



YAKIMA BASIN
FISH AND WILDLIFE
RECOVERY BOARD

Minutes of the September 26, 2022 Board of Directors Meeting

As approved at the 11-30-2022 Board Meeting

Business Meeting held from 2 pm to 4 pm; in person with option to join via GoToMeeting web conference

Members present: Adam Fyall (Benton County), Troy Havens & Ron Anderson (Yakima County), Kelsey Harbick (Yakama Nation), Richard Bloom (City of West Richland), Jack Galloway (Union Gap), Patricia Byers & David Brown (City of Yakima), Nancy Lillquist (City of Ellensburg),

Staff present: Alex Conley, Michael Horner, Kayla Gallentine

Guests: Michael Livingston (WDFW, workshop only), Abby Bailey

In the 1 to 2 pm pre-meeting workshop, the group reviewed state budget requests related to salmon recovery and identified those that have the most connection to the Board and partners efforts in the Yakima Basin.

The business meeting of the Board of Directors was called to order at 2:10 pm following confirmation of a quorum.

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

Following welcomes and introductions the Board reviewed the agenda and adjusted the order of topics. A motion was made to approve the minutes of the August 10 Annual Board Meeting pending incorporation of the typographic edits provided by Troy Havens. The motion was approved with the support of all present.

2) Board Announcements, Updates and Correspondence.

- a) Alex encouraged Board of Directors members and alternates to submit their annual Board Certification form if they have not already done so.
- b) Alex updated the Board on the large number of recent funding opportunities and noted that this would hopefully result in significant new funding for priority projects in the Yakima. The Board briefly discussed the capacity challenges that responding to numerous often uncoordinated grant opportunities creates for project sponsors.
- c) Alex highlighted the recently completed Little Naches Levee Removal Project and noted that it is impressive to see the rapid changes occurring following project completion.
- d) Adam and Richard updated the Board on the Yakama Nation Chamna Gathering held in Richland on September 1st to promote the Yakima Delta Project. Alex noted a similar event is being planned to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the removal of Condit Dam.

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- e) Alex updated the Board on the Brian Abbott Fish Barrier Removal Board's funding recommendations. All 4 Yakima proposals are included in the list, but only one, on Naneum Creek, ranked in the upper part of the list. What is funded will depend on how much funding the legislature appropriates to the program.
- f) Alex gave a brief update on the status of 2021-2022 fish runs in the Yakima Basin.
- g) Alex updated the Board on recent Yakima Bull Trout Work Group meetings and noted that all staff had had the opportunity to join bull trout survey work in September.
- h) Alex gave an update on the steelhead recovery program, highlighting work on the Yakama Nation recovery update contract and the fish passage prioritization project with Aspect Consulting.

3) Public Comment: No public comment was received.

4) Board Logistics

*A) Approve extension of MCFEG office sublease** The Board reviewed the updated language to allow the MOA setting up the sublease of office space to Mid-Columbia Fisheries to self-renew. Richard Bloom motioned to approve the updated MOA, Ron Anderson seconded, and the motion passed with the consent of all present.

*B) Review and approval of 990 and Annual Financial Statement** Abby Bailey, CPA, presented the FY2022 Audited Financial Statement and IRS 990 tax return to the Board. Both were sent out to the Board for review the previous week. Following review and discussion, Patricia Byers moved a motion to approve the FY2022 Audited Financial Statement and IRS 990 tax return as presented, Ron Anderson seconded, and the motion passed with the consent of all present. Abby will work with Alex and Adam to finalize the documents and submit the 990 Form to the IRS.

*C) City of Union Gap participation in Board of Directors meetings** The Board of Directors welcomed Jack Galloway to the Board as representative for the City of Union Gap. He noted that he is glad to be able to participate and is excited to learn more. *Planning for November 30th Board of Directors meeting:* The Board of Director reviewed and provided feedback on proposed topics for the November 30th meeting.

*D) Next steps for Strategic Planning** Alex noted that the strategic planning work originally planned for last winter/spring was deferred to allow staff to focus on new and emerging funding opportunities. Alex proposed reinitiating the process and presented a draft timeline for securing a contractor by November 30th and initiating work with the Board in January so that a final plan can be presented and approved at the 2023 Annual Meeting in August. Board members expressed that this work is a priority and that the proposed schedule looked good.

5) Lead Entity Program

A) 2022 Regular Grant Round Updates: Michael Horner presented a summary of the 2022 regular grant round, noting that our ranked project list had been modified after one project was pulled out by the sponsor and had been reviewed and approved by the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB). Sponsors are now working to develop project contracts with the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO).

B) 2022 Large Project Ranked List:* Michael gave an overview of the new SRFB Large Project funding opportunity for projects over \$5 million and explained the differences between the Track 1 and Track 2 project review process. The Board submitted one large project, the Gap to Gap Ecosystem Restoration Project, as part of Track 1. It was partially funded by the separate

statewide Targetted Investment program, with the difference funded from our large project allocation. This leaves approximately \$2.6 million to be awarded through the Track 2 process, with SRFB funding decisions to be made at its December meeting.

Michael reviewed the Track 2 funding process to date, which has utilized the procedures approved by the Board in August. Two proposals were received, ranked and reviewed. Michael presented the ranked funding list proposed by the ranking committee and briefly described the two projects, the Yakima River Corridor Plan Implementation Phase II Project (ranked #1) and the Toppenish Creek at Pom Pom Road Floodplain Restoration Project (ranked #2). The group described uncertainties associated with concluding a deal with the landowner for the first project, and noted that if these are not resolved, the project would be withdrawn to allow funds to flow to the second project.

Patricia Byers moved to approve the ranked Track 2 large project list as presented. Ron Anderson seconded the motion, which was approved with the support of all present.

6) Outreach Program Update and Plans

Kayla gave an overview of recent outreach activities, and Alex and Kayla reviewed planned outreach activities. Board members recommended building connections with local government Public information Officers.

7) Columbia River Updates

Alex gave a brief update on Columbia and Snake River Policy developments, including the recently released NOAA Five Year Review, the Columbia Basin Partnership, the recent Murray/Inslee report on Snake River Dams, and the current federal mediation process being led by the CEQ on behalf of the Biden administration.

8) State Legislative Outreach

*A) Letter to OFM and Governor** The group picked up the review of state budget requests begun in the pre-meeting workshop, and then directed Alex to draft a letter to OFM and the Governor reflecting the priorities discussed. Patricia Byers made a motion to approve the proposed Letter to the Governor pending email review and concurrence by Board of Directors members, which was seconded and approved by consent of all present.

B) Plans for 2023 session legislative outreach to meet in October. The Board discussed winter legislative outreach activities and agreed to convene the legislative outreach committee in October to develop recommendations for consideration at the November 30th Board of Directors meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:03 pm.