



YAKIMA BASIN  
FISH AND WILDLIFE  
RECOVERY BOARD

**Minutes of the 3/3/10 Board of Directors Meeting**

*As approved by the Board on May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2010*

Those present:

*Members present:* Adam Fyall (Benton County), Terry Keenhan (Yakima County), Paul Jewell (Kittitas County), Dave Ettl & Dave Brown (City of Yakima), Nancy Lillquist (City of Ellensburg), Paul Ward (Yakama Nation), Dan Olson (City of Union Gap)

*Guests:* Jeff Tayer (WDFW), Jim Milton (YBWRA), David Child (YBJB); Phil Miller (GSRO) on phone

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

**1) Welcome, Introductions & Review of Minutes**

Chairman Paul Ward confirmed the presence of a quorum and called the meeting to order at 2:05 pm. The agenda was approved by consensus. Nancy Lillquist moved to approve the minutes of the November 30<sup>th</sup> meeting as submitted; motion seconded by Terry Keenhan and approved by consensus.

**2) Board Correspondence and Announcements**

Alex briefly reviewed recent Board correspondence, including: 1) a letter from the Board to NOAA Fisheries supporting ongoing use of the Mid-Columbia Forum to promote implementation of the Middle Columbia Steelhead Recovery Plan, 2) a support letter from the Board to the Corps of Engineers regarding the Gap to Gap levee setback, and a 3) a letter from the Board and a response from WDFW regarding the lack of a watershed steward for the Mid-Columbia Region. The Board discussed the status of the WDFW budget with Jeff Tayer, and agreed that it would be valuable for the Board to contact WDFW Habitat Program staff in Olympia after the budget is finalized to discuss how to maintain the working relationship between WDFW and the Board given changes in staffing.

The Board briefly discussed the record runs of steelhead and coho into the basin and their relation to habitat improvements and ocean conditions. Alex, Phil Miller and Jeff Tayer reviewed the status of state budget proposals related to salmon recovery. SRFB programs are in relatively good shape, but WDFW and Ecology budgets are heavily impacted.

**3) Lead Entity Program Business**

Angie updated the Board on 1) the status of 2009 SRFB projects (RCO and sponsors have or are near completing contracts), 2) proposed scope amendments to 4 projects, and 3) preparations for the 2010 grant round. The 2010 round should be similar in \$ amounts and procedures to 2009; the biggest change is giving us up to 1 year to move funding from an unimplemented project to an alternate. She also

circulated a copy of the updated booklet with information on all SRFB projects from 1999 to 2009. The Board briefly discussed the process for allocating funds between the Yakima and Klickitat Lead Entity and asked Alex and Paul to initiate conversations with the Klickitat Lead Entity regarding the 2010 allocation.

#### **4) Steelhead Recovery Update**

Paul, Phil and Alex updated the Board on the status of the Columbia River Power System Biological Opinion. There is an opportunity for additions to the current Biop during the current temporary remand process. The Board authorized the Executive Director to work with the Executive Committee to submit a letter in support of non-tribal, off-reservation habitat projects in the Yakima Basin if it seems advisable as discussions develop.

Yuki Reiss updated the Board on development of the Steelhead Research, Monitoring and Evaluation Plan. The January 29<sup>th</sup> roll-out meeting was a success, and many of the elements included in the proposed plan are being considered for funding under the BPA Fast-track process. Yuki is also helping to coordinate redd surveys this Spring, as the large number of steelhead coming into low water conditions offers us unique opportunities to answer specific questions identified in the recovery plan.

#### **5) Bull Trout Recovery Update**

Yuki Reiss led a brief discussion of the USFWS's critical habitat proposal and how it has evolved. The Board reviewed proposed comments and authorized staff to submit comments to USFWS under staff signatures. Yuki also noted that we are still waiting on a decision on the Bull Trout Task Force application we submitted to USFWS; if approved our role would be passing through funds to WDFW and coordinating the effort.

#### **6) Implementation Schedule**

The Board reviewed the draft work plan for development of a more detailed implementation schedule, and discussed the challenges of prioritizing restoration actions. Phil Miller emphasized the value of thinking of it in terms of time and sequencing, and the need to ensure that our products are compiled in a manner that facilitates compilation of statewide data on restoration needs.

#### **7) YRBWEP Workgroup**

The Board briefly discussed the Board's role in the next steps of the 2010 Yakima Basin Study process. Jeff Tayer also asked how the recovery plan treats the proposed Kennewick Irrigation district pump exchange. The Board briefly discussed both this project and its relation to steelhead recovery, and the role of the Ecology's Columbia River Program.

#### **8) GSRO Funding Strategy Proposal**

The Board reviewed the GSRO's draft scope of work for a contractor that would work with regional recovery organizations to develop long-term funding plans. Nancy Lillquist made a motion to authorize the Executive Director and Chairman to make any contract amendments needed to amend our contract with RCO in a manner that transfers \$5,000 to covering the cost of this contract. Terry Keenhan seconded the motion, which was approved by all present.

## **9) Board Logistics**

The Board approved the proposed 2010 meeting schedule. The Board reviewed and approved the proposed Conflict of Interest Policy (motion by Paul Ward, second by Nancy Lillquist, approved by all). The Board briefly discussed membership status and agreed that staff should send out a letter to City members to provide an update on Board activities and ask for self-nominations for vacant Board of Director positions.

The Board went into Executive session to review staff compensation adjustments proposed by the Executive Committee. After exiting the executive session, the Board approved the compensation adjustments as presented.