



YAKIMA BASIN
FISH AND WILDLIFE
RECOVERY BOARD

MINUTES

As approved by the Board of Directors on 2/13/08

2nd Annual Meeting, held on November 27, 2007

Yakima County Commissioner's Hearing Room

Attendance:

Board: David Bowen (Kittitas County), Leo Bowman & Adam Fyall (Benton County), Jesse Farias (City of Wapato), Terry Keenhan (Yakima County), Nancy Aldrich (City of West Richland), Neil McClure & Dave Brown (City of Yakima), Paul Ward (Yakama Nation, by phone), Lloyd Carnahan (Benton City)

Guests: Phil Miller (GSRO, by phone), Bob Graf (local citizen), Richard Visser (WDFW)

Staff: Alex Conley (Executive Director), Angie Begosh (Program Coordinator)

Chairman Bowen confirmed the presence of a quorum and called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm. Minutes of the Nov. 1st, 2007 meeting were reviewed and approved by consensus.

Officer Elections

The current slate of officers was nominated to for re-election; no other nominations were made. A motion to elect David Bowen as Chair, Leo Bowman and Vice-Chair/Secretary, and Neil McClure as Treasurer passed unanimously.

SRFB Update

Angie updated the Board on the Salmon Recovery Funding Board project selection process. She, Alex, and Richard presented the proposed Yakima Project list to the SRFB Statewide Review Panel on November 8. Final approval of our list by the SRFB is scheduled for Dec. 13th. The Board is working with project proponents to address issues raised by the review team; all Project of Concern labels have been removed, but three projects will be subjected to conditions. There was general discussion regarding the process. Some board members expressed concerns with how the SRFB handled our local technical review in their consideration of projects.

Public Outreach Update

Tiffany Bishop gave a presentation on the outreach materials she created for the Board during her term as an AmeriCorps Volunteer. She showed the tabletop display, the program brochure, and the project pamphlet. She then invited the Board into the foyer to demonstrate the river habitat model she built for hands-on learning about fisheries restoration projects.

Review and Approval of FY 2008 Budget & Work Plan

The Board reviewed the FY 2008 Budget and Work Plan. Leo Bowman suggested that the budget line item for conference registrations be increased, and the Board agreed to raise it to \$1,500 and reduce the Other Services category by \$1,000. Leo Bowman moved to accept the Budget and Work Plan as amended. Nancy Aldrich seconded the motion. All were in favor, and the motion carried.

Lead Entity Supplemental Budget Request

Alex explained the \$ 400,000 supplemental budget request proposed by WDFW through LEAG. To gain support for this request, LEAG is asking lead entities to solicit support from local elected officials. Alex drafted a letter of support for the Board to consider. Leo Bowman felt that the request was important, and he moved to send the letter. Jesse Farias seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

GSRO Update

Alex and Phil Miller of the Governor's Salmon Recovery Office gave an update on 1) the proposed MOA between Washington and the Columbia River BiOp action agencies, and 2) the draft identification of recovery priorities for state and federal agencies prepared by the Board for use by GSRO. The Board discussed several proposed edits to the MOA, and expressed its support for GSRO efforts to continue negotiations with the Action Agencies. The Board also reviewed and supported the list of the state and federal recovery priorities derived from the Yakima Salmon Recovery Plan. Lloyd Carnahan expressed his opinion that fish would benefit from pressurizing irrigation systems throughout the basin, and Bob Graf commented that recovery efforts in the basin would only succeed if commercial fishing is reduced. Phil and board members explained that the Board's focus is on recovery actions within the Yakima Basin, and that harvest issues are addressed in other forums.

Bureau of Reclamation Yakima Project BiOp Update

Alex updated the Board regarding the Bureau of Reclamation's Yakima Project BiOp meetings and noted that this process is a positive step. The Board agreed that Alex will represent the Board in this project and request Board member involvement as appropriate.

Review and Approval of Steelhead Recovery Plan Review Draft

Alex asked the Board if they had any questions, issues, or suggestions for the Steelhead Executive Summary. The Board proposed several edits and Alex noted these. There were no further suggestions or issues, and the Board approved releasing the review draft for broader comment pending completion of the current edits. Alex suggested renaming the current document from the Yakima Steelhead Extract to the Yakima Steelhead Recovery Plan; this change was approved. He anticipates having a review document ready for release in early December. He reviewed the timeline of tasks for completion of the Yakima review draft and its integration into NOAA's Mid-Columbia Steelhead Recovery Plan.

Financial Reports

The Board reviewed these and had no further questions.

Announcements and Public Comment

There were no other further questions or comments. Guests were invited to stay later to discuss their issues with staff. The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm.