



## **Minutes of the October 10, 2018 Board of Directors Meeting**

*AS APPROVED BY THE BOARD ON 1/23/2019*

*Meeting held from Noon to 4 pm at the YBFWRB Office*

### **Members Present:**

Adam Fyall (Benton County), Paul Ward and Jonalee Squeoch (Yakama Nation), Ron Anderson & Terry Keenhan (Yakima County), Richard Bloom (City of West Richland), Bob Elder (City of Prosser), David Brown (City of Yakima), Julie Schilling (City of Union Gap), Obie O'Brien (Kittitas County), Nancy Lillquist (City of Ellensburg) and Jay McGowan (City of Cle Elum).

By phone for work session, but not the business meeting: Steve Martin (Governor's Salmon Recovery Office) and Wendy Brown (RCO)

**Staff Present:** Alex Conley (Executive Director)

**Others Present:** Elizabeth Torrey (WDFW), Heather Simmons (Ecology).

### **Pre-Meeting Work Session**

During the Work Session, the Board reviewed state agency budget requests related to salmon recovery. Steve Martin of the Governor's Salmon Recovery Office reviewed the Salmon Recovery Network's Budget Buddy document, and Wendy Brown of RCO gave additional detail on the budget requests submitted to the Governor by the Recreation and Conservation Office. The Board discussed the specific items and how they do or do not support recovery efforts in the Yakima Basin, and highlighted programs and requests to include in a proposed Board policy statement. Members emphasized the value of supporting the capacity requests that our partner organizations count on, and directed Alex to draft a summary document based on the discussion for review by the Board. The Board also discussed the Governor's Orca Task Force with Steve Martin (one of the leads), and reviewed the draft letter to the task force prepared by Alex.

The business meeting of the Board was called to order at 2:10 pm.

### **1) Approval of Agenda and Minutes**

Acting Chair Adam Fyall opened the meeting and all present introduced themselves. The Board reviewed the meeting agenda and the draft minutes for the 08/2/18 Annual Meeting. A motion to approve the 9/2/2018 minutes and the agenda was approved with consent of all present.

## 2) Announcements and Correspondence

Alex updated the Board on the SRFB's proposal for a travel meeting in Yakima in June 2019. Nancy Lillquist noted that the Washington Association of Cities is emphasizing the needs to assess and address culvert barriers. Alex noted the current efforts to inventory Kittitas County passage barriers, and the Board reviewed and discussed the FPDSI online map of barriers available from WDFW.

The Board briefly reviewed the correspondence received and sent since the last Board meeting, including Council of Regions and Benton County letters to the Orca Task Force, and YBFWRB staff comments on the USFS Taneum Restoration Project.

## 3) Letter to the US Forest Service

The Board reviewed four draft letters included in their packet. Following discussion, they:

- a) Approved the letter to the Bureau of Reclamation regarding the YRBWEP Tributaries Plan for signature by the Chair as presented.
- b) Asked Alex to edit the proposed letter to the Orca Task force to remove the reference to item 5A and B in the seventh bullet, and add a bullet supporting the proposal to for WDFW to classify bass and walleye as invasive fish, and remove any prohibitions on 'waste'. The Board approved sending the letter under signature of the Chair pending completion of these edits.
- c) The Board approved sending the letter to the Washington Senate delegation regarding proposed legislation on seal lion predation on salmon, pending inclusion of specifics provided by the Yakama Nation on the state of Senate Bill 3119 and the addition of a reference to orcas in the final sentence of the letter.
- d) The Board approved sending the letter to the Corps of Engineers in support of the Gap to Gap Ecosystem Project under the Chair's signature pending removal of the sentence regarding \$8 million of other funding and confirmation of the best form of address for a Brigadier General.

## 4) Lead Entity Program

2018 SRFB Grant Round: Alex gave a brief presentation prepared by Tricia to update the Board on the current status of the 2018 SRFB grant round. The Board reviewed how staff and sponsors are responding to issues raised by the state review panel.

LEAN Study: Alex reminded the Board that he is one of the two Council of Regions representatives on the LEAN project steering committee, and provided the Board with the YBFWRB staff comments submitted for consideration by the steering committee. He noted that there are some promising proposals for improvements to the grant process under review, and that these would come back for review as future policy proposals to the SRFB regarding the 2019 and 2020 SRFB grant rounds.

## 5) 2019 Riparian Symposium

Heather Simmons of the Department of Ecology reviewed the proposed 2019 Eastern Washington Riparian Planting Symposium with the Board, and thanked them for their support of the successful 2017 and 2018 events. The Board approved having the YBFWRB act as the lead sponsor for the

event, with a Board financial contribution of up to \$3,000. Adam Fyall noted his interest in future events focused on Sage Steppe ecosystems.

**6) NPCC Fish and Wildlife Program Input**

The Board reviewed the draft points for proposed Board input on potential amendments to the Northwest Power and Conservation Council's Fish and Wildlife Program. Paul Ward emphasized the need to coordinate with the Yakama Nation, and to assure that both the Nation and BPA have adequate lead time to review Board comments and their consistency with the Accord between BPA and the Yakama Nation. The Board approved a motion to develop a letter incorporating the draft points and feedback from the Yakama Nation, WDFW and other partners, and to send that letter under the Chair's signature following a final email review of the proposed letter by the Board of Directors. Alex noted that the letters are due December 13.

**7) BLM contract update**

Alex gave a brief update on the completion of the 2013 funding agreement with the BLM and the current work being completed under the 2017 funding agreement with BLM. He noted that the next step would be to contract with Water Pushing Dirt, LLC for up to \$5,000 in preliminary design work on proposed habitat features that would complement the revegetation work currently under way.

**8) State Agency Budget and Policy Development**

The Board briefly reviewed the outcomes of the pre-meeting workshop discussion and directed Alex to draft a position statement and an accompanying letter to the Governor's Office describing the specific state agency budget recommendations that the Board supports. The Board approved sending the letter to the Governor under the Chair's signature following email review by the Board of Directors, and noted that late October would be the best time window to submit that letter.

**9) Recovery Program Updates**

Alex briefly updated the Board of Directors on plans for Yakima Steelhead Recovery Plan Updates, and August and November meetings of the Yakima Bull Trout Working Group. He also described the SRFB Strategic Investment discussions and the proposal to develop a strategic funding plan for Mid-C steelhead for use by the Board in developing a 2020 budget proposal.

**10) Communications**

Alex updated the Board on plans for a November 27 public panel at the Yakima Arboretum on floodplain restoration, and a future (date TBD) panel discussion in Ellensburg on large wood and fish habitat.

He presented the draft press packet, and asked Board members to provide any comments by the following Monday.

**11) Public comment:** Elizabeth Torrey briefly addressed the Board and expressed her interest in helping the Board and WDFW working closely together. The meeting was adjourned at 4:10 pm