



YAKIMA BASIN
FISH AND WILDLIFE
RECOVERY BOARD

Minutes of the 1/14/2016 Board of Directors Meeting

As Approved by the Board on 3/10/2016

Members Present:

Adam Fyall (Benton County), Obie O'Brien (Kittitas County), Mike Leita (Yakima County), Dave Fast (Yakama Nation), Dan Olson (City of Union Gap), Nancy Lillquist (City of Ellensburg), Bob Elder (City of Prosser)

Staff Present: Alex Conley (Executive Director), Darcy Batura (Lead Entity Coordinator), Jason McCormick (Recovery Program Technical Staff),

Others: Cassandra Anderson (MCFEG), David Child (YBJB), Abby Sanders and Jessica Walkenhauer (Petersen Advisors).

1) Approval of Agenda and Minutes

Bob Elder introduced himself as the new appointed representative of the City of Prosser, and introductions were made around the table. The Board reviewed the meeting agenda and notes from the October 10 Board of Directors Meeting. *Minutes were approved as submitted with consent of all present. The financial report review was moved to the top of the agenda.*

2) Review and Approval of the FY2015 Financial Statement and 990

Abby Sander and Jessica Walkenhauer presented the audit and financial statement that they prepared for the Board. They noted that the only area to highlight was the extreme dependence of the Board on a single funding source (our operating contract with RCO). Board members discussed the theft of board equipment last year and the outcome of the subsequent insurance claim. Mike Leita asked if we had any policies governing when and how our line of credit is used. The Board requested that staff prepare a policy for the Board's consideration that would limit use of the Line of credit to meeting temporary cash flow needs. Alex agreed to prepare a draft for review at the next Executive Committee meeting. Mike Leita moved to accept the financial statement as presented, and Nancy Lillquist seconded. The motion passed with the support of all present. The Board then

reviewed the 2014 IRS 990 Form prepared by Bob Villbrant (which covers our 2015 Fiscal Year). Mike Leita moved to accept the 990 Form as presented, and Nancy Lillquist seconded. The motion passed with the support of all present.

3) Board Correspondence and Announcements

- Darcy updated the Board members on the Oct. 21 Lead Entity tour of the Cle Elum Floodplain Project.
- Alex recommended that Board members take a look at the summary of findings from WDFW's Wild Washington initiative.
- The Board briefly discussed the status of fish runs and the impacts of the 2015 season drought.
- The Board discussed the status of the Yakima Basin Integrated Plan. Obie recommended that member look at the recent TVW documentary on the project. Mike Leita updated the Board on the creation of a new economics subcommittee and emphasized that all parts of the plan will need to move forward together, including storage. Dave Fast noted how the challenge faced by sockeye and other salmon in 2015 highlight the importance of the lower Yakima and the need to complete the Bateman Island project.

4) Lead Entity Program

Darcy gave a presentation on the **status of the 2015 Yakima Project** List that was approved by the SRFB in December, and updated the Board on preparations for the 2016 grant round. The just-released Request for Proposals for the 2016 grant round was handed out. Darcy also updated the Board on the revised path forward for the SRFB large capital project proposal that was discussed at our last meeting. The SRFB agreed to pursue the proposal as an extension of the existing grant program, rather than as a separate new program.

The Board reviewed the **TAG's recommendation not to accept monitoring proposals in 2016**, but to work with partners to identify priorities that might be appropriate for funding in future years. The Board discussed different types of monitoring and research, and emphasize the need for good information on project implementation. They expressed interest in learning more about the statewide SRFB Effectiveness Monitoring program. Mike Leita moved that the Board not accept monitoring proposals in the local SRFB grant review for 2016, but that staff work with partners to identify possible future monitoring priorities. Dave Fast seconded the motion, which passed with the support of all present.

The Board reviewed current citizen committee membership and attendance records, and discussed how to more fully engage Citizen Committee members in the future.

Darcy showed the Board the funded project updates in the Quarterly report, and noted that this was part of the implementation monitoring that the Board had emphasized the need for.

5) Recovery Program

Cassandra Anderson of the Mid-Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group (MCFEG) gave a presentation describing the work that she is doing for the Board via the MOA between the two organizations. The Board discussed the relationships between the USFWS Bull Trout Recovery Plan, the Bureau of Reclamation's Bull Trout Enhancement Plan, and the Board's Yakima Bull Trout Action Plan. Cassandra noted the role of the Yakima Bull Trout Working Group in coordinating bull trout discussions in the basin.

After the presentation, the Board reviewed the staff proposal to extend the MOA with MCFEG through December 31, 2016, and to add \$18,500 in funding to pay for Cassandra's time on Board-directed bull trout work over the next year. A motion to approval the proposal as presented was made by Nancy Lillquist and seconded by Dave Fast. It was approved by consent of all present.

Jason McCormick then gave a presentation on the work he has been doing in his role as part-time temporary Regional Program Technical Staff. He explained the work he has done to organize the Board's GIS system, and presented the preliminary results of the analysis of fish passage barrier data that he is working on. Following his presentation, the Board reviewed the staff proposal to continue Jason's position with the Board through March 15th. A motion to extend the term of the position through March 15, with all other conditions staying the same, was made by Adam and seconded by Bob. The motion passed with consent of all present.

6) Outreach Program

The Board agreed to provide feedback on the draft Communications Plan to Alex by January 29th, so that he can compile comments for review by the Executive Committee. The committee would then develop a final draft for review and approval at the March 10 Board meeting.

7) State and Federal Policy Updates

The Board briefly discussed legislative outreach, and agreed that it made sense to focus on out-of-session meetings in the basin rather than contacts in Olympia during the supplemental session.

8) Board Logistics & Finances

The Board reviewed the latest Board quarterly report and finances.

Discussion of the position description for the Operations position was deferred to the Executive Committee due to lack of time.

Current Board vacancies and changes were briefly reviewed. Obie noted that due to new appointments, he would not be able to continue to act as chair of the Board. The Board briefly discussed chair succession, and asked that the Executive Committee review chair succession options.

Alex reminded the Board that the next meeting would be held on March 10, 2016. The Board agreed to schedule a Board meeting for August 4, for approval of the annual ranked project list prior to the SRFB deadline for submittal. The Board also recommended that Alex continue to talk to Steve Martin about the possible agenda for a joint meeting of the Upper Columbia, Snake and Yakima Boards, but that any resulting meeting be scheduled as a separate meeting apart from our regular Board meetings.

9) Public comment

There were no public comments.