

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 Portland, OR

December 12-13, 2006

Minutes

Tom Karier called the meeting to order at 1:33 pm on December 12, 2006. All members, except Judi Danielson, were present.

Joan Dukes moved that the Council meet in executive session on December 12 to discuss internal personnel matters. 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 discussed interim reports related to the Fifth Power Plan biennial assessment. The committee made recommendations on the resource adequacy pilot capacity standard and a funding request from the Climate Impacts Group, Kempton noted.

Rhonda Whiting reported the Fish and Wildlife Committee approved a within-year funding request for the Kootenai River Native Fish Restoration and Conservation Aquaculture Project, as well as a Climate Impacts Group funding request.

Larry Cassidy reported on the Public Affairs Committee's preparations for the reception on December 13 to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the Northwest Power Act.

1. Council decision on resource adequacy pilot capacity standard:

John Fazio, senior power systems analyst.

The Resource Adequacy Forum (RAF) unanimously approved a proposed resource adequacy pilot capacity standard, staffer John Fazio told the Council. In the standard, the capacity metric

is defined as the surplus sustained peaking capability, and the winter and summer targets are 25 percent and 19 percent, respectively, he said. The targets have three components, an operating reserve, a reserve to cover adverse temperatures, and a planning adjustment reserve, according to Fazio.

Joan Dukes moved that the Council adopt the resource adequacy pilot capacity standard. Jim Kempton seconded, and the motion passed.

2. Presentation on juvenile life history diversity of fall Chinook salmon in the Snake River Basin:

Billy Connor, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; Ken Tiffan, U.S. Geological Survey; and Bill Muir, NOAA Fisheries.

Billy Connor of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Bill Muir of NOAA Fisheries, and Ken Tiffan of the U.S. Geological Survey reported the findings of their recent research on the migration behavior of Snake River fall chinook, both ocean-type (subyearling) and reservoir-type (yearling), a presentation the trio recently made to the Biological Opinion (BiOp) remand policy group.

Muir summed up the results of the research with these observations:

- Recent data indicate all yearling migrants do not winter exclusively in reservoirs; however, the data still indicate reservoir-type juveniles contribute substantially to the return of full-term adults.
- Though juveniles from cooler production areas are more likely to become yearling migrants than those from warmer production areas, yearling migrants are produced throughout the Snake River basin.
- Recent data indicate late migrants delay seaward movement near the Snake-Clearwater confluence and that overwintering juveniles are present throughout the hydro system.
- Though SARs for yearling migrants cannot account for mortality prior to a fish becoming a yearling, the higher SAR estimates reported for later migrants and yearling migrants are consistent with trends in adult composition.
- Determining the efficacy of transportation and spill is one of the most important tasks for Snake River fall chinook recovery, and to do that, we need a better understanding of seasonal changes in migrational behavior and undetected downstream passage.
- Conducting a Corps of Engineers-funded transportation study with a method that does not account for the diversity in the juvenile life history of Snake River fall chinook will result in decisions that "could counter recovery."

What will we get from the funding the Council has provided? Larry Cassidy asked. We'll study one reservoir, not the whole Snake River, as originally proposed, replied Tiffan. We'll try to estimate fish abundance -- how many of the fish are actually overwintering and where, he said.

3. Presentation on Wave Energy:

Justin Klure, Oregon Department of Energy.

Introducing Justin Klure of the Oregon Dept. of Energy to brief the Council on wave energy, staffer Jeff King said there are estimates of 400 to 425 MW of wave-energy potential off the Oregon coast. There has been a lot of movement on wave energy recently, and there are pilot-scale projects that could be installed as soon as next summer, Klure noted.

He said it is estimated that if 0.2 percent of the ocean's untapped energy could be harnessed, it could provide power sufficient for the entire world. Wave energy has a winter peak, which matches well with Northwest loads, and the devices are invisible from the coastline, Klure explained. Oregon State University is the leader in the nation in developing this technology, he pointed out.

4. Council decision on within-year project funding request:

Doug Marker; and Mark Fritsch

– 198806400 - Kootenai River Native Fish Restoration and Conservation Aquaculture

Staffer Mark Fritsch presented a request for a within-year budget adjustment for the Kootenai River Native Fish Restoration and Conservation Aquaculture Project to address water quality issues at the Kootenai White Sturgeon Hatchery. Cassidy moved that the Council recommend that BPA fund the within-year funding request for the Kootenai River Native Fish Restoration and Conservation Aquaculture Project, Project 198806400, as presented by the staff and recommended by the Fish and Wildlife Committee and Bonneville, in an amount not to exceed \$657,800. Melinda Eden seconded, and the motion passed.

5. Presentation by the Oregon Energy Trust:

Margie Harris, Executive Director.

Margie Harris of the Energy Trust of Oregon provided an update on her organization's activities, noting that the Trust receives about \$50 million a year from the 3 percent system benefit charge collected from Oregon customers of PGE and Pacific Power and that it also receives about \$11 million annually from gas customers of Northwest Natural, Cascade, and Avista. She said the Trust's mission is to change how Oregonians produce and use energy by investing in efficient technologies and renewable resources.

6. Briefing on Fish and Wildlife Program data management and reporting:

When the Council did its FY 2007-2009 project recommendations, one area of unfinished business was monitoring and evaluation , noted Karier. The Council said the region does not yet have monitoring and evaluation that allows us to see if the fish and wildlife program is being successful in meeting its objectives, he stated. Eventually we want to be able to have an annual report on the success of the program, Karier added. To get there, we need a coordinated data management system, he said.

Staffer Lynn Palensky described some of the accomplishments that have been achieved as a result of the completion of the Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Authority's (CBFWA) *Status of the Resource* report, a regionwide compilation of stock status and habitat-related data for each subbasin.

Brian Lipscomb of CBFWA said the interactive website based on the report will be done in February and the report will be posted on the Internet soon.

Staffer Steve Waste reported on an analysis of how well the fish population reports in the *Status of the Resource* cover the focal species targeted by Council projects.

Bruce Schmidt, StreamNet program manager, made a presentation on the current StreamNet proposal to obtain fish and wildlife population data needed to maintain current reports on the status of fish populations targeted by fish and wildlife program projects.

7. Update on accomplishments to date of Pacific Northwest Aquatic Monitoring Partnership:

Jen Bayer, coordinator.

Jen Bayer, coordinator for the Pacific Northwest Aquatic Monitoring Partnership (PNAMP), briefed the Council on the accomplishments of PNAMP. Their goals are to share resources and information among monitoring programs across state, tribal, and federal organizations and to improve communications about protocols and data management, she said.

8. Update on accomplishments to date of Collaborative Systemwide Monitoring and Evaluation Program:

Dave Marmorek, ESSA Technologies; and Tom Iverson, CBFWA.

Dave Marmorek of ESSA Technologies gave a briefing on the accomplishments of the Collaborative Systemwide Monitoring and Evaluation Program (CSMEP). CSMEP, he said, is a coordinated effort to improve the quality and consistency of fish monitoring data, and the methods used to evaluate the data, in order to answer key questions relevant to major decisions in the Columbia Basin.

9. Update on Fish Passage Center transition:

John Shurts, general counsel.

There was no report because the court didn't rule

10.Presentation on Black Rock Reservoir proposal:

Charlie DeLa Chapelle, Vice Chair; Tom Carpenter, Treasurer; and Chuck Klarich, Member, Yakima Basin Storage Alliance.

Members of the Yakima River Basin Storage Alliance updated the Council on the Black Rock Reservoir project, a proposed inter-basin transfer of water from the Columbia River to the Yakima River Basin.

11.Briefing on analysis of operation and maintenance of Program wildlife acquisitions:

Patty O'Toole, program implementation manager; Peter Paquet, manager, wildlife and resident fish.

Karier said the Council's 2007-2009 wildlife operations and maintenance funding recommendations were made on an interim basis and won't become final until a detailed review of appropriate funding levels for wildlife operations and maintenance expenditures is completed. Recent Pisces reports from Bonneville have shown a wide range of wildlife O&M costs per acre, he added. We met recently with Pisces representatives and we arrived at three goals for the study, he said: determine a "reasonable" cost per acre for operations and maintenance for wildlife projects; calculate project budgets for 2007-2009 wildlife operations and maintenance projects and see if they are consistent with the "reasonable" cost per acre; and determine the cost per habitat unit for wildlife enhancement projects and compare it to the cost per habitat unit for wildlife acquisition projects.

12.Summary of Fifth Plan Biennial Assessment findings:

Terry Morlan, director, power division.

The Fifth Power Plan calls for a biennial assessment of the status of the assumptions used in the plan and progress in meeting the goals of the plan, Morlan noted. As for the assumptions, we are finding that the demand and price forecasts, and the amount of volatility assumed in the plan, are consistent with actual experience, he said. We are seeing lots of volatility, and the capital costs of generating resources are being pushed up by high commodity prices, Morlan noted.

In summary, he said that the Power Plan is holding up well and that its assumptions are "still pretty good." The region is "perhaps a bit over-exuberant on wind development," and the Council may want to do some tests of different generating resource assumptions for possible effects on the long-term resource portfolio, Morlan stated.

13. Council business:

– Approval of Minutes

Dukes moved to approve the minutes for the November 14-15, 2006 Council meeting held in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. Cassidy seconded, and the motion passed.

– IEAB Task to Review *Revenue Stream*

Staffer Terry Morlan told the Council that the groups that prepared the *Revenue Stream* report made use of various reports the Independent Economic Analysis Board (IEAB) has reviewed and also some IEAB reports themselves. Staff thinks it could be useful to have the IEAB review the *Revenue Stream* report, he said.

Cassidy moved that the Council approve an IEAB review of the report, and Kempton seconded. The motion passed with five votes. Eden and Dukes abstained, and Judi Danielson was absent.

– IEAB Member Appointments

Dukes moved that the Council appoint Dr. Joel Hamilton, Dr. Susan Hanna, Dr. Noelwah Netusil, and Dr. Lon Peters to the Independent Economic Analysis Board for four-year terms and authorize the Executive Director to negotiate contracts with each member in an amount not to exceed \$22,000 per member per year. Kempton seconded, and the motion passed.

– IEAB Task on O&M Costs

This was deferred to the January meeting.

– Decision on Funding Request from Climate Impacts Group

Fazio presented a funding request for a grant to the Washington Dept. of Ecology, to be applied toward its contract with the University of Washington, to provide climate change analysis for the Northwest. Dukes moved that the Council approve a grant to the Washington Dept. of Ecology to apply to its contract with the University of Washington's Climate Impacts Group to refine climate change analysis for the Northwest in an amount not to exceed \$25,000 for the current fiscal year. Cassidy seconded, and the motion passed.

The meeting adjourned it at 2:30 pm on December 13th.

Approved January _____, 2007.

Vice-chair
