

YAKIMA BASIN FISH AND WILDLIFE RECOVERY BOARD

JUNE 29th, 2006 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

MINUTES

(Approved by the Board of Directors on 8/18/06)

Attendance:

Board:

David Bowen (Kittitas County), Neil McClure (City of Yakima), Paul Ward (Yakama Nation), Nancy Aldrich (West Richland), Leo Bowman (Benton County), Mike Leita (Yakama County)

Staff: Alex Conley,

Other:

Terry Keenhan (Yakima County), Phil Mees (Benton County), Adam Fyall (Benton County), Richard Visser (WDFW), Bob Tuck (YBEEP), Jim Milton (Tri-County Watershed Planning), Jim Esget (BOR), Frank Sweet (City of Selah), Walt Larrick (BOR), Dave Brown (City of Yakima), Jeff Tayer (WDFW) & Phil Miller (GSRO, by phone).

Chair David Bowen convened the meeting. Roll was taken and the presence of a quorum confirmed. Minutes from the last meeting were approved.

1) BPA Project Prioritization:

Alex presented a summary of the Board's BPA proposal review process prepared by Richard and Alex and a draft letter from the Board to the Northwest Power Planning Council. The Board discussed the BPA funding process and the role of the Board's review in the larger process. Paul Ward discussed an analysis of Power Planning Act funding being done by the Yakama Nation and agreed to give a presentation to the Board at a latter date. Mike Leita moved to approve the letter as drafted and Leo Bowman seconded the motion. In discussion, amendments were proposed to change the word "meeting" to "met" and to add the language "we encourage the Council to work with BPA" in place of "we encourage BPA" to reflect the fact that the letter was being sent to the Council. The motion carried as amended.

Leo Bowman noted that there is a BPA rate case meeting in Benton County on July 7th to discuss power rates and expenditures on fish and wildlife. Alex noted that the Board had submitted an application to BPA for funding but that the proposal did not get a good review from the ISRP and is not likely to be recommended for funding.

2) BIOP Remand Status:

Alex briefly presented the work that Dave Lind and others have done to provide information on possible mitigation activities in the Yakima Basin to the Habitat workgroup convened to help develop a new biological opinion for the Federal Columbia River Power System. NOAA needs to determine expected benefits from proposed actions. At previous meetings, Board staff and partners expressed that they were not comfortable with quantifying benefits from specific

actions. NOAA and the Governor's Salmon Recovery Office (GSRO) responded that they were looking for qualitative evaluations of suites of actions in each population area. Board staff & partners made these qualitative assessments based on the determination that it would be better to make even a limited determination locally than to let the determinations be made by others with less familiarity with the basin. The Board of Directors reviewed and expressed support for the staff response. They also briefly discussed the Board's role in providing information to the Biop Remand process.

3) NOAA Recovery plan revisions:

The Board of Directors reviewed the status of revisions to the draft Yakima Subbasin Salmon Recovery Plan. Dave and Laura Berg (NOAA's writing consultant) are working on revising tables and text to provide consistency. NOAA is requesting more specific information about the cost, timeline and benefits of proposed actions. Staff and partners will work together, and possibly with additional consultants, to provide this information. Revisions are due to NOAA this fall, and should be completed by early September to allow for Board review. Paul Ward noted that partners should track unfunded time spent on the recovery plan to document the full cost of the work completed.

NOAA has also requested that the research, monitoring and evaluation portion of the draft plan be further developed. The Board is working with NOAA to have a NOAA consultant develop a draft monitoring and evaluation framework for the Board's review. This should provide a framework that we can respond to and revise as appropriate based on our local needs. Phil Miller noted that the Lower Columbia Recovery Board has a monitoring plan that could be a useful example for the Board.

NOAA had also requested that we consider approaching federal agencies about adding more federal actions to the plan. Alex asked the Board for a response to this request. It was suggested that Alex approach BOR and USFS about adding actions already identified by them that would fit within the recovery plan, but that we were not in a position to undertake a major effort to develop more federal actions.

Alex noted that the Board's Recovery Plan states that recovery of all four populations is desired while the NOAA Mid-Columbia Plan is likely to state that three of the four populations are needed for recovery. Leo Bowman motioned that the Board reaffirm its call for recovery of all four populations, Mike Leita seconded and the motion carried.

Phil Miller suggested that NOAA's listing factors be referenced in the Board's plan but not included, as has been done in the Upper Columbia. This led to a brief discussion of the relationship between the Yakima Subbasin Salmon Recovery Plan and NOAA's Mid-Columbia Steelhead Recovery Plan.

4) Update on Lead Entity Activities

Alex presented a revised schedule for the Salmon Recovery Funding Board review process, and announced that it and a request for proposals would be released in a few days. Paul Ward expressed concerns about having the SRFB review panel visit our project before we evaluate them. Frank Sweet discussed how the process was run in the past. He emphasized the value of the state review and he expectation that it would work well again this year. There will be local filtering before the SRFB review panel reviews our projects.

An update on the allocation calculations for the Mid Columbia region was provided. A total of \$1.6 million dollars should be available for the region, which will need to be allocated between the two Lead Entities (Yakima Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board and the Klickitat LE). River miles will be recalculated based on input from the Klickitat LE. GIS calculations are expected to be completed next week. These will be entered into an allocation formula used in the past by the SRFB and will form the basis for negotiating an allocation directly with the Klickitat LE.

5) Close out of Yakima County and City of Selah Contracts:

The Yakima County contract with the GSRO has been closed out, and Alex is working with IAC to carry the remaining balance of \$6,770 over to the new Board's GSRO contract. The City of Selah is working with WDFW to close out the Fiscal Year 2006 Lead Entity contract. As part of the closeout WDFW has requested that the Board pay Selah for a portion of office costs incurred since the incorporation of the new Board on April 5, 2006, with the understanding that this has been approved for reimbursement under the Board's GSRO contract. Mike Leita moved that the Board pay \$2,494.37 to the City of Selah, provided that it was clear to all that the Board has no remaining obligations to the City of Selah. The motion was seconded by Neil McClure and was approved by the Board of Directors. Alex noted that he is also working with WDFW to transfer the Fiscal Year 2007 Lead Entity contract to the Board as of July 1st.

6) Yakima Basin Environmental Education Program AmeriCorp Proposal

The Board of Directors discussed the proposal submitted by Bob Tuck and the Yakima Basin Environmental Program requesting an AmeriCorps volunteer in 2007 to assist with YBEEP's Schoolyard Habitat program. Two questions were put on the table: 1) Is the Board agreeable to acting as a pass-through entity for the proposal, and 2) Does the Board want to provide the \$5,500 requested? Discussion focused on whether or not the proposal fit within the Scope of Work of the Board's existing GSRO contract. There was concern that as written the fit was not strong. Bob Tuck emphasized that the volunteer would also be involved in the Salmon in the Classroom program and be available to the Board as a resource. After confirming that the proposal could be revised up into September, the Board of Directors directed Alex to work with Bob to better define the proposal and link it to the Board's needs and contract requirements, and then bring it back to the Board of Directors.

7) Review of Contracts with the Board

The Board of Directors reviewed the status of current contracts. The contract with Dunau Associates runs through August 31st; we are expecting to be billed for less than the \$6,400 cap. Mike Leita strongly urged that any future expenditures under this contract come be approved by the Board of Directors. David Lind is working on key products for the Board and will likely expend all funds allocated to cover his time through the Board's contract with the Yakama Nation. The Board's contract with Benton County is under review by the County; Phil Meese would like to add Adam Fyall to the list of employees who can charge time to the contract.

8) Office Space

Alex explained that he would be moving out of the existing office in Selah the next day (June 30th). The Board of Directors tasked Alex with finding new office space, The Board gave some feedback to Alex on the type of space desired, and noted that meeting space, while desirable, is not a requirement as there are other free meeting facilities available to the group.

9) Review Status of Board Committees

We have updated both our Technical Advisory Group (TAG) and Citizen's Committee (CC) membership. The executive committee needs one more member. The Board agreed that it should be a small city representative, and that the choice should be deferred until all small cities representatives to the Board of Directors have been seated. Alex is working with Phil Mees on the Public Information Committee (PIC). There was a question about the status of the Wildlife committee developed during the Subbasin planning process. It was agreed that we would reconvene it when needed, rather than maintaining a standing committee.

10) Review Draft Work Plan & Budget

Alex asked the Board for feedback on the draft work plan and budget formats. The Board discussed how the budget should be used- as a planning/guidance document, or as a binding budget. The Board of Directors discussed the need to balance flexibility and accountability. Members requested more detail on specific line items (e.g. consultant expenditures). Members expressed comfort with a flexible planning budget provided that the Board of Directors receives monthly reports comparing year to date spending and budget amounts.

11) Fiscal Policies & Cell Phone Allowance

Nancy Aldrich moved that Alex be given signing authority for expenses up to \$2,000, and that amounts above that required signature by Board Officers. Neil McClure seconded the motion, with the amendment that Alex not be authorized to sign for any payments to himself or family members. The motion was approved. The Board also approved purchasing a cell phone with two-year voice and data plan for work use by the Executive Director.

12) Director's Update & Financial Reports

The Board reviewed the Director's Report and financial reports provided by Alex.

13) Meeting Dates

The next meeting was set for Aug 18th in Cle Elum from 10 am to 12 pm with an opportunity for all to join in the Cle Elum Hatchery open house and potluck after.

14) Other Topics

Leo Bowman asked that we address the relationship between the Lead Entity Strategic Plan and the Yakima Subbasin Salmon Recovery Plan at a future meeting.