



YAKIMA BASIN  
FISH AND WILDLIFE  
RECOVERY BOARD

**Minutes of the 5/30/13 Board of Directors Annual Meeting**

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

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

**Guests Present:** David Child (Joint Board Fisheries Biologist), Jennifer Nelson (WDFW), Phillip Lemley (City of Richland), David Gerth & Mitchell Long (Kittitas Conservation Trust), Leo Bowman (retired board member), Mike Livingston (WDFW), Mayor Paul Warden (City of Prosser), Don Ottermess (City of Union Gap), Mike Tobin (North Yakima Conservation District), Carol Ready (YTAHP), Gary Toretta (Forest Service), Don Gatchalian, (Yakima County), John Marvin (Yakama Nation)

**1) Welcome, Introductions & Approval of Minutes**

Nancy called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. The Board reviewed the agenda, minutes from the March 14 Board meeting, and the notes of the Executive Committee meeting on May 1.

*Adam Fyall made a motion to approve the 3/14/2013 minutes as submitted and Obie O'Brien seconded the motion. The motion carried.*

**2) Board Correspondence and Announcements**

There was no official correspondence to review. Announcements made included:

- The [Yakima Basin Science & Management Conference](#) is scheduled for June 12-13 at Central Washington University.
- The Yakima River Outreach Committee is scheduled for June 20 from 1-3 p.m. at the Selah library.
- The [Landowner Liability Bill](#) passed with amendments
- The federal Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF) funds for 2013 are part of the approved continuing resolution. The state is receiving \$20 million of its \$25 million ask for next year. RCO is in negotiation about how to cut their proposed budget to match the awarded amount. Capacity for lead entity or regional will likely be cut. Alex will have more information on how this affects the board at the June Executive Committee meeting and the August board meeting.
- 2014 PCSRF funding levels will be set by Congress. The president's budget recommendation had PCSRF at \$50 million; in the past the funded amount has ranged from \$60-80 million. The decision to post the vacant Recovery Program Coordinator position has been postponed until the status of our budget is clearer.
- The NPCC Fish & Wildlife Program Amendment is open for input through July 19, but may be extended for another month.

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### **3) Review and Approve Board of Directors Membership**

The current membership of the Board of Directors was reviewed, and no changes were proposed. Dan Olson made a motion to confirm the current list as presented and Mike Leita seconded the motion. The motion carried.

### **4) Officer Elections**

The Executive Committee includes Chair, Vice-Chair/Treasurer, Secretary, and two at-large positions. Nancy Lillquist announced that she would step down as Chair of the Board.

*Obie O'Brien made a motion to nominate Mike Leita for the Chair position. Adam Fyall seconded the motion, which carried with the support of all present.*

*Adam Fyall made a motion to nominate Obie O'Brien for the Vice-Chair/Treasurer position. Dave Fast seconded the motion; the motion carried.*

*Adam Fyall made a motion to nominate Dan Olson for his currently-held position as Secretary. Dave Fast seconded the motion; the motion carried.*

*Dave Fast made a motion to nominate Paul Ward and Nancy Lillquist for the two at-large positions on the Executive Committee, and the motion carried with the support of all present.*

### **5) Approve Registered Agent**

The Board of Directors reconfirmed Alex Conley's designation as the Registered Agent for the Board.

### **6) Review and Approve FY14-FY15 Work Plan and Budget**

The FY14-FY15 Work Plan and Budget presented for approval is the same version that was reviewed at the March Board meeting. Alex pointed out that the budget includes \$35,000 of "other income". There are a few opportunities for new funding to cover this deficit, but regardless, Alex has prepared four budgets for the Executive Committee that include different scenarios of funding cuts, cost cuts, and new funding. Examples of cost cutting measures include making adjustments to health insurance, janitorial reductions, or a smaller office space.

*Dave Brown made a motion to approve the work plan and budget with modifications as funding is reconciled with the final RCO contract budget. Jay McGowan seconded the motion; the motion carried.*

### **7) Review of Possible New Funding**

Alex reviewed the possible sources for new Board income. The most likely is \$5,000-\$10,000 a year from the Bureau of Land Management as part of a larger contract to dedicated funding for Cowiche Creek projects identified through the Board's Lead Entity project review. This contract is under negotiation and would provide \$30,000-\$90,000 for the top-ranked Cowiche Creek projects identified by the Board's Lead Entity review. This would be an agreement instead of a contract with sponsors, so the administration of the funds would be manageable. A formal agreement may be ready for the August Board meeting, but Alex asked that the Board give the Executive Committee the authority to approve the agreement if it is submitted sooner. Terry Keenhan asked if there were any downsides to this agreement, if it might lead to reductions of SRFB funding. Alex responded that leveraging funds is actually seen as a positive strategy by the state, and that both parties can cancel the agreement at any time without creating a liability for the Board.

*Mike Leita made a motion to authorize the Executive Committee to approve the BLM agreement. Scott Hamilton seconded the motion; the motion carried.*

Alex noted that if Darcy is elected Chair of the statewide Lead Entity Advisory Group, a \$4,500 stipend would be provided to supplement the current Lead Entity budget, and that this could help cover any budget shortfalls.

Alex noted that he is also in discussions with WDFW about a possible contract to coordinate and implement bull trout analyses and early action items associated with implementation of the Yakima Basin Integrated Plan. A second contract with WDFW is also under discussion; it would be for coordinating and implementing terrestrial wildlife analyses associated with the Yakima Basin Integrated Plan. A few Board members expressed that the bull trout contract makes sense for the organization if a hire for the Recovery Program Coordinator is made, but several expressed hesitation regarding the wildlife contract because of the limits of available staff time and expertise and the high level of scrutiny and time sensitivity there will be for Yakima Basin Integrated Plan funds.

### **8) Review Current Committee Memberships**

The Technical Advisory Group (TAG) membership is full, while the Citizens Committee has openings for two members, one from Yakima County and one from Benton County. Mike Leita had posted a call for volunteers in various sites, but didn't receive a response. *Dave Brown made a motion that the Board's representatives from Yakima County work together with the YBFWRB staff to recruit someone to fill the position. Mike Leita seconded the motion.* For Benton County, two qualified applicants applied. *Adam Fyall made a motion to nominate Jerry Rhodes for the open Citizens Committee position. John Hubbard seconded the motion; the motion carried. Scott Hamilton then made a motion to approve the full Citizens Committee list. Dan Olson seconded the motion, which carried with the support of all present. Dave Brown made a motion to approve the full Technical Advisory Group list. Jay McGowan seconded the motion, which carried.*

### **9) Set Board Meeting Schedule**

The following dates were proposed for FY14 Board meetings

August 7, 2013;

October 10, 2013;

January 16, 2014;

March 13, 2014;

May 29, 2014 (Annual Meeting)

The meetings will take place from 2 to 4 pm at the YBFWRB office unless other notification is received.

### **10) Review any Proposed Changes to the Bylaws**

No bylaw changes were offered. It was noted that the selection process for the Citizens Committee and Technical Committee could be clarified and possibly revised in the future.

### **11) Program Updates**

Darcy gave a brief update on the 2013 grant round. A handout with a list of SRFB Proposals and the Site Visit Schedule was provided to all present. Site visits will take place June 4-7 and board members are welcome to attend.

Heather gave a brief update on the outreach program. A new FY13 Annual Report was included in packets with highlights of accomplishments in our main focus areas. The Outreach Reports for March-May were also included.

**12) Financial Reports**

The Board approved the financials as presented with the support of all present.

**13) Call for Submission of Board Member Certification Form**

Every year the Board members are required to re-sign the Board Representative Certification Conflict of Interest Declaration and were provided in participants packets. Board members were asked to forward the signed copies to Heather Hadsel.

**14) Public Comment**

No public comment was received. The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.