



YAKIMA BASIN
FISH AND WILDLIFE
RECOVERY BOARD

Minutes of the 5/29/14 Annual Meeting

As approved at the 8/7/14 Board Meeting

Members Present: Obie O'Brien (Kittitas County), Nancy Lillquist (City of Ellensburg), Jay McGowan (City of Cle Elum), Dave Brown (City of Yakima), Adam Fyall (Benton County), Dave Fast (Yakama Nation), and Terry Keenhan (Yakima County), Mike Leita (Yakima County), Dan Olson (City of Union Gap), Kirk Holmes (Kittitas County), John Trumbo (City of Kennewick)

Staff Present: Alex Conley (Executive Director), Darcy Batura (Lead Entity Coordinator), Chantell Krider (Recovery Program Coordinator), and Heather Hadsel (Operations & Outreach Manager)

Guests Present: Lynn Hatcher (NOAA), Jennifer Scott (WDFW), Justin Betzel (Trout Unlimited), Paul Warden (City of Prosser), Don Aubrey (City of Prosser), Michelle Gilbert (Dept. of Ecology), Brian Abbott (Gov. Salmon Recovery Office), Karen Hodges (Yakima County), Mark Crowley (Kittitas County Conservation District), Carol Ready (YTAHP), David Child (Yakima Basin Joint Board), Urban Eberhardt (local irrigator)

1) Welcome, Introductions & Approval of Minutes

After introductions, the Board reviewed the minutes from the March 13 board meeting. *Adam Fyall made a motion to approve the meeting minutes as presented. Dave Brown seconded the motion, which carried with the support of all present.*

2) Board Correspondence & Announcements

The Yakima Basin Science and Management Conference is scheduled for June 18-19 at Central Washington University and board members were invited to attend. The board reviewed correspondence included in their packets. Alex wrote a support letter for a proposal to develop a life cycle model for steelhead in the Yakima basin as well as a support letter for a WA Department of Transportation application for a TIGER VI grant for implementation of floodplain restoration actions in Kittitas County. The board received a letter from Marie Mosley, the City Manager of Kennewick, announcing the resignation of John Trumbo from the board and requesting that a replacement come from another large city in Benton County. Alex included an email from the Wild Steelhead Coalition requesting support of a rule proposal to protect rainbow trout in the Naches River. The board will hold off on providing support until fall, during the public review of proposals.

3) Review and Approve Board of Directors Membership

4) Presentation by Scott Rumsey, NOAA Fisheries Portland branch Chief for Protected Resources

Scott Rumsey gave a presentation on NOAA's preparations for the next 5-year review of listed species, which includes steelhead in the Yakima Basin. In 2015-16, NOAA must review the status of listed species and consider changing the ESA listing from threatened to endangered or to delist species that have recovered sufficiently. Scott has 27 species to report on for the west coast region. He asked YBFWRB staff for help compiling and summarizing the information for the Yakima Basin. For the group discussed the prospects for delisting of Mid-Columbia Steelhead by 2020, and the things that would need to be done to make that possible.

5) Recovery Planning Update

The Steelhead Technical Team Meeting is scheduled for March 4 to report on and coordinate field activities and monitoring related to determining the status of steelhead populations in the Yakima Basin. The board reviewed a grant proposal that would fund a feasibility evaluation of a possible hatchery and translocation program for Bull Trout. *Dave Brown made a motion to approve submission of the grant proposal, and Jay McGowan seconded the motion. It passed with the approval of all present.*

6) Policy Updates

Obie, Darcy, John Foltz (with the Klickitat Lead Entity) and Alex went to Olympia to visit 13 legislators and visit briefly about the Board, the programs we work with and their related interests on January 22-23. Darcy is following-up with them.

Pacific Coast Salmon Recovery Fund received \$65 million as part of the FY 2014 omnibus appropriations bill. This is similar to recent year averages, and is positive in a tight budget climate.

Alex reported on four bills that are moving through the state legislative process that are related to our work:

- A. Honeyford's bill to create and fund a task force on financing water supply and flood and storm water control projects.
- B. **PASSED** HB 2251, the fish barrier removal bill that sets up a program, and potentially, appropriations to remove priority barriers identified in the state-wide passage database.
- C. **PASSED HOUSE; on Senate floor without funding elements** SB 6040, the WDFW Aquatic Invasive Species Bill, which is focused on setting up a program and funding to prevent aquatic species invasions. Much of the focus will be on boat inspections to prevent introduction of Quagga and zebra mussels to the Columbia River and its tributaries (mussels are regularly found on boats trailered in after use in the Great Lakes or Lake Mead, etc).

- D. **SB 6478** which calls for funding forest and fish agreement-related programs from a dedicated account using state forest harvest excise taxes (in the past, the state has used PCSRF and other funding sources for Forest and Fish monitoring).

7) Board Logistics and Finances

The board reviewed the draft Annual Meeting agenda and made no changes. The Annual Meeting will take place in Ellensburg this year, with a tour of nearby projects before the meeting. Brian Abbott from the Recreation and Conservation Office will be the guest speaker. Member jurisdictions need 60-day notice of the Annual Meeting, so letters will be sent out soon with the draft 2015 work plan, annual report, and project booklet.

Alex presented some adjustments to the budget due to Yuki's open position for several months and increased travel costs. We will be able to keep any carryover into the next fiscal year. *Adam Fyall made a motion to approve the revised budget and Jay McGowan seconded the motion. Motion carried.* Alex also presented a draft FY15 budget for inclusion in the work plan that will be sent out to member jurisdictions prior to the annual meeting. *Dave Brown made a motion to include the new budget in the work plan and Adam Fyall seconded the motion. It passed with the support of all present.*

8) Outreach Update

The Outreach Reports for January and February were included in board packets. The last Yakima River Outreach Committee Meeting was held on February 26 at the YBFWRB office. Heather will help staff the upcoming Arbor Festival, MCFEG's Salmon Education Days and the Benton County Salmon Summit.

- 9)** There were no public comments. Adam Fyall made a motion to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.