

Tom Karier
Chair
Washington

Frank L. Cassidy Jr.
"Larry"
Washington

Jim Kempton
Idaho

Judi Danielson
Idaho



Joan M. Dukes
Vice-Chair
Oregon

Melinda S. Eden
Oregon

Bruce A. Measure
Montana

Rhonda Whiting
Montana

Council Meeting Missoula, MT

July 11-12, 2006

Minutes

Tom Karier called the meeting to order at 9:45 am on 7/11 and adjourned it at 3:45 pm on 7/12. All members were present.

Joan Dukes moved that the Council meet in executive session on July 11 to discuss matters of Council organization, structure, procedure, and internal personnel. Larry Cassidy seconded, and the motion passed unanimously on a roll-call vote.

Reports from Fish and Wildlife, Power and Public Affairs committee chair:

Rhonda Whiting, chair, fish and wildlife committee; Jim Kempton, chair, power committee; and Larry Cassidy, chair, public affairs committee.

Jim Kempton reported that the Power Committee heard reports on the staff's CO₂ analysis, wind cost assessment, and the Council's wind integration effort. We also talked about renewable portfolio standards, utility IRPs, a new demand forecasting system, and regional adequacy standards, he said.

Rhonda Whiting reported that the Fish and Wildlife (F&W) Committee discussed FY 2007-09 funding recommendations, issue development for FY 2007-09 program funding recommendations, the impact of the remand on future program budget recommendations, within-year project funding, the provincial objectives issues paper, issues about the F&W project process with the Upper Columbia United Tribes.

1. Presentation on tribal sovereignty:

Maylinn Smith, Director, Indian Law Clinic, University of Montana.

Professor Maylinn Smith, director of the Indian Law Clinic at the University of Montana, made a presentation on tribal sovereignty, explaining issues associated with it and the rights of treaty tribes.

2. Panel on Wind Integration:

Jeff King, senior resource analyst; Kevin Conway, Grant County PUD; Casey Johnston, NorthWestern Energy; Elliot Mainzer, Bonneville Power Administration.

The Northwest has seen a rapid increase in wind power development, with more than 970 MW of wind energy put in operation or under construction since the adoption of the Council's Fifth Power Plan, staffer Jeff King said. We expect more growth in the next few years, he noted.

King introduced a panel assembled to give the Council more information about wind power integration: Casey Johnston of NorthWestern Energy, Kevin Conway of Grant County PUD, Elliot Mainzer of BPA and Natalie McIntire of the Renewable Northwest Project

3. Presentation on cultural resources and sacred sites:

Tim Ryan, Salish-Kootenai Tribes.

Tim Ryan, a member of the Salish-Kootenai Tribes, made a presentation on cultural resources and sacred sites.

Comments from former Congressman Pat Williams, Montana.

Former Montana Congressman Pat Williams reminisced about the crafting of the Northwest Power Act, including its "historic, tortured path through the House of Representatives." He said he made the amendment that resulted in Montana having two full members on the Council. Williams also talked about the transition taking place in the West's economy, population, and culture, noting "we aren't what we were."

Here in the northern Rockies, instead of an economy based on the extraction of natural resources like gold, silver, timber, and copper, the West's economy today is based on conservation, restoration, high-tech, and power generation, he said. Much of the region is experiencing very fast population growth, and the transition has been wrenching, according to Williams. "The coasts are spilling over into the northern Rockies and the Southwest," he said. Most of the in-migration is not from retirees, but from people between the ages of 40 and 50, Williams noted.

The population growth and prosperity are occurring closest to the landscapes with the most natural amenities, such as mountains, lakes, rivers, and recreation areas, he stated. We've become an amenities economy with "footloose jobs" -- jobs that follow people, unlike the old days when people had to follow jobs, Williams said. "The workplace is now wherever you find a PC," he added.

The changes have led to feelings of anger and inequality, and Williams said the question now is whether the West can create a society to match its landscape. We can meet the challenges if we recognize that government can be an asset and if we can get leaders with vision, he noted, recalling Northwest figures like Frank Church, Warren Magnuson, and Mark Hatfield. Through intolerance and hypocrisy, we've gotten too far away from the old vision and leadership, Williams said.

4. Council decision on within-year project request:

Mark Fritsch, manager, project implementation.

- **Project # 2002-002-00, Restore Natural Recruitment of Kootenai River White Sturgeon**

Staffer Doug Marker presented a within-year funding request for the Kootenai River White Sturgeon project, noting that its purpose is to look at spawning habitat below Bonneville Dam. We need to do the work this summer, he said. Judi Danielson moved that the Council recommend BPA approve the request for the Restore Natural Recruitment of Kootenai River White Sturgeon Project, 2002-002-00, in an amount not to exceed \$75,829. Cassidy seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

5. Status report on Fiscal Year 2007-2009 project selection process:

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

- **Basinwide and province recommendations**
- **Summary and proposed responses to ISRP programmatic issues**
- **Status of rolling issue memo**

Staffer Doug Marker summarized the Independent Scientific Review Panel's (ISRP) recent review of FY 2007-2009 fish and wildlife (F&W) project proposals and recommendations that the science panel made as a result.

Mainstem Issues

The mainstem/systemwide review team (MSRT), composed of F&W managers, and representatives of the Council, BPA, NOAA, the Corps of Engineers, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, has been reviewing and rating mainstem or basinwide proposals, and information on that proposed prioritization will be available within a week, she told the Council. That budget is \$32.4 million, O'Toole noted.

As for the FY 2007-2009 decisions, O'Toole said the Council will make funding recommendations at its October meeting.

6. Briefing on fish and wildlife project accomplishments:

Bill Maslen, Bonneville Power Administration.

Bill Maslen of BPA said that in March the Council asked Bonneville for performance information about ongoing fish and wildlife projects, specifically three questions: is the project on schedule and accomplishing its goals; is the project doing so within recommended budgets; and what is known about the success and accomplishments of any M&E that is part of the project?

7. Update on Columbia River fish mitigation priorities:

Jim Ruff, manager, mainstem passage and river operations.

Ruff explained what's new with the Corps' Columbia River Fish Mitigation (CRFM) program, pointing out that its focus is anadromous fish passage facility configuration and operations at the mainstem Columbia and Snake River dams.

8. Presentation on Regional Dialogue Draft Policy:

Bonneville.

Postponed.

9. Update on juvenile mainstem survival analysis:

John Williams, Steve Smith and Bill Muir, NOAA.

A panel from NOAA Fisheries' Northwest Science Center reported research findings on the effects of the federal hydro system on the survival and travel times of PIT-tagged juvenile Snake River chinook and steelhead as they relate to spill and flow, including results from the high-flow, high-spill 2006 spring migration. They also discussed the importance of evaluating adult returns based on juvenile migration histories and future research needs.

10. Council business:

- **Adoption of Budget**

Staffer Sharon Ossmann reported that the Council's proposed budgets had been sent out for public comment and that no oral or written comment was received. Dukes moved that the Council adopt the draft FY 2008 budget of \$9,276,000 and the FY 2007 revised budget of \$9,085,000 and that the Council authorize reprogramming of available FY 2006 funds for unanticipated FY 2006 costs such as personnel actions and increased operating costs. Kempton seconded, and the motion passed, with Cassidy and Danielson absent.

- **Approval of Minutes**

Dukes moved to approve the minutes for the June 13-14, 2006 Council meeting held in Boise, Idaho. Whiting seconded. Bruce Measure suggested that the minutes not report non-action items. The motion to approve the minutes for June 13-14, 2006 passed, with Measure voting no, and Cassidy and Danielson absent.

Approved August _____, 2006

Vice Chair

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