

## MEETING OVERVIEW

*For the January 19, 2017 YBFWRB Board of Directors Meeting*

Numbers refer to agenda items. Item #s refer to Board Materials email attachment numbers.

1. We'll start the meeting with introductions, review and approval of the agenda, and review and approval of the minutes from our last Board Meeting in October. The **agenda**, **draft minutes** and October and January **Exec Committee Notes** are attached (items #1, 3, & 4).
2. Bring any **announcements** you want to make. We'll highlight:
  - a) Brian Abbott: Brian, who ran the Governor's Salmon Recovery Office, passed away New Year's Eve, on his 48<sup>th</sup> birthday. Brian had long-term heart problems, and received a heart transplant. Tragically the new heart did not take. I'll share information on memorials.
  - b) Riparian Planting Workshop: Heather Simmons and I are working together to organize the Riparian Planting Symposium we discussed at our October Board meeting. We've reserved a space at the Kittitas County Events Center for February 16, and the final agenda should be out soon.
  - c) State of the Salmon Report: The Governor's Salmon Recovery Office released the 2016 State of the Salmon report, which Brian and company had been working on making more accessible and relevant. You can see the report at <http://stateofsalmon.wa.gov/>. I encourage people to review the Governor's Update and am glad to provide feedback back to GSRO.
  - d) Jeff Breckel Appointed to the SRFB: Jeff, who I've worked with extensively in his capacity as Executive Director for the Lower Columbia Recovery Board, retired last summer. In December, the Governor appointed him to the vacant seat on the SRFB. It's great to continue working with Jeff in his new capacity.
  - e) Participation in NOAA Columbia River Partnership: Steve Martin of the Snake River Salmon Recovery Board will represent Washington's Columbia Basin Recovery Boards (Snake, Upper Columbia, Lower Columbia and us) at the first meeting of the NOAA Columbia River Partnership Task Force on January 24. Urban Eberhart has also been appointed to the Task Force, and the Yakama Nation is being represented via the Columbia River Intertribal Fisheries Commission.
  - f) NW Lake Cle Elum Restoration Project: The Cle Elum District of the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest is seeking public feedback on restoration actions proposed to mitigate possible impacts on spotted owls from the Cle Elum Pool Raise (a project being completed by Reclamation as part of the Yakima Basin Integrated Plan). Here's [a link to the letter requesting comments](#).

**Correspondence** included in the attached packet includes:

- The Executive Director's Activity Reports that I have prepared for the Executive Committee since our last meeting (item #5);
- Letters sent after the last Board meeting (item #6: Sent Correspondence); the packet includes our letter to the Governor on Salmon Recovery Funding, two sign on letters the Board joined, and the two grant support letters approved at our last meeting.

### **3. LEAD ENTITY PROGRAM**

- a. Our **2016 Lead Entity Ranked Project List** was approved by Washington's Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) on December 8. The approved project list is attached (item #7); project sponsors who were awarded funding are now completing contracts with the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO). After Darcy's departure, I worked with RCO staff and project sponsors to adjust the list to reflect feedback from the State Review Panel and the withdrawal of one project after a landowner pulled out. Thanks to all the partners and volunteers that made this another good grant round; in the state review we got a lot of positive feedback for running a fair and transparent grant round with extensive deliberation by both our technical and citizen committees! More detail on our list can be found here: <http://www.ybfwrb.org/2016-srfb-process/>.
- b. Funded Project Updates: In December, we completed review by our Technical and Citizen Committees of one proposed scope change to a 2015 project (the [Gold Creek Instream Design Project](#), which was awarded a cost-increase of \$12,186). I am working with RCO staff and project sponsors to initiate review of two other proposed scope changes.
- c. SRFB Allocation Review: Since 2007, the Mid-Columbia Region (which includes the Yakima and Klickitat Lead Entities) has received 9.87% of the project funding distributed by the SRFB each year. The SRFB has tasked a new Allocation Committee with reviewing the allocation of project funds and our organizational funding. The committee has developed several revised allocation formulas, almost all of which leave us at about 10% of the state total. I am working with the committee to review the data used and provide feedback on their proposals. I anticipate a proposal to the SRFB that might shift some funding in other parts of the state but would make minimal change to our allocation. The proposals to revise how funds are allocated to our contracts for operating as a Regional Organization and Lead Entity are still being drafted.
- d. Lead Entity Coordinator Hiring: We received only a moderate number of applications for the Lead Entity Coordinator position, but the quality of applications is high. I am working to select interview candidates and set up a interview committee ASAP. Board members that would like to participate in the interviews should let me know.

- e. 2017 SRFB Grant Schedule: See item #8 for the Proposed 2017 Grant Schedule, which I am asking the Board to approve at our meeting. The kick-off date meeting date will be fixed as soon as the hiring date for the new Lead Entity Coordinator is known.

#### 4. PROPOSED BLM FUNDING

We are in the 4<sup>th</sup> of 5 years of an agreement with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) through which they provide us with funding for aquatic restoration projects in watersheds that are a priority for BLM. We have then allocated that funding to projects in those areas that are ranked in our annual grant round. The BLM is proposing adding additional funding to this agreement that would be specifically for projects on BLM land on the mainstem Yakima just above the Yakima River Canyon. Work to be funded would include riparian revegetation, large wood placement, side channel reconnection and more. Project sponsors would apply to us to use the BLM funding on projects that meet the BLM criteria. We will need to move quickly to finalize this agreement for up to \$100,000 in FY2017, so the Exec Committee would like to propose that the Board approve the agreement in concept and delegate the authority to approve the actual contract amendment to the Executive Committee.

#### 5. STATE AND FEDERAL POLICY UPDATES

##### FEDERAL POLICY

- a. BPA, the Corps of Engineers and the Bureau of Reclamation are asking for public comment as they begin to draft the **Columbia River System Operations Environmental Impact Statement**. This EIS will lay out future alternatives for management of the Columbia River, and is expected to take five years to complete. While much of the media coverage on the EIS focuses on the fate of the Snake River Dams, the EIS covers the whole basin, and will include actions that directly affect the Yakima Basin. I have prepared a draft comment letter from the Board for our review (item #9); the submission deadline is February 7. For more info, see: <http://www.crsr.info/>
- b. In December, Congress passed the **Columbia River Basin Restoration Act**, which creates a new Section 123 of the Clean Water Act that authorizes EPA to establish a competitive grant program to help local groups voluntarily clean up, monitor, and reduce the use of toxics within the Columbia River Basin. At this time no funding has been allocated. I'm curious if Board members see a possible future role for this program in the Yakima that would make it worth reaching out to EPA as they develop the program.
- c. At this time I have not heard any updates on the status of federal PCSRF funding. Board members may provide updates on the status of Yakima Basin integrated Plan legislation and federal budget requests.

## STATE POLICY UPDATES

- d. Board Outreach to Legislature: See item #10 for an update on the state budget proposals discussed at our last meeting. Right now we are waiting to see what the state Senate and House put forwards in their budget proposals. Our Executive Committee identified educating legislators about the SRFB capital budget request to be our top priority and recommended that we 1) develop a one-page briefing paper that Board members and partners can use when they communicate with legislators, and 2) consider setting up a visit to Olympia to meet with key legislators to discuss funding for salmon recovery in the Yakima Basin. At our meeting we will discuss these proposals and develop plans for any outreach to occur before our March 16 Board meeting.

## **6. RECOVERY PROGRAM UPDATES**

- a. Fish Passage Evaluation and Funding Request  
Jason McCormick (part-time recovery program staff) will give a brief update on his work on fish passage.
- b. Bull Trout Working Group and Bull Trout Action Plan Updates  
Cassandra Weekes and I continue to work together to **coordinate the Yakima Bull Trout Working Group meetings and prepare the draft Bull Trout Action Plan updates** with the group. The Executive Committee authorized extending the MOA with Cassandra's employer (Mid-Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group) through June 30 and increasing the funding by \$15,000 to allow use of up to 30% of her time during this period.
- c. Alex will provide a brief update on the status of NOAA's Middle Columbia Forum.
- d. Development of Priority Projects  
Alex continues to be active helping **support the development of priority projects** that implement our recovery plans, by:
  - i. Participating in the Yakima Basin **Integrated Plan Habitat Subcommittee** and its Wapato Reach work group;
  - ii. Working with partners to develop the **Little Naches Floodplain Restoration** Project and participate in the Little Naches Collaborative Group;
  - iii. Supporting completion of the City of Yakima Billie's Pond Project;
  - iv. Working with partners to promote and develop water quality and habitat proposals for the lower Yakima River;
  - v. Providing input and participating in technical working groups as requested by partners.

## 7. BOARD LOGISTICS

We will end the meeting with organizational logistics:

- a. Audit & IRS 990: The draft of our annual Audit and Financial Statement was prepared by Abby Sanders, and is attached as item #11; Our CPA, Bob Villbrant has complete the IRS 990 report (item #12). We will want to review and approve both of these at our meeting so that we can complete our required filings for last fiscal year.
- b. Work Plan, budget and strategic planning: We'll review the timeline and process to develop our strategic plan, biennial work plan and budget for approval at our June 1 Annual Meeting.
- c. Financial reports will be provided at the meeting.
- d. We'll review the schedule and topics for upcoming Board meetings.