



YAKIMA BASIN  
FISH AND WILDLIFE  
RECOVERY BOARD

**Minutes of the 08/11/2011 Board of Directors Meeting  
As Adopted by the Board 10/13/11**

Those present:

*Members:* Mike Leita and Terry Keenhan (Yakima County), Nancy Lillquist (City of Ellensburg), Dan Olson (City of Union Gap), Leo Bowman and Adam Fyall (Benton County), John Hubbard (City of Kennewick), Dave Fast (Yakama Nation), Lloyd Carnahan (City of Benton City), Obie O'Brien (Kittitas County)

*Guests:* Patrick Luke (Yakama Fisheries), Justin Bader, (North Yakima Conservation District), Rachel Little (Benton Conservation District)

*Staff:* Alex Conley (Executive Director), Denise Buck (Operations and Outreach Coordinator), Darcy Batura (Lead Entity Program Coordinator)

**Prosser Fish Hatchery Tour and Presentation**

Prior to our regular meeting the Board toured the Prosser Fish Hatchery and Juvenile Acclimation Site. A site developed by the Bureau of Reclamation and managed by the Yakama Nation. Dave Fast, Yakama Nation Senior Research Scientist, walked the group through the facility and Joe Blodgett, Hatchery Manager, explained the kelt reconditioning work being done. Patrick Luke gave a presentation about the capture and holding of Pacific Lamprey on site and work the Yakama Nation is undertaking to return lamprey to healthy, viable and harvestable status.

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

Nancy called the meeting to order at 2:40 p.m. The Board reviewed the minutes of the July 6 meeting. Leo Bowman motioned to approve the minutes as submitted; Mike Leita seconded, and the motion passed with support of all present.

## **2) Board Correspondence and Announcements**

### ***A) SRFB Tour***

The morning of Thursday, September 1<sup>st</sup>, Board staff will lead a tour of SRFB projects in the Cle Elum area for the members of the SRFB and senior RCO staff. Board members are encouraged to attend.**B)**

### ***New SRFB & NPCC Members***

The Governor has appointed Kitsap County Commissioner Josh Brown and former State Senator Phil Rockefeller to fill the two vacancies on the state's Salmon Recovery Funding Board. Phil Rockefeller has also been appointed to serve as one of Washington's two representatives on the Northwest Power and Conservation Council.

### ***C) PCSRF Funding Levels***

The Pacific Coast Salmon Recovery Fund, which was funded at \$80 million in FY 2011 is included in the President's FY 2012 budget at \$65 million. On July 6 the House Appropriations Committee released the fiscal year 2012 Commerce, Justice, Science Appropriations bill which includes \$65 million for the Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund.

### ***D) NOAA Status Review***

Every 5 years, the Endanger Species Act requires assessing the status of a listed species to determine if a change in listing status is warranted. While NOAA recommends maintaining the current 'Threatened' status for Mid-Columbia steelhead, it notes that the DPS as a whole and the Yakima in particular, are headed in the right direction. More information can be found at: <http://www.nwr.noaa.gov/ESA-Salmon-Listings/5-yr-review.cfm>

### ***E) Columbia River Biological Opinion***

In his final ruling on the current Biological Opinion for the Federal Columbia River Power System, Judge Redden allowed the current biological opinion to stand through 2013, but required that the action agencies develop a more detailed plan for proposed habitat actions from 2014 on. The Board briefly discussed the implications of this ruling. For more info see: <http://www.cbulletin.com/411336.aspx>

## **3) Review and approve 2011 Ranked Project List for the SRFB**

Darcy gave an overview of the Lead Entity review process to date, and presented each of the projects recommended for funding by our citizen's committee. Mike Leita asked if the "do not fund" recommendation could be changed to "deferred" on the CCWUA Fish Screening and Barrier Removal Project as that more clearly reflects the comments of the committees. Darcy also stated that an invitation has been made to stakeholders to form a work group to discuss the CCWUA project and how it proceeds. Mike also asked for clarification of the relationship with the Klickitat Lead Entity organization. Darcy and Alex explained that the available SRFB funding for the Mid-Columbia Region has been split between the two lead entities based on an annual handshake agreement, and that amounts have ranged from 17% - 39% for Klickitat, with an average of 27%. The Board expressed support for the outcome of this year's negotiations. Nancy motioned that the Board approve Appendix F: Lead Entities List Memorandum 2011 as presented; Obie O'Brien seconded and the motion passed with support of all present.

#### **4) Budget Corrections**

An error was made in incorporating staff performance adjustments into the budget approved at the July meeting. Mike Leita motioned that the Board accept the amended 2013 budget to correct the error, Leo Bowman seconded and the motion passed with support of all present.

#### **5) Board Logistics**

Our next meeting is scheduled for October 13<sup>th</sup>. There may be a brief tour of local sites prior to the meeting, and meeting location is to be determined. Tentative agenda items include:

- Presentation by Scott Rumsey on the NOAA status review.
- Bull trout plan and task force updates
- SRFB list adjustments, if needed
- IRS 990 Tax Report Review
- Review of Audit Report
- Review & Approve Policy Manual
- Review & Approve Lead Entity Manual revision
- Website and Newsletter update/review

#### **10) Financial Reports**

Alex presented the financial activity reports.

#### **11) Public comment**

Leo Bowman commented on several recent articles about Yakima River salmon recovery. He also noted that a private entity has applied for a license to build a turbine at Horn Rapids Dam; the Board briefly discussed these speculative FERC applications. Mike Leita emphasized that if and when we achieve our goal of de-listing steelhead and bull trout, that we maintain advocacy for continued recovery action.

Leo also asked about the relationship between WDOT's Snoqualmie pass work and Board-identified recovery priorities. Alex noted the WSDOT work to improve conditions for Gold Creek Bull Trout, one of the Basin's most at-risk bull trout populations.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:50 p.m.