



YAKIMA BASIN
FISH AND WILDLIFE
RECOVERY BOARD

MINUTES for the 4/30/09 Board of Directors Meeting

Approved by the Board of Directors on 6/23/09

4:30 to 6:30 pm at 1110 W Lincoln Ave, Yakima

1) Welcome, Introductions & Announcements

Those present:

Board Members: Nancy Lillquist (City of Ellensburg), Paul Jewell (Kittitas County), Dave Brown (City of Yakima), Terry Keenhan (Yakima County), Paul Ward (Yakama Nation)

Guests: Jim Milton (YBWRA), Phil Miller (GSRO), Jeff Tayer (WDFW)

Staff: Alex Conley, Angie Begosh, Yuki Reiss

Chairman Paul Ward confirmed the presence of a quorum and called the meeting to order at 4:50 pm. After introductions, minutes of the January 28th 2009 meeting were approved as presented (motion by Nancy Lillquist, seconded by Terry Keenhan, approved unanimously). Alex distributed board correspondence for Board members to review.

Alex notified Board members of the June 17-18 Yakima Basin Science and Management Conference at Central Washington University in Ellensburg (see www.ykfp.org). Alex will be putting together an overview of habitat programs for plenary session; we will not repeat the Board panel we have done the last two years. Paul encouraged Board members to attend. Paul announced the anniversary celebration for the Columbia Basin Accords at Horsethief Lake on May 8th and invited Board members and staff. Alex handed out copies of the State of Salmon in Watersheds report, the Federal Caucus Columbia Fish Recovery Update, and Salmon Recovery Plan Implementation Needs assessment by the GSRO, and briefly reviewed the written announcements.

2) Columbia River Harvest Allocations

Jeff Tayer reviewed the way that overoptimistic run predictions had lead to high harvest rates in the lower Columbia River, which significantly reduced harvest opportunities above Bonneville Dam. Jeff suggested that the Board make a statement on this. Nancy Lillquist and Terry Keenhan expressed that this is an issue of protecting constituent interests in the Yakima Basin. Alex noted that while the Board has not engaged in discussions of harvest allocations between sectors, that this was a question of WDFW's allocation within the recreational fishery. The Board directed Alex to draft a letter calling for conservative management of fisheries below Bonneville to support both harvest and recovery opportunities upstream. Nancy made a motion to approve sending the letter to WDFW pending Board member review and approval by email; Terry Keenhan seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

3) SRFB/Lead Entity Program Update

Angie provided an update on the 2009 SRFB grant process and the Board's work with project sponsors to develop NOAA stimulus grants (see handout). The Board also discussed the status of previously funded projects and the challenges that led to some acquisition grants not being implemented. The Board asked staff to develop a briefing paper on these issues and ways to better address them in the future.

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4) Recovery Planning Update

Alex reviewed the status of the 2008-9 steelhead run with the board. The Board discussed these numbers relative to recovery targets; while overall trends are encouraging, the large gap for the Upper Yakima population continues to be a major issue for delisting of Mid-Columbia steelhead. Alex briefly updated the status of efforts to respond to comments and update the Board and NOAA Steelhead Recovery plans revisions. Yuki Reiss updated the Board on the upcoming process to develop a monitoring supplement to the plan and feed that information into broader discussions of funding for monitoring programs in the Columbia Basin. She also briefly reviewed the proposed process for development of a Yakima Basin Bull Trout Action Plan. These two processes will be priorities for the upcoming fall and winter.

5) Approval of Funding for Columbia Nearshore Habitat Literature Review

The Board reviewed the proposal by the Middle Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group requesting funding to complete review of existing information on habitat improvement opportunities on the Washington shore of the Columbia River between Bonneville Dam and the mouth of the Yakima River. This is the first step in an effort to assess and prioritize habitat projects in the Columbia that would directly benefit Yakima steelhead and other upriver runs. Dave Brown moved and Nancy Lillquist seconded a motion to provide up to \$10,000 to the Fisheries Enhancement Group for this purpose based on a cooperative agreement developed and executed by Board staff. The motion was approved by consent.

6) Yakima Basin Storage Study

The Board reviewed the invitation from the Bureau of Reclamation and the Department of Ecology to participate in the proposed Yakima Basin Water Resources roundtable process, and asked Alex to participate on the Board's behalf.

8) Cle Elum Fish Passage EIS

The Board reviewed the current status of efforts to secure fish passage at the BOR's storage dams in the Yakima Basin. An EIS is being developed for provision of passage at Cle Elum. Alex asked the Board if they wanted to weigh in on the need to also continue efforts to provide passage at Bumping Dam. Members present expressed that this would be most appropriate as part of the Board's participation in the proposed BOR/DOE roundtable, and that there was not a need to weigh in during the scoping process.

7) State and Federal Budget Issues:

The Board received updates on the current status of the federal Pacific Coast Salmon Recovery Fund and key state budget items that affect salmon recovery. The Board expressed their support for efforts to maintain the Yakima office of WDFW's watershed steward and special projects biologist positions, which were proposed for elimination. Phil Miller briefly updated the Board on the proposed MOA between BPA and the State of Washington.

8) Board Logistics:

Alex was asked to draft a letter to the City of Yakima asking for assignment of a replacement for Neil McClure's recently vacated seat on the Board. The Board discussed the process for reconfirming the status of the Yakima large cities representative to the board of Directors. The Board approved issuing a work credit card to the Recovery Coordinator and deferred decision making on leave policies for Board staff to the Executive Committee. Alex was directed to work with the Executive committee to develop a budget and workplan for the 2009-11 biennium to present to the Board at the annual meeting; June 23rd was proposed as the date, pending confirmation by email. The Board reviewed financial reports.

Chairman Paul Ward adjourned the meeting at 6:40 pm.