



YAKIMA BASIN
FISH AND WILDLIFE
RECOVERY BOARD

MINUTES Board of Directors Meeting

As approved by the Board on 4/30/09

4:30 to 6:30 pm on January 28th, 2009
1110 W Lincoln Ave, Yakima

1) Welcome and Introductions

Those present:

Board Members: Nancy Lillquist (City of Ellensburg), Dan Valoff (Kittitas County), Dave Brown (City of Yakima), Mike Leita & Terry Keenhan (Yakima County), Paul Ward (Yakama Nation)

Guests: Jim Milton, Phil Miller (GSRO, by phone), Dave Griffin

Staff: Alex Conley, Angie Begosh

Chairman Paul Ward called the meeting to order at 4:40 pm. After introductions, minutes of the November 12th meeting were approved as presented (motion by Nancy Lillequist, seconded by Dave Brown, approved unanimously without discussion). Alex distributed board correspondence for Board members to review.

2) SRFB/Lead Entity Program Update

Angie gave the Board an update on the 2008 SRFB process, preparations for the 2009 grant round, and the upcoming Community Salmon Fund grant solicitation. Paul asked staff to think outside of the box in regards to outreach for these grants, especially CSF. He suggested we send announcements to a variety of organizations that operate in the basin. Angie announced that Lead Entity Day will be March 10th in Olympia. All board members are welcome to come and are encouraged to extend invitations to others who may be interested. This will be the 10th year anniversary of the Lead Entity, and to celebrate this milestone, we will be honoring outstanding citizens from all across the state. The Board decided to nominate Leo Bowman for the citizen's award.

3) Recovery Planning Update:

Update on steelhead recovery plan

Alex reviewed a write up describing the recovery plan outreach efforts conducted from September through December. He noted that most of the groups that were contacted were familiar with the plan and had some level of input already. Alex also reviewed the comments that had been submitted to NOAA during their formal comment period. Overall, there were few surprises, and responding to comments on the Yakima Steelhead Recovery Plan should be straightforward. NOAA may face more challenges in responding to comments on the Klickitat County and Oregon parts of the overall plan. Alex encouraged the Board to thank NOAA for their efforts to make development of the recovery plan a locally driven process. Alex asked the board for pre-approval to contract with Laura Berg in case he needed her services to incorporate the draft comments into the plan. Dave Brown motioned to pre-approve a technical writing contract with Laura Berg consulting for up to \$5,000 on the same terms as previous

contracts if determined necessary by staff. Nancy Lillquist seconded the motion. There was no further discussion and the motion carried.

Update on Bull Trout planning

Alex gave a brief update on the Board's engagement in Bull Trout planning. He participated in the US Fish & Wildlife Service's status update process, and expects the Board to take a lead role in development of a bull trout action plan for the Yakima. Terry wanted to know how bull trout projects have fared in the SRFB process; Alex responded that projects that focus solely on bull trout have not been funded through our SRFB process, which has focused on areas with anadromous fish, but that he was investigating funding opportunities with the USFWS.

4) Yakima Basin Storage Study

Alex gave a brief update on the Department of Ecology's development of a Supplemental EIS for the Yakima Basin Storage Study conducted by Ecology and the Bureau of Reclamation and noted that his involvement has been focused on the technical fisheries issues. He presented the Board with the comments he had submitted on behalf of the Board. Board members also discussed the current role of the Pine Hollow proposal and other aspects of the SEIS study.

After some discussion, the Board members present agreed that there was no need for the Board to submit additional comments on the Bureau of Reclamation's Yakima Basin Water Storage Study.

5) State and Federal Budget Issues:

Alex gave a general overview of the Governor's budget's impacts on SRFB and WDFW programs. The state portion of the SRFB's funding is proposed at \$10 million, vs \$18 million the previous two bienniums. Based on a stable level of federal funding, this would cause overall funding for the SRFB to drop by about 20%. This may change as budgets are developed in the legislature, and the SRFB is also a possible recipient of federal economic stimulus dollars. The Governor's budget was more generous with funding for Puget Sound. Alex noted that there were several legislative proposals about salmon recovery under development, but that he had not seen them yet. Alex also noted that the proposed budget hits WDFW hard, and includes significant reductions in the Watershed Steward Program. Alex described several budget scenarios for the Board, from a slight increase based on new funding sources to a 20% reduction, but noted that at this time, it is impossible to predict the outcome.

6) Wenatchee National Forest PAC vacancy:

The Wenatchee National Forest Plan is under revision, and Yakima fisheries interest slot on their advisory board is not filled. Alex will go to their next meeting as an observer to see if this is an issue that should be addressed by the Board.

7) Board Logistics overview:

The Board consented with the Executive Committee's recommendation that Alex draft a 2010-2011 work plan for the Board based on continuing the current activities of the Board for future review.

Alex noted that we will be making purchases associated with furnishing the office through June 30th.

The Board reviewed the draft leave policies discussed by the Executive Board and requested Alex to incorporate feedback into a written draft for subsequent Board review.

Alex gave an update on Board finances.

Following a brief executive session, the Board approved the draft hiring letter for the Recovery Coordinator Position.

Chairman Paul Ward adjourned the meeting at 6:40 pm.