

MEETING OVERVIEW

For the March 27, 2019 YBFWRB Board of Directors Meeting

PRE-MEETING WORKSHOP

We are excited that Mike Livingston, the Region 3 Director for WDFW, will be joining us for our workshop. Join us at noon for a pizza lunch, Mike's presentation, and an open discussion about WDFW activities in our area.

BUSINESS MEETING from 2 to 4 pm

Numbers refer to agenda items. Item #s refer to Board Materials email attachment numbers.

1. We'll start the meeting with introductions, review/approval of the agenda, and review/approval of the minutes from our January Board of Directors meeting. The **agenda** and **draft minutes** are attached (items #1 & 3), as are the March Executive Committee meeting notes (item #4).

2. Announcements:

- a. The **2019 Yakima Basin Science and Management Conference** will be June 12 & 13 at CWU.
- b. **RCO has hired Erik Neatherlin as the new Governor's Salmon Recovery Office Executive Coordinator.** He is currently head of Fisheries Science for WDFW, and has a great background in salmon recovery.
- c. Bring any **addition announcements** you want to make.

Updates:

- a. The **Natural Resource Management Act of 2019 was signed into law by President Trump.** One of the many elements of this bill was authorization for key elements of the Yakima Basin Integrated Plan. Congratulations to all who worked tirelessly for this outcome. At our meeting, we'll review this Act and what it means for the Basin.
- b. The **Bureau of Reclamation just released the Kachess Drought Relief Pumping Plant Final Supplemental EIS,** but has not yet released its Record of Decision for the project. At the recent YBIP Work Group meeting, Bureau staff noted that the decision would call for an additional year of study to address outstanding concerns.
- c. **Alex is now the Chair of the Council of Regions (COR),** and is convening the monthly COR calls and COR representation at meetings of the SRFB and the Washington Salmon Coalition. COR brings the state's seven salmon recovery regions together to work on shared interests. Shared administrative support is being explored as part of our RCO contract for July 2019 on.
- d. **The Yakima Valley Library has approached us about working together to develop a Yakima Basin Natural Resource Collection** in a dedicated space. The Executive Committee reviewed the idea, and noted that it represented a unique convergence of interests. Alex will meet with Library board members and staff to develop the proposal for discussion at our May meeting.

Correspondence:

- a. There is no incoming correspondence for Board review
- b. We have one draft letter to consider, regarding bull trout recovery in Gold Creek. It is attached as **item #5**. This letter was prepared at the request of KCT as they responded to a letter from Forterra raising questions about proposed bull trout restoration work in the Gold Creek watershed, and is intended to show the breadth of support behind the proposed work. We can either send the letter as is, under our letterhead, or rewrite it into a multi-agency sign on letter, as some in the Bull Trout Work Group have proposed.

3. Lead Entity Program

- a. 2019 Grant Round: Tricia will review the 2019 grant round schedule and list of pre-applications, and ask the Board to **approve the 2019 Lead Entity Manual (Item #6)**, which give a detailed description of how our annual grant round works.

- b. Committee Member Appointments:

Staff will update the Board on **new appointments to the Technical Advisory Group**.

Member Governments from Benton County will nominate Steven Brown to fill the vacant Citizen Committee seat for Benton County, and Yakima County member governments may also have a candidate to nominate for the vacant Yakima County seat. We'll want to **make a formal motion on these nominations**.

We'll also touch base about **filling the remaining Yakama Nation Citizen Committee vacancies**.

- c. BLM Ringer Road Project: Tricia will give a brief update on our work with the BLM, Kittitas County and the Mid-Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group developing and implementing restoration plans for the area between Ellensburg and the Yakima Canyon.

4. Recovery Program Updates

Alex will brief the Board on:

- a. Our Bull Trout Recovery Coordination work and associated contracts and agreements
- b. Preparations for updating the Yakima Steelhead Recovery Plan Actions
- c. The Mid-Columbia Recovery Needs document I am working on with Snake River Salmon Recovery Board and Klickitat Lead Entity staff

5. Communications Updates

Tricia and Heather Simmons of Ecology will brief us on the recent 2019 Eastern Yakima Riparian Planting Symposium (which was a great success!) and touch base with the Board about plans for future riparian restoration events.

Tricia will also provide an update on other recent communications activities, and will ask the Board for suggestions to consider as we draft the update our annual communications work plan.

6. State Agency Policy and Budget Development

Board members will give an update on our February 1 legislative outreach trip to Olympia, and we will review the just released state budget proposals and how they implement the priorities the Board has identified (see item #7 for a refresher). Finally, we will **consider whether we want to follow up with an updated statement of our priorities to legislators.**

We will also review any bills of interest that are currently being considered in Olympia, and discuss the idea of district-specific legislative outreach events after the session has ended.

7. July 10-11 SRFB Meeting and Tour

The State's Salmon Recovery Funding Board will hold its annual travel meeting in Yakima July 10 and 11. We are working with RCO staff to host a tour and evening event, and we'll touch base about these developing plans.

8. Review and Approval of IRS 990 Tax Form

Please **review the draft IRS 990 form (item #8)** prior to the meeting and be ready to approve it, or, if needed, recommend changes at the meeting.

9. 2019-2021 Work Plan, Budget and Contracting

Alex will **review the schedule for drafting and reviewing the Board's Work Plan and Budget** for the next biennium, which are to be approved at the July 31 Annual Meeting. Be ready to propose ideas we should consider adding to our work plan!

Alex will also **review proposals for carrying over unspent funds from our current contract** into the next biennium; he is working with RCO to review and approve these proposals now so we know how to plan our spending rate through June.

10. BOARD LOGISTICS

- a. We'll review and potentially approve the **proposed changes to the Board's travel reimbursement policies** (Item #9; these are meant to clarify gray areas identified by staff regarding when and how travel expenses can be reimbursed).
- b. We'll discuss plans for our May meeting and the July 31st annual meeting.
- c. We'll touch base on **proposed hiring** and proposals to outsource Board book keeping;