



MINUTES

November 1st, 2007 Board of Directors Meeting

As approved by the Board of Directors on 11/27/07

4:30 to 6:30 pm at the Yakima County Commissioner's Hearing Room

Attendance:

Board: Phil Mees (Benton County), Mike Leita & Terry Keenhan (Yakima County), David Bowen (Kittitas County), Paul Ward (Yakama Nation), Nancy Aldrich (W. Richland), Neil McClure & Dave Brown (City of Yakima)

Staff: Alex Conley (Executive Director), Angie Begosh (Program Coordinator)

Guests: Walt Larrick (BOA), Jim Milton (YBWRA)

Chair David Bowen called the meeting to order at 4:42 pm and confirmed the presence of a quorum. The Board reviewed the August 30th minutes, which were approved by a unanimous motion of the Board.

SRFB/Lead Entity Update

Alex updated the Board on changes in the membership and staffing of the Salmon Recovery Funding Board. Bud Hover, County Commissioner from Okanogan County was appointed to fill the seat vacated by Bill Ruckelshaus, and Bob Nichols, a natural resources advisor to the governor, was appointed to the seat vacated by Larry Cassidy. There was discussion on how these appointments would affect the Board and other eastern Washington Boards. Alex also updated the Board on the LE Supplemental Budget request submitted by WDFW for potential inclusion in the Governor's proposed budget.

Angie updated the Board on the current status of our project list and Board staff and project sponsor efforts to address the concerns identified by the SRFB State Review Panel prior to December's review and approval of projects by the SRFB itself. She also described the budget increase that the Kittitas County Conservation District has requested from the SRFB for the Currier Creek Siphon project approved by the Board in 2006. Responses by Lead Entity Committee Members supported the change request, and the Board expressed its concurrence.

Board Correspondence

The Board approved the letter to WDFW regarding grazing issues that had been discussed at earlier meetings, and also approved and signed a thank you letter to former SRFB members.

Governors Salmon Recovery Office Update

Alex updated the Board on the proposed MOA between Washington and Federal Columbia River Power System BiOp Action Agencies. This MOA identifies the Board and other recovery boards in Washington as a key component of Washington's efforts to support tributary mitigation actions identified in the BiOp. He asked if there were any initial questions or concerns. The GSRO would like a response from the Board by the end of November. He asked the Board to review the document and identify any concerns within the next two weeks.

Alex described the GSRO's efforts to identify priority actions from Regional Recovery plans that involve state and federal partners, so that the GSRO can promote them in current and pending state and federal budgeting and work-planning processes. The GSRO would like some feedback regarding this by the end

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of November. The Board supported Alex's suggestion that an initial list be developed at a staff level, and then reviewed by the executive committee prior to presentation to the Board at the next meeting.

Alex also briefly updated the board on the status of the GSRO's efforts to streamline the Endangered Species Act consultation process for salmon recovery projects.

Bureau of Reclamation Yakima Project Biop Update

Dawn Wiedmeier of BOR contacted the Board about participating in a series of meetings to get input on the Proposed Action to be submitted by the BOR's Yakima Project to NOAA as part of Section 7 ESA consultation on project operations. They are hoping to have comprehensive discussion on what the options are and have requested participation from state, federal and tribal fisheries departments, the Yakima Basin Joint Board, and the Recovery Board. They are hoping to have both Board staff and elected officials associated with the Board participate in the meetings. November 20th is the tentative date for the first meeting. Alex encouraged the Board to embrace this opportunity for involvement. David Bowen felt like there were members better informed to handle this, although he would be willing to serve as Chair. Walt Larrick also encouraged Board participation and noted that this will be a key step in larger efforts to recover steelhead so that they can be de-listed. There was general discussion on this request. When we receive a formal invite and fixed date, Alex will follow up with the Board. Neil McClure asked that Alex send out a written explanation of the proposed process to the Board, since this wasn't included in the Board packet.

Council of Regions Analysis of Recovery Costs Proposal

Alex briefed the Board on Council of Regions' discussion regarding coordinated approaches to securing funding for recovery actions and Board operations for the next biennium. Alex asked Board members to review and respond to a preliminary proposal for a joint contract with other regional organizations to conduct an assessment of Salmon Recovery funding needs. Paul Ward recommended that Alex contact Julie Morgan regarding how the Upper Columbia has been addressing this. The Board also discussed the GSRO's proposal to seat a new staff person in Eastern Washington to work with the three Eastern Washington Salmon Recovery Boards.

Recovery Plan Review Draft and Mid-Columbia Integration

Alex updated the Board on the status of the Steelhead Extract of the Board's Salmon Recovery Plan. An internal review draft has been completed, and he is waiting for feedback from reviewers. He expects it to take one to two weeks following receipt of these comments to produce a review draft ready for public distribution. He asked the Board how they want to handle the review process. The Board agreed to review an Executive Summary to be prepared by Alex prior to the next meeting. Alex presented a work plan for the finalizing the document and soliciting review between now and February. The Board approved awarding an hourly copy-editing contract with a not-to-exceed amount of \$7,500. Alex also asked Board Members to consider how they wanted to participate in preliminary review of NOAA's Mid-Columbia Steelhead Recovery Plan in December.

Annual Meeting Logistics

The Board set Tuesday November 27th from 6:30 to 8:30 pm as the time for the Board's next meeting, which will be the annual meeting and will include election of officers and approval of an annual work plan and budget.

Public Outreach Update

Program Coordinator Angie Begosh update the Board on her work reviewing past outreach and education efforts and beginning to convene partners to identify future priorities.

Finances, Announcements & Public Comment

The Board briefly reviewed the status of Board finances. No further announcements or comments were made.