



YAKIMA BASIN
FISH AND WILDLIFE
RECOVERY BOARD

MINUTES

7/30/08 Board of Directors Meeting

As approved by the Board on September 3, 2008

Those present:

Board: Paul Ward (Yakama Nation, by phone), Nancy Lillquist (City of Ellensburg), Mike Leita & Terry Keenhan (Yakima County), Adam Fyall (Benton County), Neil McClure & Dave Brown (City of Yakima), Dan Valoff (Kittitas County), Jesse Farias (City of Wapato)

Staff: Angie Begosh, Alex Conley,

Partners: Phil Miller (GSRO, by phone), Jim Milton (YBWRA), David Child (Yakima Basin Joint Board), Dawn Wiedmeier (Bureau of Reclamation)

Neil McClure called the meeting to order at 5:40 pm. The agenda and minutes of the May 28th meeting were approved as presented.

SRFB/Lead Entity Update

Angie updated the Board on the status of the SRFB process. 16 proposed projects are currently under review by the Board's Technical and Citizen's Committees. A ranked list of projects recommended for funding will be submitted to the Board for approval and submission to the state at the next meeting.

Alex updated the Board on the status of Lead Entity program funding. The FY2009 Lead Entity contract between the Board and WDFW will be the same as last year except for a few minor changes. The Board approved delegating review and approval of the FY 2009 Lead Entity contract to the Executive Director based on staff determination that there are no significant changes from the previous year's contract (motion moved by Mike Leita, seconded by Jesse Farias and approved by consensus). Alex noted that WDFW and the Recreation and Conservation Office are proposing an increase in funding for the Lead Entity program action; at this time it is not known if the Governor would include it in her proposed budget.

Alex also updated the Board on 1) prospects for future federal funding through the Pacific Coast Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF) and 2) his participation in the SRFB's Regional Allocation Task Force (RATF). The RATF process is evaluating how SRFB funds will be allocated among regions in the future, and will involve a meeting a month through December. Alex extended an invitation from WDFW to attend the Habitat Work Schedule celebration on August 19th at Union, WA.

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Steelhead Recovery Plan Update:

Alex provided a written summary in the Board packet; he is currently summarizing comments on the March 24 review draft of the Yakima Steelhead Recovery Plan and editing the plan in response. He estimated he had about 1 ½ days of work left, after which he would circulate the drafts for review and approval by the Board and its partners. The Board approved release of the resulting draft to NOAA provided that no significant issues were raised in the internal Board review by email (motion made by Neil McClure, seconded by Jesse Farais and approved by consensus). Alex noted that the submitted draft would be incorporated into NOAA's draft recovery plan for Middle Columbia Steelhead, which would be officially released for comment in September 2008. After the release of the NOAA plan, the Board will conduct an outreach effort in the basin to solicit feedback on both the NOAA and local steelhead recovery plans.

Bull Trout Recovery Planning

Alex also updated the Board on efforts to initiate a bull trout planning process to summarize existing information on bull trout in the Yakima Basin and identify high priority recovery actions. The Board discussed the scope of the plan, its relation to USFWS efforts, and the funding currently available. Phil Miller noted that USFWS staff at the regional level were supportive of the Board's proposals.

Monitoring Update

Alex updated the board on the status of the Washington Monitoring Forum and its support for using regional recovery plans as a guide for evaluating applicable research and monitoring efforts. He also gave an overview of the process for developing a research, monitoring and evaluation plan for steelhead recovery, and noted that it would be a major focus of the Board and its partners in the fall and winter. The Board briefly discussed the role of this plan, and approved Alex's participation in the SP Cramer steelhead modeling advisory team. Alex noted that the Bonneville Environmental Foundation had not funded our current grant application but had strongly encouraged us to apply in the future. Paul Ward asked Alex to continue to pursue involvement in the Model Watershed program.

GSRO Input on State Agency Budget Proposals

Phil updated the board on the Governor's Salmon Recovery Office report that he is preparing for submission to the State Office of Financial Management. The report identifies how priorities out of regional recovery plans are being addressed in state and federal budget proposals. Alex will present the final input from the Board to Phil's report for approval at the next meeting.

BOR YRBWEP: Dawn Weidemier gave the Board an update on proposed changes to the Yakima River Basin Water Enhancement Project enabling legislation. Reclamation is working with partners in the Basin to secure Congressional authority for minor changes to the program designed to make it more effective. Dawn also noted that the KOA campground deal is moving forward; the BOR offer has been accepted by the owners and residents are being relocated.

DOE scoping request.

Alex updated the Board on the Department of Ecology's request for comment on its proposed supplemental EIS for the Yakima Basin Storage Study. He presented a draft response from the Board that summarizes existing and proposed fish habitat restoration priorities in the basin based

on the Yakima Steelhead Recovery Plan. The Board discussed the process and the Board's input and moved to approve submission of the final draft with the Executive Director's signature following email circulation of any edits (motion made by Nancy Lillquist, seconded by Mike Leita and approved by all).

BPA coordination proposal development:

Phil Miller updated the Board on his discussions with BPA about funding the Regional Salmon Recovery Boards in the Columbia Basin for their work on coordinating project reviews and the gathering of information for BPA and the NPCC Fish & Wildlife Program. There will be variations in how this is handled in each region; at this point there is not a formal proposal. Paul and Neil expressed support for pursuing BPA funding, and the Board authorized Alex to continue working with Phil to develop a proposal to present to the Board (motion made by Nancy Lillquist, seconded by Mike Leita and approved by all).

Other Board Business

The Board reviewed and approved a Board resolution authorizing membership in the Non-Profit Insurance Pool program managed by Canfield and Associates (motion made by Mike Leita, seconded by Nancy Lillquist and approved by all).

The Board reviewed the process of applying for 501 c 3 status and recommended that Alex proceed with either Worbel and Associates or Bob Villbrandt, a local CPA with extensive non-profit experience. The Board also reviewed audit options and authorized Alex to proceed as appropriate. Alex updated the Board on the status of the proposed office lease; he anticipated requesting Board chair signature of the lease as soon as the landlord completed requested updates to the space.

The Board authorized extending the outreach contract with Tiffany Bishop through December 31st with a maximum billing amount of \$6,000. Alex presented the draft administrative position description to the Board and requested that any Board members interested in participating in the hiring process notify him. The Board briefly discussed vehicle lease options including lease of a GSA vehicle and potential use of the Yakima County motor pool. Terry Keenhan noted that he would contact Davy Vehley to determine if the County pool is an option.

The Board authorized issuing a credit card on the Board account to Angie for work purchases, and noted that the personnel manual under preparation should include a simple policy on credit card use that requires turning in all receipts and indicating the purpose of purchases on receipts.

The Board reviewed future meeting dates (tentatively Sept 3rd and Oct 15th) and the status of Board of Director's appointments in Benton and Kittitas Counties. Angie gave a brief update on the Board's outreach activities.

All agreed to adjourn meeting at 7:45 pm.