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April 5, 2007

MEMORANDUM

TO: Council Members

FROM: Lynn Palensky

SUBJECT: Program Amendment Preparations

PURPOSE:

Lynn Palensky and Peter Paquet will provide an update on staff preparations for the upcoming program amendment process in five general areas listed below. An action item for the full Council is to approve the schedule and approach for program amendments that will be discussed under the first item (A) below.

BACKGROUND:

A. Discussion on Amendment Process and Schedule: At the March meeting staff presented the proposed schedule and approach for launching the amendment process (see attached slides). We have met with individual Council members, managers, and other interested parties in the basin over the last two months to explain the current thinking for the process. The main areas of preparations include:

- Approving the schedule for amendments
- Framing specific issues for targeting recommendations
- Planning and hosting the science/policy exchange on the latest science
- Continuing work on development of mid-level biological objectives
- Developing guidance document to accompany the Call for Recommendations

B. Science Policy Information Exchange: In February, staff presented the Council with the initial scoping of the science-policy exchange. The Council directed us to proceed with planning and to form a steering committee to assist. Below is a summary of the planning progress to date:

Steering Committee: The steering committee met for the first time on March 29, and was comprised of a number of ISAB members, a science advisor, Council staff, a staff person from Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Authority, Columbia Inter-Tribal Fish Commission, and Mary Verner from Upper Columbia United Tribes. The meeting focused on the overall objectives and format of the exchange, planning break-out groups, big-picture questions for each topic, and other factors to consider. The other factors that will impact our management actions in the program are climate change and human population and demographics changes; both of which we will need to recognize and better understand in the future. While each topic group will meet individually for planning their 1/2 day session, the entire group will come back together to check in at the end of April.

Conference Objectives:

- Understand how science has evolved in the last ten years and how that should/will affect our management actions
- Sharpen the issues within each topic area and discuss among Council members, scientists and managers to reach a common understanding of new science, methodologies and assumptions
- Frame issues for possible targeted comments within the Request for Recommendations for Amendments to the Program -- Guidance Document

The audience: Council members, managers, and experts in the particular fields.

When: September 12 & 13 (9/12: Habitat and Mainstem; 9/13: Estuary and Ocean). We will post a “save the date” notice on our website soon and encourage people to register when that process is set up. There will be limited seating to accommodate about 130 people.

Where: Portland State University auditorium, downtown Portland, OR

Format: Presentations on new science followed by facilitated discussions between managers and Council members.

C. Staff-led Evaluations:

Central and state staff have met several times to work through a list of program topics that could benefit from summary analysis of existing reports and recommendations, and existing program language and policies. Staff have narrowed the list down to around 14 topics (next page), some of the larger topics have multiple sub-issues. The ISAB has agreed to assist and even take the lead on some of the issues, particularly those topics with reports due in the next few months. Staff will continue to work with Council members to refine and winnow down this list, as it represents a significant workload right now. CBFWA has proposed facilitating workshops in the early summer that could assist with framing issues in some areas for program amendments as well.

	Possible Staff-led evaluations
1	Data management
2	Climate change
3	Human population
4	Invasives/non-natives
5	Water quality and toxics
6	Artificial production (includes performance, O&M, purpose, captive brood)
7	Monitoring and evaluation
8	O&M (land, habitat)
9	Resident fish
10	Lamprey and sturgeon
11	Tagging
12	Mid-level biological objectives
13	Mainstem passage and Snake River fall Chinook
14	Subbasin planning
15	Implementation provisions

D. Report by CBFWA on Program Amendments

Brian Lipscomb will be at the Committee meeting to discuss CBFWA's direction as it pertains to the Fish and Wildlife Program amendment process.

E. Provincial Level biological objectives discussion:

Peter Paquet will provide an update on the progress of the growing ad hoc group that is discussing development of mid-level biological objectives. The group includes CBFWA, Council, Bonneville, and utility customers' staff. Our discussions include possible alternatives for the expression of objectives, scope and scale, benefits and use with regard to the program.