

Tom Karier  
Chair  
Washington

Frank L. Cassidy Jr.  
"Larry"  
Washington

James A. Yost  
Idaho

W. Bill Booth  
Idaho



Joan M. Dukes  
Vice-Chair  
Oregon

Melinda S. Eden  
Oregon

Bruce A. Measure  
Montana

Rhonda Whiting  
Montana

## **Council Meeting Coeur d'Alene Idaho**

**November 13-14, 2007**

### **Minutes**

Chair Tom Karier called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m. on November 13 and adjourned it at 1:52 p.m. on November 14. All members were present.

Joan Dukes moved that the Council add to the agenda of the meeting a discussion of the Residential Exchange agreement; find that Council business requires this discussion; and find that no earlier notice was possible. Bill Booth seconded, and the motion passed unanimously on a roll-call vote.

### **Reports from Fish and Wildlife and Power committee chairs:**

Rhonda Whiting chair, fish and wildlife committee; Jim Yost, chair, power committee; and Larry Cassidy, chair, public affairs committee.

Rhonda Whiting reported that the Fish and Wildlife Committee discussed the CSMEP program and its results, as well as the fish and wildlife program amendment process. We had an update on the Snake River fall chinook transportation evaluation and on the data management work plan, she said. The Committee had a lengthy discussion of within-year project funding adjustments and discussed follow-up action for several FY 2007-2009 projects, Whiting noted. We also received a status report on defining regional coordination, she said.

Jim Yost reported the Power Committee discussed the Electricity Price Forecast paper, the Regional Dialogue, and the agreement with jBonneville on conservation accounting under the Regional Dialogue policy. We recommended that the Council accept the final version of the CO<sub>2</sub> footprint paper, he said. The Committee also discussed the process for Council evaluation of Bonneville resource acquisition consistency, Yost stated.

### **1. Presentation on the Columbia Basin Water Transaction Program evaluation:**

Jared Hardner, Hardner & Gullison Associates, LLC; and Andrew Purkey, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.

Andrew Purkey, director of the Columbia Basin Water Transaction Program (CBWTP) for the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, led off a presentation on a recently completed, year-long

program evaluation of the CBWTP by Hardner & Gullison Associates. Bonneville spent \$45,000 and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation \$50,000 on the evaluation, he noted.

Jared Hardner said the evaluation looked at whether the program was achieving its objectives and the strengths and weaknesses of the model CBWTP is using. The CBWTP is effective, efficient, well-regarded, and well-administered, he said. We think the CBWTP model could be scaled up to cover a broader geographic area in the West and might be appropriate for other river restoration initiatives beyond water transactions.

Purkey said work is under way to determine next steps for the CBWTP -- to develop a strategy, put together a budget, and determine how best for the program to integrate with what Bonneville and the states are doing.

## **2. Council decision for Fourth Quarter Within-year Project Funding:**

Mark Fritsch, manager, project implementation.

Staffer Mark Fritsch presented a request for fourth quarter within-year funding for several fish and wildlife projects, noting that the funding adjustments are in addition to the Council's FY 2008-2009 funding recommendations. He described each of the projects, the funding amounts, and the recommendations made by the Fish and Wildlife Committee. Of the 10 projects presented, Fritsch said the Committee recommended that three be deferred. One is a project to assess salmonids in the Asotin Creek Watershed, which Bonneville does not support, he noted. The second is a request for training of personnel for the Chief Joseph hatchery program, which was declined due to the absence of a regional program for this kind of training, according to Fritsch. The third is for funding for the *Columbia Basin Bulletin*. Staff will work to come up with a plan for this project that would cover FY 2008 and FY 2009 funding and present it at a future meeting, he said.

Dukes moved that the Council recommend that Bonneville fund the six within-year project funding requests, as defined and conditioned by staff and recommended by the Fish and Wildlife Committee, and that the Council approve funding for Project 2007-407-00, Regional Coordination for Upper Snake River Tribes, in an amount not to exceed \$160,659 for FY 2008 and \$160,659 for FY 2009. Cassidy seconded, and the motion passed.

## **3. Council decision on follow-up actions for Fiscal Year 2007-2009 projects:**

Mark Fritsch, manager, project implementation.

### **– Lake Roosevelt Kokanee Program Review**

Fritsch and staffer Stacy Horton presented information on a review of the Lake Roosevelt kokanee program. The Independent Scientific Review Panel (ISRP) reported to the Council in July that there is no scientific justification to continue artificial production of kokanee for stocking Lake Roosevelt, but the ISRP believes if it could be demonstrated that the entrainment problem is controlled or reduced, if the walleye population were reduced, and if drawdown levels were reduced or managed, then artificial production or natural production could be re-initiated, Horton explained.

Dukes moved that the Council find that sponsors of Lake Roosevelt kokanee production projects have adequately addressed the conditions imposed in the FY 2007-2009 funding

recommendation, with the understanding that funding beyond FY 2009 depends on favorable Council review of the *Lake Roosevelt Fisheries Guiding Document* to be produced by the Spokane Tribe, Colville Confederated Tribes, and WDFW; recommend that Bonneville fund the Banks Lake Fishery Evaluation (Project Number 2001-028-00) at \$263,595 for FY 2008-2009; and allow the Colville Tribes to begin the Three-Step Review Process for the artificial production activities associated with the Chief Joseph Kokanee Enhancement Project (Project Number 1995-011-00), as presented by staff and recommended by the F&W Committee. Cassidy seconded, and the motion passed on a 7 to 1 vote, with Eden voting no.

#### **– Umatilla Subbasin Project Review**

Fritsch presented information on a review by the ISRP of the Umatilla Subbasin Project. The ISRP concluded that projects in the Umatilla Subbasin are making progress in achieving their objectives and made some specific recommendations for issues the managers should address, he said.

Dukes moved that the Council find that the suite of projects associated with the Umatilla Subbasin production and habitat program has adequately addressed the conditions placed on them and that the Council confirm the recommended expense budgets for the Umatilla projects as defined in the implementation plan for FY 2008 and 2009. Eden seconded, and the motion passed.

#### **4. Council decision to approve final CO<sub>2</sub> footprint paper:**

Terry Morlan, director, power division.

Terry Morlan reported on comments the Council received on its draft paper, *Carbon Dioxide Footprint of the Northwest Power System*, and changes made to the paper in response to the comments. Almost all the comments were favorable, and many asked for additional information and analysis, he said. We added new information to the paper on how the region's emissions compare to other parts of the country and the world, and we added a section on the kinds of actions required to meet various CO<sub>2</sub> targets, Morlan noted.

Dukes moved that the Council direct staff to release for public comment the revised staff paper, *Revised Electricity Price Forecast*, and give notice of the opportunity for public comment through 5:00 pm on December 14, 2007. Booth seconded, and the motion passed.

#### **5. Comments by the Honorable Butch Otter, Governor of Idaho.**

Butch Otter, governor of Idaho, told the Council, "nothing is more important than what you folks work on." He said Jim Yost, whom Otter recently appointed to the Council, has served the state of Idaho well and is particularly knowledgeable about water issues. Otter said when he was in Congress, he was always surprised by how little attention was paid to the issues of the West and water scarcity. Water means life to us in the West and to the entire world, Otter stated.

He said he just returned from a trip to China, and water management is China's most pressing need. Thirty percent of their water is unusable for irrigation because it is so polluted, Otter noted.

When the Council was formed 27 years ago, it came together with a philosophy, and the states at that time believed that "the best helping hand is at the end of our own sleeve," he said. We can work together to overcome the natural resource problems of the region, Otter said. We'll be able to resolve the problems we've had with the Endangered Species Act, he stated. The toughest problems for the Council to handle are those that are politically manufactured, Otter said.

You need to keep your eye on the balance that we seek in water resource management, he told the Council. My hat's off to you for the job you've done, he said.

Nancy Hirsch of the Northwest Energy Coalition asked about Idaho's new energy office and the role of renewable energy and energy efficiency to meet future needs. We need an energy policy that is balanced and all-encompassing, Otter responded. The lowest-hanging fruit in the energy orchard is always going to be conservation, he said. I created the energy office because I think the issue needs a high profile and requires cabinet-level status, Otter added.

In Idaho, we are discussing what we can do to encourage more conservation, and we'll soon announce more private sector help to enable us to do that, he stated. There will be tremendous opportunities in Idaho and the Western states in renewable energy, Otter noted. Hydro is always going to be the source of energy in the Northwest and the West -- we'll protect it and do what we can to supplement it, he said.

Otter said he doubted there would be a new coal plant built in Idaho until technology improves, and he noted the state has a new geothermal plant, which will eventually provide up to 60 MW of energy.

Chad Colter of the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes asked about providing for new energy sources without being more destructive of the environment. In Idaho and the Northwest, we are doing planning for cleaner energy than we've used in the past, Otter responded. In China, he noted, a new coal plant of at least 250 MW comes on line every week, and the damage to the environment and water are tremendous, he said.

## **6. Council decision on Bonneville resource consistency determination process:**

Terry Morlan, director, power division.

Under Section 6(c) of the Northwest Power Act, the Council is to review Bonneville's acquisitions of major resources (over 50 MW) and determine if they are consistent with the Council's power plan, but there is no provision for the Council to review non-major resource acquisitions, Morlan said. Under the Regional Dialogue policy, Bonneville expects to acquire some additional generation resources over the next several years to augment the Federal Base System, he noted. Staff has worked with Bonneville to develop a policy under which the Council could review non-major resources for consistency with the power plan, Morlan said.

This would be an informal process that would enhance the Council's ability to follow what Bonneville is doing with resource acquisitions, he explained. Dukes moved the Council approve the proposed process for reviewing Bonneville's proposed non-major resource acquisitions. Yost seconded, and the motion passed.

## **7. Briefing to compare hydro operations in NMFS' 2004 FCRPS Biological Opinion and the draft 2008 FCRPS Biological Opinion:**

Jim Ruff, manager, mainstem passage and river operations; John Fazio, senior power systems analyst.

We took a preliminary look at the differences in salmon operations at the FCRPS hydro projects between the new draft BiOp and the 2004 BiOp, staffer Jim Ruff said. One notable change is that the new BiOp includes implementation of the Council's plan for the Libby and Hungry Horse projects, including drafting evenly to 10 feet from full for salmon flows from July through September 30, staffer John Fazio reported. That's good news since operations at the Montana projects have been a continuing annual issue, said Ruff.

At Grand Coulee, the new BiOp calls for drafting an additional one foot in non-drought years and 1.8 feet in drought years, as called for in Washington's Columbia River Water Management Program, Fazio stated. At Dworshak, there would be a draft to meet salmon flow objectives during July and August, with a limit of 1,535 feet by August 31 and 1,520 feet by September 30, he reported. The 2004 BiOp called for a draft limit of 1,520 feet by August 31, Fazio noted. This change is tied to the Snake River adjudication process and the Nez Perce settlement, Ruff said. "It's all good news," Fazio commented.

## **Public comment on any item before the Council.**

Rep. Dick Harwood of District 2 in Idaho said Albeni Falls Dam is in his district. He expressed concern about some of the property in Idaho being bought as mitigation. Bonneville has purchased five to six pieces of property, and one was acquired without adequate public notice, Harwood said.

## **8. IEAB Investigation of Wildlife O&M Costs:**

Roger Mann.

Dr. Roger Mann of the Independent Economic Analysis Board (IEAB) described the IEAB's recent report titled *Investigation of Wildlife O&M Costs*. We tried to examine wildlife project cost data using data from Pisces to see what we could determine about cost benchmarking, and we also looked at other wildlife projects in the region to see what data they could provide, he said.

Based on our examination, we found that in its current form, Pisces can provide useful information on relative costs of wildlife projects, but only at a very coarse level of resolution, Mann stated.

## **9. IEAB Report on Alternative Strategies for Habitat Protection:**

Roger Mann.

Mann described a recent IEAB report, *Continuing Investigation of Alternative Strategies for Habitat Acquisition*, which addressed a variety of questions about habitat acquisition and land

values. We found that having the fish and wildlife program seek new partnerships with local governments and private landowners is crucial for protecting and restoring habitat in areas with high land values, he stated.

Mann said the IEAB thinks that emerging markets for environmental attributes, such as carbon sequestration, water quality, and biodiversity credits, provide opportunities to generate revenue and/or reduce costs. The Council should clarify who has the right to sell environmental attributes generated by projects receiving Council support, he stated.

## **10. Briefing on Residential exchange agreement**

Terry Morlan, director, power division

Staffer Terry Morlan reported that public and private utilities have reached agreement on a "value structure and framework" that would settle the issues related to distribution of residential exchange benefits. "It's a significant development," he said.

The purpose of the agreement is to allow for reinstatement of Bonneville's payment of exchange benefits to utilities, retroactive to October 1, 2007; the range for the proposed benefits is between \$200 million and \$220 million annually, Morlan stated. The intent is to settle all the claims with this agreement and put it in place as part of the Regional Dialogue, he added.

## **11. Council decision on agreement with Bonneville on conservation accounting under regional dialogue policy:**

Tom Eckman, conservation resources manager.

In an effort to avoid misunderstandings in the future, Bonneville asked the Council to review how it plans to count conservation in the 2007-2011 period and post-2011, staffer Charlie Grist said. Staff has done that and proposes the Council write a letter to Bonneville agreeing with the approach the agency will take, he stated.

To encourage conservation between now and 2011 when the new Bonneville power contracts will start, Bonneville plans to credit utility-funded conservation toward a utility's "High Water Mark," which allows for the purchase of Tier 1-priced power in the post-2011 time frame, Grist explained. Bonneville is trying to move its conservation activities to the utilities themselves, he noted. After 2011, Bonneville will base its conservation target on the entire load of its public utility customers, not just the share of that load supplied by Bonneville resources, Grist said.

Bonneville will continue to use the Council's plan to establish its conservation targets, he pointed out. If there is a shortfall in conservation achievements, Bonneville will step up and help utilities hit those targets, Grist said.

Joan Dukes moved that the Council approve a letter to Bonneville setting out the Council's understanding and recommendations on conservation accounting under the Regional Dialogue policy. Yost seconded, and the motion passed.

## **12. Panel discussion by NOAA and the Federal action agencies on the draft Federal Columbia River Power System and Upper Snake River Biological Opinions:**

Bob Lohn, Bruce Suzumoto, NOAA Fisheries; Witt Anderson, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; Karl Wirkus and Kate Puckett, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation; Sarah McNary, Greg Delwiche, Bonneville Power Administration.

NOAA Fisheries regional administrator Bob Lohn kicked off a presentation on the draft Federal Columbia River Power System (FCRPS) and Upper Snake Biological Opinions (BiOps) by noting that the strategies they contain "assume an active and major Council role" in the future. "This is my third FCRPS BiOp to explain, and this time we really hope we get it right," he said.

Lohn noted that the 2000 BiOp was invalidated because the court said the actions in it weren't reasonably certain to occur. When the 2004 BiOp was invalidated in 2005, the issue was the standard to determine jeopardy, he said.

There are some major differences this time around, according to Lohn. Previous BiOps were internal products, while this time we've worked closely with the region, he pointed out. Judge Redden said "engage in collaboration," and our staff participated in over 300 meetings, Lohn said. I want to give credit to the states and tribes who engaged seriously in this collaboration -- there was a genuine effort in the region to identify common ground, he added. This draft BiOp is deeply informed by this regional process and represents a broader approach than was taken in the past, Lohn said.

Another difference with this BiOp is that we have raised the bar for determining jeopardy, he noted. We focused particularly on seven Evolutionarily Significant Units (ESUs), Lohn said. For each of those fish stocks, our goal was to see that they are moving steadily toward recovery - so that at the end of the 10 years the BiOp covers, we could determine whether those stocks are noticeably better off, he explained.

A third difference is that we have taken a much more detailed approach to the problem, Lohn told the Council. We were helped in this by the subbasin plans, which were launched by the Council, he stated. Those plans informed the consultation process and helped determine the limiting factors for each fish population and what solutions there are, Lohn said. This BiOp is essentially the subbasin planning process made specific for each ESU, he noted.

We think the BiOp makes a solid scientific case as to why the actions it contains are leading us toward recovery, Lohn said. The picture that emerges is that some ESUs have problems that are not amenable to quick fixes and will require long-range efforts, and that it's not the same story for each ESU, he explained.

Turning to the four Hs, Lohn said for hydro, the BiOp incorporates information on new technologies, such as fish slides, and tries to optimize the use of the available water in the basin. For hatcheries, the BiOp relies on the major hatchery reform efforts going on in the region, including work of the Hatchery Scientific Review Group, he noted.

For harvest, we used the basic regime of the *U.S. v. Oregon* agreement, Lohn said. Since it will soon expire, we've been part of the negotiations for the next version, he added. Tentative agreement on a new version of *U.S. v. Oregon* has been reached, and this BiOp is intended to accommodate that, according to Lohn. Some of the measures in the new agreement are better for

fish than what is in the current agreement, he stated. The Council's "robust process for selecting F&W projects" will play a key role in seeing that the habitat goals of the BiOp get implemented, Lohn said.

We tried to be very conservative in our assumptions about climate change in the BiOp, he continued. As for the question of dam breaching, to me, the picture for breaching is even less convincing than it was in other times, Lohn said.

Overall, what matters for the region is having an action plan for the next 10 years that focuses on the large areas of agreement we found in our collaboration, he stated. I hope the region can come together to carry out the opportunities for the future contained in the BiOp, Lohn concluded.

Dave Ponganis of the Corps of Engineers and Sarah McNary of Bonneville described the proposed Reasonable and Prudent Alternative (RPA) and related actions in the BiOp. The RPA is based on collaboration with the sovereigns, is performance-based, and contains actions to address each ESU's limiting factors, Ponganis said.

There have been significant changes to the dams over the last 10 to 15 years in terms of physical features and the way they are operated, he stated. We've upped our performance standards this time around, with commitments to achieving 96 percent average or better survival per dam for spring migrants and 93 percent average for summer migrants, Ponganis pointed out. We've included the Council's mainstem amendment for Montana projects and the Nez Perce water rights settlement agreement, he noted.

In terms of hydro actions to improve survival, we'll try to achieve surface passage at all Columbia and lower Snake dams by 2009, and we'll continue spill for fish passage, Ponganis said. We'll transport fish when the science shows it is best for the fish, and we have included a new strategy for kelt steelhead management, including reconditioning, he added.

The habitat program focuses on the needs of the fish and targets populations most in need, said McNary. The RPA calls for an additional layer of review for F&W habitat projects, including a "benefit analysis," she noted. Project reporting would be done at a finer scale than the Pisces accounting system currently being used, McNary said.

The habitat program for the estuary focuses on riparian and off-channel habitat and reconnecting floodplains, and we've added a new program to remove pilings and dikes that are blocking fish passage, she reported. Predator management programs have been ramped up, McNary noted.

The RPA has an extensive research, monitoring, and evaluation component and includes annual progress reports and check-ins in 2009, 2012, and 2015, she continued. In our collaborative effort, we worked with a Regional Oversight Group made up of state and tribal representatives, and we will continue that collaboration, McNary said.

Karl Wirkus of the Bureau of Reclamation said the proposed actions in the Upper Snake BiOp are consistent with flow augmentation in the Nez Perce Settlement. That settlement and the ESA consultation reflect an extraordinary collaboration, he noted. We are looking at adjusting flow augmentation timing under that agreement to be consistent with fish needs, Wirkus added.

Larry Cassidy asked McNary about the new review of F&W habitat projects and asked, "is this another process beyond ours?" We need to work with the Council to set up an "expert review



panel" to estimate each project's relationship to the limiting factors and calculate an estimated benefit before the Council makes a decision on the project, she replied.

The Independent Scientific Review Panel (ISRP) conducted science reviews in the past, but this BiOp takes it a step further by requiring a quantitative analysis, McNary said. Cassidy asked what the role of the Regional Oversight Group would be. It's still under discussion, but the parties who participated in the collaboration leading up to the BiOp want to carry through into implementation, McNary stated.

The Council has responsibility and authority under the Power Act, said Bill Booth. How do you see the F&W project selection and funding process moving forward relative to the Power Act? he asked. We will incorporate what is needed to deliver on our commitments under the RPA into the design of the next F&W project solicitation, said Greg Delwiche of Bonneville. What's the timing? asked Booth. If additional work needs to begin in the FY 2007-2009 time frame, we'll have to decide how to work with you on that, Delwiche said, adding that there is funding available for such needs.

We are the only game in town unless you are going to create a new project funding process, observed Rhonda Whiting. It sounds like there will be a considerable number of changes to our F&W program if we implement all that you have outlined, she said. Maybe we should ask you to give us comments on amending our program -- these are major changes, Whiting told the federal representatives. If you want us to handle all the actions proposed, are you going to increase our budget? she asked. Bonneville thinks there will be increased funding needs associated with this undertaking, McNary replied.

Bruce Measure asked how the Regional Oversight Group would be funded and who would be represented on it. We haven't made a proposal to fund an oversight group -- we made a proposal to continue a sovereign collaboration group going forward, replied McNary. We anticipate coming together at least annually, if not twice a year, to "maintain the nexus between the parties" in terms of focusing on implementation and whether it is successful, and whether any new information should be brought into the process, she stated.

You have a body representing the balance of the sovereigns before you now, Measure said. Why aren't the federal agencies considering the oversight as part of the Council's program? he asked. We need to hold the action agencies accountable to achieve a certain amount of benefits, said Lohn. NOAA Fisheries expects to use existing institutions as much as possible as long as the needs are met, he added, recommending the Council work with the federal agencies to decide how best to achieve the goals.

Bonneville's relationship with the Council is extremely close, and we intend to operate in that fashion in the future, said McNary. She noted that the BiOp remand process brought the tribes to the table as collaborators and "full voices," along with a number of federal agencies that have salmon recovery responsibilities, but are not action agencies. There was an overlap with the Council, but not a complete overlap, McNary said. There is a desire to have the sovereign-level discussions continue, and the trick for us is to figure out how to have the Council be part of that, she added.

How will the Regional Oversight Group interact with the in-season regional forum? Measure asked. If an issue is not resolved by the Technical Management Team, we could use the oversight group on an ad hoc basis, said Ponganis. I've said at Policy Working Group meetings

that there should be more integration of the activities of the TMT and in-season regional forum with those of the Council, Measure stated.

Council chair Tom Karier asked if the federal agencies envision continuing to integrate the Council's work with ESA work. Delwiche said they do. It's imperative that the Council and Bonneville work together on this and make sure the process is streamlined and clear to the region, Karier stated.

This BiOp is closer to what we need than any previous BiOp, and I urge the Council to be positive about it, said Cassidy. It's "a real hard look" at individual fish populations that we haven't seen before, and we'll have to see whether it flies or not, he added.

There are a lot of impressive elements in this BiOp, agreed Karier. You've pushed much further than in the past, and it's the kind of approach to science that the Council has supported all along, he said.

### **13. Update on Fish and Wildlife Program amendment process:**

Patty O'Toole, program implementation manager; and Lynn Palensky, program planning and special projects coordinator.

Staffer Patty O'Toole said the Council sent out postcards to 8,000 people in the region announcing the call for recommendations to amend the F&W program, as well as 400 letters and a series of press releases. "We've saturated the region," she told the Council.

We have asked people to submit recommendations through the website, O'Toole said. We'll make all the recommendations we've received public on the website on February 1, she noted.

A set of provocative questions that arose from the Council's Science Policy Exchange will be posted on the website the week after Thanksgiving, staffer Lynn Palensky reported.

### **14. Update on pinniped task force recommendations:**

Jim Ruff.

Ruff reported on NOAA Fisheries' Pinniped-Fishery Interaction Task Force and its recent recommendations regarding lethal removal of California sea lions. At a meeting in October, 17 out of 18 of the task force members agreed sea lions are having "a significant negative impact" on listed salmonids and recommended two alternatives that allow for some lethal take of the sea lions, he said. The task force member who disagreed is filing a minority report, Ruff noted.

The first lethal-take option sets a goal of reducing the predation to a rolling three-year average of one percent or less over a six-year period, and the second option, which is more aggressive, would target problem animals to "minimize new recruitment of naïve animals into becoming problem animals" and allow for lethal removal of up to 2 percent of the sea lions, he explained. If NOAA approves one of the alternatives, and there isn't litigation, implementation could take place next spring, although NOAA has indicated funding may be an issue, Ruff noted.

## **15.Update on data management workplan:**

Peter Paquet, manager, wildlife and resident fish.

Karier said that the document, *A Coordinating Strategy for Managing Fish, Wildlife, and Habitat Data: Columbia River Basin Framework*, put together by the Northwest Environmental Data-Network and the Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Authority Joint Committee is ready for Council comment and that it is "a work in progress."

There are several actions the Council could take in the next three months related to this data management work plan, according to Karier. The Council could adopt a standard reporting format for the time and place of a project, he said. That would set a standard for all the projects in the Columbia Basin, Karier added. I recommend that we discuss this standard at our next meeting, put it out for review once more, and then consider adopting it, he said. Our adoption would mean we'd be recommending to Bonneville that this format be used for all projects and incorporated into Pisces, Karier noted.

The Council could also establish a new policy that asks StreamNet to begin incorporating tribal data, he stated. In the next six months, the Council could adopt the salmon habitat protocols handbook and adopt standards for posting data on the Internet, Karier suggested. These are all concrete steps we could take based on the data management work plan, he said.

These steps will help us implement the data management process, instead of talking about it, which we've done for the past five years, said staffer Peter Paquet.

## **16.Council business:**

### **— Approval of minutes**

Dukes moved to approve the minutes for the October 16-17, 2007 Council meeting held in Missoula, Montana. Booth seconded, and the motion passed.

Approved December 12, 2007

/s/ Joan Dukes

Vice-Chair

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