



YAKIMA BASIN
FISH AND WILDLIFE
RECOVERY BOARD

Minutes of the 10/13/11 Board of Directors Meeting

As approved by the Board on January 26, 2012

Those present:

Members: Mike Leita (Yakima County), Nancy Lillquist (City of Ellensburg), John Hubbard (City of Kennewick), Dave Fast (Yakama Nation), Obie O'Brien (Kittitas County), Jay McGowan (City of Cle Elum)

Guests: Scott Rumsey (NOAA), Donna Darm (NOAA), Lynn Hatcher (NOAA), Dale Bambrick (NOAA), Ashton Bunce (SCA), Laura England (SCA), Michelle Steg-Geltner (Yakama Nation Fisheries)

Staff: Alex Conley (Executive Director), Denise Buck (Operations and Outreach Coordinator), Darcy Batura (Lead Entity Program Coordinator), Yuki Reiss (Recovery Coordinator)

Pre-Meeting Presentation and Tour

Prior to our regular meeting we met with the NOAA guests at the Cle Elum fish hatchery for a brief orientation to the Board, followed by a tour of habitat projects on Taneum Creek.

1) Welcome, Introductions & Approval of Minutes

Nancy called the meeting to order at 2:20 p.m. The Board reviewed the minutes of the August 18 meeting. Mike Leita motioned to approve the minutes as submitted; Obie O'Brien seconded, and the motion passed with support of all present.

2) Board Correspondence and Announcements

The September 1st project tour for the state's Salmon Recovery Funding Board and RCO staff went well and was very much appreciated by the participants. Sockeye are spawning in the Cle Elum River and the EIS for Cle Elum passage facilities was released. Alex commented that this is a milestone worth noting.

3) PRESENTATION/DISCUSSION with NOAA Guests

Donna Darm, Assistant Regional Administrator for the Protected Resources Division of the NW Region of NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service spoke to the group. She stated that after the listing of the Mid-Columbia River steelhead they began working on recovery plans and decided to look towards those

already working in the region and ask them to prepare the plans. In preparing those plans people were brought together to seek solutions. The result was the Mid-Columbia Recovery Plan. She added that now, perhaps the harder part, is to implement the plan. She acknowledges that it will take regional partnerships and a collaborative effort. She offered that the role for NOAA is to support the efforts with funding and to act as a liaison with other federal agencies. She feels optimistic about steelhead recovery and was grateful for the tour of projects.

Scott Rumsey, PhD, Salmon Recovery Branch Chief, NOAA, was introduced and reiterated that they are here to assist in regional efforts as we transition from recovery planning to implementation. He reminded the Board that both Lynn Hatcher and Dale Bambrick are available locally. He was very complimentary about the work we and others are doing in the region. Scott then presented an overview of the recent status review for Middle Columbia Steelhead. He noted that of the 20 populations, 3 have been extirpated, 3 are viable, 4 are at high risk and the remainder are at moderate risk. The Yakima, Umatilla and Walla Walla major population groups show increasing returns while the John Day populations show a declining return. The review resulted in no change in the listing status of Middle Columbia River Steelhead. He also noted that advances in recovery are happening but that recent projects need time and there is not monitoring currently in place to quantify adequately the improvements being made.

Mike Leita commented that it is obvious that cooperation is necessary in order to be successful. Alex Conley stated that we now have better data and real criteria with which we can actually measure the progress we have made. Lynn Hatcher noted local efforts will drive recovery, and that our board plays a crucial role. Scott Rumsey ended his presentation by saying that he respects and appreciates advice from our Board and others. More information about the NOAA status reviews can be found at: <http://www.nwr.noaa.gov/ESA-Salmon-Listings/5-yr-review.cfm>

4) BULL TROUT TASK FORCE

Yuki, WDFW and the Mid-Columbia RFEF worked together to create the Bull Trout Task Force. They found funding for and recruited two Student Conservation Association volunteers to work on bull trout projects and outreach this summer. The volunteers, Ashton Bunce and Laura England, gave a brief presentation about what they've done and what they'd recommend for the program in the future. 1452 people were contacted through outreach efforts at campgrounds, boat launches, events, presentations and creel surveys.

5) LEAD ENTITY PROGRAM

Darcy updated the Board on the status of our 2011 SRFB project review. She noted that the list submitted by the state was reviewed by the State's technical review panel. All projects were deemed fundable, with minor conditions to be placed on one.

Darcy asked for approval of the Lead Entity Manual, which is an accessible overview of how our process works that should help applicants, board, review committee members and the public understand how we solicit and rank SRFB proposals. Several members noted that the Manual was a useful document that will help ensure our process is transparent. Mike Leita motioned that the Board approve the Lead Entity Manual, Jay McGowan seconded and the motion passed with support of all present.

6) AUDIT, FINANCIAL STATEMENT & IRS 990 REPORT

Alex provided the Board with a revised audit report and fiscal statement prepared by Abby Sanders. There were no issues and two recommendations 1) use the Executive Committee to review accounting

processes, and 2) finalize the accounting policy. Mike Leita requested that in the future the Board be provided with more detailed cash flow statements. Mike Leita made the motion to approve the financial statement and independent audit report, Obie O'Brien seconded and the motion passed with support of all present.

In response to the auditor's recommendation, Jay McGowan motioned that the Executive Committee act as an audit committee to review individual transactions on a quarterly basis. Obie O'Brien seconded and the motion passed with support of all present.

The Board also reviewed the draft IRS 990 report prepared by Bob Villbrandt, the Board's CPA. Mike motioned to authorize the chair of the Board to sign and submit the 990, Dave Fast seconded and the motion passed with support of all present.

7) BOARD LOGISTICS

Alex asked for comments on the draft policy manuals by Friday, October 28. Obie O'Brien moved that the authority to adopt the policy manuals be delegated to the Executive Committee. Jay seconded and the motion passed with support of all present.

Alex asked the Board to take note of the draft response to any funding cuts we might be asked to absorb as the state works through the supplemental budget process.

The Board confirmed January 26th as our next meeting date.

8) YRBWEP INTEGRATED PLAN UPDATE

The Board briefly discussed the early action funding request being prepared by the Department of Ecology for submission to the Secretary of Interior for the Yakima Basin Integrated Plan. Alex noted that he would represent the Board as part of the small group asked to identify specific line items for the \$2.6 million request for habitat funding, and the Board expressed support.

9) FINANCIAL REPORTS

Alex presented the financial activity reports.

11) PUBLIC COMMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:05 p.m.