



Minutes of the October 7, 2020 Board of Directors Meeting

As approved on 1/20/2021

Meeting held from 2 pm to 4 pm via GoToMeeting web conference

Present:

Directors and Alternates: Arden Thomas (Kittitas County), Jay McGowan (City of Cle Elum), Adam Fyall (Benton County), Richard Bloom (City of West Richland), Jonalee Squeochs (Yakama Nation), Patricia Byers (City of Yakima), Troy Havens (Yakima County), Jerome Delvin (Benton County), Nancy Lillquist (City of Ellensburg)

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

Others Present: Lance Hoyt (City of Toppenish), Kelsey Green (American Rivers), and Abby Bailey (Bailey CPAs)

The business meeting of the Board was called to order at 2:04 pm.

1) Approval of Agenda and Minutes

Chair Adam Fyall called the business meeting to order and the attendees introduced themselves.

The Board reviewed the meeting agenda and the draft minutes for the 8/13/2020 Board Meeting. The draft minutes were moved, seconded, and approved by all present.

2) Board Announcements, Updates, and Correspondence:

- A. Alex reviewed the impact on operations from COVID-19. Alex is mostly working in the office, while Tricia is working from home, with occasional stops in to the office. Staff are neither attending nor convening in-person meetings or sharing vehicles, but are participating in outdoor field visits.
- B. Adam announced that Commissioner Anderson has been appointed to the WA Invasive Species Council (WISC) as a representative for eastside counties. Adam has been appointed as his alternate.
- C. Alex noted that the 2021-2023 Brian Abbott Fish Barrier Removal Board (FBRB) list has been announced. Four projects recommended for funding are within the Yakima Basin and were highlight ranked (with Nelson Dam as the #1 project).
- D. Tricia noted that an additional \$20,000 has been added to the YBFWRB contract with Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to coordinate and plan work in the Ringer Loop area.
- E. Alex noted that Terry Keenhan has retired and again welcomed Troy Havens, incoming Water Resources Manager for Yakima County. He also noted the departure of Paul Ward.

Staff were directed to prepare letters of appreciation, which will be sent with Adam's signature.

- F. Alex noted that Phil Rockefeller has stepped down as chair of the Salmon Recovery Funding Board; Jeff Breckel has been appointed as the new chair.

3) Audited Financial Statement

- A. Abby reviewed the audited financial statement for 2020 with the Board and noted that this was the first year she utilized comparative statements. Abby reviewed the IRS 990 tax form.
- B. A motion to approve the 2020 financial statement was moved by Nancy, seconded by Jay, and approved by all present.
- C. A motion to approve the IRS 990 tax form was made by Jay, seconded by Nancy, and approved by all present.

4) Agreement Amendments

Alex and Tricia reviewed the proposed amendment to the Bull Trout Coordination MOA with Mid-Columbia Fisheries, an amendment to the contract with Natural Resources Consultants (a pass-through agreement for Washington Salmon Coalition), and the ILA with Kittitas County and accompanying MOA with Mid-Columbia Fisheries.

Richard moved to approve Amendment #2 to the Bull Trout Coordination MOA as presented, Jay seconded, and the motion was approved by all present.

Troy moved to approve Amendment #1 to the Natural Resources Consultants contract, Jay seconded, and the motion was approved by all present.

Richard moved to approve to delegate authority to negotiate amendments needed before January 2021 for the Ringer Road Revegetation MOA with Mid-Columbia Fisheries and the associated ILA with Kittitas County to the Executive Committee. Jay seconded, and the motion was approved by all present.

5) Lead Entity Program

Tricia updated the Board on the completion of the **2020 SRFB grant round**. The Middle Columbia allocation for the 2020 grant round was \$1,688,400. Of that, \$501,125 went to the Klickitat Lead Entity 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 reviewed the final 2020 ranked list with the Board.

Tricia updated the Board on 2021 grant round preparation. A survey has been sent to sponsors and Tricia is slowly collecting responses. She will convene an off-season review meeting with both the Technical Advisory Group and Citizen Committee to discuss the 2020 grant round and identify any efficiencies that can be implemented for the 2021 grant round.

Tricia asked the Board for confirmation that YBFWRB policies currently in place would cover lodging expenses for Citizen Committee members. The Board agreed that this is in line with current YBFWRB policies.

Tricia reviewed Citizen Committee vacancies: there are currently 3 vacancies for Yakama Nation, 1 vacancy from Benton County, and one vacancy from Yakima County. Tricia noted the vacancy in

Yakima County is due to Onni Perala, long-time Citizen Committee member, stepping down after the off-season review meeting. Tricia noted Onni's commitment to the Lead Entity process; his perspective will be missed. Adam recommended that staff prepare a letter of appreciation for Onni, along with those for Terry and Paul.

6) Recovery Program

Alex noted that the Bull Trout Working Group (BTWG) will hold workshops on the 5-year review this month and in December with US Fish and Wildlife Service. He noted that the active field season is wrapping up and that Emily Smith, BTWG Coordinator, Mid-Columbia Fisheries, will coordinate the gathering and analysis of 2020 temperature data.

Alex update the Board on the Lower Yakima. He noted that funding for the stargrass harvester, requested by Benton Conservation District, has been approved by the legislature. He also noted that the Yakama Nation is hiring for a lower Yakima habitat lead. He also noted that two of the Yakima Basin Lead Entity SRFB funded projects are located in the Lower Yakima.

Alex noted that he is developing a work plan for the steelhead recovery plan update. He also updated the Board on a proposed partnership with Yakama Nation to update the Satus and Toppenish information and actions from the 2009 Yakima Steelhead Recovery Plan. Adam moved to approve delegating the final approval of an agreement with the Yakama Nation to the Executive Committee, Nancy seconded, and the motion was approved by all present.

Alex updated the Board on the Columbia Partnership, which will involve a state-led effort with tribal and stakeholder engagement to address Snake River dams and other Columbia Basin issues. He requested direction from the Board on how much to engage. Adam noted concern about scope creep and directed Alex to continue to track the group and participate if/when there is a topic to engage that is specific and relevant to the Yakima Basin.

7) State Policy and Budget

Alex reviewed a draft statement of priorities with the Board. There was some discussion on whether to include actual dollars for Floodplains by Design or simply general support for the program. The Nature Conservancy is advocating for a dollar number higher than that submitted by the Department of Ecology.

Tricia noted that the letter should highlight the cut to Lead Entity capacity funds and the need to return to "normal" in future budget discussions. She noted that Lead Entities across the state are concerned this cut capacity amount will become the baseline in future years.

The Board directed Alex to work with Adam on a cover letter and revisions the priorities based on the Board's discussion.

Alex reviewed SRFB monitoring policy decisions that will be finalized at the November SRFB meeting.

8) Outreach

Tricia updated the Board on the completion of the new YBFWRB website, which is largely done with staff working on some minor clean-up items.

Tricia updated the Board on the habitat booklet she has been working on with Ashton Bunce, Yakama Nation and Melissa Speeg, Kittitas Conservation Trust. The booklet is intended for use by partners across the basin, the audience targeted was landowners but the group hopes it will be useful in reaching multiple audiences. Nancy noted that it would be good to have some in offices of Board members. Tricia hopes that the booklet will be completed by the end of the year and encouraged Board members to let her know if they would like printed copies.

Tricia noted that Kelsey Green, American Rivers, had to leave the meeting early. Kelsey has been leading a group of partners in an effort to produce a new website for the Yakima Basin Integrated Plan. The website is now complete and Tricia encouraged Board members to share the new site and touch base with Kelsey for more information on how to engage through social media, etc.

9) Board Logistics

Alex asked for Board approval to donate an old laptop that is not being utilized by staff to Benton Conservation District. Nancy moved to approve, Troy seconded, and the motion was approved by all present.

Patricia encouraged staff to move forward with Zoom interviews and noted the City of Yakima just completed a fully virtual interview process and has hired a new City Manager.

10) Public Comment

No public comment was received.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:07pm.