



YAKIMA BASIN
FISH AND WILDLIFE
RECOVERY BOARD

Minutes of the 3/29/2012 Board of Directors Meeting

As approved at the 5/30/12 Board Meeting

Members Present: Dave Brown (City of Yakima), Leo Bowman & Adam Fyall (Benton County), Lloyd Carnahan (City of Benton City), Paul Ward & Dave Fast (Yakama Nation), Scott Hamilton (City of Prosser), John Hubbard (City of Kennewick), Terry Keenhan (Yakima County), Nancy Lillquist (City of Ellensburg), Jay McGowan (City of Cle Elum), Obie O'Brien (Kittitas County), Dan Olson (City of Union Gap)

Staff Present: Alex Conley (Executive Director), Darcy Batura (Lead Entity Program Coordinator), Yuki Reiss (Recovery Coordinator), Heather Hadsel (Operations Manager)

Guests Present: Marie Cobb (Intera Inc) and Jen Scott (WA Department of Fish and Wildlife)

1) Welcome, Introductions & Approval of Minutes

Nancy called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. After introductions, the Board reviewed the agenda, notes from the January 26 Executive Committee meeting, and the minutes of the January 26 Board meeting. The minutes were approved as submitted with the support of all present.

2) Board Correspondence and Announcements

The Board briefly reviewed official correspondence received and sent by the YBFWRB since the last meeting. Two letters were sent in support of grant applications by partners for the Conservation Commission's Watershed Assessment RFP. A letter was sent to the South Central WA RC&D Council supporting their Yakima Basin Point Source Watershed Assessment proposal. A support letter was also sent to the Kittitas County Conservation District regarding their Manastash Creek Watershed Assessment proposal. A flyer was distributed for the Lake Roosevelt Forum 2012 Conference scheduled for April 16-17. Leo Bowman announced that he will retire at the end of the year. Alex announced that the new website is live and includes an online sign-up form to receive meeting announcements and a quarterly newsletter that will be published soon.

3) Lead Entity Program

Darcy reported that 16 pre-applications have been received so far. The deadline for pre-applications is Monday, April 2. Full applications are due by May 10. Site visits will take place June 5-6. A draft conflict

of interest policy for the Technical Advisory Group (TAG) and Citizen's Committee (CC) was reviewed by the Board. Approximately 20-25% of reviewers are project sponsors, and about 80% are secondary partners on projects. A previous version of the conflict of interest policy had been reviewed by the TAG. The Board agreed to allow time for the committees to comment and revise the newest version, prior to Board review at the next meeting. Darcy provided the survey results regarding the satisfaction of 19 interested parties in the Lead Entity Process. It was determined from the results that the following areas should be improved: improving the quality of project proposals, improving the quality of review committee discussion, and ensuring that we are consistently focused on priority actions. The Board directed staff to proceed with convening a working group to discuss these findings and develop proposals for how to further improve the Lead Entity process.

A letter was received from the Yakima-Tieton Irrigation District noting that they do not support the North Yakima Conservation District's proposal to install a pump station within the main stem of Cowiche Creek to serve the Cowiche Creek Water Users Association. The submitted proposal might be a good alternative in the absence of district agreement. The Board reviewed a draft response letter and asked Alex and Nancy to work together to finalize a response to the Yakima-Tieton Irrigation District that emphasizes our need to provide neutral and impartial requirement of all proposals received and that any revisions or alternate proposals would need to be identified by June 1 to be fully considered in this year's grant round.

4) Recovery Planning Updates

Yuki reported that the Yakama Nation Steelhead Telemetry project, a three-year effort that started in 2011, is inserting 500 radio tags in steelhead at the Prosser Dam and collect genetic material to separate the run into individual populations and better define spawning distribution. Chris Frederiksen is the lead biologist on the project. Over 5,600 steelhead have been counted over the Prosser Dam in 2011-2012. Spawning has already been detected in some low elevation tributaries including Wenas, Umptanum, and Reecer Creek. One goal of this intensive 3-year study is to test cheaper and more effective ways to track steelhead progress towards recovery goals over the long-term.

Alex reviewed the next steps that need to be taken to develop a Detailed Implementation Schedule now that the Recovery Plan is completed and the Bull Trout Action Plan is nearing completion. He emphasized the need to ensure that local, tribal, state and federal reporting processes are coordinated in a cost-effective manner.

5) State & Federal Agency Outreach and Coordination

The Board reviewed a letter from NOAA Fisheries to the US Army Corps of Engineers regarding actions needed to recover Mid-Columbia steelhead. The letter was a cooperative effort with the states of Washington Oregon; the tribes of Umatilla, Warm Springs, and Yakima; and the recovery boards of the Snake and Yakima. The letter identified key actions by the Corp of Engineers that can make significant contributions towards meeting delisting goals for Mid-Columbia Steelhead across its entire range. The

letter highlighted the need to complete work in progress in the Gap to Gap and Delta regions of the Yakima River.

6) Legislative & Budget Updates

Board members reviewed a brief written report on state and federal budget items and legislative proposals that may affect our work.

7) Board Logistics

The Annual Meeting was originally scheduled for June 7, but several conflicts surfaced for that date. The Board approved a new meeting date of May 30 or 31 to allow Phil Rockefeller with the state Salmon Recovery Funding Board and the Northwest Power and Conservation Council to attend and possibly speak. A jointly-sponsored tour planned around the meeting and an evening forum for a broader audience was proposed. The annual letter to member Cities was reviewed by the Board. Board members are to forward comments or suggestions for revisions to Heather. The Board agreed that a separate letter will also be sent to the six cities that have not yet signed the ILA with an offer to present to their councils if they would like to learn more about the Board. The Board supported the proposal to complete staff evaluations prior to the annual meeting, so that any salary increases can be included in the budget to be approved at the Annual Meeting; the Executive Director and Chair were directed to work together to set up the review process.

8) Financial Reports

Alex presented the financial activity reports. The Board had no questions or comments.

9) Other

Obie O'Brien announced that a Farmland Preservation project in Kittitas County had been completed to protect 260 acres of the Triple Creek Ranch from development.

10) Public Comment

No public comment was received. The meeting was adjourned at 4:05 p.m.