



YAKIMA BASIN
FISH AND WILDLIFE
RECOVERY BOARD

Minutes of the 10/27/2010 Board of Directors Meeting

As approved by the Board on 2/10/11

Those present:

Members present: Adam Fyall (Benton County), Joel Freudenthal (Yakima County), Dave Brown (City of Yakima), Nancy Lillquist (City of Ellensburg), Paul Ward (Yakama Nation), Dan Olson (City of Union Gap), Dick Poteet (City of Prosser)

Guests: David Childs (Yakima Basin Joint Board), Lynn Hatcher (NOAA)

Staff: Alex Conley (Executive Director), Angie Begosh (SRFB Program Coordinator), Yuki Reiss (Recovery Program Coordinator)

1) Welcome, Approval of Minutes, Introductions & Announcements

The Board started out with introductions and announcements while awaiting arrival of a quorum. Alex announced that we have offered the Operations/Outreach Coordinator position to a well qualified candidate, and are awaiting a formal response to our offer. He noted that he has been focusing on looking ahead to determine what needs to be done now to ensure that we meet June 30th contract deliverables with RCO. He also noted that the IRS recognition of our 501 c 3 status has been received, which will allow us to expand our funding options.

The Board briefly discussed the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Act funding received by the Tapash Collaborative, and how that could relate to implementing some of the recovery actions for forested watersheds identified in our recovery plan.

Alex thanked several Board members and partners for staying after one of the last YRBWEP meetings to have a discussion with Dennis Canty of Evergreen Funding Consultants, who is conducting an evaluation of funding needs for the Governor's Salmon Recovery Office. He noted that the meeting helped Dennis understand the Yakima Basin's unique need for state support for federal Bureau of Reclamation projects.

Adam Fyall announced that the lower part of Benton County, which has not been served by a lead entity, will become part of the Klickitat Lead Entity. The Board briefly discussed how this might affect how the Mid-Columbia allocation is shared between the Yakima and Klickitat Lead Entities.

Following the arrival of the Benton County representative at 1:10 pm, Nancy called the meeting to order. The Board reviewed the minutes of the August 19th meeting. Dan Olson motioned to approve the minutes as submitted; Paul Ward seconded, and the motion passed with support of all present.

2) SRFB/Lead Entity Program Update

Angie Begosh updated the Board on the 2010 grant review process and presented a slide show of two recently completed projects (NF Ahtanum Fish Passage and Cowychee Ditch Screening). The Board Reviewed the state concerns about the Red Bridge Rd Project. Paul Ward motioned to advise staff to continue to advocate for funding

for the project, and to check in by email with the Board prior to any decision to pull the project off the Yakima ranked project list. Dan Olson seconded, and the motion passed with support of all present.

The Board reviewed the proposed change to the SRFB Manual 18 regarding giving notice to conservation districts about proposed acquisitions of agricultural lands. Board members noted that Districts are already actively involved in the Lead Entity process, and that issues raised about acquisitions need to be handled locally and not raised to the state level. Members expressed concern about creating another procedural burden on our project sponsors. The Board asked Alex to submit a comment letter reflecting the Board's discussion under his signature.

3) Recovery Planning & Implementation

Lynn Hatcher briefed the Board on the recent reorganization of NOAA's Salmon Recovery staff. The Board asked staff to look into organizing a spring tour in the Yakima Basin for NOAA leadership. The remainder of the recovery program updates was deferred to allow adequate time for other action items.

4) YRWEF Basin Study Plan

The Board briefly discussed Board staff involvement in the YRBWEP Integrated Water Resources process's efforts to further detail fish habitat actions and their anticipated benefits. Alex presented the Board with a draft letter prepared by staff for submission to the YRBWEP workgroup at the November meeting. He also circulated an email comment on the draft letter from Jim Milton. The Board asked Alex to circulate the letter with the meeting minutes and request any proposed edits be provided by November 12th.

5) Review Yakima Canyon Initiative

Alex noted that the Cascade Land Conservancy has invited the Board to join the Yakima River Canyon Scenic Byway Initiative. The Board reviewed the proposed MOU and noted surprise that neither Yakima County nor the Yakama Nation were listed as signatories. Members asked that further consideration of the MOA be deferred to allow these two entities to assess how the MOA would affect their interests in the Yakima Canyon.

6) Legislative Updates

The Board briefly discussed the status of state and federal budget items that affect salmon recovery. Alex presented an overview of the proposed Pacific Salmon Stronghold Conservation Act. Board members expressed skepticism about the prospects for new funding requests in the current fiscal climate and noted some concern that attention to new funding might detract support from existing funding sources like PCSRF. While the Board did not express interest in taking a stance on the proposed legislation, members supported Alex investing a moderate amount of time to explore how the Yakima Basin could participate if the legislation passes.

7) Board Logistics & Finances

- The Board approved the Section 125 Premium Only Plan prepared by Manley Services.
- The Board approved the staff proposal to extend the existing contract with WDFW through June 30, 2011, increase the funding amount by \$30,000, and add additional elements to the Scope of Work.
- The Board reviewed the budget overview prepared by Alex and recommended that staff bring individual contracts before the Board for approval rather than pursuing a formal budget amendment process.
- The Board expressed support for Alex working with the Executive Board to develop proposals for a five year strategic planning process to review Board accomplishments and set goals for future actions.
- Alex confirmed that the next meeting date would be December 16th.

8) Public Comment

No public comment was received. The meeting adjourned at 3:00 pm, after which Yuki Reiss gave a brief slideshow on Bull Trout monitoring and recovery.