

MEETING OVERVIEW

For the October 6, 2016 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 Annual meeting in May. The **agenda, draft minutes** and September **Exec Committee Notes** are attached (items #1,3 & 4).
2. Bring any **announcements** you want to make. We'll highlight:
 - a) Darcy's Departure: Just yesterday Darcy Batura let me know that she is leaving her position as the Board's Lead Entity Coordinator to take on a new job as the Central Cascades Community Coordinator with The Nature Conservancy. It's with a mixed heart that I relay the news; Darcy has done a great job building up our Lead Entity program, but I know she will also be a great partner on conservation work in our basin in her new position.
 - b) Operating Budget Reduction: We have completed a contract amendment with RCO that reduces our RCO contract for Board operations for fiscal year 2017 by 25%, as discussed at our June and August Board meetings. Since we were under budget for FY 2016 and still have access to those funds, we will still be able to cover our planned expenditures for the current fiscal year despite the cut. This reduction includes \$25,000 that we offered to provide to RCO in order to assist programs in other parts of the state adjust to the budget reduction. The SRFB expressed their thanks for the work that was done by partners around the state to come up with a cooperative proposal for allocating budget cuts between organizations in a way that maintains key capacity in all parts of the state.
 - c) NPCC Appointment: Guy Norman (recently retired from WDFW) has been appointed to fill Washington State's vacant seat on the Northwest Power and Conservation Council (Phil Rockefeller retired from the Council, but not the SRFB). Guy's appointment only lasts until January 15.
 - d) SRFB Vacancy: We're still waiting to hear on appointment of a new SRFB member... We may have news by the time of our meeting.
 - e) Participation in NOAA Columbia River Partnership: Steve Martin of the Snake River Salmon Recovery Board was nominated to represent Washington's Columbia Basin Recovery Boards (Snake, Upper Columbia, Lower Columbia and us) in NOAA Fisheries new Columbia River Partnership. We will work closely with Steve to ensure that his positions on behalf of the regional organizations are consistent with those of our members.

- f) Staff Evaluation of Floodplain by Design Proposals: At Ecology's request, Darcy completed an assessment of how the Floodplain by Design proposals for the Yakima Basin would implement our Recovery Plan Actions and the TAG Focus Projects List.

- g) Input into State Capital Budget Development: Darcy submitted information on proposed projects identified by our SRFB project sponsors to RCO and the team compiling a project list for the Honeyford's Water Bill. This information is being used in the development of capital funding proposals for the SRFB and the legislature. Alex participated in the September 22nd workshop on the Waters Bill in Yakima, and expect to be contacted by the consultants about how the different line items for salmon recovery fit together.

Correspondence included in the attached packet (item #4) includes:

- Three letters sent after the last Board meeting's discussions (item #5: Sent Correspondence);
- Two draft support letters for pending grant applications (Item #6: Lower Yakima Water Quality Grant Support Letter and Item #7: eDNA Grant Support Letter) that we are asking the Board to consider approving;
- We received an in-person response from Steve Martin of the Snake River Salmon Recovery Board, noting that our response to their earlier letter regarding predation issues in the Columbia River was well received, and that after further discussion with NOAA Fisheries, the Snake River Board has agreed that the questions about predation that they raised should be addressed as part of NOAA's Columbia River Partnership Task Force. We should expect to be invited to participate in a forum on predation sponsored by the Partnership sometime in the next year.

1. LEAD ENTITY PROGRAM

Darcy will update us on the **status of the state-level review of the 2016 Lead Entity Ranked Project List** that we approved at August meeting (see www.ybfwrp.org/2016-srfb-process/).

Darcy will also provide an **update on the status of funded SRFB projects** (see attached Item #8: SRFB Project Status Report).

We will also briefly discuss a **proposed partnership with the Department of Ecology to cosponsor a riparian planting workshop** where sponsors can share the keys to effective riparian planting projects.

2. STATE AND FEDERAL POLICY UPDATES

- a. Alex will provide a brief **update 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.
- b. State agencies have submitted their budget requests to the Governor's Office for consideration as the **Governor's proposed budget for the FY2018-19 biennium**. October and November are the best window for offering feedback on these requests for consideration by OFM and the Governor's office staff. Alex is working with GSRO to prepare a summary of budget requests affecting fish and wildlife recovery in the Yakima Basin that he will present at the meeting. The Executive Committee has also asked that the Board **consider the draft letter on state funding requests included as item #9a**, with the thought that such a letter could also serve as the basis for a statement of legislative priorities that Board members can use in the upcoming state legislative session. For comparison, a copy of a similar letter being finalized by the Snake River Recovery Board is included as item #9b.
- c. Alex will provide an update on the **SRFB's proposed Allocation Subcommittee**, which is being convened by the Governor's Salmon Recovery Office in order to develop proposals for how the allocation of SRFB funds to different parts of the state might be changed in the next biennium.

3. 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 group has completed updates of the action plans for the Ahtanum, Gold Creek, Kachees River and Box Canyon actions, and is now working on remaining Upper Yakima populations. The group will move to Naches basin populations next. Cassandra continues to do a great job with the 25% of her time we have contracted with her employer (Mid-Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group) for. Cassandra Weekes or Alex will update the Board on this work.
- c. Alex will provide a brief update on the status of NOAA's Middle Columbia Forum and ask for feedback from the Board about whether to ask NOAA to reinstate meetings of the Forum.
- d. We may have a proposal from Yakama Nation staff regarding jointly convening a workshop for local planners on the new Best Available Science Report about to be released by WDFW.

e. 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**, which recently provided the YBIP Implementation Subcommittee with proposed state budget requests for habitat projects for the next biennium;
- ii. Working with partners to develop the **Little Naches Floodplain Restoration** Project and participate in the Little Naches Collaborative Group. Hoda Sondossi is finalizing the geomorphic assessment he drafted while working for the Board last year;
- 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.

4. BOARD LOGISTICS

We will end the meeting with organizational logistics:

a. NPIP Insurance Agreement and Resolution

Our general insurance policy is provided to us by the Non-Profit Insurance Pool (NPIP) which provides excellent insurance tailored to nonprofit organizations at an attractive price. The pool has recently **revised its governing agreement and is asking us to provide a resolution adopting the new agreement** (item #10). The full agreement is attached as item #11. We will need to approve this resolution at this meeting in order to continue to secure our insurance through NPIP.

b. Hiring and Strategic Planning Options

I am working with the Executive Committee to review the Board's work plan and strategic priorities so that we can develop a **revised work plan and strategic hiring plan that will rebuild the Board's staff and ensure that we have a strong shared sense of priorities from the Board.** We will discuss this process and how to engage the full Board of Directors at the meeting.

c. Audit & IRS 990: Our annual Audit and Financial Statement is being completed by Abby Sanders; after reviewing competitive quotes we found that she still provides the best rate. After the audit, our CPA, Bob Villbrant will complete the IRS 990 report. I'd like **Board authorization to file an extension request** so that we can review the audit and the IRS 990 together prior to submission (our next meeting is in January; without the extension, the 990 is due in November).

d. We'll review the schedule and topics for upcoming Board meetings.