



YAKIMA BASIN
FISH AND WILDLIFE
RECOVERY BOARD

FEBRUARY 13TH, 2008 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

MINUTES

As approved by the Board of Directors on 3/28/08

Present:

Board: Paul Ward (Yakama Nation), Phil Mees (Benton County), David Bowen (Kittitas County), Mike Leita and Terry Keenhan (Yakima County), Nancy Lillquist (City of Ellensburg), Morgan Everett (City of Prosser), Dave Brown (City of Yakima)

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

Partners: Jeff Tayer and Richard Visser (WDFW), Jim Milton (YBWRA), Walt Larrick (USBOR), Robes Parrish (USFWS), Phil Miller (GSRO) by telephone

Chairman Bowen called the meeting to order at 5:32 pm and deferred introductions until expected guests arrived. A spelling correction was made in November 27th, 2007 Meeting Minutes. Paul Ward motioned to accept the minutes as corrected, Nancy Lillquist seconded and the motion was approved by consensus. Terry Keenhan expressed a desire to have the Board revisit the Nov. 27th discussion of the role of the SRFB Statewide Technical Review Panel.

SRFB/Lead Entity Program

Alex gave a final report on the outcome of the 2007 Funding Round and presented the Board with a booklet detailing all SRFB-funded projects in the Yakima Basin from 1999 to 2007. Overall the 2007 Lead Entity grant review process went smoothly.

Alex and Angie updated the Board on preparation for the 2008 Funding Round. Several policy changes are currently under consideration by the SRFB, including having the SRFB state Technical Panel available to review Lead Entity projects throughout the year, and making slight changes to the SRFB's regional funding allocation. Jeff Tayer commented on how Lead Entity project reviews should be better publicized so that members of the public can see the productive discussions between people doing good work for fish and local technical experts. Terry Keenhan discussed his concern that the state-level technical review does not use clear criteria and occurs late in the process; Alex noted both the local and state-level efforts to move that review to earlier in the process. Alex also noted the current staff effort to revise the 2005 Lead Entity strategy to ensure that the local process is updated as needed and described in a clear and succinct manner.

Alex updated the Board on Joe Ryan's resignation from the SRFB and the subsequent appointment of Harry Barber of Washogal, a recreational fisherman who has been active with the Lower Columbia Regional Fisheries Enhancement Group.

PO Box 2662, Yakima, WA 98907

Phone (509) 453-4104 Email: info@ybfwrp.org Web: www.ybfwrp.org



YAKIMA BASIN
FISH AND WILDLIFE
RECOVERY BOARD

Alex presented the Board with the WDFW Contract Amendment to cover software licensing for the Habitat Work Schedule. Nancy Lillquist motioned to approve the contract. Mike Leita seconded and the motion was approved by consensus.

The Board approved a support letter for the Reecer Creek Channel Restoration Project's application for Department of Ecology funding to supplement funding received from SRFB.

Alex proposed that, based on Angie's successful performance review, that the title of Lead Entity Coordinator be transferred from him to Angie. The Board approved the change by consensus.

Robes Parrish of the USFWS in Leavenworth introduced himself and spoke about how he can help support the work the Board and its partners are doing in the Yakima Basin.

GSRO Update

Phil Miller updated the Board on the status of the FCRPS BiOp. The GSRO has put its proposed MOA with the action agencies aside, and has proposed to the agencies and NOAA that an RPA addressing coordination of BiOp implementation in Washington be included as part of the final BiOp that will be released in May. The Board reviewed the proposed RPA and discussed its relationship to the previous MOA proposal; no significant concerns were raised at this time.

Phil and Alex also updated the Board on the Regional Policy Summit scheduled for May 16th in Vancouver, WA. The summit will bring together salmon recovery region board members from throughout the state to discuss how to effectively fund and implement the actions identified in recovery plans. Alex asked that Board members let him know if they will be participating. Paul Ward asked why tribes were not asked to participate; Phil Miller noted that it had been assumed they would be at the table in their role as members of regional boards.

Discussion of Storage Study

The Board discussed a though piece prepared by Alex that looked at the outcome of the fisheries benefit analysis of the Yakima Basin Storage Study and emphasized that in the future efforts to evaluate the benefit of flow improvements need to be considered as part of a comprehensive package of habitat improvement. The Board discussed whether and how to respond to the study results, and asked Alex to convene a committee of staff and partners (WDFW, Yakama Nation and BOR) to review study outcomes and possible responses.

NW Power & Conservation Council Program Amendments

Alex noted that the deadline for submission of proposed changes to the NPCC Fish and Wildlife Program has been pushed back to April, and that he will draft a letter for Board review prior to the next meeting.

[PO Box 2662, Yakima, WA 98907](mailto:info@ybfwrb.org)

[Phone \(509\) 453-4104](tel:(509)453-4104) [Email: info@ybfwrb.org](mailto:info@ybfwrb.org) [Web: www.ybfwrb.org](http://www.ybfwrb.org)



Public Outreach Update

Angie updated the Board on Board outreach activities including the proposed Guides/Flyfishers Meeting and the potential for forming County specific Outreach Committees.

Bureau of Reclamation Yakima Project Biop Update

Alex and Walt Larrick briefly updated the Board on the status of the Bureau of Reclamation's efforts to develop a new Proposed Action for the Yakima Project.

Recovery Planning Update

Alex updated the Board on the status of the Board's draft Yakima Steelhead Recovery Plan. The review draft is currently being proofed. The Mid-Columbia Recovery Planning process has been delayed, with release of a draft now scheduled for May. Alex updated the Board on his recent meetings with USFWS. The Bull Trout status review is expected to continue for 1 to 3 more years, during which time a recovery plan will not be developed by the USFWS. The Service did express support for Board efforts to develop interim products that synthesize available information and identify interim priorities.

Board Logistics

The next meeting is tentatively set for March 26th; Alex will present a draft meeting schedule for the year at that meeting. David Bowen announced that he will be resigning from the Board as he steps down as County Commissioner, and is working to identify his replacement. The Board also discussed the status of remaining Board vacancies in Kittitas and Benton Counties.

Program Coordinator Performance Evaluation

The Board entered into an executive session at 7:40 pm, not to exceed 5 minutes, to discuss employee performance, and exited executive session at 7:45 pm. Mike Leita moved to approve the performance evaluation and recommendation for pay increase for the program coordinator. The motion was seconded by Nancy Lillquist and approved by consensus of the Board.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50pm.