



## Minutes of the August 13, 2020 Board of Directors Meeting

*As approved by the Board on October 7, 2020*

*Meeting held from 1 pm to 3 pm via GoToMeeting web conference*

### **Present:**

**Directors and Alternates:** Jay McGowan (City of Cle Elum), Adam Fyall (Benton County), Richard Bloom (City of West Richland), Steve Becken (City of Prosser), Dave Brown and Patricia Byers (City of Yakima), Julie Schilling (City of Union Gap), Jonalee Squeochs and David Blodgett III (Yakama Nation), Troy Havens (Yakima County), Cory Wright and Arden Thomas (Kittitas County)

Board Member Representatives:

**Staff:** Alex Conley (Executive Director), Tricia Snyder (Lead Entity Coordinator)

**Others Present:** Lance Hoyt (City of Toppenish), Francisco Guerrero (City of Sunnyside), Celisa Hopkins (Cowiche Canyon Conservancy), Jennifer Johnson (RCO), Tom Glover (City of Prosser), Onni Perala (Citizen Committee).

The meeting was called to order at 1:05 pm.

### **1) Welcome and Approval of Agenda and Minutes**

Chair Adam Fyall gave a brief overview of YBFWRB history and our role in the Basin. Attendees introduced themselves.

The Board reviewed the meeting agenda and the draft minutes for the 5/20/2020 Board Meeting. The draft minutes were moved, seconded, and approved by all present.

### **2) Board Announcements, Updates, and Correspondence:**

- A. Jonalee noted that Paul Ward has taken a new job in Portland. Paul served on the Board since its inception, and members expressed appreciation for his many contributions.
- B. Adam announced the launch of the new YBFWRB website and requested feedback from Board members on any final edits.
- C. Alex updated the Board on the YBFWRB/BLM contract. Our nonprofit status made it easy to contract out work to move habitat logs at Big Pines Campground.
- D. Alex noted that YBFWRB will be taking on the WSC facilitation contract for RCO, who will subsequently increase our contract for the same amount.
- E. Alex noted five staff written grant support letters for:
  - a. FBRB proposals from the Yakima Basin, including Nelson Dam;

- b. A USFWS grant to use eDNA technology to determine the distribution of brook trout in the Yakima Basin for which a portion of our bull trout funds are serving as match;
- c. Yakima County Floodplain by Design Proposals at the mouth of Cowiche Creek and at the major diversions on Ahtanum Creek;
- d. Yakima Tieton Irrigation District proposal to expand French Canyon Reservoir to improve operational flexibility and instream flows for fish.

### **3) State of the Yakima**

Alex gave a brief update on the Board's activities over the last year and the state of fisheries restoration efforts in the Yakima. He emphasized that recent low runs have increased focus on understanding and addressing specific bottlenecks that limit salmon and steelhead production.

### **4) Update on COVID impacts on operations and budgets**

Alex updated the Board on staff response to COVID restrictions and the impact to Board operations. We have generally seen cost savings as travel and meeting expenses have greatly decreased. Hiring has been deferred and work has focused on seeing through existing work, rather than on starting new initiatives.

### **5) Review and Approve 2020 Lead Entity Ranked Project List**

Tricia updated the Board on the completion of the **2020 SRFB grant round**. The Middle Columbia allocation for the 2020 grant round is \$1,688,400. Of that, the Klickitat Lead Entity request to use \$501,125 for projects that benefit Mid-Columbia steelhead. This grant round was a particularly competitive year with 13 projects requesting a total of \$2,591,669.

Tricia presented the proposed ranked project list for 2020 and reviewed the individual projects and their goals and objectives with the Board. There are five fully funded projects on this year's ranked list. One project, the 2020 Yakima Basin Riparian Stewardship Project is partially funded in 2020 but both committees approved reserving the unfunded amount from the 2021 grant round. This will create efficiencies for both RCO staff, the state review panel and local committees by not having to evaluate the project again, as well as funding certainty for the project sponsor. There are five alternate projects, which will receive funding should it become available. Both committees recommended two projects for deferral. Onni Perala offered observations on this year's grant round from his perspective as a long-time Citizen Committee member.

Julie Schilling moved to approve the ranked list as presented to be submitted to RCO; the move was seconded by Richard Bloom and approved by all present.

Richard Bloom moved to approve the use of \$501,125 of Mid-Columbia allocation within the Klickitat Lead Entity; the move was seconded by Julie Schilling and approved by all present.

Richard Bloom moved to delegate authority to staff to allocate any additional SRFB funding, the move was seconded by Patricia Byers, and approved by all present

### **6) Approve Letter of Engagement for Annual Financial Statement/990**

Alex reviewed a letter of engagement submitted by Abby Bailey for our annual audited financial statement and IRS 990 tax form. Abby completed both last year and has agreed to do so again at the

same cost. The motion to approve the letter of engagement was moved, seconded, and approved by all present.

**7) Approve amendment to MCFEG MOA**

Alex reviewed the second proposed amendment to MCFEG and YBFWRB's MOA #6. This includes all the remaining work until the end of the YBFWRB contract with BLM in July of 2021.

Richard Bloom moved to approve, the motion was seconded by Julie Schilling, and approved by all present.

**8) Review Proposed Changes to the Bylaws**

We received no requests for changes to the YBFWRB bylaws.

**9) Review and approve Board of Directors Membership**

Alex reviewed the current Board of Directors membership and asked for any proposed changes or additions. Troy Havens, Yakima County, requested to be added as an alternate for Ron Anderson.

Patricia Byers asked to get information on future meetings, in case she is able to attend more frequently.

Richard Bloom moved to approve the Board of Directors membership as presented, with the addition of alternate Troy Havens; the motion was seconded by Jay McGowan, and approved by all present.

**10) Officer Elections and Agent Appointment**

Julie Schilling nominated Adam Fyall to serve another term as Board chair. Jay McGowan seconded and the nomination was approved by all present

Julie Schilling nominated Jay McGowan for vice-chair/treasurer. Patricia Byers seconded and the nomination was approved by all present.

Jay McGowan nominated Nancy Lillquist for secretary. Julie Schilling seconded and the nomination was approved by all present.

Jay McGowan moved to approve Jonalee Squeochs and Richard Bloom as at-large Executive Committee members. Julie Schilling seconded and the motion was approved by all present.

Julie Schilling nominated Alex Conley as agent of the Board. Patricia Byers seconded and the nomination was approved by all present.

**11) Review Current Committee Memberships**

Tricia and Alex reviewed the current membership of the Technical Advisory Group and Citizen Committee, noting one vacancy for a Benton County representative and three vacancies for Yakama Nation representatives.

Julie Schilling moved to confirm the membership of both committees. Patricia Byers seconded and the motion was approved by all present.

**12) Set Board Meeting schedule**

Alex proposed the following schedule for the YBFWRB FY2021 schedule:

- October 7, 2020
- January 20, 2021
- March 24, 2021
- May 19, 2021
- August 11, 2021

Julie Schilling moved to approve the schedule as presented, Richard Bloom seconded, and the motion was approved by all present.

### **13) Review and Approve Revised FY2020-21 Work Plan and Budget**

Alex reviewed the FY2021 work plan and budget with the Board, which was prepared based on input at the May and July Executive Committee meetings and the May Board of Directors meeting.

Julie Schilling moved to approve the work plan and budget as presented, Jay McGowan seconded, and the motion was approved by all present.

### **14) Review and Approve Communication Work Plan and Products**

Tricia reviewed the FY 2021 Communication Work Plan with the Board.

Julie Schilling moved to approve the FY 2021 Communication Work Plan as presented, Jay McGowan seconded, and the motion was approved by all present.

### **15) Board Policy Updates**

Alex reviewed the annual authorization for food and beverage purchases, which is required of us by our RCO contract.

Julie Schilling moved to authorize staff to make food and beverage purchases for FY2021, Richard Bloom seconded, and the motion was approved by all present.

### **16) Finances and Logistics**

Alex briefly reviewed the year end actual vs budget income/expense report and reviewed next steps for staffing and contracting.

### **17) Public Comment**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00pm.