



Minutes of the June 1, 2017 Board of Directors Meeting

As approved by the Board of Directors on 8/3/2017

Meeting held from 2 to 4 pm at the YBFWRB Office

Members Present:

Dan Olson (City of Union Gap), Adam Fyall (Benton County), Paul Ward (Yakama Nation), Ron Anderson and Terry Keenhan (Yakima County), Obie O'Brien (Kittitas County), Nancy Lillquist (City of Ellensburg), Bob Elder (City of Prosser), Dave Brown (City of Yakima) and Jay McGowan (City of Cle Elum)

Staff Present: Alex Conley (Executive Director), Tricia Snyder (Lead Entity Program Coordinator)

Others Present: Jacob Anderson (Klickitat County Lead Entity Coordinator)

1) Approval of Agenda and Minutes

Chair Dan Olson opened the meeting and all present introduced themselves. The Board reviewed the meeting agenda and the draft minutes for the 3/17/2017 Board of Directors meeting. *The 3/17/2017 minutes and the agenda were approved as submitted with consent of all present.*

2) Board Correspondence and Announcements

Announcements:

- Tricia Snyder, the recently hired Lead Entity Program Coordinator, introduced herself.
- Ashton Bunce has been hired as temporary Recovery Program Technical Staff through August of 2017. Currently she is developing a web library of Yakima Basin references and coordinating Lidar data collection in conjunction with DNR's new statewide Lidar program.
- Alex, Cassandra and Jason presented at the Washington Salmon Recovery Conference in Wenatchee in late April and Cassandra presented on our bull trout planning work at the Washington-BC Chapter of the American Fisheries Society.
- The annual Yakima Basin Science and Management Conference will be held at CWU in Ellensburg June 15 and 16.
- Ecology has approved proceeding with the 2018 Eastern Washington Riparian Planting Symposium discussed at our last meeting.

- Paul Ward updated the group on his recent trip to DC; he noted that NOAA had received direction from the administration to cut PCSRF, but that it still has strong bipartisan support from the Northwestern Delegation.

Correspondence: The Board briefly reviewed two support letters for the Pacific Coast Salmon Recovery Fund (one from the governors of all northwestern states, and one from partners in Washington State (including the Board)). The Board also reviewed a support letter for a grant application by Heritage College submitted by Board Staff.

3) Lead Entity Program

2017 Yakima Basin SRFB Grant Round: Tricia gave a presentation to the Board on the status of the 2017 grant round. The May site tours went well, and applicants are preparing for sponsor presentations on June 13. We have 14 applications for a total request of \$2.9 million; we are expecting to receive approximately \$1.2 million to be available for projects in the Yakima Basin. Alex noted that the SRFB had received feedback from DC that they wanted to see results in the form of a delisting, and that the SRFB was considering allocating additional funding to help achieve delisting for Mid-Columbia Steelhead and Hood Canal Chum, the two listings nearest their recovery targets.

Status of Funded Projects: Tricia briefed the Board on scope changes currently under review.

Grant Review Committee Status: The Board reviewed the status of the Technical Advisory Group and the Citizen Committee and highlighted the vacancies for citizen representatives from the Yakama Nation and Benton County. Vacancies must be filled by early June for new members to participate in the 2017 grant round.

Klickitat Lead Entity Requests: Jacob Anderson, the Klickitat Lead Entity Coordinator, updated the Board on the status of the Klickitat 2017 grant round. Projects are proposed in Rock Creek, the Klickitat watershed and the White Salmon watershed. Jacob requested that the Board authorize use of 2017 SRFB Funds from the Mid-Columbia Region in the White Salmon, which is in the Lower Columbia Salmon Recovery Region. He noted that there are two proposals in the White Salmon this year, both on Buck Creek (one a design for a floodplain restoration project at the mouth, and one for reconfiguring the White Salmon Irrigation District Diversion to improve fish passage and instream flows), for a total of \$328,000. The Board asked him about how much more work was anticipated in the White Salmon on behalf of Mid-C steelhead; he noted that after these Buck Creek projects are done, there is a small barrier in Spring Creek, but after that, there are not a lot of projects identified for steelhead as the watershed is generally in good shape. Jacob noted that they are negotiating with the Lower Columbia Salmon Recovery Board, which is seeking to reduce the amount made available for the White Salmon from their allocation. The group discussed the genetics of the reestablishing steelhead population in the White Salmon, and noted that unless there was data to indicate otherwise, they would continue to be included in the Mid-C DPS. Paul Ward motioned that the Board authorize the Klickitat Lead Entity to use Mid-C SRFB funding for the two White Salmon projects, in the case that they are prioritized for funding by the Klickitat Lead Entity. Jay seconded the motion which carried with all in favor.

BLM Funding for Ringer Road Area Work: Tricia noted that the application for the new BLM funding agreement discussed at the January meeting was due July 7. The funding would cover riparian revegetation, side channel improvement and building a recreational trail on BLM lands at the upper end of the Yakima Canyon; we would pass funding onto partners for project implementation. Paul Ward motioned to direct staff to apply for BLM funding; David Brown seconded and the motion carried with the support of all present. Alex noted that the actual contract with BLM would be available for review and approval at a future Board meeting.

4) State and Federal Policy

Pacific Coast Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF): Alex noted that ~85% of the Board's budget is funded by PCSRF funds that are received by the state and then used to fund our operating contracts with RCO. PCSRF also provides up to 65% of the project funding awarded by the SRFB each year. The new administration's federal budget guidance called for zeroing out PCSRF starting in 2017, but a status quo amount of \$65 million was approved as part of the recent Continuing Resolution. We are awaiting a decision from NOAA on how much of that total the State of Washington will receive. The President's 2018 Budget again calls for zeroing out PCSRF, but support for the program remains strong across the Northwest delegation.

State Budget: Alex reviewed a handout on the House and Senate capital budget proposals. Three programs were highlighted as priorities by the Board in November. The SRFB amounts are similar in both proposals, and would authorize a status quo amount for project funding and incorporate Lead Entity operating costs into the capital budget. The Floodplain by Design program is proposed at \$16.3 million in the Senate Budget and \$51 million in the House budget. At the low end, only a portion of one Yakima County project would be funded; at the high end two Yakima County projects and one Kittitas County project would be funded. The Yakima Basin Integrated Plan is proposed for \$26.4 million by the Senate and \$18.9 million by the House. While both are lower than the \$31.1 million requested, the Senate proposal covers all elements of the Plan, while the House Proposal does not allocate any funding to the water supply elements. The new Fish Barrier Removal Board is proposed to receive \$19.7 million in both budgets; this would provide \$770,000 for one Yakima Basin project.

The Board directed Alex to draft a letter to our legislative delegation that: 1) Thanks the legislature for its support of the SRFB; 2) Supports the new Fish Barrier Removal funding; 3) Encourages funding at the higher end for Floodplains by Design, and 4) Emphasizes the need for balanced implementation of the YBIP, in which both water supply and fisheries elements move forwards. Nancy motioned to approve submission of this letter following email review by the Board; the motion was seconded by Ron Anderson and approved by all present.

Paul Ward gave an update on the status of the US v WA court case regarding passage barriers on state highways. He noted that we have fewer issues with state highway barriers than on the westside, but that we do have many issues with barriers and road issues on US Forest Service lands. He suggested that the Board talk with USFS about recovery implementation in the future.

5) Budget and Work Plan Development

The Board reviewed the current work plan and made suggestions to be incorporated into the 2018-19 work plan under development. The Board recommended:

- a) Looking for opportunities to partner on event like the Riparian Symposium;
- b) Reviewing opportunities to complete a 10 year update of the Steelhead Recovery Plan and Implementation Schedule;
- c) Maintaining support of lamprey planning in our work plan and checking in with Ralph Lampman re what is most useful for us to include;
- d) Adding a climate change evaluation to our steelhead and bull trout plans, to be completed in coordination with YBIP and other partners;
- e) Looking at bringing partners together to develop a project tracking system for the Yakima Basin;
- f) Further discussing the status of the monitoring elements in the work plan;
- g) Emphasizing the Board's role in outreach in the broader community, and tying that work to the Board's Communication Plan.

6) Recovery Program Updates

Alex gave a brief update on the status of the Yakima Bull Trout Action Plan update, which is scheduled to be completed by August, and project development work in the Little Naches Watershed. He also noted his ongoing participation in the Yakima Basin Integrated Plan Habitat Subcommittee and the Wapato Reach working group. Nancy and Obie agreed to stay after the meeting to review Alex's proposed feedback on the Wilson-Naneum-Cherry Assessment Report.

7) Board Logistics

The Board agreed to extend the MOA with Mid-Columbia Fisheries Enhancement through 12/31/2017 and authorize additional expenditures of up to \$15,000 to pay for our use of Cassandra Weekes' time (motion made by Ron Anderson and seconded by Jay McGowan; approved by all).

The Board recommended that the August 3rd annual meeting be a ½ day event that include a lunch, open house and business meeting, but not a tour. The event will be held in Yakima; the YV Tech Center and the Harmon Center were recommended as possible venues.

Alex noted that the quarterly financial reports were provided in the meeting packet.

8) Public comment: No public comment was received.