

Melinda S. Eden  
Chair  
Oregon

Joan M. Dukes  
Oregon

Frank L. Cassidy Jr.  
"Larry"  
Washington

Tom Karier  
Washington



Jim Kempton  
Vice-Chair  
Idaho

Judi Danielson  
Idaho

Bruce A. Measure  
Montana

Rhonda Whiting  
Montana

## **Council Meeting Eugene, Oregon**

**October 11-13, 2005**

### **Minutes**

Jim Kempton made a motion that the Council add to the agenda a discussion of having the Independent Scientific Advisory Board (ISAB) review the effectiveness of the 2005 summer spill. Judi Danielson seconded the motion.

The motion passed seven to zero on a roll call vote. Kempton, Danielson, Dukes, Eden, Tom Karier, Larry Cassidy, and Rhonda Whiting voted aye; Bruce Measure was not present.

### **Reports from Fish and Wildlife, Power and Public Affairs committee chairs:**

Rhonda Whiting, chair, fish and wildlife committee; Tom Karier, chair, power committee; and Larry Cassidy, chair, public affairs committee.

Fish and Wildlife Committee chair Rhonda Whiting reported on the committee meeting. She also noted that the committee held a meeting at the end of September to resolve project selection issues.

Tom Karier, chair of the Power Committee, said the committee had an update on the Regional Dialogue. The committee also discussed the effort that is under way to establish a resource adequacy standard for the power system, he said. By the end of December, we hope to have a standard developed, Karier reported. The committee is also considering whether the Council should revise its natural gas price forecast since there has been a considerable increase in recent months, he said.

Larry Cassidy said the Public Affairs Committee had not met, but he reported that the Council's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration would be moved from December 2005 to March 2006.

## **1. Council decision on Fiscal Year 2007-2009 project selection guidance document:**

Doug Marker, director, fish and wildlife division; and Patty O'Toole, program implementation manager.

Staffer Patty O'Toole explained that in the past couple of months, unresolved issues related to FY 2007-09 fish and wildlife project selection had boiled down to definitions, allocation of funding, and schedule. She elaborated on each issue and said the Fish and Wildlife Committee had settled on recommendations.

The committee confirmed the historical 70-15-15 split for distributing funds (70 percent for anadromous fish, 15 percent for resident fish, and 15 percent for wildlife), but rejected BPA's 70-25-5 recommendation (70 percent for "on-the-ground" work, 25 percent for research, monitoring, and evaluation (RME), and 5 percent for coordination), O'Toole reported. She noted the committee ran into difficulty trying to come up with clear distinctions between "on-the-ground" and other types of projects. Some of the projects we label as systemwide have a local, on-the-ground component, O'Toole explained. She said the committee approved a budget allocation of \$106.3 million for subbasin (local) projects and \$32 million to \$33 million for systemwide projects.

Kempton made a motion that the Council approve the key elements of the Fiscal Year 2007-2009 project selection process presented by the staff, with attachments, incorporating recommendations of the Fish and Wildlife Committee in a project selection guidance document to be provided to the public in the solicitation of project proposals; and following the Council's review of the guidance document, authorize the staff to solicit project proposals. Whiting seconded the motion, which passed seven to zero.

## **2. Presentation on watershed restoration:**

Angus Duncan, Bonneville Environmental Foundation.

Angus Duncan and Todd Reeve of the Bonneville Environmental Foundation (Foundation) described the approach the Foundation is taking to the watershed restoration projects it sponsors. Duncan said local watershed councils are "the right place" to focus efforts and that systematic long-term M&E is needed to gauge accomplishments. He described the Foundation watershed model, noting a multi-stakeholder, community-based approach; a 10-year funding commitment for essential M&E; independent peer review; and project continuity.

Duncan said the watersheds where the Foundation is funding projects are important subbasins for the Council's Fish and Wildlife Program. We are trying to expand our "outcome-based" process, and we would like to be able to demonstrate that "this is how you do this" and develop a package that could be more widely used, he stated.

## **3. Continued discussion of possible amendment process to add biological objectives to the Fish and Wildlife Program:**

John Shurts, general counsel; and Doug Marker.

[part of Agenda Item 4 discussion]

#### **4. Presentation of All-H-Analyzer pilot products:**

Lars Mobernd, Jones & Stokes; Peter Paquet, manager, wildlife and resident fish; and John Shurts.

Shurts told the Council that after subbasin plans were completed, the question arose as to what all of the plans meant collectively. People were asking what they all add up to and what policy objectives could be derived from them, he said. Working with others, we came up with the All-H Analyzer (AHA), which is an integration tool to help us get to those answers, Shurts stated.

Lars Mobernd of Mobernd Jones & Stokes demonstrated how the AHA model works and displayed various graphic representations of data that has already been put into the model.

We'll discuss this further and decide where we want to go from here, Eden summed up.

#### **5. Presentation on NMFS monitoring in recovery plans:**

Mike Crouse, NOAA Fisheries; and Steve Waste, manager, program analysis and evaluation.

Staff from NOAA Fisheries briefed the Council on efforts to develop an approach to monitoring that would support delisting a threatened or endangered fish species. Administrator Bob Lohn has set an aggressive schedule for producing recovery plans, with draft plans due at the end of 2005 and final at the end of 2006, according to Mike Crouse of NOAA Fisheries. "We are trying to demystify" the process NOAA Fisheries will use to determine if a species should be delisted, and we are developing a plan the agency thinks will provide adequate monitoring and evaluation (M&E) to support delisting, he said.

#### **6. Briefing on status of 2005 adult salmon migration:**

Cindy Lefleur, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

Dick Stone of WDFW gave an update on the anadromous fish count in the Columbia River, noting that the focus in the lower river is now on fall chinook and coho. We monitor six populations of fall chinook in the lower river, he said.

The harvest impact limit for Upriver Brights (URB) is 31.29 percent, which is allocated 23.04 percent to Treaty Indian and 8.25 to non-Indian fishing, he said. The current impact is a bit below the limit, so both fisheries are still ongoing, Stone reported.

The count at Bonneville Dam through October 9 was 405,600 adult chinook, he continued. Estimates for the run were updated October 10, and the URB and Bonneville Pool Hatchery (BPH) runs are lower than preseason estimates, Stone said. The Upriver summer steelhead count is ahead of the preseason estimate, he said. Both the URB and BPH runs are nearly over, according to Stone.

He went on with updates on the in-season harvest and noted that the fall commercial fishery is still ongoing. The recreational fishery has closed for the season, Stone reported. He said WDFW would provide another update in November and a year-end wrap-up in December or January.

## **Independent Science Advisory Board and 2005 Summer Spill (added item)**

The Council voted to have the ISAB review the effectiveness of the 2005 summer spill. Kempton, who offered a motion to add the item to the Council's October agenda, said that in view of other reports on the spill's effectiveness, it was important to get an independent science review under way. He suggested staffer Erik Merrill and ISAB members draft precise questions for the study and submit them for Council review.

Kempton listed the following lines of inquiry that he wanted the ISAB to pursue: a review of summer spill operations, including a comparison of spillway passage with removable spillway weir and other bypass mechanisms, and of the impact of reservoir residualization of fall chinook. Judi Danielson recommended the ISAB also consider the regression model used in passage analysis. "I'm looking for good science on how the model was used," she stated.

We want to see the net effectiveness of the court-ordered spill, Kempton said. He suggested the ISAB consider reports from other sources, including the Corps and Fish Passage Center. I want a complete review of the spill operation, Kempton stated.

Council chair Melinda Eden pointed out that the results of the spill in terms of adult returns would not be available for three to four years. I can't see a reason not to explore the science, and I'd support this, Larry Cassidy said. It's a reasonable thing to do, Karier agreed. We've done this in the past when there were controversial reports and different points of view on issues, he said. We'll find out about survival through the system, even if we don't know the lifecycle effects, Karier commented.

Kempton made a motion that staff draft questions for an ISAB review of summer spill operations and reservoir residualization. The motion, seconded by Karier, passed unanimously.

## **7. Update on remand proposals for Federal Columbia River Power System Biological Opinion:**

John Shurts.

Describing Judge Redden's October 7 remand order, Shurts said the judge did not vacate the BiOp or the federal agencies' final Updated Proposed Action (UPA). But the judge set up a system for parties to ask for injunctive relief and issued a final judgment against NOAA Fisheries over the BiOp, he explained. The agency has 60 days in which to appeal, and there is every indication that it will do so, Shurts reported.

The judge retained jurisdiction over the claims against NOAA Fisheries, ordering the agency to have a new BiOp prepared within a year, and he retained jurisdiction with regard to claims

against the Corps of Engineers and the Bureau of Reclamation, Shurts said. Redden asked NOAA Fisheries for updates every 90 days, and the first one is due February 2, 2006; there will be a status conference on each of the updates within five days of its filing, he added.

## **8. Presentation on Willamette temperature control and flood plain restoration:**

George Miller and Matt Rea, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Bob Willis and Matt Rea of the Corps brought the Council up to date on a temperature control project and a floodplain restoration study in the Willamette Basin. Willis gave the history of the temperature problem associated with Cougar Dam on the South Fork McKenzie River. The dam was built with fish passage in 1963, and the McKenzie hatchery began operation in 1975, he said. But things didn't work well because of the temperature problems, Willis said. The water released from Cougar reservoir in the spring is too cold, and later in the year, when salmon eggs

Rea elaborated on the Willamette Floodplain Restoration Study, an assessment of opportunities to reduce flood damage while restoring natural wetlands and promoting natural ecosystem function. The study is driven by an effort to restore the natural ecosystem, he stated. The study is one of the Corps' "general investigations," which require local support and cost share, Rea explained. There are a number of small site-specific projects in the Willamette, but this is a large strategic study, he said.

## **9. Presentation by Eugene Water and Electric Board on current issues:**

Randy Berggren, General Manager, EWEB.

Eugene Water & Electric Board (EWEB) general manager Randy Berggren said the utility has been focused on recovering from financial impacts precipitated by the 2001 energy crisis. The "drought," which the utility sees as related to global warming, the impact of higher rates on customers, and managing the relatively new BPA Slice product are also high on the radar screen, he said. Finding stability in all of these challenges has been difficult, and EWEB has withdrawn from involvement in some regional matters, Berggren acknowledged. But now "we see the light at the end of the tunnel" and are becoming involved again, he said.

## **10. Briefing on progress on the Regional Dialogue on the future role of Bonneville:**

Terry Morlan, director, power division.

Staffer Terry Morlan said changes being contemplated for BPA's role in future power supply are quite different from what was envisioned in the Northwest Power Act. Under the Act, BPA acquired resources to meet load in the region, he said. "That role has not worked out well," and what we're doing now in the Regional Dialogue is aimed at limiting BPA's role and putting the

responsibility to meet load growth on individual utilities, Morlan explained. While we've agreed on the general goals for a decade, we've made little progress on the specifics, he stated.

In the Regional Dialogue, we are working toward allocating existing Federal resources and setting up a mechanism for BPA to sell resources to meet load growth at a Tier 2 rate, Morlan continued.

## **11. Update on transmission decisions:**

Wally Gibson, manager, system analysis and generation.

Last week, there was a meeting of the Transmission Improvements Group (TIG) and the Grid West Regional Representatives Group (RRG) to consider a plan for integrating the TIG and Grid West proposals, staffer Wally Gibson reported. The meeting was to determine if there is enough support to go forward with integration, he said. At the end of the meeting, the participants set up a policy group and a legal group, Gibson said.

"I think it will be very difficult to find something that will work" in integrating the proposals, Gibson acknowledged. PacifiCorp and Idaho Power are not interested in TIG, and the publics are not convinced about Grid West, he stated.

## **12. Council Business:**

### **– Approval of minutes**

Kempton made a motion that the Council approve for the signature of the Vice-Chair the minutes for the September 13-15 Council meeting held in Spokane, Washington. Karier seconded the motion. Dukes suggested the minutes indicate that what is presented is a summary of a longer document since a single paragraph does not reflect "the robust" discussion that occurred on the first agenda item. Eden noted that an expanded version of the minutes and a tape recording are available. The motion passed, six to zero, with Cassidy and Measure absent for the vote.

### **– Adoption of 2006 Council Meeting schedule**

With nods of agreement, the Council adopted its meeting schedule for 2006.

The meeting adjourned at 11 a.m.

Approved November 17, 2005

/s/ Jim Kempton

Vice-Chairman

**Note:** these minutes are a summary of a longer version of the minutes of the Council Meeting. The complete minutes can be found on the Council's web-site at [www.nwcouncil.org](http://www.nwcouncil.org).

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