



Minutes of the May 22, 2019 Board of Directors Meeting

AS APPROVED BY THE BOARD ON 7/31/2019

Meeting held from 2 pm to 4 pm at the YBFWRB office in Yakima

Members Present:

Adam Fyall (Benton County), Nancy Lillquist (City of Ellensburg), Terry Keenhan (Yakima County), Corey Wright (Kittitas County), Richard Bloom (City of West Richland), Jonalee Squeechochs (Yakama Nation), Jay McGowan (City of Cle Elum)

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

Others Present: Arden Thomas (Kittitas County), Elizabeth Torrey (WDFW), Heather Simmons (DOE), and Luke Stilwater (Yakima County)

The meeting of the Board was called to order at 2:00 pm.

1) Approval of Agenda and Minutes

Chair Adam Fyall opened the meeting and all present introduced themselves. The Board reviewed the meeting agenda and the draft minutes for the 03/27/2019 Board Meeting. Jay motioned to approve the March minutes and the revised agenda. The motion was seconded by Richard and was approved with consent of all present.

2) Announcements and Correspondents

Alex announced that:

1. The 2019 Yakima Basin Science and Management Conference will be June 12 & 13 at CWU.
2. The state's Salmon Recovery Funding Board will meet in Yakima on July 10th to 11th. Staff is working with RCO to organize an evening event on the 10th and a project tour on the 11th. We'll also have time on the meeting agenda on the 10th to present priority needs for recovery of Mid-Columbia Steelhead in the Yakima, Klickitat and Walla Walla areas.
3. Alex passed out Governor's Salmon Recovery Office's 2018 State of the Salmon report.
4. The Bureau of Reclamation recently issued a Record of Decision on the Kachess Drought Relief Pumping Plant Final Supplemental EIS. It narrows down the options to the floating pumping plant and a shoreside pumping plant and calls for completion of an additional EIS to fully evaluate the impacts of the proposed action.

5. At the 2019 Washington Salmon Recovery Conference in Tacoma this April, Tricia led a conference session on Communications, and Alex led one on coordinating bull trout recovery across the state.
6. Alex has been active as the Chair of the Council of Regions (COR), and is convening the monthly COR calls and COR representation at meetings. COR recently travelled to Portland to meet with NOAA leadership, and is working on a monitoring assessment proposal to put before the SRFB.
7. Alex is continuing to meet with the Yakima Valley Library and other potential partners to develop a Yakima Basin Natural Resource Collection in a dedicated space. Nancy noted need to brainstorm on who will be retiring and could contribute valuable materials to the library project.
8. Alex worked with partners in the Little Naches Working Group to develop a proposal for US Forest Service Title II funding to rehabilitate a popular camping area to improve the campsites and reduce road access to the riparian area. Work will be completed by trainees from the White Swan Job Corps. The formal project sponsor will be Mid-Columbia Fisheries.
9. Alex has met with the North Yakima Conservation District and others to support efforts to evaluate salmon recovery options for Wenas Creek. This topic is attracting interest, and outcomes of the assessment work underway will inform the Steelhead Recovery Plan Update.
10. Terry noted there will be a presentation by Jim Davenport on water law and irrigation at the Yakima Valley Library on May 26.
11. The Gold Creek letter that was approved at the last meeting was sent. The letter was well received, and Tricia and Alex updated the Board on two meetings held to followup up on the letter and engage partners in planning for bull trout restoration in Gold Creek.
12. The letter to legislators that was drafted based on direction given at the last Board meeting was sent and Tricia noted some good follow-up from Senator Honeyford and Representative Dufault. Terry noted that at recent Floodplain by Design workshops our letters to Yakima Basin legislators and legislative outreach were mentioned and appreciated.

The Board discussed the drafts of the annual letters to Board Members and to cities in the Basin that are not members of the Board. Alex noted these should go out with the draft work plan by May 31st (60 days prior to the Annual Meeting). Julie noted the third Thursday of the month is the mayor's meeting, so getting out the invite letter in time for that would be good. The board agreed the draft letters look good and directed Alex to proceed with sending out.

3) Lead Entity Program

2019 SRFB Grant Round: Tricia updated the Board on the 2019 grant round, noting we have a total of 11 projects with 6 different sponsors, for a total ask of just under \$2.1 million. She passed around the site tour booklet and noted that the May 20-21 site tours went well.

Committee Vacancies: Tricia noted we still have 4 vacancies on the Citizen Committee for Yakama Nation. Jonalee and Tricia will work together to fill these.

Washington Salmon Coalition: Tricia noted she has been invited to serve as chair of the Washington Salmon Coalition, which brings together the state's 25 Lead Entity Coordinators. Alex noted the executive committee reviewed how the impact on staff workloads could be accommodated using the to-be hired position, and supported this proposal. The Board discussed the proposal and agreed to support Tricia taking on the role of WSC Chair.

July SRFB Tour: Tricia noted she has been working with Tara Galuska, Salmon Section Manager at RCO and Kay Caromile, Yakima Basin Lead Entity's RCO grant manager to develop a tour on July 11th for attendees of the Salmon Recovery Funding Board meeting. She is also working on developing an evening event on July 10th. She asked the Board for some ideas on a downtown location that could handle a no-host bar and appetizers, noting that Cowiche Canyon is already booked. The Board noted that the Chateau, Single Hill, and Kana Winery might be nice. Julie noted she has had some nice event at the outdoor plaza at the Convention Center, where the SRFB meeting is taking place. Tricia will explore options and work with Alex, Tara, and Kay to finalize.

BLM Grant Program: Tricia updated the Board on the Ringer Loop BLM contract. She is working with Chris Sheridan to get what he needs to complete a Determination of NEPA Adequacy (DNA). Revegetation work has begun. Tricia updated the Board on additional funds needed for the 4 acres of Papineau property (there is more perennial pepperweed than originally anticipated) and asked for Board approval for an amendment the YBFWRB/Kittitas County MOA to include \$4,500 additional funds from Kittitas County for spraying and tillage on the Papineau property. A motion to approve was made, seconded, and then approved by consensus of all present.

4) Recovery Program Updates

Alex noted that:

1. Having Ecology funding to bill bull trout work to has worked well; he updated the Board on recent meetings and activities of the Yakima Bull Trout Working Group.
2. He is working with peers at Snake River Salmon Recovery Board and Klickitat Lead Entity to summarize existing documents that highlight critical needs for Mid-Columbia steelhead in WA to move us to where we could start talking about de-listing.
3. He is beginning to lay out how a steelhead recovery update would occur and has been talking with partners around the Basin. There seems to be good support to move forward with a Steelhead Recovery Plan update.

5) Communications and Outreach

Tricia noted that:

1. It is time to update the annual communications work plan. She updated the Board on what is ongoing/completed from this year's work plan and asked for ideas to incorporate into the new plan.
2. She organized a successful riparian planting trip with Wildland, Inc. and Yakima County with 13 attendees. This was the first of the expanded trainings/workshop/events that the Board approved at the last meeting.
3. She is working with Ashton Bunce (Yakama Nation), and Melissa Speeg (Kittitas Conservation Trust) on developing a Yakima Basin Habitat Restoration Guide, similar to one created by the Methow Salmon Recovery Board. There has been broad support from partners on this and many have expressed the need for outreach materials, specifically to landowners.
4. She is continued to work with Melissa Speeg, Kittitas Conservation Trust, on outreach strategies for KCT's work in Gold Creek.
5. The next event related to the Eastern Washington Riparian Planting Symposium expansion is a class, to be held in Wenatchee, on grasses, sedges, and rushes. Tricia asked for a motion to approve a contract between YBFWRB and Jennifer Hadersberger for the grasses, sedges, and rushes class in September, 2019. Nancy moved to approve, Julie seconded, and the motion was approved by consensus of all present.

Heather Simmons, Department of Ecology, noted the needs assessment and logic model she and Tricia are working on to help determine what the needs of riparian practitioners in Eastern Washington are and how we can help. Tricia and Heather discussed with the Board the idea of developing a 5-year vision plan. They noted the symposium is growing every year and there is a need to ensure it grows strategically.

Elizabeth Torrey, WDFW, highlighted their work, particularly on social media, to conduct more outreach on shrub-steppe. The Board noted that if there are ways YBFWRB can collaborate, Elizabeth should get in touch with Tricia.

6) Federal and State Policy and Budget

Alex noted that a delegation from the Governor's Salmon Recovery office (GSRO) recently went to DC to advocate for main federal funding pots we utilize.

Alex noted that the Columbia Basin Partnership has brought together folks in the Columbia Basin to discuss future management directions for the federal power system and salmon recovery in the Columbia Basin.

The Board discussed state budget updates. Overall it was a positive session for salmon recovery efforts, with moderate funding increases for the SRFB grant program, significant funding for the Floodplains by Design Program, nearly full funding for the Yakima Basin Integrated Plan, and significant new funding from the Fish Barrier Removal Board for fish passage projects in Kittitas County. However, WDFW's budget request was only partially funded, leaving the Agency with significant shortfalls, and the Columbia River Endorsement program was not renewed, which may mean some popular fisheries can't be opened due to lack of resources for required monitoring on impacts on listed fish.

Alex noted that the executive committee discussed some off-season legislative outreach and the idea of developing talking points and other outreach materials. Alex noted that folks should send Alex any

additional ideas for legislative outreach, particularly off-season. Terry noted that the Yakima County Flood Control District doesn't offer tours but will do one when requested and this might be a good off-season legislative outreach opportunities.

7) Board Logistics

Alex reviewed the proposed job description for a new-hire. Julie made a motion to move forward with hiring based on the parameters Alex laid out. Alex will send out the job description for final review when finalized. Richard seconded. The motion was approved with the consensus of all present.

Alex passed out the proposal to work with a single accountant to complete our FY2019 financial statement, audit, and IRS 990 form. Richard moved to approve, Jay seconded. Julie initially opposed. It was clarified that Abby does not complete our bookkeeping and Julie withdrew her opposition. The motion was approved with the consensus of all present.

Alex noted he is working Jonalee on a tour of Yakama Nation projects for the annual meeting. Jonalee noted she is working with Paul on identifying specific sports and reserving the conference room at the Correctional Facility.

Alex noted the draft meeting schedule, which will be approved on 07/31 and asked the Board to check their calendars and get back to him if there are any conflicts.

Alex went over Board finances and noted that while April 1 cash balances look bad, that is simply a function of the our billing and reimbursement cycle, and that our current cash flow looks good.

8) 2019-2021 Work Plan, Budget, and Contract Development

The Board reviewed the draft work plan and identified the changes listed below. The final work plan and budget will be approved at the July 31 annual meeting, and will be used at the basis for negotiating the next two year scopes of work for our contracts with RCO and Ecology.

1. On Objective A, 5: Richard noted that 10 years is a lot to take on and it may be better and more realistic to do a 5 year plan. Julie noted it might be worthwhile to have both near-term and long-term goals. There was general agreement, and Terry noted that he has a 6 year plan. Alex noted that time-frame ties in with biennium funding well. The group agreed on completing a 6-year and 12-year plan.
2. The Lead Entity section has lots of deliverables but is fairly static; the group agreed to maintain it as is.
3. Recovery Plan Updates section: The Board noted that the bull trout action plan and the working group are working well. A update to the Steelhead Recovery Plan has been talked about but we still need to nail down a team and work plan. Alex will close the loop on work with Yakama Nation on lamprey recovery to include specific items or continue with general coordination, as needed. Alex noted that C5 (climate change) is largely incorporated into steelhead and bull trout recovery plans

but also will continue working with Yakama Nation who is doing work on this. Terry noted that he would like to have further discussion with Alex on that piece.

4. Recovery Plan Implementation section: Nancy asked if there is room for advocating projects that are not in our current recovery plan, particularly since it is outdated? Meaning, if there is general buy-in from Basin biologists and our TAG on a specific project: can we incorporate language that would highlight our ability to support? There was discussion on whether or not this would be helpful and Arden Thomas, Kittitas County, and Alex noted that there are pathways already in place to support new projects. Nancy agreed that as long as not having that language doesn't hold us back from advocating for (generally accepted by partners) projects not in the plan, we don't necessarily need to have the language in. Arden noted that how folks are thinking of Wenas Creek is demonstrative of the paths we use to accomplish this and is a little more adaptable than the recovery plan itself. Alex noted we can add to #2 a reference to the subbasin plan which incorporates that a bit.
5. Alex noted there is a need for increased monitoring coordination.
6. Public outreach and education: website will be done by the time the plan comes out. The State of the Yakima hasn't been a priority this biennium but the group generally agrees it is a great idea. Nancy noted that it should be left to Alex to determine whether he has time to complete. Alex proposed we keep it in for now and Alex can come back with some more info on what it would look like, partners to pull in, and amount of staff time needed. The Communication plan has been completed but it was noted we need to ramp up relationships with media. Corey wondered if we do only in-session legislative outreach. He noted that a big component of the recent YBIP successes was in part due to off-session legislative outreach. Richard noted bringing legislators on tours is particularly important. Julie noted that it's good to find out when legislators will be in the area for a meeting anyway and build around their schedule. The board agreed on beefing up the outreach to legislators section.
7. Administration section: the Board recommended language to reflect ongoing work with library. Alex noted he needs to send a draft to members in the next two weeks. The Board agreed to send out a draft incorporating changes discussed as the first draft and the Board will offer additional edits at the annual meeting. Detailed budget discussion will occur with the executive committee in June.

9) Public Comments

Corey noted Arden's new role with Kittitas County and asked that she be formally listed as an alternate to a Board. Tricia will coordinate getting the appropriate forms signed.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:10 pm.