



YAKIMA BASIN
FISH AND WILDLIFE
RECOVERY BOARD

Minutes of the 8/4/2016 Board of Directors Meeting

DRAFT

Members Present:

Adam Fyall (Benton County), Joel Freudenthal (Yakima County), Paul Ward and David Fast (Yakama Nation), Nancy Lillquist (City of Ellensburg), Bob Elder (City of Prosser), Jay McGowan (City of Cle Elum)

Staff Present: Alex Conley (Executive Director), Darcy Batura (Lead Entity Coordinator), Jason McCormick (Recovery Program Technical Staff)

Others: None.

1) Approval of Agenda and Minutes

Chair Dan Olson opened the meeting at 2:05 pm. The Board reviewed the meeting agenda, the draft minutes for the May 26, 2016 Board of Directors meeting and notes from the July 27 Executive Committee meeting. *The 5/26/16 minutes were approved as submitted with consent of all present.*

2) Board Correspondence and Announcements

Announcements:

- The Governor's Office is soliciting applications for a vacancy on the state's Salmon Recovery Funding Board.
- The Board has signed a \$2,000 contract with WDFW to review the grant review policy manual being prepared by the Columbia River Salmon and Steelhead Recreational Angler's Board.
- Darcy gave a brief update on the June 29 Yakima Basin Integrated Plan legislative tour, which she helped plan and participated in.

Correspondence:

- The Board noted the inclusion of multiple letters regarding the Klickitat suballocation of SRFB funds in the correspondence packet that were prepared in response to decisions at the May Board meeting.

- The Board reviewed the letter on predation issues sent by the Snake River Salmon Recovery Board and directed Alex to draft a response to be sent under the chair's signature stating that:
 - The Board agrees that predation is a major issue that needs to be effectively addressed in the Columbia river, but that it has focused its own discussions on predation in the Yakima Basin;
 - The Board sees value in a forum where we can learn about what is and is not working with existing programs in the Columbia Basin, and what gaps we can help address, and both staff and some Board members are interested in participating in such a forum;
 - We are not able to provide significant support for organizing this effort given limited budgets and staff capacity.

The Motion to approve sending a letter that includes these points was made by Nancy, seconded by Paul, and approved by all members present.

3) Lead Entity Program

Darcy gave a presentation on the 2016 grant review process and the ranked project list forwarded by the Citizen's Committee to the Board for submission to the Salmon Recovery Funding Board. Nancy motioned to approve the list as presented, and Adam seconded the motion. Paul Ward opened a Board discussion of the Upper Yakima Tributary Flow Restoration Project, noting questions about false attraction and encouraging consideration of using conserved water on-farm to allow diversion reductions. After discussion, the motion to submit the list as presented was approved by consensus of all present. Nancy motioned to approve the providing \$382,000 of the Mid-Columbia SRFB allocation to the Klickitat Lead Entity to fund their ranked project list, and Adam seconded the motion. The motion passed with the approval of all present. Nancy then motioned to delegate authority to staff to allocate any remaining funds (estimated at ~\$4,000) to the four top ranked projects after discussions with project sponsors. The motion passed with the approval of all present.

The Board briefly discussed the concept of providing expense reimbursements or a small stipend to volunteer members of the Citizen's Committee, and directed staff to prepare a more detailed proposal for review at a future Board meeting.

4) State and Federal Policies and Budgets

The Board reviewed the recent federal PCSRF and internal state decisions that resulted in a 19.5% cut to the Board's RCO-funded operating budget for FY 2017. The SRFB directed us to reduce our FY2017 budget by 24% for our Lead Entity Program and 14% for our Regional Organization Program. The Board was able to absorb these cuts due to carryover from the previous biennium and our recent staff vacancies, but the proposed funding level is not sustainable for the long haul. The Executive Committee requested that the Board consider sending a letter to the SRFB addressing these FY2017 budget reductions. The Board reviewed the letter drafted by Alex. Adam motioned to

approve the letter to be sent as presented, with the Chair's signature. Paul seconded the motion, which was approved by all present. Members noted that we should expect ongoing efforts from NOAA and the state to reduce our operating budgets, and that responding may require structural changes to the statewide Lead Entity program and grant review.

The Board reviewed the draft comment forwarded by the Executive Committee on WDFW's Washington's Wild Future budget proposals. Paul Ward requested that we add a fifth bullet noting the need to fund efforts to improve and expand WDFW's passage barrier inventories. Paul motioned to approve the letter for submission with the added bullet, and Nancy seconded the motion, which passed with the support of all present.

The Board deferred discussion of the YBIP Habitat Subcommittee budget request and the NOAA Columbia River Partnership to a future meeting.

5) Recovery Program Updates

The Board briefly reviewed the NOAA 5-year review for Mid-Columbia Steelhead and its use of information provided by the Board. Alex gave a brief update on the status of Bull Trout Action Plan updates. Jason McCormick gave a presentation on the projects from the Yakima Basin that the new WDFW-managed Fish Barrier Removal Board has included in their statewide budget request to the Governor's Office. The Board discussed the Board's role in helping develop the project list, and the reasons it is focused in the Kittitas Valley.

6) Board Logistics

The Board appointed Jay McGowan to fill the vacant at-large seat on the Executive Committee.

The Board approved proceeding with our CPA, Bob Villbrant, to complete the annual IRS 990 form, but asked that Alex secure 3 quotes from vendors before proceeding with completion of the annual audit and financial statement.

The Board delegated authority to approve and fill the proposed Deputy Director position to the Executive Committee.

The Executive Committee noted that annual performance reviews and compensation adjustments had been completed.

The Board noted that the next Board of Directors Meeting will be on October 6th.

7) Public comment

There were no public comments.