

**FISH PASSAGE CENTER OVERSIGHT BOARD**  
**Meeting Notes for July 11, 2011 – Portland, Oregon**

Members present were Bruce Measure, Daniel Goodman (by phone), Ritchie Graves, Sue Ireland, Paul Kline, Tony Nigro (by phone), and Doug Taki. Others present included Michele DeHart and Tom Iverson. Kerry Berg, Kendra Coles, Erik Merrill, Jim Ruff, and Karl Weist were present from the Council staff.

Chairman Measure called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m. He introduced the Northwest Power and Conservation Council's newest member, Phil Rockefeller, and his staff assistant Raquel Crosier. Measure asked for introductions in the meeting room and on the phone.

**Update and Status of ISAB Review of FPC Products**

Jim Ruff gave an update on three Fish Passage Center (FPC) technical memos that were sent in May to the Independent Scientific Advisory Board (ISAB) and the FPC Oversight Board for review. The memos are related to the issue of latent mortality due to passage through the hydro system. We thought we should give the memos a technical review, he said.

Ruff said there is nothing yet to report to the FPCOB; there will be a report on the reviews at the next meeting in November. He explained that he worked with a small group, which included Rich Aldrich and Tony Nigro, to identify the FPC products to send to the ISAB and the Oversight Board for review. Ruff said two of the memos date back to Fall 2010 and the other to January 2011. Two are focused on latent mortality and dam passage and the third is on latent mortality and passage through fish bypass systems at dams, he said.

Ruff said the memos relate to measures in the NMFS Biological Opinion for the Federal Columbia River Power System and to the Council's Fish and Wildlife Program. Nigro said the memos bear on the Corps of Engineers' transportation program, as well.

Merrill reported the ISAB will have a draft of its review of the FPC's Annual Report this week. In August, we will have the Comparative Survival Study (CSS) report from the FPC and a review of it should be done by the end of September, he said.

Dan Goodman gave a brief summary of the issues in the technical memos. There are three means of fish passage past dams, he said: barge, bypass, and spill. And there are questions about the relative merits of the three routes and the differential mortality with each. There is also the question of whether delayed mortality is related specifically to any of these routes, he said. The topic and mortality estimates have been controversial, Goodman indicated.

**Potential Future Activities and Items for the Board**

Measure asked if the FPCOB will get an annual review report on the FPC Director from the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission (PSMFC). Michele DeHart said the review had

been conducted, but there was nothing to report to the board. Measure said he would call Randy Fisher at PSMFC and ask for a memo on the review for presentation at the November meeting.

Berg pointed out that the FPCOB program language mentions an “annual review of the performance of the center and develop a goal-oriented implementation plan.” We have never discussed what that language meant, and I wanted to remind the board it is part of the stated purpose in the Council’s Fish and Wildlife Program, he said.

Measure asked for ideas about how the board should proceed with such a review and plan. Paul Kline said at a minimum the board should look at the objectives of the FPC and see if they are being achieved. Berg suggested the board could do something as simple as review the FPC Annual Report and the director’s report on the accomplishments. Ruff pointed out the FPC has an annual work plan that is developed through its contract, which could be a starting point.

DeHart said the quarterly reports she sends out are organized according to the work elements in the FPC’s contract with BPA. Each quarter, I report on what we’ve accomplished on the work elements, she stated.

Measure suggested Council staff put together a proposal for conducting the annual review and developing the implementation plan. Kline said a printout of BPA’s Pisces reports would be helpful in such a review.

Goodman said a lot is riding on the ISAB review and what it concludes about the quality of FPC products. Ireland asked about the meaning of a “goal-oriented implementation plan.” Measure said the Council came up with the language. Our job is to come up with something to address it and square it with the Council’s Fish and Wildlife Program, he said.

Nigro said the FPC contract would be good place to start with the annual review. I would tend to agree with keeping it simple, he said. Start with the contract about regional expectations and elaborate as the board sees fit, he suggested.

Measure noted “head nods” of agreement with keeping it simple.

Berg confirmed that the November 7 date for the next FPCOB meeting was agreeable. There was some discussion of FPCOB membership changes, and Measure said he is considering changes in the Council’s appointee to the Oversight Board, which could happen as early as November.

Graves raised an issue that may be appropriate for FPC analysis. He noted that the FERC license for Douglas PUD’s Wells Dam requires smolt monitoring. Because there is no monitoring facility at Wells, the monitoring is done at Rocky Reach and Rock Island dams. Graves said there are unexplained discrepancies in the data from the two dams. He said he is concerned about how fish are handled differently at the two facilities. There could be a sampling methodology issue, Graves said. He asked if the FPC could look at the issue.

DeHart said the FPC program does not include Wells or Rocky Reach dams, but does include Rock Island. And she said the FPC does not have authority to look into the issue unless a group of agencies direct it to do so. We have to have a formal request, DeHart stated.

There was some discussion about the proposal and whether Chelan PUD, the owner of Rock Island and Rocky Reach, would be amenable to the FPC involvement.

Graves said his specific concern is if workers at both sites are collecting data in a similar fashion, which result is most representative of what's going on in the river. Nigro suggested NOAA Fisheries could make a request for FPC to look at the data in order to get a review conducted.

Graves said he would send emails and try to get such a request moving. I brought this up because I didn't want to blindside anyone at this table with such a request, he said.

Measure asked if there was other board business to take up. Ruff reviewed items for the agenda in November. Goodman pointed out that the FPC Annual Report review, the CSS review, and the review of three technical memos are very demanding for the ISAB. He said if the CSS comment period ends in close proximity to the November meeting, "we can't do it justice."

Staff said the CSS final report is due November 30. Measure said there is no point in having the CSS review as an agenda item at the November meeting.

There was further discussion about the timing of the review products and what could reasonably be included on the November agenda.

Ruff said a GotoMeeting may be needed in November for presentations. Measure added that the FPCOB would go into Executive Session for PSMFC's presentation on the FPC director's review.

The FPCOB meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

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