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Northwest Power and Conservation Council

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November 7, 2017

MEMORANDUM

TO: Council members

FROM: Jennifer Anders, Montana member, Liaison to the Columbia Basin Trust
John Harrison, Information Officer

SUBJECT: Presentation by Rick Jensen, Chair, and Johnny Strilaeff, CEO and
President, Columbia Basin Trust.

Presenters: Chair Jensen and CEO Strilaeff will provide an update of Columbia Basin
Trust activities and current initiatives.

Mr. Jensen was appointed to the Board of Directors in 2014. He served as mayor of Cranbrook, British Columbia, for three terms, 1983-1990. He also served as a director of the Regional District of East Kootenay for seven years and was involved with numerous community groups, including being on the Board of the Cranbrook and District Hospital. He served as a board member, president, and chief executive officer of Panorama Mountain Village Inc. from 2010 to 2014. With his son, Chad, Mr. Jensen operates New Dawn Developments, which specializes in residential and commercial construction.

Mr. Strilaeff, who is from Castlegar, joined the Trust in 2005 after working for several years with the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce. He has been involved in every aspect of Trust business in a senior leadership role. He became Vice-President and Chief Operating Officer in 2012. The Board of Directors appointed him President and CEO in November 2016. He is also the Acting President and Chief Executive Officer for Columbia Power Corporation, a partner with the Trust in hydropower developments including the Arrow Lakes Generating Station at Keenleyside Dam, and powerplant expansions at Brilliant and Waneta dams.

Background:

The Columbia Basin Trust, based in Castlegar, is the closest counterpart agency in British Columbia to the Council. The Trust was created in 1995 to support efforts by the people of the Canadian Columbia River Basin to create a legacy of social, economic, and environmental well-being in the Canadian portion of the basin, the region most affected by the Columbia River Treaty (CRT). A binding agreement was established under the *Columbia Basin Trust Act*, a legislative law of the province, to provide \$276 million to finance power project construction, \$45 million as an endowment, and \$2 million per year from 1995 to 2010 for operations. Today, revenue from three hydropower projects provides a steady stream of income accounting for approximately 85 to 88 per cent of total revenues (total revenues are \$57.9 million in this year according to the [2016/17 Annual Service Plan Report](#)). Other sources of revenue include commercial loans, real estate investments, market securities, grants, and broadband operations. The Trust focuses its work around [13 strategic priorities](#), including affordable housing, economic development, the environment, First Nations relationships, recreation, and renewable energy.

The Council and Trust signed a memorandum of understanding in 2000, renewed in 2011 (included with this memo), that commits the two agencies to designate liaisons and work together to enhance transboundary cooperation in the international Columbia River Basin. Among commitments in the MOU, the Council and Trust agree to:

- Foster and promote an understanding and appreciation of the connection the Columbia River provides among residents on the two sides of the border
- Conduct joint activities such as public workshops, conferences, and meetings that address international Columbia River fish, wildlife, energy, and water issues.
- Share scientific information and pursue mutually beneficial scientific research, consistent with the unique program goals and project-funding requirements of each agency

Over time, the Council and Trust have jointly sponsored a series of transboundary symposia on the Columbia River Treaty; co-funded a study by Canadian and American researchers on potential climate-change impacts to glaciers in the upper Columbia River Basin, which are important to future water supplies and hydropower capacity; co-funded a study of transboundary burbot populations in Lake Koocanusa, the reservoir behind Libby Dam; and helped to organize and fund five international Columbia River conferences on transboundary fish, wildlife, and energy issues.

Consistent with the MOU, which commits the Council and Trust to meet at least annually to share information about their activities, Mr. Jensen and Mr. Strilaeff will brief the Council today on the current activities of the Trust.

The Council version of the 2000 MOU, in the form of a letter, follows. A similar letter to the Council was signed by the Trust chair and vice-chair.

FRANK L. CASSIDY JR. "Larry" CHAIRMAN Washington	NORTHWEST POWER PLANNING COUNCIL 851 S.W. SIXTH AVENUE, SUITE 1100 PORTLAND, OREGON 97204-1348	ERIC J. BLOCH VICE CHAIRMAN Oregon
Tom Karier Washington		John Brogoitti Oregon
Todd Maddock Idaho	Fax: 503-820-2370	Phone: 503-222-5161 1-800-452-5161
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		John Etchart Montana Stan Grace Montana

July 19, 2000

Mr. Josh Smienk, Chair
Mr. Garry Merkel, Vice Chair
Mr. Don Johnston, Executive Director
Columbia Basin Trust
P.O. Box 220
Nakusp, British Columbia
V0G 1R0 Canada

Gentlemen:

By this letter, the Northwest Power Planning Council agrees to formalize the relationship between our two agencies that has been developing since 1996, and more specifically since September 1998 when we agreed to designate our vice chairs as liaisons.

The Council recognizes this relationship as a means of enhancing transboundary cooperation on key issues related to ecosystem management in the Columbia River Basin, as detailed below. We also recognize that for the Trust, the relationship is a means to advance its mandate to promote understanding of the importance of river basins and its goal of playing a creative role in positive change in the basin.

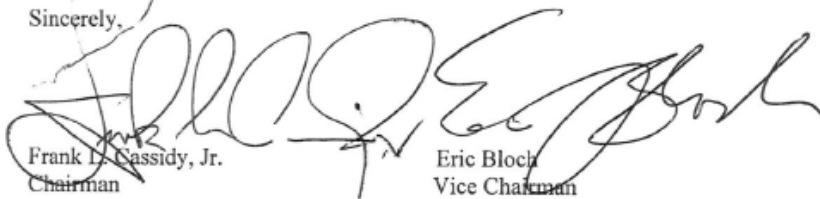
Specifically, the Council agrees to work collaboratively with the Trust to:

1. Foster and promote an attachment between residents of the Columbia River Basin on the two sides of the international border through public outreach and information.
2. Encourage public awareness and support for the concept of subbasin planning consistent with basinwide goals and objectives.
3. Pursue the development, funding and implementation of projects to protect, mitigate and enhance transboundary species of fish and wildlife, consistent with each organization's project-funding requirements and processes.
4. Share scientific information and pursue mutually beneficial scientific research, consistent with the unique program goals and project-funding requirements of each agency.
5. Conduct joint activities such as public workshops, conferences and meetings that address Columbia River Basin fish, wildlife, energy and water issues.

6. Exchange visits by our liaisons (vice chairs) at least annually to report on current and future planned activities and provide notice of initiatives of mutual interest.
7. Continue an informal dialogue on Columbia River Basin policy issues including, but not limited to, water management, water quality and mitigating the impact of hydropower on transboundary fish and wildlife, with the understanding that this dialogue could lead to common policy positions that could be communicated to state, provincial and national elected officials and action agencies, when appropriate.

On behalf of the Northwest Power Planning Council, we look forward to a long and fruitful relationship that will benefit the people and the environment of the Columbia River Basin.

Sincerely,

The image shows two handwritten signatures in black ink. The signature on the left is for Frank L. Cassidy, Jr., and the signature on the right is for Eric Bloch. Both signatures are written in a cursive, flowing style.

Frank L. Cassidy, Jr.
Chairman

Eric Bloch
Vice Chairman