



YAKIMA BASIN
FISH AND WILDLIFE
RECOVERY BOARD

Minutes of the 6/30/2010 Board of Directors Meeting

As approved by the Board on 8/19/2010

Those present:

Members present: Adam Fyall (Benton County), Terry Keenhan (Yakima County), Dave Brown (City of Yakima), Nancy Lillquist (City of Ellensburg), Paul Ward (Yakama Nation), Dan Olson (City of Union Gap), Bonnie Reay (City of Cle Elum), John Hubbard (City of Kennewick), Dick Poteet (City of Prosser)

Guests: David Bowen (American Forest Resources), Judy DeLaVergne (USFWS), David Child (YBJB), Heather Simmons Rigdon (SCW RC&D)

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

1) Welcome, Introductions & Announcements

Following introductions, Nancy called the meeting to order at 2:09 pm in the absence of a quorum. Alex Conley gave an update on recent record fish runs; Paul Ward clarified that while these are records for recent years, they are far less than historic runs. Alex reported on the Board's participation in the Science and Management conference in Ellensburg June 16-17 and noted that the SRFB will not be coming to Ellensburg/Yakima in October due to budget restraints. He also announced the WDFW tour of the Cowiche Watershed scheduled for July 8th and requested RSVPs.

2) Review of Minutes & Board Correspondence

With the arrival of Adam Fyall of Benton Count, a quorum was achieved. Paul Ward moved to adopt the minutes of the 5/6/2010 meeting. The motion was seconded by Terry Keenhan and approved by all present. The Board reviewed the agenda; no changes were proposed.

The Board reviewed highlighted correspondence. Heather Simmons Rigdon gave a brief presentation on the USDA Conservation Innovation grant proposal submitted by the SCWRC&D to support efforts to explore market based solutions to water quality issues. The Board reviewed the staff-signed support letter from the Board that was submitted with the RC&D proposal.

Nancy Lillquist presented the letter from the Shrub Steppe/Rangeland Partnership requesting an opportunity to present to the Board on their efforts. The Board directed Alex to invite the partnership to present at the Board's August meeting.

The Board briefly discussed the letter from the Yakima Basin Joint Board expressing their intent to ask NOAA Fisheries to change the ESA listing status of Middle Columbia Steelhead. At the meeting, David Child provided the Board with a hard copy of the letter they had sent to NOAA.

3) SRFB/Lead Entity Program Update

Angie Begosh gave an overview of the 2010 grant review process and answered Board member questions about proposed projects. Alex noted that at this time the Klickitat Lead Entity had ~\$550,00 in requests from the Mid Columbia SRFB allocation, which represents 30% of the total. The Board asked Alex to continue to negotiate the split of the Mid-Columbia allocation with the Klickitat Lead Entity staff.

The Board then reviewed the Yakama Nation's request that WRIA 31 be included in the Klickitat Lead Entity. The Board noted that the proposal made sense from a distance, but deferred to Benton and Yakima County officials to weigh in individually on how the areas in WRIA 31 in those Counties should be addressed.

4) Recovery Planning & Implementation

Alex and Yuki noted that a draft of the fish biology portion of the Steelhead Research, Monitoring and Evaluation Plan was near completion, and that Yuki was shifting to working on habitat/project effectiveness portion of the plan.

The Board briefly discussed the effort to tie the YRBWEP Integrated Water Resources Proposal's habitat elements to the recovery plan and model expected outcomes of habitat investments.

Judy De La Vergne of the USFWS Service gave a presentation on the status of the bull trout listing and critical habitat designation, which led to a discussion with the Board on the status of bull trout recovery planning and the role of a local 5 year action plan aimed at helping focus and implement recovery actions in the Yakima Basin.

5) Board Logistics

After reviewing requests from the Cities of Cle Elum and Kennewick, Dan Olson made a motion to recognize Councilwoman Bonnie Reay of the City of Cle Elum and Councilman John Hubbard of the City of Kennewick as members of the Board of Directors. Dave Brown seconded the motion, which passed with the support of all present. The Board also approved Yakima County's request that Neil McClure be asked to serve on the Citizen's Committee as one of the four representatives from Yakima County.

Alex confirmed that the next meeting would be August 19, and that the primary agenda item would be approval of the SRFB ranked project list for 2010.

12) Public Comment

David Bowen, now with American Forest Resources, briefly reviewed possibilities for the Teanaway Property owned by AFR, and expressed his interest in working with the Board to achieve positive conservation outcomes.

The meeting adjourned at 4:04 pm.