



MINUTES for the August 30th, 2007 Board of Director's Meeting

As approved by the Board of Directors on November 1st, 2007

5:30 – 7:30 pm at USDA Service Center Conference Room

1. Roll Call and Introductions

Chairman Bowen called the meeting to order at 5:41 pm. Those present included:

Board: Leo Bowman and Phil Mees (Benton County), Mike Leita (Yakima County), David Bowen (Kittitas County), Paul Ward (Yakama Nation), Morgan Everett (Benton Small City), Nancy Lillquist (Kittitas Large City), Dave Brown (City of Yakima)

Staff: Alex Conley, Angie Begosh

Guests: Walt Larrick (BOA), Jim Milton (YBWRA), Mike Tobin (NYCD) Jeff Tayer (WDFW) Phil Miller (GSRO, by phone)

2. Review of Agenda & July Minutes

July minutes were reviewed. Secretary Bowman moved to approve the minutes with a 2nd by Paul Ward. All were in favor of approving the minutes as written.

3. Review and Approval of 2007 SRFB Project List

Angie presented the Board with an overview of the 10 proposals submitted for SRFB funding, the process through which the projects were reviewed, and the final ranking by the Citizens Committee. There was some discussion about the methods and criteria used to rank proposals and what the state's expectations are. Chairman Bowen called for a motion. Mike Leita moved that the final ranking be approved as listed. Morgan Everett seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

4. Review/Approve proposed correspondence

WDFW Grazing Lawsuit

Jeff Tayer updated the board on the status of the notice of intent to sue that the Department of Fish & Wildlife received from the Western Watershed Center regarding proposed grazing on state wildlife areas. Alex presented a revised draft of the letter discussed at the last meeting. The Board still has mixed feelings regarding the tone of this letter and how it should be worded. The Board directed Alex to rewrite the letter to emphasize the Board's philosophy of promoting conservation with community values in mind and approaching controversial issues with facts and neutrality. Several revisions to the letter were suggested and Alex agreed to revise the letter

accordingly. Alex requested that these edits be done by email in the future for the sake of clarity and time. The Board agreed that this letter should be sent to Jeff Koenings, WDFW Director, and the Governor.

WDFW Statewide Steelhead Management Plan

Alex described the Statewide Steelhead Management Planning process and WDFW Director Koenig's response to concerns raised by the Lower Columbia Regional Board. The Board discussed whether or not a response to the letter was necessary – Alex felt strongly that it was. Jeff Tayer commented the importance of noting how different planning processes can complement each other by addressing different in and out of basin strategies. Paul Ward expressed concern over addressing harvest issues in the response; harvest is an issue that the tribe sees as most appropriately addressed by the tribes and the state in their roles as co-managers. The Board made several suggestions for edits.

Columbia River BiOp

Alex and Phil Miller (by phone) provided an overview of the status of development of the Biological Opinion for the Columbia River hydro system. It is now up to NOAA's to draft the BiOp based on the information submitted by the action agencies (BOR, BPA and Corps of Engineers). This is a good time for regional boards to address remaining issues with NOAA. Alex presented a draft letter encouraging NOAA and the Action Agencies to coordinate implementation of the BiOp with regional boards and other local partners. The Board proposed several edits to the letter and authorized Alex and the chair to finalize it.

5. Review of Recovery/Monitoring Plans Status

Alex reviewed the status of the NOAA's Mid-Columbia recovery planning process and the Board's steelhead extract. The Board agreed to make this the primary focus of the September meeting. Alex gave an overview of ongoing discussions of steelhead population monitoring and noted the Board's role in securing \$40,000 for high-priority genetic studies by WDFW. Jeff Tayer complimented Alex on his efforts in putting this together.

6. Board Logistics Update

Lead Entity Committees: The Board discussed TAG and CC membership. We need more participation from Benton County and the Yakama Nation in the future. Jeff Tayer commented that there was an opportunity to promote fisheries projects in Benton County when mitigation funding is available for that area.

Board of Directors Membership: We have some empty seats. We need to get Cle Elum and Roslyn to identify the Kittitas County small city representative (Chairman Bowen will work on this.) We also need to clarify the Yakima small cities representation. Secretary Bowman commented on issues in Benton County. Matt Bleish has moved and resigned from the West Richland City Council. An individual can't sit as a primary representative to the Board unless they are an elected official, so the Board will need to fill that seat. At this time, the City of Richland has not put priority on being represented on the Board. The Board will need to select new Benton County representatives after elections. The current bylaws leave filling vacancies up to the member governments from each county. They don't set a term limit for Board of Directors members, who serve at the discretion of the member governments from their area.

Annual Meeting: The Board discussed having the annual meeting in September. This is possible, but will be a push with the current work load. The Board agreed to hold the annual meeting in October, and focus on the recovery plan in September. The Board opted to stay with

the 4th Wednesday of the month. The next meeting will be September 26th. Alex asked how many would be interested in a tour of spawning sites prior to the September meeting. The next meeting could be set up so that those interested could come early for the tour, and the meeting would be held afterwards. A suggestion was to have the meeting at Suncadia and invite David Gerth from the Kittitas Conservation Trust to discuss the conservation arrangement with the resort.

7. SRFB Vacancy/Eastern Washington WA representation

Larry Cassidy stepped down from his position on the SRFB. A second vacancy (Chairman Ruckelshaus) is anticipated, but no official announcement of his resignation has been made. 4-6 people have been nominated to fill the current vacancy(ies), including Nancy Lillquist. Secretary Bowman commented on the value of having an elected official in this position. This individual represents a community. Secretary Bowman moved to draft a letter supporting selection of an eastern Washington elected official and endorsing Nancy Lillquist's application. Morgan Everett seconded the motion and it carried with no opposition.

8. Financial & Activity Reports

Alex reviewed the financial records. Mike Leita moved to accept the financial report. Secretary Bowman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. Alex discussed our office space situation. The Board urged him to move quickly on this and get a permanent space.

Meeting adjourned at 7:35 pm.