

MEETING OVERVIEW

For the April 1st, 2026 YBFWRB Board of Directors Meeting

Please RSVP using this form: <https://ybfwrb.org/0401rsvp/>

In-person attendees at the Ben Franklin Transit office in Richland is encouraged. The office is at [1000 Columbia Park Trail, Richland, WA 99352](#)

Link for remote participation via Zoom: The Online meeting option will start at 12:50 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 Amber at (509) 453-6008; aknox@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 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 day will start with the 10 AM TOUR OF YAKIMA DELTA PROJECTS

Meet at the Ben Franklin Transit Parking Lot at 9:45 to arrange carpools

We will reconvene at the Ben Franklin Transit Conference Room at 12:30 for a pizza lunch;

The online connection should be live by 12:50 for the 1 PM WORKSHOP, with three topics:

Salmon-Safe Program Presentation by Kevin Scribner (20 min)

Discussion with Klickitat Lead Entity coordinator Keaton Curtis (20 min)

Board Workplan review (20 min) **BE READY TO TALK ABOUT ANY CHANGES WE WANT TO MAKE IN OUR WORKPLAN; it can be viewed at <https://ybfwrb.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/FY26-27-WORK-PLAN-Approved-8-6-25.pdf>**

THE BUSINESS MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS WILL BE HELD FROM 2-4 PM

ALL MEETING MATERIALS ARE IN THIS SHARED FOLDER: [Jan 21 Board Meeting](#)

2 pm – 4 pm Business Meeting Topics

1. Introductions and Welcome

2. Agenda and Minutes

The Board will review/approve the agenda ([Item #1](#)) and the minutes from our January Board of Directors Meeting ([Item #3](#)). The March 5th Executive Committee notes are also available for your review ([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) Welcoming Amber Knox, our new Operations Manager.
- b) Fish run & water year updates
- c) Feb 26-27 Populus Symposium
- d) April 24 Delta Celebration
- e) Lower Yakima Recovery Program updates

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've sent a number of letters since the January meeting, including:

- a. Two support letters for the Gold Creek Valley Restoration Project ([Item #5](#))
- b. Five support letters for Yakima Basin projects submitted to the Brian Abbot Fish Barrier Removal Board grant program ([Item #6](#))
- c. A support letter for the Teanaway Forks Restoration Project application to Ecology's Streamflow Grants Program ([Item #7](#))

Do let us know at the meeting if you'd like to discuss any of these letters, and we can pull them up for to review them together.

We have also received two sets of letters that warrant formal responses:

- a. A letter from the City of Union Gap ([Item #8](#)) removing Julie Schilling from her position on the Board of Directors, to which **we have draft a response for the Board of Director's review and approval ([Item #9](#)).**
- b. A series of letters between Red Hawk Ranch and its lawyers, the Kittitas Conservation Trust and RCO which mention us ([Item #10](#)). **The issue raised- and considerations for our response- are detailed in [Item #11](#).**

At our last meeting, we discussed submitting input on the Northwest Power and Conservation Council's 2026 Fish and Wildlife Program Amendments; staff time limitations meant that we did not submit input.

6. Review and Approval of FY2025 Fincial Statement and 990 Tax Return

Abby Bailey of Bailey CPA will join us virtually to review the draft FY 2025 Fincial Statement ([Item #12](#)) and annual IRS 990 Tax Return ([Item #13](#)) that she has prepared for the Board. **We'll have a chance to ask questions and either approve both documents or discuss the process to amend and approve final versions.**

7. Board Logistics

a. **We have an amendment to our MOA #9 with Mid-Columbia Fisheries to consider ([Item #14](#)).**

We use this MOA to pass through funds we receive from the Bureau of Land Management to Mid-Columbia Fisheries for use in on-the-ground restoration work on BLM and adjoining lands in the Kittitas Reach just above the Yakima Canyon. The BLM agreement expires on August 31st, 2026 and th=is amendment allocates the remaining BLM funds to this work and clarifies which tasks will be completed.

b. **We also need to review and potentially approve an amendment to our agreement with Katie Strahl for facilitation and coordination of the Naches Forest Partnership ([Item #15](#)).**

This is a simple placeholder amendment that adds \$10,00 and extends the end date from March 31 to June 30, 2026 to allow current work to continue unimpeded. At our May 27 Board of Directors meeting we will consider a longer-term amendment (through the end of 2027) based on the receipt of additional funding the details of which we are still sorting out.

c. **Proposed Board Simple IRA Contribution Increase**

Recent tax law changes allow the Board to consider increasing the employer contribution to the Board's Simple IRA plan for employee retirement benefits from 3% to 4% of an employee's annual wages. The Executive Committee has expressed support for this change, and would like to incorporate the increase into the annual employee performance review and compensation adjustment process they will complete prior to June 30th. **We will be asking the Board of Directors to consider a motion to increase the maximum Board match to our Simple IRA to 4% effective July 1st.**

d. **May 27 Meeting Planning:**

We'll discuss the **location, topics and workshop focus for the May 27 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.

8. 2026 Annual Meeting Planning

The Yakama Nation is on board to cohost our August 5th Annual meeting. We'll review a draft agenda for the day ([Item #16](#)), discuss invitations to be sent, and start the process of identifying:

- a. Potential changes to our work plan and budget
- b. Potential Bylaw changes for review by the full board (we have one simple proposal so far, to change the number of TAG members- [see Item #17](#)))

- c. Potential changes to Board operating and personnel policies
- d. Board nominations for Board of Director membership and officer appointments.

Our goal at this meeting is to start people thinking, solicit input for the Executive Committee to consider at their next meeting, and plan how we use our time on May 27th to finalize a draft for review by the full Board membership (our bylaws specify mailing that out 60 days before our August 5th Annual Meeting).

9. Lead Entity Program

Cheyne will update the Board on our 2026 SRFB grant round and request that Board of Directors members deliberate, **nominate and approve candidates for the Citizen’s Committee. Bios of candidates are provided in [Item #18](#)**. We will be turning to Board Members from each County to deliberate during our meeting and nominate one candidate for each vacancy, and then ask the full Board of Directors to consider approving those nominations.

10. Legislative Outreach Program

We’ll review the Board activities and outcomes of the 2026 State Supplemental Budget session, discuss sending one or more follow-up letters to legislators, and begin planning for future legislative outreach.

It’ll be a full meeting, so thanks in advance for your support through it!

Alex