



YAKIMA BASIN
FISH AND WILDLIFE
RECOVERY BOARD

MINUTES as approved by the Board on 5/28/08

March 26, 2008 Board Meeting

Attendance:

Board: Nancy Lillquist (Ellensburg), Jesse Farias (Wapato), Leo Bowman & Phil Mees (Benton County), Morgan Everett (Prosser), Terry Keenhan (Yakima County), Paul Ward (Yakama Nation), Neil McClure (City of Yakima). *Staff:* Alex Conley, Angie Begosh. *Partners:* Lynn Hatcher (NOAA), Phil Miller (GSRO), Jim Milton (YBWRA), Richard Visser (WDFW), Walt Larrick & Dawn Weidmeier (BOR).

Leo Bowman called the meeting to order at 5:33 pm. The Board reviewed the minutes from the last board meeting. Nancy Lillquist moved that the Board accept the minutes as written, Terry Keenhan seconded and the rest of the group agreed by consensus.

SRFB/Lead Entity Program Update

Angie reviewed preparations for the 2008 SRFB Grant Round with the Board, including proposed changes to SRFB grant policies regarding match for design projects, technical review, and more.

Recovery Plan Update

Alex announced that a public review draft of the Yakima Steelhead Recovery Plan was complete; the Board approved posting it for review. Alex reviewed the draft schedule for public review; the focus will be on review by stakeholders; broader public meetings will be held following the release of the NOAA Mid-Columbia Steelhead Recovery Plan this summer. Lynn Hatcher gave the Board an overview of the status of NOAA's Recovery Planning process. Phil Miller asked when the Board's update should be officially recognized by NOAA. Lynn suggested that the Board compose a letter to NOAA and the GSRO indicating that this new plan is an official update to the 2005 plan, and should be formally recognized. The Board discussed how to conduct the review process and who to make specific outreach efforts to. Alex presented a list of recovery action costs; the Board briefly discussed what these represent.

PCSRF Update

The Board reviewed congressional proposals for FY 2009 funding levels for the Pacific Coast Salmon Recovery Fund and a letter from the governors of the five PCSRF states supporting the Senate's \$90 million funding proposal. The Board reviewed a letter proposed for joint signature by all of Washington's regional salmon recovery boards. Nancy moved to authorize the Board chair to sign the letter as presented, and Jesse seconded the motion. All approved to have the Board chair sign the letter.

NPCC Program Amendment

The Board reviewed a proposed letter suggesting amendments to the Northwest Power and Conservation Council's Fish & Wildlife Program. The letter is in response to a request from the Council, and aims to ensure that the NPCC recognizes the role of the Board and its products. Paul moved to submit the letter as corrected, Morgan seconded and the Board agreed by consensus.

Response to Storage Study Report

The Board reviewed a draft response to the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) Yakima Storage Study. Paul asked that the wording be revised to emphasize that transfers from the Columbia should only be explored

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if other in-basin options can not work. Terry Keenhan discussed the Study's insufficient response to climate change and other factors that will tighten future water supplies. Richard commented that WDFW will be submitting a letter that focuses on the narrow range of options, concerns over calculations of fisheries benefits, and the amount of water established as goals. Nancy supported adding Terry's comments on the effects of climate change and future hydrology. Alex said that he would add a paragraph on climate change, its potential impact on water use, and how this adversely affects fish and circulate the revised letter prior to submission. The Board approved submission after email review.

Barker Ranch Columbia River Water Program Support Letter

The Board reviewed a request from the Barker Ranch in West Richland for a support letter to accompany their application to the Department of Ecology's Columbia River Grant Program. They are planning to pipe their irrigation ditch to improve irrigation efficiency. The Board agreed to submit a support letter pending review by the Yakama Nation. The Board also briefly discussed the Columbia River Water Program; it was agreed that future discussion with Ecology staff would be valuable.

YRBWEP KOA Proposal

Walt and Dawn described the BOR's Yakima River Basin Water Enhancement Program and requested the Board's support for their proposed purchase of the Yakima KOA property, which is a key part of the Gap-to-Gap floodplain enhancement project. They are accepting some risk by purchasing the property, for while the levee is proposed for removal, funding and permits to do so still need to be secured. There was discussion of the property. Morgan moved to approve submitting a letter of support, Paul seconded and all agreed, with Neil McClure abstaining.

GSRO Update

Phil Miller updated the Board on GSRO's efforts to work with regional recovery boards to identify short and long term priorities for state and federal budget and policy processes. The goal is to ensure that regional organizations and the GSRO are coordinating efforts to ensure that the resources needed to implement recovery plans are included in state and federal agency budget requests.

Public Outreach Effort

Angie updated the Board on outreach efforts including the Marck 28th event aimed at anglers, the E3 Environmental Education Summits, and her position on the KEEN Board of Directors.

Board Logistics

Chairman Bowen's last day on the Board and as a Kittitas County Commissioner is April 11th. Commissioner Mark McLain will be new representative to the Board for Kittitas County. The Board requested nominations for a new chair. Morgan nominated Paul Ward, and Nancy Lillquist seconded. Nancy nominated Mike Leita, second failed for lack of support. The Board unanimously agreed that Paul Ward shall serve in this role until the next annual meeting. The status of representation from Cle Elum and small and large city representatives from Benton County was reviewed. Morgan Everett will be the primary small city representative for Benton County; at this time an alternate has not been assigned. Leo will continue discussions with Benton County's large cities. The Board approved payment of \$10,385 to Paladin Data Systems for software licenses.

GSRO May 16th Policy Summit

Paul Ward will attend and Neil will try; other members are encouraged to attend. Board may be able to budget money to pay for travel expenses.

Lamprey Recovery

Paul indicated that Columbia River Treaty Tribes are working on a Lamprey Recovery Plan and will hold a Lamprey Summit on May 15th. The Board discussed the status of lamprey in the Columbia and Yakima.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm.