



YAKIMA BASIN
FISH AND WILDLIFE
RECOVERY BOARD

Minutes of the 10/10/2013 Board of Directors Meeting

As approved at the 1/16/14 Board Meeting

Members Present: Adam Fyall (Benton County), Paul Ward (Yakama Nation), Lloyd Carnahan (City of Benton City), Scott Hamilton (City of Prosser), Nancy Lillquist (City of Ellensburg), Jay McGowan (City of Cle Elum), John Hubbard (City of Kennewick), and Obie O'Brien (Kittitas County).

Staff Present: Alex Conley (Executive Director), Darcy Batura (Lead Entity Coordinator), and Heather Hadsel (Operations & Outreach Manager)

Guests Present: Mike Livingston (WDFW)

1) Welcome, Introductions & Approval of Minutes

Vice-chair Obie O'Brien called the business meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. After introductions, the Board reviewed the agenda, minutes from the August 7 Board meeting, and the notes of the October 2 Executive Committee meeting. *Nancy Lillquist made a motion to approve the August 7 meeting minutes as presented and Jay McGowan seconded the motion. The agenda and minutes carried with the support of all present.*

2) Board Correspondence and Announcements

A copy of the letter sent by the Board to the Northwest Power and Conservation Council on September 13 was included in the meeting packet. Alex will work with the Executive Committee to provide additional comments by the November deadline.

The Yakima Nation Sockeye Tour is scheduled for October 15 at 10:00 a.m. at Lake Cle Elum. The Yakima Canyon Scenic Byway Plan Open House will be held October 10 at the Yakima Greenway office at 4:00 p.m. The Governor's visit to Manastash Creek is October 29 at 1:30 p.m.

3) Lead Entity Program

Darcy provided a status of the projects on the list for funding this year. The Yakima Basin Integrated Plan (YBIP) has stepped in with funding for some of the approved projects under its early action program which allows the SRFB funding to go further down the list. The revised list has been sent to Olympia and

the projects are being reviewed. A couple projects came back as “Projects of Concern” but Darcy is working with project sponsors to resolve any issues by the end of the month. The Landowner Liability Legislation took effect in July. LEAG surveyed partners to show trends and questions related to the legislation. A link to the survey was included in the meeting overview handout. The Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) is creating a fact sheet to help sponsors make sense of the requirements. Darcy also provided an update of SRFB projects on the ground.

4) Recovery Planning

Interviews for candidates for the now-vacant Recovery Program Coordinator were held on Tuesday, October 8. A second round of interviews will be scheduled if needed. The new hire will develop the next steps for the Steelhead Plan Actions Update and the proposed limiting factors/habitat monitoring plan.

5) Policy & Budget Updates

The Board briefly discussed Board and staff engagement in legislative outreach. Alex noted that the statewide Lead Entity Advisory Group will be holding a Lead Entity Outreach day in Olympia in January that staff plans to participate in, and that he and Darcy are working with LEAG and Council of Regions to discuss proposed 2015 state legislative and budget proposals with WDFW and RCO as the agencies develop their proposals to the governor. As a 501c3 using federal funding with specific restrictions, the board is not allowed to lobby for or against proposed legislation once it is introduced, but is allowed to educate legislators on issues and engage in executive discussions about possible legislation. Paul said that Derek at the Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board has been working hard on these issues and has developed media materials that demonstrate the economic multiplier benefits of investing in salmon recovery.

6) Yakima Basin Integrated Plan Update

An event to celebrate the state’s purchase of the 50,000 acres Teanaway Community Forest was held in on October 1st. The new community forest will continue to be actively logged and maintained for forest and watershed health. There is a supplemental budget request for efforts to reduce the up-front fire risk up. The purchase is one of the first investments to be made as part of the Yakima Basin Integrated Plan, and will allow ongoing restoration efforts in the Teanaway watershed. The YBIP early action items approved by the state legislature in June also included \$2.4 million for projects in the next two years. Board staff worked with the Department of Ecology and the Salmon Recovery Funding Board as they developed an interagency agreement that allowed the SRFB to take the lead to contract with project sponsors to complete early action habitat projects.

7) Board Logistics and Finances

The draft quarterly financials and the draft fiscal year 2013 financial statement and audit completed by Abby Sanders were presented. *Nancy Lillquist made a motion to approve the 2013 financial statement*

and audit as presented. Adam Fyall seconded the motion, and the motion passed with the approval of all present.

Bob Villbrandt is working on the Board's annual IRS 990 tax return. The final 990 will be forwarded by email and board members will be asked to reply confirming their approval prior to submission of the 990, which is due by November 15. *The Board approved submission of the 990 pending email review and approval by all Board of Director's members.*

The Bureau of Land Management cooperative agreement was reviewed by the board. This agreement will provide \$75,000 to support a SRFB project in the Cowiche watershed with a 10% overhead fee. *Adam Fyall made a motion to approve the BLM cooperative agreement as presented and Paul Ward seconded the motion; the motion carried.*

A potential office space has been identified at 1200 Chesterly Drive. Yakima County has a larger meeting space that we could use if needed. *Nancy Lillquist made a motion supporting the proposed office move and giving the Executive Committee the authority to review and approve the lease. Paul Ward seconded the motion and the motion carried with the approval of all present.*

8) Outreach Update

The outreach reports for August and September were presented to the board. The Fish Species page on our website continues to be one of our top-visited pages. We will be working to improve that page by including information for fishermen and educators and improving the flow of traffic to other pages on our website. The board suggested that the website include more graphs and current information about fish runs. Heather will be attending the Yakima River Canyon Interpretive Center Team Meetings and is planning the next Yakima River Outreach Committee meeting for October 24 from 10:00 a.m. – noon.

9) Public Comment

There were no public comments. The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.