing>

Google drive location of Simpson Concept info, press, etc

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/14QgAOH9XRRCiU8F1kn9clb84GRzRfuEv?usp=sharing>

Campaign Title: **Don’t Dam Salmon**

Campaign **Goals:**

1. **To restore a free-flowing lower Snake River,**

**2. to create public outcry and political will to breach the lower Snake River dams**

Campaign **Strategies:**

1. TALKING POINTS – Strategies - Identify key talking points to use in LTE’s, Handout materials, Discussions with others. Name the campaign for media eg ‘Don’t Dam Salmon’ ,<https://www.greatoldbroads.org/dont-dam-salmon/>

Progress Completed

1. PROMOTIONAL MATERIALS – Strategies Develop Broads branded materials on the issue including handouts, signage (for demonstrations and educational events), Create Videos, web pages, etc. Distribute widely.

Progress Don’t Dam Salmons signs/posters available, half page handout with talking points available at webpage listed under number 1. Website was revised and update continually in 2020.

1. EDUCATIONAL EVENTS – Strategies -Organize education for Broads members, partners, and/or community. Identify speakers who can address issues, and inspire action.

Progress Multiple lectures/workshops etc. given on this topic in past 2 years. BRoadwalk 2018

1. MEDIA –Strategies - Identify relevant media outlets for campaign. Write Op-Eds, Letters to Editors, Press Releases. Engage local reporters, offer Radio interviews, Local news stations, etc.

Progress Multiple LTE’s written by Broads, radio interviews also. Press releases for both Broadwalk event (2018) and kayaktivism event (2020) which was cancelled

1. DEMONSTRATIONS –Strategies Organize and/or attend a public demonstration on this issue. Create clear signage, themes and costumes to maximize media attention. Invite media.

Progress Broads have attended multiple demonstrations, walks, etc.

1. PARTNERSHIPS – Strategies Partner with other non-profits, agencies, businesses, minority groups, tribal organizations to create live programs and media campaigns to get the word out

Progress Partnered with Nimiipuu on letters to federal legislators. Working with Advocates on the BPA angle. Attending POWWOW with Nimiipuu Sept 2020

1. AGENCIES – Strategies Meet with Bureau of Reclamation, etc. to learn more about the issue, and provide public input. When appropriate, prepare substantive comments on issues for agency review.

Progress Toured dams, had agency participation in Broadwalk, submitted comments for CRSO-DEIS. Decide response to FEIS when ROD comes out in September 2020. Submitted comments for Draft EIS 2020. ROD out September 28 2020

1. POLITICAL ENGAGEMENT– Strategies Meet with representatives to educate them on the issue. Arrive prepared with handouts, and ASK for support.

Progress Met with Governor Kate Brown and Ed Bowles, Fish and Wildlife. Washington reps in Oregon, WA, Idaho. Followup letters to Gov Brown and staff, sept 2020

1. ACTION ALERTS – Strategies Develop email and print version action alerts that offer clear guidance on actions people can take

Progress Developed half page handout with talking points, used for comments to state and federal reps. National Action Alert sent out on DEIS comment period.

1. BROADS WEBSITE –Strategies Develop page on Broads website that is used on all media for people who want find additional resources/action plans

Progress Done

1. TABLING EVENTS – Strategies Table at public events (Earth day, street fairs, farmers markets) to educate public about the issue. Use signage and handouts.

Progress Ongoing, we have given out many half page sheets in past 2 years. Tabled at Dammed to Extinction showings.

1. HIKES AND STEWARDSHIP PROJECTS – Strategies Organize hikes, stewardship projects, field trips to educate people on the issue. Document conditions in the field to support public comments or litigation. Provide verbal and printed materials outlining talking points.

Progress Did a Broadwalk, attended flotillas, marches, visited dams, etc.

1. LEGAL – Strategies Create or join lawsuit on this issue. Develop standing as a litigant through field visits.

Progress Pending legislation with Advocates for the West

1. FLOTILLA – Progress Strategies Nimiipuu River Rendezvous was held September 20-22 2019, at Hells Gate State Park in Lewiston ID. Earth Justice funded the event. Nimiipuu will not hold one in Lewiston in 2020. Broads will attend a private pow-wow in Wallowa, OR, September 11-13, 2020 where money will be raised for the Nimiipuu to build three new dugouts to be used in future flotillas.
2. DAMMED TO EXTINCTION MOVIE – Strategies Sponsor numerous showings of film

Progress Broads have sponsored and tabled at numerous showings. Film is now available online for $4.99 at [www.damnedtoextinction.com](http://www.damnedtoextinction.com)

**OUTCOMES**  Did we achieve our goals? Yes? No? Partially.

GOAL 1 - **To restore a free-flowing lower Snake River, NO OUTCOME**

GOAL 2- **To create public outcry and political will to breach the lower Snake River dams - Partial Outcomes See Progress toward OUTCOMES above.**

**Important Highlights of LSRD Campaign**

* **DC lobbying with congressional reps to determine who supported our goals.**
* **Distributed quantitative economic and fish data to congressional reps that gave them counterpoints and leverage to support dam removal. These were new resources, many reps were grateful.**
* **Senator Merkely (OR) requested his aide to s/u mtg with Rep Simpson (ID), a republican who supports salmon recovery**
* **Meeting with Governor Brown (OR) with to cover substantiated arguments for dam removal (fish survival stats, economic data, etc.**
* **Gained respect and recognition from partner organizations and politicians for the role Broads played in promoting dam removal. This had led to opportunities for litigation.**
* **Submitted over 100? pages of comments on CRSO-DEIS**
* **Developed cordial relationship with Nimiipuu Protect our Environment org. Co-signed letters to governors and congressional reps. Nimipuu came and spoke at the Broadwalk.**

**2021 accomplishments**

LSRD Podcast is available at

<https://rewilding.org/episode-67-the-case-for-removing-4-dams-on-the-lower-snake-river/>

Pam presented the LSRD issue to the Willamette Broadband during their advocacy night on April 12, 2021.

Postcards in support of breach dams have been sent out to PNW federal delegations.

May Day kayaktivist event at Hood River on May 1, 2021