



YAKIMA BASIN
FISH AND WILDLIFE
RECOVERY BOARD

Minutes of the 8/7/2013 Board of Directors Meeting

As approved at the 10/10/13 Board Meeting

Members Present: Dave Brown (City of Yakima), Adam Fyall (Benton County), Paul Ward (Yakama Nation), Lloyd Carnahan (City of Benton City), Mike Leita & Terry Keenhan (Yakima County), Nancy Lillquist (City of Ellensburg), Jay McGowan (City of Cle Elum), John Hubbard (City of Kennewick), Obie O'Brien & Kirk Holmes (Kittitas 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: Lynn Hatcher (NOAA Fisheries), Jerry Rhodes (Citizen's Committee), Carol Ready (YTAHP), and Jen Nelson (WDFW)

1) Welcome, Introductions & Approval of Minutes

Mike Leita called the business meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. After introductions, the Board reviewed the agenda, minutes from the May 30 Board meeting, and the notes of the July 30 Executive Committee meeting. It was noted that the Executive Committee approved a 1.5% wage increase for all staff beginning July 1. The current health plan premiums increased 11% on August 1. Future health benefit options will be reviewed in the fall. *Paul Ward made a motion to approve the agenda as presented and Jay McGowan seconded the motion. Paul Ward made a motion to approve the May 30 meeting minutes and Obie O'Brien seconded the motion. The agenda and minutes carried with the support of all present.*

2) Board Correspondence and Announcements

The FY 2014 budget is now stable enough to be processed with hiring, so the Recovery Coordinator position will be advertised and distributed to board members soon.

The Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) has an eastern Washington board position open.

YBFWRB board members were encouraged to apply and are to contact Alex if they have interest.

The current Yakima sewer treatment plant work is partially funded by SRFB funds; the City of Yakima received a \$100,000 cost increase from RCO when bids came in high.

A letter sent in support of YTAHP to the Northwest Power and Conservation Council (NPCC) with Alex' signature was briefly reviewed by the Board.

3) Lead Entity Program

Darcy Batura gave a presentation on the 2013 Lead Entity project review and the ranked project list proposed for submission to the Washington Salmon Recovery Funding Board. A record number of 17 projects were submitted and reviewed for SRFB funding. This year, several other funding sources, including the Yakima Basin Integrated Plan funds, may be available for a few projects on the list, allowing the \$1.2 million for the Yakima basin to be allocated further down the list. Staff will make adjustments in response to changes and a final list will be given to the SRFB in October. *Dave Brown made a motion to approve the ranked list as submitted to the Board by the Citizens Committee. Nancy Lillquist seconded the motion, and the motion passed with the consent of all present.*

4) Recovery Planning

A web database linked to the recovery plan actions will be live on www.ybfwrb.org in late August or September.

The Northwest Power and Conservation Council's Fish and Wildlife Program amendment process is underway, and Alex will draft 5-10 page response for Mike Leita's signature, asking that the updates point to the recovery plan. The draft letter will be emailed to board members by late August to provide at least a week for board review before delivery on September 17.

5) Policy & Budget Updates

The federal Pacific Coast Salmon Recovery Fund provides the majority of SRFB funding, and is usually between \$60-80 million each year. For 2014, the Senate has proposed \$65 million, vs the President's budget's proposal of \$50 million. A draft letter encouraging federal representatives to support the Senate proposal was included in the packet. *Paul Ward made a motion to approve the letters for Mike Leita's signature, and Nancy Lillquist seconded the motion. The motion carried with the support of all present.*

A draft thank you letter to state representatives for their work to support salmon recovery projects in the Yakima Basin was presented to the board. *Dave Brown made a motion to approve the letter, and Nancy Lillquist seconded the motion; the motion carried.*

6) Board Logistics and Finances

Abby Peterson will be coming at the end of August to perform an audit on FY13 financials, after which Bob Villbrandt will complete the form 990.

Since the budget for FY14 is now stable, the Recovery Coordinator job description will be posted soon to fill Yuki's position. The job description will be forwarded to the board.

Alex will write the agreement for the contract with the Bureau of Land Management for Cowiche Creek funds, and will forward it to the Executive Committee for review prior to finalizing the agreement.

The Board's FY14 operating contract with RCO is being finalized and should be approved by the SRFB on August 22.

7) Outreach Update

The Outreach Reports for June and July were presented. The Yakima River Outreach Committee met for the second time in June, with another meeting planned for October. The awards given at the Annual Meeting in May resulted in some media coverage.

8) Public Comment

There were no public comments. The meeting was adjourned at 3:45 p.m.