

Joan M. Dukes
Chair
Oregon

Bruce A. Measure
Montana

James A. Yost
Idaho

W. Bill Booth
Idaho



Rhonda Whiting
Vice-Chair
Montana

Bill Bradbury
Oregon

Tom Karier
Washington

Phil Rockefeller
Washington

Council Meeting Portland Oregon

January 10-11, 2012

Minutes

Council chair Bruce Measure called the meeting to order. He began by asking for committee reports.

Reports from committee chairs:

Bill Booth, chair, fish and wildlife committee; Tom Karier, chair, power committee; and Rhonda Whiting, chair, public affairs committee.

Fish and Wildlife Committee chair Bill Booth reported the committee had a staff review of 2011 accomplishments and spent considerable time discussing the research, monitoring and evaluation (RME) categorical review in anticipation of the Council's next such review. Staff provided an update on actions to prevent the spread of invasive mussels, Booth said, we're also tracking developments in Washington, D.C. on funding for the prevention effort, he said.

The committee heard a report on shad, and had a briefing on BPA's capital budget issues. We heard the latest on the Independent Scientific Review Panel (ISRP) review of a Confederated Tribe of the Warm Springs Reservation habitat restoration project, which is up for approval, and staff gave a report on the Fish Tagging Forum, Booth said. We were also briefed on preliminary plans for the upcoming program amendment process, he concluded.

Power Committee chair Tom Karier reported that the committee talked to BPA about its capital budgets and spending to meet energy efficiency targets in the Council's Sixth Power Plan. The agency badly overspent its energy efficiency budget last year and has proposed solutions to recoup the overspending. There's a good chance the agency will still meet the targets in the Council's plan, he said. Karier encouraged members to look at the details in meeting materials that are posted on the Council's website.

He went on to describe a briefing on the direct use of natural gas study. The question in the study is whether consumers are better off meeting home space and water heating needs with natural gas or using gas to generate electricity for heating, Karier said. We are proposing the study be

released to the region, he said. The committee had an update on wind integration, and Karier said Council staff is part of an effort in the region to resolve the issue of Environmental Redispatch.

In addition, Karier said the committee discussed competing models for forecasting wholesale energy prices and had a good discussion about the Regional Technical Forum (RTF) charter and bylaws. We discussed issues small/rural utilities have with energy efficiency, and we will bring a report on that topic back to the Council, he said.

Rhonda Whiting said the Public Affairs Committee would meet Wednesday to look at its work plan and discuss a possible trip to Washington, D.C. to talk to the delegation about money for invasive species protection programs. She said the committee was also planning to set a date for the August congressional staff visit, would review a website redesign, and consider content for the upcoming Council quarterly.

Measure reported on the Fish Passage Center Oversight Board meeting. He announced that he stepped down as the chairman and the group unanimously recommended Bill Bradbury take over as the new chair. The Council gave nods of approval to the idea.

1. Council decision on Project Reviews:

Mark Fritsch, manager, project implementation

Staffer Mark Fritsch provided background on a Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR) stream conservation and protection project. He said the Fish and Wildlife Committee gave a positive recommendation to the project, which is part of the Columbia Basin Fish Accords and seeks permanent protection for core anadromous fish habitat areas in the ceded territory of the CTUIR.

The ISRP reviewed the project and found it meets scientific review criteria (qualified), Fritsch said. The ISRP said the CTUIR outlined a framework for acquisition and protections, but the project needs more detail on the sequence of priority acquisitions and monitoring and evaluation, he said. Fritsch said the ISRP request would be addressed through the BPA contracting process.

– Accord Project - Project #2008-207-00, Umatilla Tribe Ceded Area Stream Corridor Conservation & Protection

Joan Dukes made a motion that the Council recommend that Bonneville implement Project #2008-207-00, Umatilla Tribe Ceded Area Stream Corridor Conservation and Protection, on the condition that the project sponsor and Bonneville address during contracting the issues raised by the Independent Scientific Review Panel, as recommended by the staff and the Fish and Wildlife Committee. Booth seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

2. Presentation by Independent Scientific Review Panel (ISRP) on Retrospective Report 2011:

Rich Alldredge, Chair, ISRP; Tom Poe; Pete Bisson; Greg Ruggerone; and Eric Loudenslager (by phone)

As an introduction to the ISRP presentation, Measure acknowledged the service of Pete Bisson, who has served since the panel was established. ISRP chair Rich Alldredge began with

background on the Retrospective Report and outlined the issues addressed in it. He said the report originated with the Council's request to increase the visibility of fish and wildlife (F&W) projects and program results; summarize the accomplishments of F&W projects; and summarize the status of major basinwide programmatic issues. With those goals in mind, Alldredge said the ISRP organized its report in terms of the mainstem, habitat restoration, PIT-tag loss and mini jacks, and artificial production.

Tom Poe presented the mainstem information in three parts: hydrosystem passage RME, lamprey projects, and predation and competition. He said that while over half of the hydrosystem passage RME projects are support projects, the ISRP views them "as essential" and gives high priority to developing spillway PIT-tag detection systems, Poe said. We also thought additional analysis is needed with PIT-tag loss and tag-related mortality, he added.

Poe said the core projects in hydrosystem passage RME, such as the NOAA passage survival study and the Fish Passage Center's Cumulative Smolt Survival study (CSS) relate to major hydro system operations and transportation. The ISRP sees these as essential, he stated.

The next group of projects relates to life history, population status, and hydrosystem/hatchery uncertainties, Poe continued. One of these studies has provided the majority of data on listed Snake River fall Chinook, he said. The ISRP sees such long-term data sets as essential and this particular study serves as a model for other supplementation projects, Poe said.

The ISRP looked at two lamprey projects; there are few results to date but critical questions to answer, he said. We also looked at the predation/competition projects, and important research questions remain here, Poe stated. These projects would provide long-term data sets, he added.

Karier asked about whether predator projects, such as the Northern pike minnow, are contributing to long-term survival and greater smolt-to-adult returns (SARs). Poe said some are resulting in reduced predation. They are strong projects, but the question is how to put them in the context of the entire life-cycle and determining whether they are contributing to long-term survival and recovery, he said.

Pete Bisson's presentation addressed habitat restoration. He said the Council's categorical review spoke to the difficulty of conducting RME in such a large and complex basin. The Council said we ought to have a reasonable chance of knowing whether the projects are working in five, ten, or 20 years, Bisson said. He went on to describe key developments in the effort to standardize habitat monitoring, the most prominent of which is the Columbia Habitat Monitoring Program, CHaMP.

Bisson said there are efforts to push toward a common system of measurement. CHaMP is being tested, and we are cautiously optimistic we will see positive results, he said. Habitat-effectiveness monitoring is a work in progress, Bisson stated. He questioned whether a standard monitoring approach is achievable or desirable. We would like to see improved standardization to measure fish response to habitat restoration, especially with SARs, he said.

Another question with habitat effectiveness is how long it takes to know what's working, Bisson continued. The ISRP recommends additional dialogue between habitat managers, scientists, and policymakers to establish realistic time frames for results, he said.

Booth said the Council struggles with identifying the proper level of RME and how much is enough. We need to have accountability on projects, but if 50 percent of the funding is going to RME that's an issue, he said. Booth asked the ISRP's opinion of the Council's monitoring and evaluation matrix that tries to assess the cost-benefit of improvements. Poe said he thought developing the matrix would be helpful. He said he thought there was an enormous opportunity with the intensively monitored watersheds that are in place. If that approach doesn't work, we have real problems and will have to look for something else, Poe said.

Greg Ruggerone made a presentation on PIT-tag research. He said a key assumption with the projects is that tagged fish retain the tags and tags do not alter fish growth, behavior, or survival. There have been lots of studies of tag losses, Ruggerone said, and he provided tables of the study results. Ruggerone also pointed out ways PIT-tags alter survival estimates, and showed graphs of where "run reconstruction" show differences in survival with and without PIT-tags. He moved on to the topic of mini jacks and precocious male salmonids, fish that mate before maturity. Ruggerone said mini jacks are abundant among hatchery fish. He said NOAA Fisheries is studying what causes mini jacks.

The Council members had several questions about mini jacks, including the effect of using local broodstock in hatcheries, reproductive success of mini jacks and jacks, competition of mini jacks in the ocean, and whether mini jack and jack traits are inheritable.

Eric Loudenslager presented a retrospective of 2010 artificial production projects funded through the Council's F&W program. He listed three fundamental questions in the review: to what extent do the projects meet harvest goals; to what extent can we use artificial production in supplementation to recover listed species; and what are the adverse effects on native populations of releasing 140 million hatchery smolts annually.

Loudenslager described projects that were considered to answer the questions, noting there is good data on steelhead because of the Hood River steelhead program. He described the steelhead results, reporting there was lower reproductive success with hatchery than natural fish, and the reduction grew more pronounced with succeeding generations of fish.

Loudenslager said studies of relative reproductive success should continue for at least three generations to get results and recommended additional coordination and integration of results.

3. Briefing on supplementation with ISRP members, NOAA hatchery staff, tribal and state fish managers and others:

Tony Grover, director, fish and wildlife division.

Staffer Tony Grover explained there were a number of representatives from state, federal, and tribal fisheries agencies present to talk to the Council about supplementation and other issues for a Council science and policy panel in March. The panel relates to the Columbia River Hatchery Effects Evaluation Team (CRHEET) effort, he said. We are not trying to solve the problem of supplementation but to "tee up" the discussion in March, Grover explained. He said the speakers would also address the best way to help NOAA and BPA frame up the CRHEET project.

Paul Kline of Idaho Department of Fish and Game said in Idaho, the state follows a strategic plan for managing populations of wild and natural fish and conducts extensive hatchery programs. We've learned how to do that responsibly, he said, adding that Idaho understands the risks and implements supplementation programs responsibly. Kline said recommendations in the ISRP Retrospective Report and the ad hoc final supplementation review point to the need for getting to common metrics to apply across the region's multi-tiered hatchery framework and determine what that means for running programs for recovery. We support the recommendations of the ISRP, he said, adding "they are all very good."

Paul Lumley of the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission (CRITFC) said when the tribes signed their treaties, they couldn't have anticipated such decline in salmon populations. He said that supplementation programs are an approach to recovery.

Almost all supplementation programs are tribal, Lumley said. Lumley extended an invitation to an October conference CRITFC is organizing.

Lumley said we will participate in CRHEET, but we hope it addresses something new and different, he stated. In concluding, he offered two thoughts: as long as we have dams, we will have hatcheries. Let's use that tool to benefit recovery and rebuilding. Second, we don't have low productivity because of hatcheries; we have hatcheries because of low productivity.

We need to define what we are talking about with hatcheries and supplementation, Jay Hesse of the Nez Perce Tribe said. The discussion needs to encompass all hatchery actions before we proceed, he said. There are multiple layers in this discussion, and we need to organize these discussions around the goals of the Council's F&W program, he added.

In terms of the ISRP review, we need to include recovery approaches in the same conversation, Hesse said. We didn't hear a lot about the ISRP retrospective on artificial production, he noted. The scope of CHREET should enable an ongoing analysis of the overall effectiveness of hatcheries that includes collaborative review and synthesis, Hesse said.

Mitch Pond of the CTUIR said he is concerned about finding a balance on supplementation. He described the tribes' work in the Grand Ronde and noted there are many supplementation projects going on in the region. As tribes, we speak for fish, Pond stated.

Joe Peone listed the goals of the Confederated Colville Tribes fishery program, including managing with local stocks and implementing live capture gear, and he went through the goals and principles in operating the Chief Joseph hatchery. We support what CRHEET is doing and what the Hatchery Science Review Group has brought forward, he said.

Rich Carmichael of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife said there are cases where supplementation is appropriate and there are cases where it is not. It is a management tool, and the upper Grand Ronde Chinook is an example of where it is appropriate, he said. There are a lot of questions with supplementation, and we have made progress with defining experimental

Rob Jones of NOAA Fisheries said we are on a good path, and NOAA is interested in developing this tool further.

Heather Bartlett of the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife said it would be helpful to have a common and consistent use of terms and a broad base for evaluation.

Grover said there might be a need for workshops before the managers come to the Council. We need to explore topics and tee up issues and then come back in April or May with more fully developed topics for discussion, he said.

4. Review of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers draft Research, Monitoring, and Evaluation Plan and Proposals for the Willamette Subbasin:

Rich Alldredge, Bob Bilby, and Greg Ruggerone, ISRP members.

Staffer Eric Merrill introduced an ISRP panel to present its review of the Corps of Engineers' draft RME plan for the Willamette Valley Project. Robert Bilby said the ISRP was asked in November to review the plan. He went over the purposes of the plan, which include: to provide an approach to identify, schedule and set priorities for Corps-funded studies needed to implement the Willamette Biological Opinion; ensure RME is efficient and implemented as an integrated program; identify critical uncertainties for major subbasins affected by the Willamette Valley Project; evaluate the effectiveness of Biological Opinion measures; and use RME results to inform future studies and decisions.

Bilby said the ISRP's "overall impression" is that the RME plan is "a good document" and represents a good foundation. Overall, we were impressed with the effort, he said. Bilby described ways to improve future drafts and questions that might be addressed. Among them, he said the plan would be an ideal place to pull together different pieces of information about what is going on in the Columbia River Basin, and the plan could better address the link between the Willamette and habitat restoration activities elsewhere in the basin.

Greg Ruggerone said the plan identifies four critical uncertainties for re-establishing wild populations above the dams: the productive capacity of existing habitat; reproductive success of hatchery fish in the wild; ecological and genetic effects of hatchery on wild fish; and the trap and haul program. He said a key priority is to improve survival in the trap and haul program. Ruggerone also said the plan has not identified a desired population structure for the basin. The plan includes a section on hatchery effects on wild fish, but not the effect of hatcheries on harvest rates, he said. The plan could benefit from a review of hatchery/wild fish studies elsewhere in the Columbia River Basin, Ruggerone said.

Bilby continued the presentation, saying the Corps needs to address uncertainties about the downstream passage of juvenile fish and relative rate of survival in fish that rear above the reservoirs, in the reservoirs, and below the reservoir. He listed a number of issues related to flow, habitat, and water quality that should be studied. The ISRP suggests the RME plan should account for these habitat factors, Bilby stated. He also said the Corps needs to develop methods to relate the biological response near the Willamette projects to a population-level response.

Bilby said the adaptive management process in the plan is incomplete, and the ISRP offered a number of suggestions for more fully developing and addressing adaptive management, program structure, and time frame. He concluded by saying the Corps has a good foundation document. We had lots of suggestions, but it is a good document, Bilby stated.

The Council commented on the challenge of the trap and haul program and reducing the mortality. Bilby said the approach is an attempt to take advantage of habitat that is in relatively good condition. But to do that, you have to get fish over 400 to 500 foot dams, and it poses an annual challenge, he said.

5. Council decision on release of direct use of gas paper for public comment:

Terry Morlan, director, power division; and Tom Eckman, conservation resources manager.

The Council released for public comment the latest chapter in its long-running study of the Direct Use of Natural Gas for space and water heating. According to staffer Terry Morlan, the current analysis was conducted at the request of the Northwest Gas Association and Puget Sound Energy, and they provided financial support. It updates work done in the past, when the same topic was referred to as fuel switching or total-energy efficiency, he explained. The Regional Technical Forum oversaw the effort and hired a contractor to develop information for the analysis, Morlan said.

The primary question in the study is whether it is “better to use natural gas directly in water heaters and furnaces or to generate electricity for electrical space and water heating systems that provide these services,” he continued. A staff paper indicates the analysis was done from two different perspectives: a regional or societal perspective, using the Council’s Resource Portfolio Model, and a consumer perspective, using a staff-developed spreadsheet model.

What the study found, Morlan said, is that the existing mix of fuel use is the most optimal. In most cases, we found it is cost-effective for people to remain with the fuel they are using, he reported. There are few cost-effective fuel conversions in space heating, Morlan said. But if natural gas is already available in the home, it can be cost-effective to shift to gas from electric-resistance water heating; if not, it is best to stay with electricity, he added. Staff recommends putting the paper out for comment.

Tom Karier, chair of the Council’s Power Committee, added a few highlights from the study, pointing out that the forced air electric furnace “doesn’t have much of a future,” but baseboard heaters “are alive and well,” and in some cases, are still the most cost-effective solution. New technologies are coming to the fore, and “it is too close to call” about whether to invest in them, he added.

Joan Dukes made a motion that the Council approve the release of the draft paper on the direct use of natural gas for a public comment period to begin January 13, 2012 and end February 3, 2012, as recommended by staff and the Power Committee. Bradbury seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

6. Presentation on Washington’s Energy Strategy:

Howard Schwartz, Sr. Energy Policy Specialist, Washington Council office; and Tony Usibelli, Director, State Energy Office, Washington Department of Commerce.

At the opening of the meeting on Wednesday, Measure thanked Wally Gibson for his 30 years of service on the Council staff. He noted a change in the agenda, moving Agenda Item #6, a presentation on Washington’s Energy Strategy, to a later date.

7. Update on Bonneville’s Technology Innovation Initiative:

Terry Oliver, Bonneville Power Administration.

Staffer Ken Corum introduced Terry Oliver of BPA’s Technology Innovation Office. He noted ways in which the Council has supported BPA’s technology efforts.

Terry Oliver, chief technology innovation officer at BPA, briefed the Council on the program he heads up at the agency. Ductless heat pumps (DHP) are one of the successful projects we’ve undertaken, Oliver reported. He said BPA assessed the technology, which has been in use elsewhere in the world, and found lots of potential. So far, nearly 5,000 DHP units have been installed and new markets are opening up, Oliver stated.

Another project addresses seismic upgrades, he said. The Northwest is at great risk for earthquakes, and there is a big question about how to manage the risk in the electric grid, Oliver noted. We have asked what we can do to mitigate risk, and we have several projects in our portfolio to protect and help restore the system quickly in the event of an earthquake, he stated.

Oliver went on to describe “an interesting project” with conductor shunts. He explained how the capacity on a power line was increased using “splice shunts,” and BPA avoided replacing the line. We saved \$4 million in the first application, Oliver stated. BPA has decided that any time “we touch a line” for some reason, we can be efficient by putting a shunt in place, he said.

Oliver explained a “synchrophasers” project, which helps BPA run its supervisory control and data acquisition (SCADA) system faster. With the synchrophasers, information comes into our system at 60 times a second, he said, adding that new technology is being developed that will add speed of up to 125 times a second. In the big East Coast outage several years ago, it took them a year to figure out what happened; but with the synchrophasers, we would have that information within a few weeks, Oliver stated.

BPA also uses telecommunications technology that increases bandwidth and has plans for a multi-gigabit Ethernet transport system for operations data, he explained. “This would set us up for SmartGrid,” and the project is in a capital planning and budgeting phase, Oliver added.

When it comes to spending on research and development (R&D), utilities lag other industries, he said. Utilities spend about one-tenth of one percent of revenue on R&D, compared with over 15 percent in the semiconductor industry, Oliver reported. “It is a miserable number,” he commented, adding that the power sector “owns” about 40 percent of the climate change issues and may acquire another 30 percent from transportation if electric vehicles become prevalent. Oliver noted that the utility spending number he provided includes industry research organizations like EPRI.

He described benchmarking BPA does to make sure its technology program adheres to best practices and explained how R&D fits into the BPA organization. BPA has a process for setting research priorities, he said, pointing out that some issues matter to BPA and others do not. We seek a balance between internal and external projects, Oliver noted. He pointed out the process has “built-in kill switches,” and projects are reviewed along the way to see if they are working.

Karier called it “admirable” that BPA has stepped up on technology, contrary to the rest of the industry. We believe there is a lot to be gained, and our efforts are strategically focused, Oliver responded.

8. Presentation on Bonneville’s capital budget and proposed cuts:

Don Carbonari, Bonneville Power Administration.

When BPA updated its 10-year financial plan in 2008, we stressed the importance of access to capital and indicated we need a rolling 10-year window to look into the future and see that we have adequate funding, Don Carbonari of BPA told the Council. As we look at our 10-year projections for capital spending, we see that “if we do nothing,” we would run out of capital to do projects in four years, he said. So we have initiated a discussion about the alternatives to meet our capital needs, Carbonari indicated.

When you look at our projected investment over the next 10 years, you will see that after 2011, there are significant increases in planned capital spending, he said. Capital spending is \$1.5 billion higher than what we were projecting in 2009, Carbonari explained. This increase in spending continues out into the future, and it demonstrates the significance of the problem we face, he said. Carbonari cited the spending increases by category, including transmission, hydro, conservation, fish, and IT Corporate.

He described how BPA’s borrowing authority works, pointing out that since 1974, the agency has been self-funding. “We borrow from Treasury and pay it back,” Carbonari said, adding that it is somewhat akin to a credit card, where you borrow, pay down the card to restore the credit limit, and borrow again. BPA’s total borrowing limit from the U.S. Treasury is \$7.7 billion, and right now, we have the ability to borrow \$4.8 billion, he stated.

There have only been four times since 1974 that BPA has gotten an increase in its borrowing authority, and it takes a lot of effort to make the case to Congress, Carbonari explained. “It would be a difficult proposition” to get more borrowing authority in today’s economic climate, and it doesn’t seem like that is in the cards now, he added. Carbonari illustrated BPA’s dilemma with graphs, showing that planned capital spending will exceed borrowing authority in 2016.

Booth said paying off the WPPSS debt in coming years should give BPA a huge revenue source. Carbonari said WPPSS 1 and 3 will be paid off in 2017 and CGS in 2024, but the payoff “is embedded in these numbers.” We have restructured that debt and must pay off a lot of it between 2013 and 2018, he added.

The bottom line is BPA needs to solve a \$3.3 billion gap, Carbonari said. He said BPA realized the situation a year ago and decided to enter into public discussions about it. BPA’s executive team looked at capital spending and considered whether to cut 10 percent, he said. To assure we honor our current commitments, we would make cuts after 2016, and cutting 10 percent doesn’t make a lot of difference in the big picture, according to Carbonari.

He explained the funding tools BPA could use to fill the gap. There are some viable options, Carbonari said, including lease financing, revenue financing, cash reserves, third-party conservation financing, and “power customer pre-pay.” The latter is the opportunity for

customers to prepay part of their power bill, he stated. There are lots of issues to work out with this, and we don't know if it is something we could do, Carbonari said.

There will be many opportunities to weigh in on the discussion, he continued. At the end of January, BPA Administrator Steve Wright will hold a meeting to set the stage for the capital discussion and for our Integrated Program Review (IPR), Carbonari said. He laid out other steps, including BPA's plan to release long-term capital asset strategies in March, followed by discussions in April. The IPR is in June and July, and an initial FY 2013-15 rate proposal is set for November, Carbonari stated.

Bradbury asked about proposals to cut conservation budgets due to BPA's problem with borrowing authority. Carbonari said BPA intends to honor its commitments to meet the conservation targets in the Council's Sixth Power Plan. BPA is in the middle of a numerical exercise, but there is no decision, and the capital asset strategies being developed will inform current thinking, he said.

Karier pointed out that the Council is on record with a letter on energy efficiency funding. The challenge is to see which of these paths will be the best for customers, he added. Yes, that is what we are looking at, Carbonari said.

9. Briefing on the Fish Tagging Forum:

Tony Grover, director, fish and wildlife division; and Therese Hampton, Chair, Fish Tagging Forum.

Therese Hampton, chair of the Fish Tagging Forum, told the Council the effort to review fish tagging in the region is off to a good start with lots of participation. The forum has met twice and began by reviewing the objectives the Council developed in chartering the forum, she said. The participants also added a couple of objectives of their own, Hampton said: respond to the Independent Scientific Review Panel's 2009 tagging recommendations and address the concept of fair share.

We want to make a recommendation about what is the fair share allocation of responsibilities for funding fish tagging relative to the management questions being asked by a tagging program, Hampton said. Some tagging programs meet multiple objectives, and we will look thoroughly at the projects and answer that question, she stated. Hampton also said the forum will have an open and thorough discussion of tagging technologies.

Booth said the forum got organized quickly and its goals and objectives are in line with where the Council wanted it to go. Dukes asked if the forum would meet its deadline, and Hampton said it would.

10. Council Business

– ISRP and ISAB appointments

Dukes made a motion that the Council approve the appointment of Steve Schroder, Dave Heller, Carl Schwartz and Chris Wood to the Independent Scientific Review Panel; and approve Robert Anthony, Virginia Butler, Dennis Dauble, Greg Hood, Robert Hughes, Mike Jones, Steven Kolmes, Alec Maule, Stephen McCormick, Vaughn Paragamian, Randall Peterman, Laurel

Saito, and Steve Schroder to the pool of the ISRP Peer Review Group Members. Whiting seconded the motion.

Phil Rockefeller said he would like more time to look over the potential appointees and take their background into consideration before voting. He asked if the vote could be delayed.

Merrill explained the three-step process by which nominations are made to the ISRP and ISAB. Ruff added that the candidates are also asked about their availability and willingness to serve.

Measure asked if there is a rush to complete the process, and Merrill said there was not, although the ISAB is currently short of members.

The Council members agreed to postpone a vote.

– **Approval of release of Fiscal Year 2011 Annual Report to Congress**

Staffer John Harrison said the Council's 2011 Annual report to Congress is ready for approval. The 90-day comment period ended in mid December, he said. The Council received two comments, which were edits and updates. There were no major changes, and I recommend we go forward with it, Harrison said.

Dukes made a motion that the Council approve the Fiscal Year 2011 Annual Report to Congress as presented by staff. Karier seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

– **Approval of minutes**

Dukes made a motion that the Council approve for the signature of the Vice-Chair the minutes of the December 6, 2011, Council meeting held in Portland, Oregon. Bradbury seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

– **Election of Officers**

Measure called for the election of officers. Booth nominated Oregon member Joan Dukes as chair. He noted that Dukes has been a member of the Council since 2005 and has been vice chair over the past year. Rockefeller seconded the nomination, and Dukes was elected in a unanimous vote.

Jim Yost nominated Whiting as vice chair. Dukes seconded the nomination, and Whiting was elected in a unanimous vote.

The meeting adjourned at 11:10 a.m.

Approved February 7, 2012.

_/s/ Rhonda Whiting

Vice Chair

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