



Minutes of the March 16, 2017 Board of Directors Meeting

As Approved by the Board of Directors on 6/1/2017

Meeting held from 2 to 4 pm at the YBFWRB Office

Members Present:

Adam Fyall (Benton County), Paul Ward (Yakama Nation), Don Gatchalian (Yakima County), Bob Elder (City of Prosser) and Jay McGowan (City of Cle Elum)

Staff Present: Alex Conley (Executive Director), Jason McCormick (Recovery Program Technical Staff), Tricia Snyder (Lead Entity Program Coordinator)

Others Present: Captain Eneas, Vicki Eneas, and Sarah Walker (Terraqua)

1) Approval of Agenda and Minutes

Vice-chair Adam Fyall opened the meeting. The Board reviewed the meeting agenda and the draft minutes for the 1/19/2017 Board of Directors meeting. *The 1/19/17 minutes and the agenda were approved as submitted with consent of all present.*

2) Board Correspondence and Announcements

Announcements:

- Tricia Snyder, the newly hired Lead Entity Program Coordinator, introduced herself to the Board.
- Alex announced the Washington State Salmon Recovery Conference to be held in Wenatchee April 25 to 27, and noted that there will be three presentations from Board staff (Alex presenting on the Board's role providing input in NOAA's 5-year Review Process, Jason presenting on his fish passage analysis, and Cassandra presenting on the Yakima Bull Trout Working Group).
- Alex noted that he had been invited to speak about our bull trout action planning work at the Washington-BC Chapter of the American Fisheries Society in April; Board members expressed their support for his doing so.

Correspondence:

The Board briefly reviewed the final scoping comment submitted to the federal action agencies regarding the Columbia River Systems Operation EIS following the 1/19/17 meeting.

3) Riparian Planting Symposium

Heather Simmons of the Department of Ecology thanked the Board for its support of the February 16 Eastern Washington Riparian Planting Symposium, and noted that 132 attended despite the winter storms. She shared some of the feedback received from participants and asked the Board from their support for a 2018 work shop. The Board reviewed the budget proposal she provided and expressed support for co-convening the symposium again. Paul Ward recommended that Heather email himself and Lee Carlson to solicit support from the Yakama Nation. Heather noted that she hoped to add speakers on monitoring and plants as cultural resources to the agenda. The Board directed Alex to include the proposed Board budget contribution in the draft FY2018 budget under development.

4) Lead Entity Program

SRFB Allocation Decisions: Alex updated the Board on the work of the SRFB's Allocation Committee and the decisions made at the March 2 SRFB meeting. The Council of Regions (made up of regional staff from around the state) worked extensively to develop a broadly-supported a proposed allocation for 2017 SRFB project funding that built off the work of the Allocation Committee, but avoided the problematic outcomes of some of the committee recommendations. Alex noted that the proposed solution was approved by the Board, and reduced the Yakima Basin's share of statewide funding from 9.87% to 9.38%. Reductions in Puget Sound (~9%) and in the Columbia Basin (<5% for each region) allowed increases in funding for the Lower Columbia and Coast Regions. Board members expressed support for the role Alex played working as part of COR to help broker a broadly accepted solution.

Alex reviewed upcoming discussions about future capacity funding allocations for Lead Entity and Regional Organization operational contracts, and the Board directed Alex to continue to engage in statewide discussions and solicit Board feedback as appropriate.

Future Lead Entity Contracts: Alex noted that the SRFB has proposed routing lead entity funding to regional organizations to pass through to Lead Entities within their region. He noted that this could result in a request that we manage a pass-through contract for funding the Klickitat Lead Entity, since we are the only regional organization in the Mid-Columbia Region. Board members expressed that they would prefer that RCO contract directly with the Klickitat Lead Entity, and that we should only consider another arrangement if there is clear support from the Klickitat Lead Entity.

2017 Yakima Basin SRFB Grant Round: The Board reviewed the 2017 SRFB Yakima Basin Request for Proposals and Grant Review Schedule. Alex noted that pre-applications are due March 24th, and that Tricia Snyder would start as the Lead Entity Program Coordinator just in time to manage the grant round from the beginning.

Grant Review Committee Status: The Board reviewed the status of the Technical Advisory Group and the Citizen Committee, and noted that there are vacancies for citizen representatives from the

Yakama Nation and Benton County. Captain Eneas expressed interest in serving on the Citizen Committee, and Paul Ward recommended that he follow up with Alex to learn more about the position.

Status of Funded Projects: The Board reviewed the scope change to reduce the funding for the Lower Cowlitz Restoration Project due to the inability to complete the project in face of opposition from trail advocates concerned about removal of the railroad bed.

5) State and Federal Policy

Pacific Coast Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF): Alex noted that ~85% of the Board's budget is funded by PCSRF funds that are received by the state and then used to fund our operating contracts with RCO. PCSRF also provides up to 65% of the project funding awarded by the SRFB each year. The new administration's federal budget guidance called for zeroing out PCSRF starting in 2017, but it was unclear whether and how that would occur. Paul noted that he would be part of an RCO-organized tour to DC next week to advocate for federal salmon recovery funding.

State Budget: Alex noted that the Washington State Senate budget had been released the week before, and that the House budget was to be released in the upcoming week. The Board briefly reviewed the proposals for funding for the Yakima Basin Integrated Plan, the SRFB Salmon Recovery Program and the Floodplain by Design Program. The Board considered sending an updated letter on Board priorities to legislators, but decided to defer any such action until there was more clarity on current proposals.

6) Communications

The Board reviewed the status of its draft communication plan, and Alex noted that he would like to push to finalize the plan. The Board also discussed the SRFB Communication Plan and state-level proposals to seek funding to support dedicated communications staff in regional organizations; members noted that this was not necessarily a Board priority for use of limited staff capacity. The Board also reviewed the Governor's Report on the State of Salmon and Watersheds.

7) Recovery Program Updates

Jason gave a brief presentation to the Board on his fish passage assessment work and the status of Yakima Basin projects in the state Fish Passage Barrier Board budget request.

Alex gave a brief update on the status of the Yakima Bull Trout Action Plan update, which is scheduled to be completed by August, and project development work in the Little Naches Watershed. He also noted his ongoing participation in the Yakima Basin Integrated Plan Habitat Subcommittee and the Wapato Reach working group.

The Board noted the upcoming meeting of the Mid-Columbia Forum (scheduled for May 22, but subsequently cancelled).

8) Board Logistics

The Board agreed to provide a \$250 sponsorship to the Kittitas Environmental Education Network's Bird Festival, but chose not to sponsor the SRFB Salmon Recovery Conference. The Board expressed a preference for expending funds in the Yakima Basin.

The Board discussed the upcoming annual meeting and proposed touring the South Fork Cowiche Wood Project and Nelson Dam, and possibly holding the meeting at the WDFW Cowiche barn.

Alex noted that the quarterly financial reports were provided in the meeting packet.

9) Public comment

Captain Eneas noted that he owes the land along the Simcoe Creek Narrows and would like to receive compensation from Yakama Nation and BIA programs that are using his land to access project areas. He noted that he would be meeting with Congressman Newhouse and requested that he be appointed to fill the Yakama Nation position on the YBFWRB Board of Directors.

Sara Walker noted that she works for Terraqua, an environmental consulting firm that has worked on fisheries projects in the Upper Columbia, and that she appreciated the opportunity to listening and learn about similar work in the Middle Columbia region.