

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 Boise Idaho

June 13-14, 2006

Minutes

Joan Dukes made a motion that the Council meet in executive session at the close of business on Tuesday, June 13 and Wednesday, June 14 to discuss matters of Council organization, structure, procedure, and internal personnel. Larry Cassidy seconded the motion, which 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.

Fish and Wildlife Committee chair Rhonda Whiting gave a report on Tuesday morning's committee meeting.

Jim Kempton, Power Committee chair, gave a report on Tuesday morning's committee meeting.

Larry Cassidy, chair of the Public Affairs Committee, gave a report on Tuesday's committee meeting.

1. Council decision to approve joint Bonneville/Council wind confirmation process:

Terry Morlan, director, power division; and Jeff King, senior resource analyst.

Staffer Jeff King explained a proposal for the Council and BPA to jointly convene a committee to develop a renewable resource integration plan.

Joan Dukes made a motion that the Council sponsor, in conjunction with the Bonneville Power Administration, a committee to develop a regional Renewable Resource Integration Action Plan as presented by the staff and recommended by the Power Committee. Cassidy seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

2. Presentation on the status of the Northern California Current Ecosystem and its relationship to the productivity of Columbia River salmon:

John Ferguson, Director, Fish Ecology Division and Dr. Ed Casillas, Manager, Estuarine and Ocean Ecology Program.

John Ferguson and Ed Casillas of NOAA's Northwest Fisheries Science Center unveiled their research on the relationship between the Northern California Current ecosystem and Columbia River salmon productivity.

3. Briefing on Columbia River Salmon and Steelhead Harvest Management:

Guy Norman, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Guy Norman of the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) briefed the Council on salmon and steelhead harvest management.

4. Briefing on the efficiency provisions of EPAct:

Tom Eckman, conservation resources manager.

Staffer Tom Eckman briefed the Council on portions of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (EPAct) intended to spur national energy efficiency.

5. Briefing on Bonneville's conservation achievements report:

Tom Eckman.

Eckman briefed the Council on Bonneville's conservation achievements report.

6. Presentation on adult conversion rates through the mainstem Snake and Columbia rivers:

Ritchie Graves, acting FCRPS Branch Chief, National Marine Fisheries Service.

Ritchie Graves of NOAA Fisheries reported on work that uses data collected from PIT-tag detectors to calculate adult passage between hydro projects on the Columbia River.

7. Public comment on Northwest Power and Conservation Council Draft Fiscal Year 2008 Budget and Fiscal Year 2007 Revisions (Council document 2006-06).

No one appeared to comment on the Council's budget

8. Remarks by Idaho Governor James Risch.

Idaho Governor James Risch prefaced his remarks with an observation that no one predicted the role fish would play in the Council's mission when the Northwest Power Act passed in 1980. We were all thinking about power, he said.

The complexity of the decisions you make on fish is not lost on this Governor, Risch told the Council, adding that as a forestry-management major in college, he gained an appreciation for the "magnificent web of the biological universe" we inhabit. He applauded the Council for its initiatives on behalf of the Kootenai River white sturgeon and Yellowstone cutthroat trout, and for its success in bringing about subbasin plans.

9. Council decision on within-year project requests:

Doug Marker, director, fish and wildlife division; and Mark Fritsch, manager, project implementation.

– UPA Snake River Sockeye facility upgrade

Staffer Mark Fritsch explained a proposal to renovate and improve the Eagle Fish Hatchery in Idaho and the Oxbow Hatchery in Oregon to accomplish a BiOp Updated Proposed Action (UPA) related to Redfish Lake sockeye salmon.

Judi Danielson made a motion that the Council recommend that Bonneville fund the requests for renovations and improvements to the Eagle and Oxbow Hatcheries as presented by the staff and recommended by the Fish and Wildlife Committee in an amount not to exceed \$2,750,000, provided Bonneville verifies that sufficient capital funds remain in FY 2006 and that the Oxbow request qualifies for capital funds. Cassidy seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously to fund the Eagle and Oxbow hatchery improvements.

– Project #1989-024-01, Umatilla Juvenile Out-mitigation and Survival

– Project #1997-013-25, Yakima-Klickitat Fisheries Program O&M

Marker reported that the staff and F&W committee recommend denying funds to install a PIT-tag detection system at Three Mile Falls Dam, a Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) project on the Umatilla River.

Dukes made a motion that the Council recommend that Bonneville

- deny the request for the Umatilla Juvenile Outmigration and Survival Project but
- approve the request for the Yakima Supplementation Complex as presented by the staff and recommended by the Fish and Wildlife Committee in an amount not to exceed \$45,000.

Cassidy seconded. The Council approved the motion.

10. Presentation on ISRP review of 2007-2009 project selection:

Dr. Eric Loudenslager, Chair, Independent Scientific Review Panel; and Dr. Rick Williams, Peer Review Group.

Eric Loudenslager led off a presentation on the ISRP's review of 2007-09 fish and wildlife (F&W) project proposals. He was joined by Rick Williams, who headed a peer review group, and ISRP member Peter Bisson.

11. Council decision on ISAB mainstem peer review group:

John Shurts, general counsel; Jim Ruff, manager, mainstem passage and river operations; and Erik Merrill, ISRP/ISAB coordinator.

Staffer John Shurts explained a proposal for a standing mainstem peer review group to be established and overseen by the ISAB. The idea would be for the ISAB to set up a group that could quickly address mainstem issues arising from long-term operations and planning, as well as in-season questions, he said.

Dukes made a motion that the Council request that the Independent Science Advisory Board establish and oversee a standing Mainstem Passage Peer Review Group as outlined by the staff by approving for the signature of the Chair the letter to the ISAB circulated at today's meeting, and direct the staff to work with the ISAB and the Council's ISAB oversight partners to establish this group. Kempton seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

12. Presentation on the Columbia Basin's Role in the North Pacific -- The Stronghold Approach to Salmon Conservation:

Paula Burgess, Greg Block, and Malin Pinsky, Wild Salmon Center.

Paula Burgess of the Wild Salmon Center described her organization's focus on "the best of what's left" in terms of North Pacific salmon strongholds in the world, particularly in the Russian Far East and the Kamchatka Peninsula. We're focused in the opposite direction than the ESA, which is concerned primarily with weak stocks, she said.

13. Council Business:

– Adoption of minutes

Dukes made a motion that the Council approve for the signature of the Vice-Chair the minutes for the May 9-10 Council meeting in Walla Walla, Washington. Cassidy seconded the motion. Melinda Eden proposed an amendment to change language on page 9 to indicate the Council acknowledged (rather than "accepted") BPA's determination on capital. Dukes seconded Eden's change, and the Council approved the motion. The motion to adopt the minutes was approved by the Council.

– Council approval to release Draft Fifth Annual Report to the Northwest Governors on Expenditures of the Bonneville Power Administration (Council Document 2006-09) for public comment

Dukes made a motion that the Council release for public comment the Draft Fifth Annual Report to the Northwest Governors on Expenditures of the Bonneville Power Administration and direct the staff to give notice of its action and of the opportunities for comment. Whiting seconded the motion, which was approved by the Council.

Approved July _____, 2006

Vice-Chair

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