



YAKIMA BASIN
FISH AND WILDLIFE
RECOVERY BOARD

**Minutes of the 03/10/2011 Board of Directors Meeting
As adopted by the Board 7.6.11**

Those present:

Members: Terry Keenhan & Mike Leita (Yakima County), Dave Brown (City of Yakima), Nancy Lillquist (City of Ellensburg), Dan Olson (City of Union Gap), Adam Fyall (Benton County), John Hubbard (City of Kennewick), Dave Fast (Yakama Nation)

Guests: Ryan Anderson (City of Yakima Solid Waste),

Staff: Alex Conley (Executive Director), 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. After introductions, the Board reviewed the minutes of the February 10 meeting. Mike Leita motioned to approve the minutes as submitted; Adam Fyall seconded, and the motion passed with support of all present.

2) Board Correspondence and Announcements

Alex gave a brief report on the visit by the county supervisors from Siskiyou County, California. The Board received a thank you letter for their part in coordinating the visit.

The Board was copied on a formal letter from the Yakama Nation to the Recreation and Conservation Office requesting the expansion of the Klickitat Lead Entity geographic scope to include WRIA 31.

Adam Fyall requested a future update on pronghorn reintroductions on the Yakama Reservation. Dave Fast stated that the Nation worked with hunting groups to transfer 100 Pronghorn Antelope from Utah to the lower Yakama Reservation. The long term goal is to create a self-sustained, harvestable population.

3) Updates

Alex notified the Board that Angie Begosh will be leaving her job with the Board sometime in May and that the Lead Entity job vacancy has been posted on the website and will be submitted to newspapers and various listservs. The hiring committee will consist of John Hubbard, Nancy Lillquest, Alex Conley and staff. The initial review of applications will take place late March.

Alex updated the Board on development of a new website. 3rd Studio, Inc. was contracted to design and host the new site. If anyone from the Board is interested in the review process, please contact Denise Buck.

Alex updated the Board on recent fish returns. It appears we are looking at a near record year for steelhead. The water outlook for the year also looks good, with improved snow pack conditions and reservoirs at 150% of capacity.

In February, Nancy asked to have an overview of hatchery programs and issues during a future meeting. Dave Fast commented that he would be happy to provide that update. It was suggested that perhaps a future meeting be held at a fish hatchery (Prosser or Cle Elum) and include that presentation.

4) Recovery Planning and Implementation

Staff presented a draft letter to the US Fish and Wildlife Service requesting that USFWS ask for local input as they complete their recovery plan. The Board reviewed the letter, proposed several edits, and authorized the final version to be sent with the Chair's signature.

5) Legislative Topics

Alex updated the Board on the status of the Pacific Coast Salmon Recovery Fund in Congressional continuing resolution and FY 2012 budget proposals. The proposed funding range is between 50 and 65 million.

Alex stated that the Governor's proposal to eliminate the Salmon Recovery Funding Board and transfer its authorities to the RCO administration had been removed from the Boards and Commissions bill by the House Government Operations Committee. The bill is sitting in the House Ways and Means Committee and will move to the Senate Government Operations, Tribal Relations, and Elections Committee. Nancy noted that letters were sent to those committees based on the Board's input at the February meeting.

6) Time and Agenda for April 14 work session and May annual meeting/tour

There will be a Board work session on April 14 from 1:00 to 4:30 p.m.

The Board's annual meeting and NOAA tour date is proposed for May 16 or 20th unless NOAA participants are available Weds or Thurs of the next week. Alex will work with NOAA to confirm the date. Possible tour stops include Taneum Creek and the Cle Elum River.

7) Review Policy manual outline/draft

An outline of the proposed policy manual was reviewed. Alex asked for recommendations from the Board and stated that a review would be held by the Executive Committee in late April. Mike Leita said that he would show the outline to the County Human Resource person and request feedback.

8) Review draft work plan and budget

The work plan will be discussed thoroughly during the April 14 work session. Terry Keenhan suggested that we add to our discussion our role in coordinating monitoring and adaptive management. Mike Leita motioned that the Board approve the draft work plan for further review, Dave Brown seconded and the motion was passed with support of all present.

9) Prepare for April strategic review

Alex reviewed the mission, guiding principles, vision 2020 and a list of potential functions the Board created in 2006. A timeline of Board accomplishments was also presented.

The survey created to gather input from the Board's partners was reviewed and there was agreement to carry forward. Denise will have analysis of the survey by April 14.

The Board received a homework assignment that is due April 8th. Please submit to Denise.

The April 14 meeting agenda will include: reporting on the partner survey; reviewing what we have accomplished in 5 years; asking whether we are achieving our mission; and reviewing our work plan, long term goals and board dynamics.

10) Financial Reports

Alex presented the financial activity reports. He commented that Denise will be working on our quarterly billing to RCO soon, and noted that billings from subcontractors would be increasing over the next quarter.

11) Public comment

Ryan Anderson of the City of Yakima Wastewater Department asked to provide a presentation to the Board regarding water quality and salmon recovery projects. After a brief discussion, the Board suggested scheduling a more in-depth presentation for a future meeting.

Dave Brown moved to adjourn the meeting at 3:40 p.m., Dan Olson seconded and the motion carried.