

FISH PASSAGE CENTER OVERSIGHT BOARD

Meeting Notes for November 17, 2008 – Coeur d'Alene, Idaho

Present at the meeting were Chairman Bruce Measure, Sue Ireland, and Kerry Berg. On the phone were Brian Marotz, Dan Goodman, John Ferguson, and Michele DeHart.

Chairman Measure called the meeting to order and went over the agenda.

Amendments to the Council's F&W Program

Measure said since the Northwest Power and Conservation Council's Fish and Wildlife (F&W) Program amendment process won't be concluded until February, the Board's agenda is short, and the meeting would be brief. Kerry Berg circulated a copy of the provisions regarding the Fish Passage Center (FPC) and the Board that are currently in the Council's draft F&W program. He pointed out new language which says the FPC "should confine itself to dealing only with the scientific aspects of issues."

Measure asked for comments on the language in the draft program. Dan Goodman noted that it doesn't specify how assignments to the Oversight Board will be made and transmitted to the Board. It might be good to be more formal on this point – we don't want to be inundated with requests or "be viewed as a loose cannon going off in our own direction," he said.

Brian Marotz said he too would like to see more language on how things get referred to the Board from other parties. There are three topics here, said John Ferguson. The first involves requests or assignments that are made to the FPC, and we've asked Michele DeHart to provide us quarterly reports on those, he noted. Then there are requests that would be made to the Oversight Board from groups in the region if they are not happy with what the FPC is doing -- that's a different matter, Ferguson said.

We have also talked about establishing protocols for which FPC products should be reviewed by an external body like the Independent Scientific Advisory Board (ISAB), he said. We haven't decided yet which FPC products should go to the ISAB, Ferguson added.

He also said the language in the draft F&W program about the Board's annual review of the performance of the FPC "is pretty open-ended." Berg suggested these issues could be better resolved after the Council's amendment process has concluded. Once a new F&W program is adopted, the Board will be able to use the language in it to adopt operating rules, he said.

Measure asked DeHart if she wanted to give a report. She said the FPC is currently doing its end-of-the-year data summaries and finalizing reports. There's nothing outstanding in terms of issues -- "things are going pretty smoothly," she added.

2009 Meetings

Measure suggested the Board meet every four months, instead of quarterly, and the group agreed. The following schedule for 2009 meetings was adopted:

April 16 in Portland (morning)
August 10 in Spokane (afternoon)
December 7 in Portland (afternoon)

Berg said he would send out an e-mail confirming the dates, times and locations. The meeting adjourned at 1:40 pm.

Prepared by Susan Whittington, NWPPC Contractor