



YAKIMA BASIN  
FISH AND WILDLIFE  
RECOVERY BOARD

## Minutes of the August 10th, 2022 Annual Board Meeting

*Approved at the 9-26-2022 meeting*

Meeting held from 2 pm to 4 pm at The Reach Museum in Richland, WA

**In-person Participants:** Kelsey Harbick (Yakama Nation), David Brown & Patricia Byers (City of Yakima), Adam Fyall (Benton County), Richard Bloom (City of West Richland), Jay McGowan (City of Cle Elum)

**Virtual Participants:** Steve Becken (City of Prosser), Arden Thomas (Kittitas County)

**Guests:** Ralph Lampman (Yakama Nation) and Brad Klippert (State Representative)

**Staff:** Alex Conley, Michael Horner, Kayla Gallentine

**VIRTUAL PARTICIPANT MEETING LINK:** <https://meet.goto.com/AlexC/ybfwrp-meetings>

*Following a morning tour, lunch, presentations and awards, the business meeting of the Board of Directors was called to order at 2:15 pm and a quorum was confirmed.*

### 1) Welcome, Introductions, Agenda and Review of Minutes

Board Members introduced themselves and approved the minutes of the 5-18-22 Board Meeting by consensus of all present. The agenda was adjusted to move public comment to the beginning.

### 2) Board Correspondences, Pubic Comment and Announcements

Alex provided the following updates:

- A) There is no new incoming or outgoing correspondence to review or approve.
- B) Board members should fill out and submit their annual Board of Directors certification forms.
- C) Board staff are working with partners to coordinate and support applications for the America The Beautiful grant program, NOAA fish passage and habitat grants and other current and upcoming Infrastructure Act funding opportunities.
- D) Alex and Kayla met with Carlos Pelley - the new archivist at the Yakima Valley Library- to discuss the MOA between the Board and Yakima Valley Library. This will be a great opportunity to build a longtime archive on natural resources in the Yakima river basin and we are excited to be working with new staff to implement the agreement.
- E) In June, the Executive Committee authorized funding Benton Conservation District to complete water stargrass evaluations in 2022 to provide information on water stargrass response in a high-flow water year. Members expressed support for this agreement and the ongoing efforts to manage water stargrass issues in the Lower Yakima.

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### **3) Review and Approve 2022 Lead Entity Ranked Project List**

Michael Horner gave a presentation on the 2022 grant round and the ranked project list submitted by the Citizen Committee for Board approval and submission to the Washington Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB). This was the 23<sup>rd</sup> SRFB grant round in the Yakima Basin, and the largest by far. There were 13 SRFB proposals this year, of which 12 were for projects under \$5 Million (\$3.9 million total). One large project proposal was received for \$4.796 million for the Gap-to-Gap Ecosystem Restoration Project. The Board discussed the ranking process used and the rationale for the list as presented.

The Klickitat Lead Entity has requested for use of \$490,000 of Mid-Columbia funds for the Columbia Land Trust's Upper Rattlesnake Creek Conservation Project in the White Salmon watershed, outside of the Mid-Columbia Region. Richard Bloom moved to approve the 2022 Yakima Ranked Project list and the Klickitat Lead Entity request to use Mid-C funds in the White Salmon LE Rank list. Jay McGowan seconded the motion, which passed with the support of all present.

Richard Bloom moved to delegate authority to staff to allocate SRFB funds to alternate projects if additional monies become available. Jay McGowan seconded the motion, which passed with the support of all present.

### **4) Review/Approve Large Project and Supplemental Large Project Grant Round**

Michael Horner updated the Board on the new large project funding opportunity with the SRFB. One large project- the Gap top Gap Ecosystem Restoration Project- has been recommended by the Citizen Committee for submission to the SRFB in Track 1, as well as for submission as a Targetted Investment proposal. The goals of this major project include opening floodplain habitat, reestablishing a side channel, reconnecting other channels and removing multiple dikes along the Yakima river mainstem. Richard Bloom made and Patricia Byers seconded a motion to submit the Gap to Gap project to the SRFB for both large project funding and Targetted Investment funding. The motion passed with the support of all present.

Michael then noted the need to identify additional proposals using the SRFB's Track 2 and reviewed the proposed Request for Proposals, schedule and ranking process. Richard Bloom moved that the Board approve the RFP, Schedule and Criteria for the fall Large Project Grant Round. Patricia Byers seconded the motion, which passed with the support of all present.

### **5) Pacific Lamprey Conservation Agreement**

Ralph Lampman gave a presentation on Pacific Lamprey and the Pacific Lamprey Conservation Agreement and the Board discussed the importance of conserving diverse species and not just salmon. The group discussed the merits of either signing or providing a support letter for the agreement. Richard Bloom moved that the Board join the agreement as a signatory; Patricia Byers seconded the motion, which passed with the support of all present.

### **6) Board Agreement with Mid-Columbia Fisheries for staff support for Bull Trout work**

Alex briefly reviewed the draft agreement with Mid-Columbia Fisheries for up to 50 hrs/month of staff support for our Bull Trout Program. He noted that the cost of up to \$29,650 would be fully reimbursed by our contract with the Department of Ecology to convene the Yakima Bull Trout Working Group. The agreement will end on by Dec 31, 2023, which is the end date for our

agreement with Ecology. Jay McGowan moved to approve the agreement as presented; Dave Brown seconded the motion which passed with the support of all present.

#### **7) Convening Legislative Outreach Committee**

The Board discussed the Executive Committee's proposal to create a legislative outreach committee to develop talking points and outreach strategies for the 2023 state legislative session.

Representative Klippert noted the value of face-to-face interaction with legislators and noted that it often worked well to work with legislative staff to move meetings to a hearing room with more room and the opportunity to bring together multiple legislators. Richard Bloom moved to create a legislative outreach committee open to Board members and partners. Jay McGowan seconded the motion, which passed with the support of all present. Alex noted that he would work to convene the committee in September to provide input at the next Board of Directors meeting; Jay McGowan, Patricia Byers and Adam Fyall all volunteered to participate; Kelsey Harbick noted she would look into how the Yakama Nation would like to participate.

#### **8) Review Proposed Changes to By-Laws**

The Board reviewed the proposed changes to the bylaws prepared in the spring to clarify that a jurisdiction holds the Board of Directors seat and may appoint a replacement individual as needed. Dave Brown moved to approve the proposed bylaws as presented and Patricia Byers seconded the motion. The motion passed with the support of all present.

#### **9) Review and Approve Board of Directors Membership**

The group reviewed the current Board of Director's membership and invited nominations for new members; none were received. Members noted the value of reaching out to city clerks about representation on the Board, and Alex noted that the annual letter to members had resulted in an inquiry from the City of Tieton to learn more about the Board. Alex noted that he would follow up with Jack Galloway regarding participation by the City of Union Gap and whether to treat that seat as a vacancy. A motion to affirm the Board of Directors membership as presented was passed with the support of all present.

#### **10) Committee Memberships, Officer Elections and Agent Appointment**

Following discussion and nominations, Richard Bloom moved to reappoint current officers for the next fiscal year. The motion passed with the support of all present.

Kelsey Harbick accepted Richard Bloom's nomination to serve as an at-large member of the Executive Committee; A motion to appoint Richard Bloom and Kelsey Harbick as At-Large members of the Executive Committee was passed with the support of all present.

The group reviewed the status of the Technical Advisory Group (TAG) and Citizen Committee (CC) memberships and highlighted that are 2 to 3 Yakama Nation CC vacancies and one for Kittitas County. Michael noted that he would work with Board members to secure new CC appointments prior to the 2023 grant round.

Richard Bloom made and Patricia Byers seconded a motion to appoint Alex Conley as the Board's Registered Agent. The motion passed with the support of all present.

### **11) Set Board Meeting Schedule**

The Board reviewed the proposed meeting dates for 2022-2023. Adam Fyall suggested that we hold the 2023 annual meeting in the upper basin. Members expressed support for returning to 4 hours meeting blocks with lunch, speakers and extended discussions on specific topics prior to the business meeting. Members also supported to listing all meetings as in person, with a remote participation option available.

Richard Bloom moved to approve the 22-23 meeting schedule as presented; Patricia Byers seconded the motion. The motion passed with the support of all present.

### **12) Review and Approve Revised FY2021-23 Work Plan & Budget**

Richard Bloom moved to approve the 22-23 workplan and budget as presented; Patricia Byers seconded the motion. The motion passed with the support of all present.

### **13) Public Comment**

No public comments were made, and the meeting adjourned at 4:05 PM