



Minutes of the January 25, 2023 Board of Directors Meeting

Approved 3-29-2023

Hybrid Meeting with participation in person at the YBFWRB Conference Room or via GoToMeeting

Members present: Adam Fyall (Benton County), Kelsey Martin Harbick (Yakama Nation), Richard Bloom (City of West Richland), Nancy Lillquist (City of Ellensburg), Steve Becken (City of Prosser), Brett Wachsmith & Arden Thomas (Kittitas County), Patricia Byers & David Brown & Mike Shane (City of Yakima)

Staff present: Alex Conley, Michael Horner, Kayla Gallentine

Others present: Jared Iverson, John Foltz (Snake River Recovery Board) Aimee Taylor (MCFEG), Allison Handler (Travertine Strategies)

Pre-Meeting Work Session: Board members recognized David Brown for his contributions to the Board and water management in the Yakima Basin and wished him well in his retirement. The Board then reviewed legislative proposals and identified priorities for legislative outreach. John Foltz of the Snake River Salmon Recovery Board presented on the Walla Walla 2050 Plan and associated legislation, noting that it had many similarities to the Yakima Basin Integrated Plan.

The business meeting of the Board of Directors was called to order at 2:05 pm following confirmation of a quorum.

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

After welcomes and introductions of new members and partners, a motion was made to approve the minutes of the November 25th Board of Directors Meeting as presented. The motion was approved with the support of all present. The Agenda was adopted as presented, with none opposed.

2) Public Comment

No public comment was received.

3) Announcements and Correspondence

a) Bridge naming letter*

The Board reviewed and approved a letter to the Washington Transportation Commission supporting the proposal to name a new I-82 Interchange Bridge after previous Board Chair and City of Union Gap mayor, Dan Olson.

b) December member letter response

Alex noted that the response by member governments to the December membership letter was positive, and that it led to updates to Board representatives and requests for presentations to the City Councils of Yakima, Ellensburg, Union Gap and Prosser.

c) Approval of Legislative letters/positions*

The Board of Directors reviewed the priorities identified in the work session and finalized a statement of positions to be used in upcoming legislative outreach efforts, including February 2-3 in-person visits.

e) Yakima Delta Project Update

The Corps of Engineers is proposing to remove the entire Bateman island Causeway. Public Houses are scheduled for Feb 23rd at the REACH Museum in Richland at 12:00-2:00 and 3:00-6:00. Staff and the Exec Board will work together to propose Board comments once the Corps document is released for review.

4) Board Logistics

a) Strategic Planning Contract Approval and Logistics*

Travertine Strategies proposed two options for board and staff members to consider for the upcoming Strategic Planning Retreat: A single 8-hour full day retreat, or two 4-hour virtual meetings. The Board expressed a preference for an in-person retreat. This retreat will require attendance in person, or virtually, and will not be offered as a hybrid event. Both Adam Fyall and Richard Bloom volunteered to help direct the steering committee but expressed that they would appreciate 1-2 more volunteers. Richard Bloom moved to approve the proposed Strategic Planning Contract with Travertine Strategies as presented and Patricia Byers seconded the motion, which was approved with the support of all present.

b) Planning for March 29th Board of Directors meeting

Members reviewed and provided feedback on the draft agenda for the March 29 Board of Directors meeting.

c) Financial Reports

Alex noted the financial reports were in the packet; no questions or comments were received.

5) Lead Entity Program

a) Approval of Schedule, Manual and RFP for 2023 Grant Round*

Michael Horner gave an update on funded SRF projects, noting that there are 29 active projects in the Yakima Basin with three 2022 projects still pending contracting. He then reviewed the materials setting up the 2023 Yakima Basin SRFB Grant Round. The Board of Directors approved, with the support of all present, the 2023 Grant Round Schedule, the grant round Request for Proposals, and the 2023 Lead Entity Manual, all as presented.

b) Committee membership and recruitment

Michael then reviewed the current membership and vacancies on the Citizen Committee and the Technical Advisory Group and discussed with Board members the process for generating nominations for new members to be approved at the March 29th meeting. Board members committed to working to identify nominees to fill vacancies; Michael committed to sharing brief job descriptions that can be used in recruiting.

6) Outreach Program Update

Kayla Gallentine, Board, the YBFWRB Operations and Outreach Manager, presented an update on completed and planned outreach activities. YBFWRB Staff are currently working with the City of Ellensburg and Kittitas County on a workshop targeting streamside land owner interested in proactive flood mitigation, preparing the 2023 Easter Washington Riparian Planting Symposium and setting up presentations to City Councils. Web maintenance and social media engagement are ongoing.

7) Recovery Program Updates

a) Bull Trout Work Group update

Aimee Taylor, who is on contract to the Board through Mid-Columbia Fisheries to support the Yakima Bull Trout Working Group, gave a presentation introducing herself and describing her work to support the Bull Trout Working Group. Alex noted that he is excited that coordinated funding from the Board, WDFW and Mid-Columbia Fisheries means that Aimee is able to focus full-time on bull trout recovery in the Yakima Basin.

a) Steelhead Recovery Updates

Alex updated the group on the two current steelhead recovery contracts, one with Aspect Consulting for fish passage prioritization, and the other with the Yakama Nation for updating Satus and Toppenish Population chapters of the Yakima Steelhead Recovery Plan.

8) 3 PM to 4 PM: STRATEGIC PLANNING INTRO SESSION

The last hour was devoted to an overview and discussion of our proposed Strategic Planning Process with Allison Handler, Principle of Travertine Strategies. Allison provided a visual overview of the Strategic Planning process, introduced the consulting team (Allison Handler and Amy Stork), and reviewed the projected timeline. Allison then led a discussion with Board members about what YBFWRB has done that's been successful, what we can expand, what we should shelve, and what have we not done yet.

*Indicates decision item

The meeting was adjourned at 4:05.