



YAKIMA BASIN
FISH AND WILDLIFE
RECOVERY BOARD

Minutes of the 02/10/2011 Board of Directors Meeting

As approved by the Board, 3/10/2011

Those present:

Members: Terry Keenhan, Mike Leita (Yakima County), Dave Brown (City of Yakima), Nancy Lillquist (City of Ellensburg), Paul Ward (Yakama Nation), Dan Olson (City of Union Gap), Leo Bowman, Adam Fyall (Benton County), John Hubbard (City of Kennewick), Obie O'Brien (Kittitas County)

Guests: David Childs (Yakima Basin Joint Board), Natalie Martinkus (OTAK), Richard Visser (USFWS)

Staff: Alex Conley (Executive Director), Angie Begosh (SRFB Program Coordinator), Yuki Reiss (Recovery Program Coordinator), Denise Buck (Operations and Outreach Coordinator)

1) Welcome, Introductions & Approval of Minutes

Nancy called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m. Alex introduced Denise Buck, new Operations and Outreach Coordinator and the rest of the participants introduced themselves. The Board reviewed the minutes of the October 27th meeting. Leo Bowman motioned to approve the minutes as submitted; Paul Ward seconded, and the motion passed with support of all present.

2) Board Correspondence and Announcements

Alex gave an overview of the February 1st Acclimation Site meeting and tour. Leo commented on its importance.

Alex told the Board that the Yakama Nation is organizing a visit by the county supervisors from Siskiyou County, California. We will host the group the morning of the 17th as part of their all day tour.

There is a meeting of the Northwest Power & Conservation Council in Wenatchee on April 12 and 13. There will be a joint presentation from Washington Recovery Boards, and Nancy has agreed to represent us. There will be a social event after. Other Board members are welcome.

The SRFB biennial conference will be on April 26 and 27 in Grand Mound, WA.

Alex updated the Board on recent fish returns, and the Board briefly discussed trends since the 1980s and the main drivers of the significant increases seen in the 2000s. Nancy asked to have an overview of hatchery programs and issues during a future meeting. Yuki mentioned the 9/9/11 AFS tour.

3) Scheduling

Alex asked the Board to adopt a meeting schedule for the next year. He noted that the NOAA tour may change the May 12 date. A motion to adopt the schedule with May 12 as a tentative date, was made by Mike Leita. Leo Bowman seconded and the motion passed with support of all present.

Alex commented that the NOAA tour emphasis will be on NOAA leadership. He asked the Board for suggestions of others to invite. Mike Leita asked if anyone from the state would be present and suggested we start at the top and work our way down. Alex will send information through the governor's office, ecology, tribal, and Fish and Wildlife Service. Paul Ward suggested inviting GSRO. Nancy suggested we pick a date with NOAA and go from there.

4) SRBD/Lead Entity Update

2010 Project List Status: Angie Begosh reported that the annual SRFB project list was approved by the state in December. The North Yakima Conservation District decided to return the funds from the stalled Cowiche Water Users project. The returned funds were applied to the 2010 project list, and provided additional funds to the Currier Creek project and funded the LaSalle School project. Angie noted that we have a new RCO grant manager, Elizabeth Butler.

The Red Bridge Rd project that was discussed at the December meeting was approved for funding contingent on approval of the proposed alternative by the state. The sponsor clarified what was needed and RCO agreed to put the project under contract so she could fund the required alternative analysis.

Leo Bowman asked about Klickitat lead entity list and Alex stated that their request came in at about 20% of the shared funding pot like they have for years. Paul commented that 80% of effort in the Klickitat area is by the Yakama Nation using BPA funds.

Project Updates: Angie presented a slideshow on the 2006 project, "Upper Yakima Protection – Hundley," which just completed acquisition of a 430 acre conservation easement that protects 1.3 miles of the mainstem Yakima River and its floodplains while keeping the property in private hands. Slides were also show of the work recently done on Lower Cowiche Creek using SRFB and Community Salmon Funds. Mike Leita commented that a lot of entities/partners are not

being recognized and given credit for their work. Nancy Lillquist suggested that getting that message out is a big part of this Board's role.

Alex announced that Angie would be leaving her position in the near future. Dan Olson moved that comments on the job description be sent to Alex and that the Executive Director and Chair should be authorized to complete the hiring of Angie's replacement. The motion was seconded by Leo Bowman, and passed with the support of all present.

5) Recovery Planning and Implementation

Yuki gave a brief update on the status of steelhead monitoring planning and implementation.

Yuki also updated the Board on the development of the Yakima Bull Trout Action Plan; the goal is to complete a draft by April. Yuki also announced she is working with WDFW and the Fisheries Enhancement Group to hire two Student Conservation Association interns to work on bull trout specific projects.

6) Legislative Updates

The Board discussed the Governor's proposal to eliminate the Salmon Recovery Funding Board and transfer its authorities to the RCO administration. A motion was made by Leo Bowman to send the proposed letter regarding the SRFB, as written, Paul Ward seconded. Motioned carried by all present. Terry Keenhan suggested that an addition be made to the letter to list our goals and objectives and how they have been met. Leo motioned that we make the amendment of including this in the letter, seconded by Paul Ward and the new amended motion was accepted by all present.

7) Outreach Programs

Denise stated that she is developing an outreach plan and asked for involvement from Board members; John Hubbard expressed interest in participating. Denise was asked to check and see if our website was listed as a link on the County websites. She will look into this. Denise stated that we were going to provide binders and copies of the meeting materials for use by the Board. Some participants asked for digital as well as hard copies.

8) Salmon Safe Program

Alex explained the Salmon Safe certification program to the Board. Nancy asked if there was a role for the Board. Alex was directed to assist Salmon Safe representatives as they reach out to agricultural groups in the area, but was advised not to devote significant Board resources to this topic.

9) Board Logistics

A) Approval of pending contracts and purchases: Leo motioned approval on items 1-8 on proposed purchases and contracts, John Hubbard seconded. Motion passed with support of all present.

B) Board strategic planning process: Nancy suggested it was time for a Board self-assessment process to discuss how we are doing and where we want to go in the future. She proposed to take ½ hour in the March meeting to review history and introduce the new work plan tied to state contract and then to come back in April and have a half day self-assessment meeting. She also suggested asking our partners from around the basin about our usefulness using a survey with phone follow up if needed. Denise was directed to develop the survey, get it reviewed by the Board in March, send it out and then review results with the Board at the April work session.

C) Board Policies: Leo motioned to accept the proposed meeting notification policy as written, Dan Olson seconded. Motion carried. Mike Leita made a motion to accept the procurement policy as written excluding the last paragraph, Dave Olson seconded and motioned was approved by all present.

D) Development of FY 2011 to 13 Workplan and Budget: Alex has started the conversation with the state and will have a draft at the Board meeting in March.

E) Motion to dispose of unused cell phones: Mike motioned that Alex should recycle old cell phones, Leo seconded, motioned approved by all present.

10) Financial Reports

Alex presented the financial activity reports. He commented that he will look at the workplan vs actual budget and will use this to create the new budget. Budget will be finalized in May.

11) Public comment

No public comment was received. Mike moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:10 p.m., Paul seconded and the motion carried.