

Melinda S. Eden
Chair
Oregon

Joan M. Dukes
Oregon

Frank L. Cassidy Jr.
"Larry"
Washington

Tom Karier
Washington



Jim Kempton
Vice-Chair
Idaho

Judi Danielson
Idaho

Bruce A. Measure
Montana

Rhonda Whiting
Montana

Council Meeting Walla Walla, WA May 10-11, 2005

Minutes

Welcome by Lt. Colonel Randy Glaeser, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Walla Walla District.

Glaeser, commander of the Corps' Walla Walla District, described the hydro projects under his jurisdiction and work going on in the upper Columbia and Snake River basins

Reports from Fish and Wildlife, Power and Public Affairs committee chairs: Rhonda Whiting, chair, fish and wildlife committee; Tom Karier, chair, power committee; and Larry Cassidy, chair, public affairs committee.

Rhonda Whiting, fish and wildlife Committee chair, recapped the committee's discussion of cost sharing for fish and wildlife projects. The committee also had a briefing on the 2006 fish and wildlife project budget, the project selection process for the next fiscal year, the Artificial Production Review and Evaluation report to Congress, and development of biological objectives at the province level.

Tom Karier, Power Committee chair, said discussion centered on Bonneville's Power Function Review proposal for conservation funding in the next rate period, defining cost-effectiveness for conservation measures, and resource adequacy.

Larry Cassidy, Public Affairs Committee chair, said the committee would meet the following day to go over new publications and a video script.

- 1. Council decision to release for public comment Council Fiscal Year 2007 budget and revised Fiscal Year 2006 budget:** Steve Crow, executive director; and Sharon Ossmann, acting director, administrative division.

Staffer Steve Crow laid out the history of the Council's budget, saying "we have a strong record of restraint" and underspending. From 1997-2001, the Council had a budget agreement with Bonneville and undershot the cap by \$5 million over the period, he reported. In the current rate period, we have spent \$1 million less than the budget agreement would have allowed, Crow said. While we have saved the ratepayers \$6 million over the past 10 years, "it's starting to pinch," he

said of the fiscal restraint. “We are dangerously close to not being able to fulfill our responsibilities under the Northwest Power Act” because of the inflation we have absorbed, Crow stated.

Jim Kempton made a motion that the Council approve release of its draft Fiscal Year 2007 budget and revisions to the Fiscal Year 2006 budget as presented by the staff for public comment. Tom Karier seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

2. Council decision on response to Bonneville’s Draft Closeout Report: Proposed Changes to PFR Base Costs for conservation: Dick Watson, director, power division; Tom Eckman, conservation resources manager; and Charlie Grist, senior analyst.

Dick Watson, attending his last official meeting before retiring after 13 years on the Council staff, reported that Bonneville released its draft Power Function Review closeout report May 2. The report is a summary of the issues raised and Bonneville’s response to suggestions about appropriate budget levels for the 2007-2009 rate period, he said. We have until May 20, 2005, to provide our comments, Watson said.

We have focused our response on conservation because this is the major resource proposed for development in the five-year Action Plan of the Council’s Fifth Power Plan, he said. We previously expressed concern to Administrator Steve Wright about the adequacy of proposed funding for conservation in the next rate period, Watson said.

Karier said the Power Committee recommends the Council adopt the positions in the comment letter. Kempton made a motion that the Council approve for the signature of the Chair the substance of the comment letter to the Bonneville Power Administration regarding the conservation costs found in its Draft Closeout Report presented by the staff, with grammar and style changes to be performed by staff and reviewed by Council members. Karier seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

3. Council decision on adoption of Grand Ronde, Snake Headwaters, Upper Snake and Snake Closed subbasin plans: Lynn Palensky, subbasin planning project manager; and John Ogan, senior counsel.

Staffer Lynn Palensky told the Council that four more subbasin plans are ready for adoption into the fish and wildlife program.

Kempton made a motion that the Council adopt as amendments to the Columbia River Fish and Wildlife Program the revised subbasin plans for the Upper Snake, Upper Snake Closed, Upper Snake Headwaters and Grande Ronde as presented by the staff; and direct the staff to give appropriate notice of the Council’s action. Danielson seconded the motion, and on a roll-call vote, all eight members voted aye.

4. Council decision on funding recommendations for updated proposed action habitat proposals: Mark Fritsch, manager, project implementation.

Staffer Mark Fritsch said staff recommends the Council approve fiscal year 2005 funds, not to exceed \$276,000 for three water optimization/passage projects: MacPherson Side Channel, Marrachi Diversion, and MSRF Side Channel. Bonneville and the Bureau of Reclamation have

worked to address the concerns raised by the Independent Scientific Review Panel in its project review, he said.

Kempton moved that the Council recommend that the Bonneville Power Administration fund the Updated Proposed Action habitat proposals for: the MacPherson Side Channel, the Marrachi Diversion and the MSRF Side Channel, in an aggregate amount not to exceed \$276,000 in fiscal year 2005 funds. Whiting seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

5. **Briefing on amendment process to add biological objectives at the province level to the fish and wildlife program:** John Shurts, general counsel; Bruce Suzumoto, manager, special projects; and Steve Waste, manager, program analysis and evaluation.

We have prepared a paper outlining “The What, The How and When, and Key Issues” of adopting biological objectives at the ecological province level for the fish and wildlife program, according to staffer John Shurts. We now need guidance from the Council on shaping this, he said.

6. **Report on adult fish returns and harvest management:** Peter Hassemer, Idaho Department of Fish and Game.

Peter Hassemer of the IDFG briefed the Council on the status of the 2005 upriver spring chinook run. The count at Bonneville Dam through May 10 was 51,719, a fraction of the pre-season projection, he reported.

7. **Presentation by Umatilla Electric Cooperative on current issues:** Steve Eldrige, CEO and General Manager.

Steve Eldrige offered the Council some perspective on power and fish and wildlife issues “from where I sit,” as the manager of Umatilla Electric Cooperative.

8. **Briefing and report from fish and wildlife committee discussions:**

- **FY 2007-2009 project selection process**

Staffer Patty O’Toole brought the Council up to date on redesign of the fish and wildlife project selection process.

9. **Presentation by the Umatilla Tribe:** John Barkley, general counsel chair; and Katherine Brigham, Umatilla Tribe.

Jay Minthorn, chair of the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission and a member of the board of trustees of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR), opened a presentation on fish and wildlife work in the Walla Walla subbasin with a description of what salmon mean to Indian culture and the damage done by construction of the FCRPS.

Gary James, CTUIR fisheries program manager, described Walla subbasin fish and wildlife restoration programs, including the planning forums, as well as specific projects aimed at fish passage, screening, watershed protection, stream and habitat enhancement, artificial propagation, irrigation efficiency, flow improvement, storage, water right acquisition, and shallow aquifer recharge. There is a lot of collaboration, participation, and dedication in this basin, he said. We are concerned about future funding levels, James added.

10. Presentation on in-year analysis of hydro conditions: John Fazio, senior power systems analyst.

Staffer John Fazio updated the Council on the power supply outlook for 2005. The January to July runoff forecast is up slightly from two weeks ago to 74.7 million acre-feet (MAF), which is 70 percent of normal, he said. The current forecast pegs 2005 as the 12th lowest out of the past 77 years, Fazio reported. In 2001 and 2003, runoff was also below 100 MAF, he pointed out.

11. Presentation on Independent Scientific Advisory Board recommendation to study effects of load following on juvenile salmon migratory behavior and survival in 2005: Dr. Richard Whitney, ISRP member.

Dr. Richard Whitney, who is wrapping up 15 years as a member of the Independent Scientific Advisory Board (ISAB), relayed the panel's recommendation that the region undertake an experiment in 2005 to study the effects of hydrosystem load-following on juvenile salmon migration.

12. Review and comment on Bonneville's fish and wildlife funding proposal: Doug Marker, director, fish and wildlife division.

Greg Delwiche of Bonneville explained that Bonneville is at the end of its Power Function Review process and has announced an annual integrated fish and wildlife program budget of \$143 million. He explained how Bonneville reached that number.

- **Comment: Ed Sheets, consultant, Yakama Nation; and Kevin Banister, PNGC (or alternate).**

Ed Sheets, a consultant with the Yakama Nation, said he had chaired a Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Authority (CBFWA) work group that developed the costs for implementing production and habitat measures in the subbasin plans. He explained how the CBFWA group compiled the costs and said the total for implementing the measures over 10 years would be \$1.8 billion, with wildlife work at about \$300 million. The CBFWA estimate is about \$240 million a year, assuming we could use Bonneville's borrowing authority – if not, the costs would be higher, according to Sheets.

Kevin Banister of PNGC Power said Bonneville's customers are committed to success in the region's salmon mitigation effort.

Council chair Melinda Eden asked members to review the draft comment letter to Bonneville on its fish and wildlife budget and respond by May 16. At that point, we will see if we have sufficient agreement to send the letter, she stated.

13. Council Business

- **Approval of minutes**

Kempton moved that the Council approve for the signature of the Vice-Chair the minutes for the April 12-14, 2005 Council meeting held in Boise, Idaho. Cassidy seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Eden noted that the minutes are quite a bit shorter than they used to be, and

she thanked Bruce Measure for suggesting they be shortened and Judi Hertz for paring them down.

– **Regional data access and maintenance contract**

Staffer Peter Paquet explained that substantial regional fish and wildlife planning data has been housed at Mobrand Biometrics and made available to people through a web-based system. We have been working on a long-term approach to keeping the data archived and available for the region, he said.

Kempton made a motion that the Council authorize the staff to work with the Bonneville Power Administration to provide funding, in an amount not to exceed \$25,000, for maintenance and public access to regional fish and wildlife planning data collected and compiled through several regional planning efforts. Danielson seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously. Cassidy was absent for the vote.

– **Adoption of fish and wildlife spending report**

Staffer John Harrison reported that the Fourth Annual Bonneville Power Administration fish and wildlife Spending Report has been out for public comment. Comments that came in were generally minor editorial or clarifying suggestions, he said. We are working with Bonneville to get updated numbers since some we got last fall have changed, Harrison added.

I'd propose that you approve the report with the editing changes and updated numbers, Karier said. We will then e-mail it out a couple of days ahead of its release, he explained.

Kempton moved that the Council approve the report for release to the public and direct staff to give appropriate notice of its action. Karier seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously. Cassidy was absent for the vote.

– **Public comment on Council issue papers:**

- **Klickitat Subbasin Anadromous Fishery Master Plan - *YKFP-Klickitat Design and Construction*, Project #1988-115-35; and**
- **Sekokini Springs Natural Rearing Facility and Educational Center Master Plan - *Hungry Horse Mitigation*, Project #1991-019-03.**

No one offered public comment on the issue papers.

Approved June 16, 2005

/s/ Jim Kempton

Vice-Chair