

MEETING OVERVIEW

For the September 23rd, 2026 YBFWRB Board of Directors Meeting

Please RSVP using this form: <https://ybfwrb.org/calendar/ybfwrb-board-meeting-092326/>

In-person attendees at the Ellensburg City Hall is encouraged. The office is at [501 N. Anderson St., Ellensburg, WA 98926](#)

Link for remote participation via Zoom: The Online meeting option will start at 12:30 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 call Amber at (509) 453-6008 (no text at this #); 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 Kittitas County and City of Ellensburg Floodplain Restoration Projects

Meet at the Ellensburg City Hall Parking Lot at 9:45 to arrange carpools

First, we will head to the Kittitas Reach Floodplain Restoration project on the Yakima River just outside Ellensburg for a tour of the project led by Arden Thomas of Kittitas County. This is a long-term project that has involved multiple SRFB, YBIP and Floodplain by Design projects. We'll talk about how this work has all come together in an 800+ acre restoration area, see some of the completed work, and understand how our s#1 ranked Targetted Investment project will help complete the work.

Second, we will go to the City of Ellensburg's Reecer Creek floodplain project, to see past work and discuss future plans for this ambitious effort to restore floodplain habitat and fish passage while also greatly increasing flood protections for West Ellensburg.

We will reconvene at the Ellensburg City Hall at 12:30 for a pizza lunch;

The online connection should be live by 12:30 for the

12:40 PM WORKSHOP, with three topics:

- 1) Presentation by Todd Myer of the Washington Policy Center on proposed legislation to create a salmon project permit accelerator program (20 min). Here's [the current draft of the proposed legislation](#).
- 2) Presentation and discussion w Paul Ward of the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission (and previous Board member and chair) on federal salmon policy and sea lion predation legislation (20 min)
- 3) A discussion of potential state and federal policy priorities for consideration as we develop the Board's annual statement of policy priorities.

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

ALL MEETING MATERIALS ARE IN THIS SHARED FOLDER: [September 23 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 August Annual Meeting ([Item #3](#)). The Sept 8 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) Annual meeting recap
- b) Fish run & water year updates
- c) Bull Trout program updates
- d) SCCCS Bull Trout conference updates
- e) BLM project completion
- f) 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 two letters, both supporting applications to Reclamations WaterSmart grant program, since the August meeting. These are:

- a. A letter in support of the Gold Creek Valley Restoration Project ([Item #5a](#))
- b. A letter in support of the Teanaway Forks Restoration Project ([Item #5b](#))

We are currently working on drafting 3 additional letter for discussion with the Board, to include

- a. A support letter for the Populus riparian partnership's grant applications
- b. A statement for WDFW on the value of bull trout habitat in the South Fork Tieton
- c. A support letter for a US Forest Service Culvert project

These will be provided as soon as available.

6. Review and Approval of FY2026 Fincial Statement and 990 Tax Return

We are currently in the last stages of completing our FY2026 review; we anticipate that Abby Bailey of Bailey CPA will join us virtually to review the draft FY 2026 Fincial Statement(to be provided prior to the meeting) 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. Review of the Draft Employee Handbook

We are currently working with BackForty Advisors to complete the review draft of the new Employee Handbook; we will review the draft together and discuss specific items where Board input is needed. We plan to have the draft available prior to the meeting.

8. Board Staffing

- a. **We are ready to hire a Recovery Coordinator!** We discuss the need for this position and review and consider approving the proposed position description ([Item #9](#)). We also have a proposal from Shorett Communications, who have led our last 4 hiring processes, for doing the same with this position ([Item #10](#)). Staff and the Exec Committee are recommending working with Sarah again as it has greatly facilitated timely hiring.
- b. The Executive Committee will update the Board on its efforts to **update the Executive Director position description and the Operating handbooks Executive Director transition policies.** We are not anticipating an imminent transition but are working to clarify the roles of the Executive Director (something we have not done since 2006!) and how we would address a transition (I won't be here forever!)

9. Board Logistics

- a. Our FY2026 funding agreement with the Department of Natural Resources for \$25,000 to support the operations of the Naches Forest Partnership is ready for signature, pending your approval ([Item #11](#)).

- b. Our funding agreement with the Washington Resource and Development Council for \$22,750 to support the operations of the Naches Forest Partnership is ready for signature, pending your approval ([Item #12](#)).
- c. We will discuss implications of delayed federal funding for the Board and its budget (preview; we are good to hire the recovery coordinator but may face a need to tighten basic operations if delayed funding is not received).

10. Lead Entity Program

Cheyne will update the Board on our completed 2026 SRFB grant round and preparations for the 2027 grant round.

It'll be a full meeting, so thanks in advance for your support through it. Apologies for the late breaking materials- everything has been coming in all at once here, but we should be caught up by Weds!

Alex