



Minutes of the July 31, 2019 Board of Directors Meeting

AS APPROVED BY THE BOARD ON 10/2/2019

Pre-meeting Activities: Members and partners of the Board met at 9 am for a 3 hour tour hosted by the Yakama Nation that highlighted Yakama Nation Watershed Project and Lamprey Project activities on Toppenish Creek. Many thanks to our tour hosts for a great morning in the field!

At noon, the group met up in the Yakama Nation Correctional Facility meeting room to share lunch and reflections on the Board's past, present and future. Guests who joined in the discussion with current Board members included Leo Bowman, Paul Ward and Dale Bambrick.

The **Annual Meeting of the Board** was held from 2 pm to 4 pm at the Yakama Nation Correctional Facility Conference Room in Toppenish.

Members Present:

Adam Fyall and Jerome Delvin (Benton County), Nancy Lillquist (City of Ellensburg), Terry Keenhan (Yakima County), Richard Bloom (City of West Richland), Dave Brown (City of Yakima), Jay McGowan (City of Cle Elum), and Jonalee Squeechochs (Yakama Nation).

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

Others present: Elizabeth Torrey (WDFW), Leo Bowman, Dale Bambrick (NOAA), Onni Perala (Yakima County Citizen Committee)

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 05/22/2019 Board Meeting. Nancy motioned to approve the March minutes and the revised agenda. The motion was seconded by Jay and approved with consent of all present.

2) Announcements and Correspondence

Alex will host a tour of the Yakima Basin Thursday and Friday (August 1 and 2) with policy staff from the state's Office of Financial Management.

Fish passage and habitat surveys are being completed in Wenas Creek this summer. Survey results will inform discussions with partners about **next steps in the Wenas watershed**. Terry noted that the Wenas Valley is a pilot area for the state's Voluntary Stewardship Program (VSP), which works to develop voluntary ways to protect critical areas in agricultural areas.

The Bull Trout Working Group was asked to give **updated recommendations for Yakima Basin Integrated Plan (YBIP) bull trout funding** to the YBIP habitat subcommittee. The work group provided the Habitat Subcommittee with written updates following their June meeting. Alex noted that he is

pleased that YBIP leadership has recognized the BTWG as an effective source of specific recommendations, which were adopted by the subcommittee as presented.

Alex worked with members of the Little Naches Working Group to complete an application for **US Forest Service Title II funding to rehabilitate a dispersed camping area in the Little Naches** watershed in a way that improves the camping experience and protects riparian areas. The proposal was funded, and the Mid-Columbia Fisheries Enhancement is now taking the lead role coordinating with the USFS to implement the project.

Alex reviewed the following correspondence:

- A letter sent by the Board to the SRFB (approved at the June Board mtg) regarding a potential pinch point in the 2020 schedule. In response, Tara Galuska, Salmon Section Manager with RCO, adjusted the schedule to add several days to the response window in question. While the 2020 schedule will still be tight, this change makes it feasible.
- A letter sent by the Board to the US Forest Service in support of the White Swan Job Corps Center, which was threatened with closure. The center is now to remain open, and will do the on-the-ground work associated with the Little Naches Dispersed Campsite Maintenance project.
- A letter sent by the Board in support for Yakima-Tieton Irrigation District and Yakama Nation's proposed collaboration to study irrigation system improvements and how they can be used to improve fish habitat in the Tieton River, Cowiche Creek, and Ahtanum Creek.

3) Review and Approve 2019 Lead Entity Ranked Project List

Tricia updated the Board on the status of the 2019 Lead Entity ranked project list. The Citizen Committee approved the Technical Advisory Group's ranked list as it was sent to them and confirmed the TAG's recommendation that the Naches North Loop Side Channel project be deferred. The 2019 ranked list includes 5 fully funded projects, one partially funded, 4 alternates, and a deferred project. The Mid-Columbia allocation is \$1,688,400 for the 2019 grant round, with \$506,520 projected for use by the Klickitat Lead Entity (pending Board approval) and \$1,180,880 for use by the Yakima Lead Entity. Tricia also noted that the Lower Columbia Lead Entity has additional funding available since a large highly-ranked Lower Columbia project fell through at the last minute. They offered us use of funding from their allocation to allow the lowest ranked funded project, Ahtanum Village Restoration Design, to be fully funded. Tricia noted that Gap to Gap Ecosystem Restoration and Teanaway RM 8 Revegetation are both still in the running for YBIP funding, in which case we would move SRFB funds further down the list and offer funding to our alternate projects.

Richard moved to **approve the 2019 Yakima Lead Entity Ranked Project List** as presented. The motion was seconded by Jay and approved with the consent of all present.

Richard moved to **approve the use of \$506,520 of the Mid-Columbia allocation by the Klickitat Lead Entity**. The motion was seconded by Dave and approved with the consent of all present.

Dave moved to **approve use of \$46,000 of the Lower Columbia allocation** for projects on the Yakima Lead Entity List. The motion was seconded by Richard and approved with the consent of all present.

Nancy moved to **delegate authority to Board staff to allocate any additional 2019 SRFB funding** to alternate projects on the approved project list. The motion was seconded by Dave and approved with the consent of all present.

4) SRFB Targeted Investment Proposals

Alex outlined the SRFB's discussion on the use of an additional \$6.4 million in this biennium's budget and their decision to investigate a targeted investment program, focusing on the Mid-Columbia and Hood Canal regions. The SRFB has requested a list from both regions of projects that would help steelhead and summer chum, respectively, get closer to de-listing. Alex has engaged John Foltz, Snake River region, and Jake Anderson, Klickitat Lead Entity in this. The Board discussed and generally agreed that Alex should move forward and keep the Board updated as appropriate.

5) Review Changes to Bylaws and Policies

No changes to the Board by-laws were proposed. Alex noted that a change from RCO now requires reimbursements for food and beverage to have received prior approval from the Board. Dave moved to approve the following authorization:

The Board of Directors authorizes Board staff to purchase drinks, snacks and meals for consumption during meetings of the Board of Directors and its committees and work groups, including the Executive Committee, the Citizen Committee, the Technical Advisory Group, the Yakima Bull Trout Working Group, and future working groups developed to complete the pending Yakima Steelhead Plan Update, as long as:

- a) Such items are to be consumed during a working meeting of said group;*
- b) All purchases are eligible for reimbursement by the contract to which they are billed, and are within any applicable per diem rates set by the State of Washington or included in the terms of the relevant Board contract.*
- c) Records are kept detailing the meeting agenda and the names of participants.*

The motion was seconded by Jay and approved with the consent of all present.

6) Review and Approve Board of Directors Membership

No changes to the current Board of Directors membership were proposed. Dave noted that Carmen is not running for re-election and will therefore be stepping down at the end of the year. Terry asked the Board to discuss whether Arden Thomas being both a TAG member and alternate Board member for Kittitas County represented a conflict of interest. The Board discussed the issue but decided it was not a conflict of interest because a) the Board does not have the ability to change the ranked SRFB list (it can only remand it to the Citizen Committee) and b) the ranked list developed by the TAG is sent to the Citizen Committee, not the Board. Adam and Richard committed to working together to nominate a city representative from Benton County to fill the vacant Board seat.

7) Officer Elections and Agent Appointment

Alex reviewed the current officer list: Adam Fyall as Chair, Nancy Lillquist as Secretary, Jay McGowan as Vice-Chair/Treasurer. After nominations were received to renew existing assignments, Dave moved to approve the same officers for 2019. The motion was seconded by Nancy, and the motion

was passed with the consent of all present. Jay moved to appoint Alex Conley as the Board's registered agent. The motion was seconded by Dave and passed with the consent of all present.

8) Committee Memberships

The Board nominated and confirmed Jay McGowan and Jonalee Squeoch as at-large members of the Executive Committee. Tricia updated the Board on the current membership of the Technical Advisory Group and Citizen Committee. Jay motioned to affirm the TAG and CC membership for the 2020 grant round. The motion was seconded by Nancy and passed with the consent of all present.

9) Board Meeting Schedule

Alex reviewed the proposed Board meeting schedule for the 2019/2020 year, as well as potential pre-meeting workshop topics. Terry recommended adding "how does VSP affect us?" and Nelson Dam as potential topics for pre-meeting workshops. Dave moved to approve the meeting schedule as presented. The motion was seconded by Jay and approved with the consent of all present.

10) Review Organizational Chart, Staffing, and Hiring Plans

Alex presented an organizational chart that shows tasks for which each staff member is responsible. It was recommended to add Council of Regions and Washington Salmon Coalition Leadership as tasks. Alex reviewed the Operations Manager job description and noted he will be posting the job opening next week, and that any proposed edits should be sent to him before then.

11) Review and Approve Revised FY2020-2021 Work Plan and Budget

The Board reviewed the work plan and budget. There was some discussion clarifying specific line items and Terry recommended amending to include the correct date on the cover page. Nancy moved to approve the FY2020-2021 Work Plan and Budget as corrected. The motion was seconded by Jay and passed with the consent of all present.

12) Review and Approve Communication Work Plan and Products

Tricia reviewed the 2019 Communication Work Plan. Nancy recommended adding information on what healthy streams looks like as a key message in our communication efforts. The Board expressed interest in the idea of a video; Tricia will touch base with Connor Parrish, MCF, to see if there is potential for collaboration. Nancy moved to approve the Communications Work Plan as presented. The motion was seconded by Jay and passed with the consent of all present.

13) Finances

The Board briefly reviewed the year end budget vs actuals report.

14) Public comment

Elizabeth Torrey noted that the WDFW Director visited the region a couple of weeks ago for an agency-wide award ceremony. Dave Morrow of Kittitas County was recognized as the landowner of

the year. She recommended that people contact her or anyone in her department to discuss updates to WDFW's riparian guidance, which will be particularly useful for local government planners. She is continuing to work on a shrub-steppe outreach handout and will have more info at next board meeting. Elizabeth also noted that she is happy to come to board meetings, do field trips, etc. on shrub-steppe and is interested in working on community science efforts as part of the Communications Work Plan. She closed by noting that the last bastion for restoration projects will be on private land and that the Board plays an important role in helping to get work done on private lands.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:06 pm.