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VICE-CHAIR
Oregon

Gene Derfler
Oregon

Ed Bartlett
Montana

John Hines
Montana

August 2004

MEMORANDUM

TO: Council members

FROM: Melinda Eden, vice chair

SUBJECT: Report on meeting with the Columbia Basin Trust in Kimberley, B.C.,
July 16, 2004

Attendance

Northwest Power and Conservation Council

Melinda Eden Vice Chair - Oregon
Gene Derfler – Council member, Oregon
Jim Kempton , Council member, Idaho
Ed Bartlett - Council member, Montana
Mark Walker – Director of Public Affairs
John Shurts – General Counsel
John Harrison – Information Officer
Peter Paquet – Mgr., Wildlife & Resident Fish
Stacy Horton – Staff, Washington office

Columbia Basin Trust

Josh Smienk, Chair Board of Directors
Dieter Boggs, Board of Directors
Jeannette Townsend, Board of Directors
Evelyn Cutts, Board of Directors
Don Johnston – Chief Executive Officer
Kindy Gosal –Water Initiatives Manager

Invited Guests

- Hon. Jim Abbot, MP
- Ken Miller, MP Assistant
- Hon. Bill Bennett, MLA
- Marvin Wodinsky – Canadian Consul General Seattle Office
.,Seattle
- Patrick Higgins – Canadian Consulate Office Seattle
- Les McLaren, Province of BC, Crown Agencies Secretariat

At the invitation of the Columbia Basin Trust (CBT), the Council's closest counterpart agency in British Columbia, Council members and staff met with members of the board of directors and staff of the CBT in Kimberley, B.C., Friday morning, July 16. Later that day, I addressed the annual general meeting of the CBT in nearby Cranbrook.

At our business meeting Friday morning, we discussed a number of issues including opportunities for sharing fish and wildlife data, producing publications, co-sponsoring the next transboundary Columbia River ecosystem management conference in 2006, and the problem of pollution in Lake Roosevelt caused by discharges from the Teck-Cominco smelter in Trail. Most of our discussion, however, centered on the CBT's proposal for an international discussion forum on the future of Columbia River water management. The CBT refers to this as the initiation of a "high-level political transboundary dialogue" on water management issues that

could be addressed in the next Columbia River Treaty if the two countries decide to negotiate one. Although there is no official end date for the existing treaty, which dates to 1964, there are provisions for renewal, termination or re-negotiation after 60 years (2024) if 10 years' notice is given (2014). The forum would provide an opportunity to identify and discuss issues that could be on the table in 2014.

The CBT initially proposed that the Council convene the first meeting of the forum, tentatively called "The Columbia Basin Forum," next spring in Portland. However, at the Kimberley meeting Council members said that would be difficult because of the anticipated work on adopting subbasin plans and the Fifth Power Plan. It was agreed that the fall of 2005 would be better.

Josh Smienk, CBT chair, said the forum should not be seen as a place to begin negotiating a new treaty, and the Council members made it clear that the Council has no legal authority regarding the treaty or treaty-making. However, both agencies have credibility with key river stakeholders and mandates to involve and inform citizens about energy issues. Thus, it was agreed that the CBT and Council are in a position to bring people together to identify and discuss Columbia River water management issues. In this sense, the CBT and Council could offer valuable assistance to their respective governments when, and if, a new treaty is negotiated.

Representatives of the Canadian consulate (Seattle office) and the government of British Columbia attended the meeting and voiced support for the proposal. Les McLaren, executive director of the Crown Agencies Secretariat, which oversees crown corporations including the CBT and BC Hydro, commented, "we look forward to getting input from basin residents through the Trust about the future of the treaty. Dialogue on both sides of the border can only be helpful in the future."

Corollary to the forum idea, it was proposed that a website be developed as a repository of information about Columbia River water management issues. The Council volunteered to coordinate development of such a site. Also, John Shurts and Jim Abbott recommended that educational institutions, such as the Transboundary Freshwater Initiative at Oregon State University, and educators at Selkirk College in Castlegar and College of the Rockies in Cranbrook, be invited to participate in developing and convening the forum and in compiling information for the website.

Council members expressed support for the concept but cautioned that they could not commit to the forum without the approval of the other Council members. The CBT board members and Council members agreed to discuss the concept with their counterparts and, if they approve, direct their staffs to develop a detailed proposal for review.