Minutes of the 5/6/2010 Board of Directors Annual Meeting

As approved by the Board on 6/30/2010

Those present:

Members present: Leo Bowman & Adam Fyall (Benton County), Mike Leita & Terry Keenhan (Yakima County), Dave Ettl & Dave Brown (City of Yakima), Nancy Lillquist (City of Ellensburg), Paul Ward (Yakama Nation), Dan Olson (City of Union Gap), Lloyd Carnahan (City of Benton City)

Guests: Tony Benegas (West Richland), Jeff Tayer (WDFW), Jim Milton (YBWRA)

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

1) Welcome, Introductions & Review of Minutes

Following introductions, Chairman Paul Ward confirmed the presence of a quorum and called the meeting to order at 3:03 pm. Alex proposed adding a discussion of the Cowiche Creek Trust Water Project to the SRFB update portion of the agenda. The modified agenda was approved by consensus. Leo Bowman moved to approve the minutes of the March 3rd meeting as submitted; the motion was seconded by Dave Brown and approved by consensus.

2) Board Correspondence and Announcements

Alex briefly reviewed the meeting overview handout and gave a brief update on a) the positive regional press on salmon recovery in the Yakima Basin, b) updates on the record 2009-10 steelhead run and both adult and smolt counts for spring Chinook, and c) the June 16 to 17 Yakima Basin Science and Management Conference at CWU in Ellensburg. The Board briefly discussed the status of salmon-related education and outreach efforts in the basin, and the outcomes of the state budget process for RCO and WDFW.

3) Board of Directors Membership

The Board reviewed the status of the Board of Directors membership. Alex Conley thanked the representatives present for their active participation filling seven of the ten Board of Director's seats. The Board then reviewed the City of Union Gap's request to have Dan Olson fill the vacant Yakima County City seat on the Board. Mike Leita made a motion to recognize Dan Olson as a Yakima City representative to the Yakima Basin Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board Board of Directors. Leo Bowman seconded the request, which was then approved by all present. Alex Conley noted that he was scheduled to present to the Cle Elum City Council to give an overview of the Board and follow upon their interest in filling the vacant Kittitas County City seat. He also noted that he had been approached by

representatives of Kennewick and West Richland who expressed potential interest in filling the vacant Benton County Large City seat. Paul encouraged staff to continue outreach efforts with all cities that signed the 2006 ILA.

4) Budget and Work Plan

Alex Conley noted that the only change to the draft work plan since the review at the March meeting was the addition of the staff training task that had been requested by the Board. He then reviewed the changes to the draft budget. Nancy Lillquist made a motion to approve the work plan and budget as presented. Leo Bowman seconded the motion, which was approved by all present.

5) Officer Elections & Designation of Registered Agent

Alex Conley reviewed the role of the officer positions in the Board's bylaws, and Leo Bowman noted that Board members who are not officers can serve in the 2 at large seats on the executive committee. Leo Bowman nominated Nancy Lillquist for the position of Board Chair. Mike Leita moved to close nominations, and Leo Bowman seconded. All present voted to elect Nancy as Chair. Leo Bowman nominated Mike Leita for the position of Vice Chair/Treasurer. Leo moved to close nominations with a second from Paul Ward. All present voted to elect Mike Leita as Vice Chair/Treasurer. Dave Brown nominated Leo Bowman for the position of secretary. Dave Edler nominated Dan Olsen. The nomination for Leo was withdrawn, and Nancy Lillquist made a motion to close nominations. All present voted to elect Dan Olson as Secretary. Outgoing officers Paul Ward and Leo Bowman expressed their willingness to serve as the two at-large members to the Executive Committee.

The Board approved a motion (made by Mike Leita seconded by Leo Bowman) that Alex Conley should serve as the Board's registered agent. In the case that Alex cannot serve, the Board agreed that the Chair should serve as registered agent. Alex will confirm his eligibility and make the required update to our corporate registration.

6) Board Meeting Schedule

While the Board had set a 2010 meeting schedule at the March meeting, Alex Conley noted that several members had since informed him of conflicts. The Board approved a revised schedule of meetings on Weds, June 30th, 2-4 pm; Thurs, August 19th, 2-4 pm; Thurs, October 21th, 2-4 pm; Thurs, December 16th, 2-4 pm.

7) Committee Memberships

The Board reviewed the current membership and role of the Technical Advisory Group (TAG) and expressed support for the staff management of TAG membership. The Board reviewed the current status and membership of the Citizen's Committee. Members agreed that representatives from each of the three counties and the Yakama Nation should be responsible for identifying candidates to fill vacancies in their areas, and that they should provide candidates' names to Angie Begosh. Angie was asked to write a short description of a Citizen's Committee member's role for Board members to use as they identified interested parties. Board members discussed the importance of the Citizen's Committee and noted that in the future the Board may want to reconfirm the committee's membership each year, to ensure that committee members are serving at the request of the member governments. Alex Conley

also noted that the bylaws allowed for two additional committees that had not been convened; a public information committee and a policy committee.

8) Updates on Board Activities

The Board reviewed preparations for the 2010 SRFB grant round; Angie Begosh noted that she received 13 pre-applications for at least $2-3 million in requests.

Alex Conley noted that Angie had taken the lead reformatting the action information in our Steelhead Recovery Plan into the spreadsheet implementation schedule status requested by NOAA.

The Board also briefly reviewed the status of Steelhead Research, Monitoring and Evaluation planning and the current application to BPA for funding for implementation.

Jeff Tayer noted that USFWS would not be continuing to provide funds to WDFW to cover the staff time spent completing annual bull trout redd surveys. Jeff emphasized the importance of the bull trout redd surveys for recovery efforts, and requested a letter from the Board to USFWS emphasizing the importance of the funding to WDFW. Mike Leita emphasized that he would like to understand the situation better before writing a letter; Paul Ward noted that perhaps it would be more appropriate for the Board to emphasize to USFWS their responsibilities for monitoring as part of management of a listed species, without focusing on specific contracts to implement that responsibility. After further discussion, the Board agreed to ask staff to set up a discussion with USFWS and the Bureau of Reclamation about Bull Trout issues at the June 30th meeting.

9) Cowiche Creek Trust Water Project

Alex Conley noted that the #1 ranked SRFB project from the 2009 Yakima SRFB process, the Cowiche Creek Trust Water Project, had been awarded $413,133, but was on hold following the Yakima Tieton Irrigation District's (YTID) decision not to support the project. Mike Tobin presented an overview of the project to the Board. The Board discussed sending a letter to YTID expressing disappointment in their decision, but several members expressed a desire to understand the situation better before offering formal comment. Mike Leita committed to following up with YTID to follow up. The Board also discussed what the fate of the allocated funding would be if the original project does not proceed.

10) Letters to NOAA and the NPCC

The Board approved submission of a letter to NOAA regarding the 5 year status review process for Mid-Columbia steelhead, and authorized the Chair to sign a joint letter from Washington's Columbia Basin Salmon Recovery Regions to the Northwest Power and Conservation Council commenting on the Council's draft Monitoring, Evaluation, Research and Reporting Plan (MERR).

11) Financial and Activity Reports

The Board briefly reviewed financial reports and the new accounting procedures being used.

12) Public Comment

No public comment was received.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:09 pm.