



YAKIMA BASIN
FISH AND WILDLIFE
RECOVERY BOARD

Minutes of the 3/12/15 Board of Directors Meeting

As approved at the 5/21/15 Annual Meeting

Members Present: Dave Brown (City of Yakima), David Lind (Yakama Nation), Nancy Lillquist (City of Ellensburg), Adam Fyall (Benton County), Jay McGowan (City of Cle Elum), Terry Keenhan (Yakima County), Don Aubrey (City of Prosser)

Staff Present: Alex Conley (Executive Director), Heather Hadsel (Operations & Outreach Manager), and Hoda Sondossi (Temporary Technical Staff)

Guests Present: Dale Meck (CBEC), Mary Rosen (Yakima County), Lucy Temple (Eco Resource Group)

1) Approval of Agenda and Minutes

In Obie O'Brien and Dan Olson's absence, Nancy Lillquist, board secretary, chaired the meeting. After introductions, the Board reviewed the meeting agenda, the minutes from the January 15 meeting, and the February 24 Executive Committee notes. *Terry Keenhan 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

- The Board reviewed a draft letter of support for Gold Creek restoration actions for the Kittitas Conservation Trust to use as needed. Adam Fyall made a motion to approve the letter and Jay McGowan seconded; the motion carried. Terry pointed out a typo in the second paragraph.
- Alex introduced Hoda Sondossi who has been hired as temporary technical staff. He will be leaving the Board to start a position with the Yakima County starting April 1st.
- The Salmon Recovery Conference sponsored by the Washington Salmon Recovery Funding Board will be held May 27-29. Board members were invited to attend the conference as well as the evening reception on May 26 that will be sponsored by the Council of Regions (which represents all of the regional organizations like ours in the state).
- A joint letter in support of the Governor's request for capital funding for the SRFB grant program was sent out by the Council of Regions, the Washington Salmon Coalition (representing the state's 25 Lead Entities), and the Regional Fisheries Enhancement Group Coalition. A copy of the letter was provided for review.

- Alex submitted staff-level comments on the Bureau of Reclamation's Kachess Drought Relief Pumping Plant and Kecheelus to Kachess Conveyance Project draft EIS. His comments emphasized the need to maintain the collaborative forum used to develop the Bull Trout Action Plan in order to guide its implementation through the proposed Bull Trout Enhancement Program.
- Alaskan commercial fishermen have sent in a petition requesting delisting of Snake River fall Chinook. How this is addressed by NOAA will help us understand how future delisting discussion for Mid-C Steelhead could proceed.
- The Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) is rewriting the administrative rules for salmon recovery, which could ultimately affect our organization. We will provide more information in May.

3) Lead Entity Program

The 2015 grant round is in full swing. The pre-proposals are due on March 13. The pre-proposals are optional but encouraged. Full applications are due on April 24.

RCO has allowed regions to decide whether or not monitoring project proposals will now also be allowed. Monitoring proposals will be accepted by RCO if they meet a critical information gap. Up to 10% of Salmon Recovery Funding Board funds may be used for monitoring. The board discussed the option and agreed that the option for monitoring proposals should not be opened up until the Technical Advisory Group (TAG) and staff have determined how to evaluate these kinds of proposals. Dave Brown made a motion to hold off on opening monitoring proposals for the 2015 grant round and Adam Fyall seconded; motion carried. Terry Keenhan made a motion for staff to work with the TAG and CC to determine how to review monitoring proposals in future grant rounds. Jay McGowan seconded; motion carried.

GSRO is exploring the possibility of creating a statewide program to fund large capital projects. It could be modeled after the Puget Sound PSAR process. The board was hesitant about this process, noting that it seems like it could take some of the emphasis on local review away from salmon recovery, and potentially create competing funding requests.

4) Outreach Program

Heather will be helping to staff a few educational outreach events this spring: The Arbor Festival on April 11, Mid-Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group's Salmon Education Days on April 22-23, and the Salmon Summit in Kennewick on May 5-6. The board reviewed a draft RFP for a consultant to improve and focus our existing Outreach Plan and guide the board members through strategic communications planning. Terry Keenhan made a motion to move forward with sending out the RFP to the existing roster of consultants provided by GSRO and Dave Brown seconded; motion carried. Board members were encouraged to send any recommended local consultant's information to Alex, so that they can be added to the roster.

5) Recovery Program

Alex is drafting the threats report to update NOAA on the status of steelhead in the Yakima Basin. He will provide a draft report for board and partner review by April 13 and feedback will be due by April 24. The final draft will be complete by May 1 and be offered for board approval by the Executive Committee by May 6. Dave Brown asked that the report be sent out to the full board, even though the Executive Committee will be the one making the approval.

Staff cohosted a meeting with USFWS on February 12 to provide input to the Regional Unit Implementation Plan, a part of the USFWS Draft Bull Trout Recovery Plan. We are going to set up a contract with MCFEG for 160 hours of one of their staff member's time to support our bull trout recovery planning work this summer. It is within the cost allowance that only requires Obie O'Brien and Alex' approval. The position will compile local information, update the BTAP for consistency with the USFWS Recovery Plan and coordinate efforts in the BTAP.

6) State and Federal Policy Updates

- Obie, Darcy and Alex visited 11 of our 15 state legislators in January.
- Darcy and Alex participate in weekly legislative update calls organized by the Council of Regions and the Washington Salmon Coalition.
- SB 5013, ESB 5959, HB 1639 and SB 5197 are all surviving bills with relevance to salmon recovery work; Alex provided a written update on these for review.
- The Governor's capital budget request includes \$15 million for the Yakima Basin Integrated Plan, which includes a portion for floodplain and fish habitat projects, \$40 million for SRFB, and \$25 million for the Dept. of Ecology's Floodplain by Design program.
- The proposed transportation budget includes up to \$250 million that may be available to WSDOT and local governments for fish passage projects.

The board reviewed a draft letter of support for the SRFB capital budget request of \$40 million, YBIP Implementation Funds and WWRP. Adam Fyall made a motion to approve and send the letter and Dave Brown seconded; motion carried.

7) Board Logistics and Finances

The Annual Meeting will be held in the Tri-Cities this year. The board decided to have the project tours, Salmon Recovery Awards and State of the Salmon presentation like last year. Alex will arrange the key speaker. Adam and Heather will discuss possible tour and facility options. The August board meeting will likely take place at the Swauk Teanaway Grange and include a presentation on the Teanaway Community Forest. The board members reviewed the annual city letter that will go out by the end of March.

The board reviewed the work plan and budget. Dave Brown made a motion to approve circulating the draft work plan and budget in its current form and Terry Keenhan seconded it; motion carried. In FY17, there will be an additional line for New Income to clear the expected deficit. We will want to review options to address this prior to final approval of the budget and work plan at the Annual Meeting in May. The board members are to forward any comments or changes regarding the work plan to Alex.

Staff have been working to implement the Open Public Meetings Act, and Alex presented a set of written recommendations for specific actions. The YBFWRB website will be updated with a page dedicated to OPMA. Meeting schedules and agendas will be posted on a board outside the door.

8) Public Comment

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