Draft Minutes for the August 5, 2026 YBFWRB Annual Meeting
The meeting was held at the Yakama Nation Fisheries office in Toppenish with remote participation via Zoom.

Board Members Present (in person): Adam Fyall (Benton County), Sara Ehmer (Yakima County), Richard Bloom (City of West Richland), Daniel Tiliano (City of Yakima), and Brandon Rogers (Yakama Nation).

Board Members Present (online): Nancy Lilliquist and Delano Palmer (City of Ellensburg), Juliet Potrykus (City of Yakima), and Geoff Scherer (City of Roslyn).

Staff Present: Alex Conley, Cheyne Mayer, and Amber Knox.

Guest speaker: Yakama Nation Councilmember John Washines

Additional Guests: Marcella Appel and Kristy Pentico (Benton Conservation District), Abby Nicholson, Brianna Road, and Katie Steiner (USDA), Amber Jackson and Michael Horner (Ecology), Tom Elliot (YKFP), Audrey Scott (Yakama Nation Fisheries), Leon Ganuelas and Robyn Wilson (Yakama Nation Wildlife), Sen. Judy Warnick and Julie Schilling.

Before the meeting, the group toured the Three-Way Levee Removal and Pom Pom Road restoration projects on Toppenish Creek from 9:00 a.m. to noon.

Lunch and Workshop Session
The workshop session was called to order at 12:33 p.m.

1. Welcome and Keynote Presentation: Yakama Nation Councilmember John Washines welcomed attendees on behalf of the Yakama Nation and spoke about his family's connection to salmon and Celilo Falls and the importance of respect for the earth and the role of water in connecting communities.

2. Opening Remarks and Awards: Chair Adam Fyall reflected on restoration progress in the Yakima Basin, including large-scale projects such as recently completed Nelson Dam and Bateman Island, and upcoming work on Wanawish Dam, Springwood Ranch, and water stargrass control. He thanked the Benton Conservation District and recognized Sen. Judy Warnick for her support in Olympia.

3. Partner and Project Recognition: Alex Conley presented the Partner of the Year Award to Marcella Appel and Kristy Pentico of the Benton Conservation District. Cheyne Mayer presented the Project of the Year Award to the Yakama Nation for the River Mile 89.5 side channel reconnection project. Adam Fyall presented Sen. Warnick with the Salmon Hero Award.

4. Federal Policy Update: Adam Fyall reported that Paul Ward of the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission could not attend. He noted pending federal legislation related to marine mammal predation.

5. State of the Yakima Update: Alex Conley provided an update on Yakima Basin recovery work. No questions or comments were offered.

The workshop session adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

Annual Meeting
The annual meeting was called to order at 2:10 p.m.

Board Members Present (in person): Adam Fyall (Benton County), Sara Ehmer (Yakima County), Richard Bloom (City of West Richland), Daniel Tiliano (City of Yakima), and Brandon Rogers (Yakama Nation).

Board Members Present (online): Nancy Lilliquist and Delano Palmer (City of Ellensburg), Juliet Potrykus (City of Yakima), and Geoff Scherer (City of Roslyn).

Staff Present: Alex Conley, Cheyne Mayer, and Amber Knox.

Additional Guests: Tom Elliot (YKFP) and Julie Schilling.

1. Welcome and Introductions: Board members and guests introduced themselves. Chair Adam Fyall confirmed that a quorum was present.

2. Approval of Agenda and Prior Minutes: Richard Bloom moved to approve the agenda and the May 27, 2026 minutes. Nancy Lilliquist seconded the motion. The Board of Directors approved the motion unanimously.

3. Board Updates and Announcements: Alex Conley reminded members to submit updated registration and conflict of interest forms, reported that the second five-year Bull Trout updated action plan is nearly complete, reviewed operations improvements in accounting, human resources, and technology support, noted that the annual audit would begin at the end of August, and previewed upcoming reviews of the Executive Director and Recovery Coordinator position descriptions.

4. Board Correspondence: The Board of Directors reviewed three correspondence items in the packet, including the Board's June letter to legislators, the Bull trout working Group recommendations to the Yakima Basin Integrated Plan Habitat Committee, and a letter from the Klickitat Lead Entity regarding use of Mid-Columbia funds on the White Salmon River.

5. Public Comment: Julie Schilling reported that she would schedule legislative meetings after elections are complete. She noted that Alex Ybarra is running unopposed for the Senate. Alex Conley noted that state agencies will submit budget requests in September and thanked Julie for organizing legislative outreach.

6. Board Logistics: Alex Conley reviewed logistics items, including Washington State Department of Natural Resources Forest Partnership agreements, the Washington Resource Conservation and Development Council contract for the Naches Forest Partnership, and bank signatory updates.

   The Board closed the fiscal year 2026 Washington State Department of Natural Resources agreement for $10,000 and reviewed a draft scope for continuing the work in fiscal year 2027 for $25,000. The Board will hold the $32,000 Washington Resource Conservation and Development Council contract for the Naches Forest Partnership for Board of Directors review on September 23.

   a. Richard Bloom moved to delegate approval of the $25,000 NFP coordination contract amendment to the Board Chair. Brandon Rogers seconded the motion. The Board of Directors approved the motion unanimously.
   b. Richard Bloom moved to remove Karin Yuki Reiss from all bank accounts and associated business records. Brandon Rogers seconded the motion. The Board of Directors approved the motion unanimously.

7. 2026 Lead Entity Ranked Project List: Cheyne Mayer reviewed the 2026 Lead Entity ranked project list. He reported that the Salmon Recovery Funding Board, Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund, riparian, and targeted investment funding programs supported 27 active projects. He explained that five projects could be fully funded with current SRFB funding and two could be partially funded.

   a. Richard Bloom moved to approve $61,841 of Mid-Columbia regional riparian funding for the Chehalis Basin project Scatter Cr, SE Headwaters, Riparian Restoration (26-1145) in exchange for the Chehalis Basin providing $61,841 of regular SRFB funding for the Yakima Basin project Salmon Creek Fish Passage Prelim Design (26-1469). Brandon Rogers seconded the motion. The Board of Directors approved the motion unanimously.
   b. Richard Bloom moved to approve the CC’s Regular SRFB ranked list as presented Brandon Rogers seconded the motion. The Board of Directors approved the motion unanimously.
   c. Richard Bloom moved to approve the CC’s Riparian ranked list as presented. Brandon Rogers seconded the motion. The Board of Directors approved the motion unanimously.
   d. Richard Bloom moved to approve the CC’s Targeted Investments ranked list as presented. Brandon Rogers seconded the motion. The Board of Directors approved the motion unanimously.
   e. Richard Bloom moved to authorize staff to make any subsequent changes to the ranked lists as funding scenarios are refined, so long as those changes are consistent with the original ranking. Brandon Rogers seconded the motion. The Board of Directors approved the motion unanimously.
   f. Richard Bloom moved to approve $126,057 of Mid-Columbia regional regular SRFB funding to fund a Klickitat Lead Entity project, Rattlesnake Creek Floodplain Reconnection & Enhancement (26-1602), in WRIA 29b in the Lower Columbia regional area. Brandon Rogers seconded the motion. The Board of Directors approved the motion unanimously.

g. Richard Bloom moved to approve $50,000 of Mid-Columbia regional riparian funding to fund a Klickitat Lead Entity project, Lower Spring Creek Road Fish Passage Design (26-1686), in WRIA 29b in the Lower Columbia regional. Brandon Rogers seconded the motion. The Board of Directors approved the motion unanimously.

8. Review and Approve Revised Fiscal Year 2027–2028 Work Plan and Budget: The Board of Directors reviewed the revised fiscal year 2027–2028 work plan and budget, which assumes continued PCSRF funding. Richard Bloom moved to approve the revised fiscal year 2027–2028 work plan and budget as presented. Brandon Rogers seconded the motion. The Board of Directors approved the motion unanimously.

9. Review Proposed Changes to the Bylaws: The Board of Directors reviewed proposed changes to the bylaws regarding Technical Advisory Group size. Richard Bloom moved to approve the proposed bylaw change setting the Technical Advisory Group size at 10-12 members. Brandon Rogers seconded the motion. The Board of Directors approved the motion unanimously.

10. Review Proposed Changes to Board Policies: No proposed policy changes were presented. Staff will bring the draft Personnel Manual to the September 23 Board of Directors meeting.

11. Review and Approve Board of Directors Membership: The Board of Directors reviewed its membership. One vacancy is expected in January, and the Yakama Nation Council needs to assign a permanent representative. Brandon Rogers said he would continue working on the assignment. Members did not suggest new members or report resignations.

    Richard Bloom clarified the process to designate an alternate and noted that vacancies may be filled at a regular meeting. Richard Bloom moved to reaffirm Board of Directors membership as presented. Brandon Rogers seconded the motion. The Board of Directors approved the motion unanimously.

12. Committee Memberships, Officer Elections, and Agent Appointment: The Board of Directors reviewed committee memberships, officer elections, signatories, and registered agent appointment.
    a. Richard Bloom nominated the current Executive Committee officer slate of Adam Fyall, Richard Bloom, and Nancy Lilliquist. No additional nominations were offered. The Board of Directors approved the slate unanimously.
    b. Brandon Rogers moved to reconfirm Adam Fyall as a Wells Fargo bank account signatory and add Richard Bloom as an additional signatory in his capacity as treasurer. Adam Fyall seconded the motion. The Board of Directors approved the motion unanimously.
    c. Richard Bloom moved to confirm Brandon Rogers and Troy Havens as at-large members of the Executive Committee. Brandon Rogers seconded the motion. The Board of Directors approved the motion unanimously.
    d. Richard Bloom moved to appoint Alex Conley as registered agent. Brandon Rogers seconded the motion. The Board of Directors approved the motion unanimously.

    Members were reminded to submit their annual certification form.

13. FY 2027 Board Meeting Schedule: The Board of Directors reviewed the proposed meeting schedule. Richard Bloom moved to approve the meeting schedule as presented. Brandon Rogers seconded the motion. The Board of Directors approved the motion unanimously.

    The September meeting will be in Ellensburg and will include a tour. Members discussed potential locations, including Ringer Road, Canyon Mouth, and Ellensburg. Nancy Lilliquist offered to host.

Richard Bloom moved to adjourn the meeting. Brandon Rogers seconded the motion. The Board of Directors approved the motion unanimously, and the meeting adjourned at 3:36 p.m.