

MEETING OVERVIEW

For the January 21, 2026 YBFWRB Board of Directors Meeting

Please RSVP using this form: <https://ybfwrb.org/0121rsvp/>

In-person attendees at the Board's office in Yakima is encouraged (at [1200 Chesterly Drive, Suite 280 in Yakima](https://www.google.com/maps/place/1200+Chesterly+Drive,+Suite+280+in+Yakima,+WA+98901/@47.23444,-120.49944,15z))

Link for remote participation via Zoom: The Online meeting option will start at 12:20 pm via Zoom. Here is the link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89993931512> Passcode: **12345**

NOTES ON DIGITAL MEETING:

1. *We are using Zoom. Please join the meeting 5-10 minutes early so that you have time to set up any required plug-ins, etc.*
2. *If you are having trouble joining the meeting, email or text Alex at (509) 453-6007; aconley@ybfwrb.org*
3. *Please do use the computer link so that you can view shared materials and use the chat bar to participate and request a chance to speak.*
4. *Use of video is optional but recommended.*
5. *Note that using computer audio and/or video requires a fast web connection; if your connection is struggling, call in via phone.*
6. *Use the raised hand function if you would like us to call on you to speak. We <https://ybfwrb.org/rsvp/> also use the hand function to call for Yeas and Nays on motions.*
7. *When not talking, please mute yourself on the Zoom meeting control panel to avoid feedback and background noise.*

The pre-meeting lunch and workshop is cancelled due to changing schedules of planned presenters.

BUSINESS MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS FROM 2-4 PM

2 pm – 4 pm Business Meeting Topics

1. Introductions and Welcome

2. Agenda and Minutes

The Board will review/approve the agenda, and the minutes from our August Annual Meeting. The [agenda \(Item #1\)](#) and [draft minutes of the November 19 meeting \(Item #3\)](#) are attached, as are notes from the [January 8th Executive Committee meeting \(Item #4\)](#).

3. Updates and Announcements

We'll share a brief power point with partner and program updates; Do also feel free to bring your own updates to share! Topics include:

- a) Announcing our new Operations Manager who will start on February 2.
- b) Fish run & water year updates

- c) Upcoming Events (click on links to see flyers):
 - i. [February 26-27 Eastern Washington Riparian Planting Symposium](#)
 - ii. [Cowihe Conservancy/Yakima Valley College Winter Talks](#)
 - iii. [The Mid-Columbia Fisheries Winter Speakers Series](#)
- d) WSDOT outreach to seek partner help identifying future stormwater retrofit projects on state highways; we'll discuss how we can drive traffic to the [survey](#) and [prioritization map](#) they have prepared.
- e) Project updates on the Bateman Island Casueway, Gold Creek and the South Fork Tieton Bridge.
- f) Recovery Program updates:
 - i. Bull Trout Program updates
 - ii. Naches Forest Partnership
 - iii. December 9 presentation to the SRFB
 - iv. Jan 20 Presentation to Barrier Removal Board
 - v. Monitoring Committee next steps
- g) Others?

4. Public Comment

Members of the public will be invited to speak to any items on the agenda, or any additional items.

5. Correspondence

We'll discuss three sent letters and the response we received:

- a. Board [Letter to the SRFB on Targeted Investment Policies \(Item #5a\)](#)
- b. Board January [Letter to Legislators \(Item #5b\)](#)
- c. Board December [letter to member governments \(Item #5c\)](#)
 - i. [Response from Senator Boenke \(Item 5d\)](#)

We have several outgoing letters to discuss:

- a. Input on the **Northwest Power and Conservation Council's 2026 Fish and Wildlife Program Amendments** are due March 2, prior to our next meeting. We should discuss whether to send our comments (to be drafted) under a staff or chair signature and whether and how Directors would like to participate in developing and reviewing the letter. There will be a Hearing on the draft program at the Yakima Convention Center at 4:30 on Feb 4th. More info on the Program Amendment and the review process can be found [here](#).
- b. I anticipate that prior to our meeting we will receive a **proposed Sign on Letter in support of full funding for the DNR 1168 Forest Resilience Program**; we'll take a look at

that letter and ask if the Board would like to sign on. When I receive it I will place it in this folder: [Support Letters](#).

- c. We have a number of **requests for support letters for applications being submitted to the state's Fish Barrier Removal Board**. Staff will place the letters in this folder as they are completed: [Support Letters](#). We will be asking for Board approval so they can be sent under the Chair's signature.

6. Board Logistics

- a. We will review the [FY 2026 Quarterly Financial Report \(Item #7\)](#)
- b. December was a busy month for **negotiating and finalizing funding agreements for the Board**. Completed Agreements included:
 - i. The agreement with DNR to provide \$10,000 to support the Naches Forest Partnership through June 30.
 - ii. The agreement with the National Forest Foundation to provide \$29,991 to support the Naches Forest Partnership through Dec 31, 2027.
 - iii. The MOA between the Board and Mid-Columbia Fisheries for staff support from Mid-Columbia for the Board's Bull trout program through 12/31/2026.

One agreement was drafted in December but is still awaiting final approval:

- iv. The agreement with the Department of Ecology that provides state funding for our Bull Trout program through 12/31/2027 (final approval delegated to the Chair at our November Board of Directors meeting).

Two agreements are anticipated in the near future:

- v. A to-be-drafted amendment to our agreement with Katie Strahl for facilitation and coordination of the Naches Forest Partnership; **staff proposes that the Board delegate approval of this amendment to the Executive Committee so it can be completed prior to April 1st**.
- vi. A proposed agreement with the Washington Resource Conservation and Development Council for additional funding for the Naches Forest Partnership. Staff hopes to have this ready for Board approval at the April 1 meeting.

We also anticipate reinitiating development of proposals and associated contracts for updating our Board policy manuals and updating our Communications Plan once our new Operations Manager is in place to lead those efforts. Expect proposals at the April 1 meeting.

c. **Membership Update:**

Our previous City of Yakima representative, Danny Herrera, is no longer on City Council; **the City has appointed Juliet Potrykus as the new City of Yakima representative on the Board of Directors**, with Matt Brown to serve as her alternate. We will confirm her appointment and welcome her on board.

d. April 1 and May 20 Meeting Planning:

We will discuss the [draft agenda for the April 1 meeting \(Item #8\)](#). We are proposing to hold the meeting in the Tri-Cities and incorporate tours of the Bateman Island Causeway Removal project and other nearby projects; we'd like to confirm these plans with the Board.

We'll also discuss the **location, topics and workshop focus for the May 20 Board of Directors meeting**. This is the meeting where we'll need to approve any revisions to our two-year work plan and budget, so that those can be sent out to the full membership to review at least 60 days before our Annual Meeting.

e. 2026 Annual Meeting

The Yakama Nation is on board to cohost our August 5th Annual meeting; staff will work with them to bring a detailed proposal for our tour, lunch and presentations to the Board of Directors at our April 1 meeting.

7. Lead Entity Program

Cheyne will update the Board on preparations for our 2026 SRFB grant round and **ask for motions to approve the following:**

- d. The [2026 updated Lead Entity Manual \(Item #9\)](#)
- e. The [2026 Grant Round Schedule \(Item #10\)](#)
- f. The [2026 Request for Proposals \(Item #11\)](#), which will be released following the meeting to officially open the grant round.

Cheyne will then review current vacancies and **introduce the nominations received for new Citizen Committee members and put those forward for Board approval**. [Bios will be placed in this folder](#) as they are received.

Finally, Cheyne will provide updates on other state grant programs currently open for applications, including the Fish Barrier Removal Board, Floodplains by Design and the Ecology Streamflow Grant program. Updates.

8. Review/approve Annual Financial Statement and IRS 990 Form

Abby Bailey will join us to review the **FY2025 Financial statement and accompanying IRS 990 form** that she has prepared for us; the Board will discuss and decide whether to approve, or to defer approval to a later date to allow more review. We will email out the draft when received.

9. Legislative Outreach Program

We'll review the [Legislative Outreach Work Plan \(Item #13\)](#) and discuss plans for the February 3-4 Salmon Day visits with legislators. Our discussions with legislators will be guided by our points highlighted in [our recent letter to them](#) and the [Salmon Days Talking Points \(Item #14\)](#). We'll also bring our about-to-be -released Updated Project Booklet, a Water Stargrass handout, and potentially, a flyer announcing our Annual Meeting and Fall Legislative Tour.

Finally, we will **discuss and potentially set a date for a Fall legislative outreach tour**.