



YAKIMA BASIN
FISH AND WILDLIFE
RECOVERY BOARD

Minutes of the 10/8/15 Board of Directors Meeting

AS APPROVED BY THE BOARD ON 1/14/2016

Members Present:

Adam Fyall (Benton County), Obie O'Brien (Kittitas County), Paul Ward (Yakama Nation), Dave Brown (City of Yakima), Jay McGowan (City of Cle Elum), Dan Olson (City of Union Gap)

Staff Present: Alex Conley (Executive Director) and Darcy Batura (Lead Entity Coordinator)

1) Approval of Agenda and Minutes

After introductions, the Board reviewed the meeting agenda, notes from the September 23 Executive Committee meeting and the minutes from the August 6 Annual Meeting. *David Brown made a motion to approve the meeting minutes as presented. Jay McGowan seconded the motion, which carried with the support of all present.*

2) Board Correspondence and Announcements

- Alex noted that the Salvelinus confluentus Curiosity Society was held in the Yakima Basin for the first time, from Sept 15 to 17.
- Darcy gave an overview of the October 1 Kittitas Forum meeting.
- Alex and Adam gave an update on the Oct. 1 Lower Yakima Water Quality & Habitat meeting.
- Darcy invited Board members to the Oct. 21 Lead Entity tour of the Cle Elum Floodplain Project.
- The Board briefly discussed WDFW's Wild Washington initiative; members were encouraged to participate on behalf of their jurisdictions.

3) Lead Entity Program

David Brown asked if the Yakima Beaver Project was still operating, as he had had to trap numerous beavers out of problem areas this year. The Board discussed the beaver project and its funding history. Paul Ward noted the benefits to people and fish of better managing beavers and pulling

back infrastructure to let floodplains be floodplains. The Board also discussed how river restoration can help moderate the impacts of climate change.

Darcy gave a presentation on the **status of the 2015 Yakima Project** List submitted to the SRFB and provided a Board-requested **analysis of the subsequent fate of projects that were included in past lists as alternates**. She found that 54% were funded by SRFB in later years, and another 15% were funded using other funds. She also briefed the Board on 2015 Citizen Committee member participation and preparations for the 2016 grant round. The Board discussed how to more fully engage Citizen Committee members in the future.

The Board discussed the way the **Mid-Columbia funding allocation** from the SRFB is split between the Yakima and Klickitat Lead Entity lists, and reviewed the draft letter to the Klickitat Lead Entity prepared by staff in response to a Board request at the August meeting. David Brown motioned to send the letter as written, and Paul Ward seconded the motion, which passed with the support of all present.

4) Review of Acquisition Projects

Darcy presented an evaluation of how SRFB and other state funds have been used for habitat acquisition over the last 30 years. The Board discussed the role of habitat protection in fish recovery and the challenges of assessing the current risk of habitat degradation for a given parcel given the complex regulatory landscape. Board members noted that often past land use decisions meant that landowners were granted permission for actions that would not be permitted under current regulations, and that these areas with legacy approvals might be high priority areas for funding acquisition projects. The Board asked staff to work with partners to brainstorm possible ways to better evaluate the risk of habitat degradation for parcels being considered for acquisition funding, including a possible workshop to bring together Lead Entity Committee members and local government planning staff.

5) Recovery Program Updates

Alex gave brief update of recent program activities, including review and comment on the USFWS Bull Trout Recovery Plan, Board staff participation in the selection of projects by the Yakima Basin Integrated Plan Habitat Committee and ongoing development of the Little Naches and Yakima Delta projects.

6) Outreach Program

Gretchen Miller of Cascadia Consulting Group joined the meeting by telephone, and led a discussion about the upcoming Board Communications Planning work shop. Gretchen will call Board members

individually prior to the work shop. The Board reviewed schedules and agreed to move the meeting from Nov 4 to Nov 10 to ensure better participation. The Board also agreed that an invitation to participate should be sent out to Technical and Citizen Committee members, but that the number of participants should be capped at 20 to ensure a productive meeting.

7) State and Federal Policy Updates

The Board briefly reviewed the large capital project funding proposal being developed by the SRFB, and expressed that supporting the existing program should be prioritized over creating new programs that may reduce the local role in decision making.

Alex updated the Board on the Salmon Recovery Network's efforts to develop a joint funding proposal for inclusion in the 2017-19 state budget.

8) Board Logistics & Finances

The Board noted Heather Hadsel's resignation and discussed the process for reviewing position descriptions and hiring a replacement. The Board delegated authority to approve a position description to the Executive Committee so that hiring could begin before the next Board meeting. *David Brown made a motion to delegate approval of the job description for the operations position to the Executive Committee. Jay McGowan seconded the motion, which carried with the support of all present.*

The Board approved offering a short-term part time position as Recovery Program Technical Support to Jason McCormick.

The Board reviewed the Board's policies on health insurance benefits and decided to maintain them as is.

The Board reviewed the latest Board quarterly report and finances.

Alex reminded the Board that the next meeting would be held on January 14, 2016.

9) Public comment

There were no public comments.