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January 6, 2014

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Council Members

**FROM:** Tony Grover

**SUBJECT:** Two IEAB reappointments and the recruitment and selection process for a new IEAB member

Two members of the Independent Economic Analysis Board (IEAB) are up for reappointment, Dr. Roger Mann and Dr. Noelwah Netusil. Both have served for many years on the IEAB and have made many positive contributions to the Council's efforts. Staff recommends reappointment of both Dr. Mann and Dr. Netusil for another four year term. They are both highly qualified and have served with distinction on the IEAB. For the last several years Roger has served effectively as the chair of the IEAB.

Another long serving member, Dr. Dan Huppert, resigned effective the end of December 2013. Staff is grateful for the long and thoughtful service Dr. Huppert made to the IEAB and to the Council. Staff recommends seeking a replacement for Dr. Huppert through a regional recruiting effort. A draft call for qualified economists to submit an application is attached.

The IEAB Charter calls for review of the candidates for IEAB membership by a subcommittee of the Pacific Northwest Regional Economic Conference (PNREC). That process has worked well over the years and has helped the Council find the outstanding members that currently serve on the IEAB. In exchange for the services provided by PNREC the Council has maintained a 'Gold-level Partnership' supporting the organization at a cost of \$3000 per year. Alternatively, the current IEAB members and Council staff could review IEAB candidates and make a recommendation to the Council. Either way it remains a Council decision about who should serve on the IEAB.

## **Background**

IEAB membership is defined in the IEAB Charter, which is scheduled for a two-year renewal in February or March of this year. Though some changes to the charter will be recommended by staff, those changes have nothing to do with recruiting and selecting new members or terms of service for IEAB members. Nor will the method to assign tasks to the IEAB be changed -- task assignments will remain a decision of the Council.

During the summer of 2012, staff recommended and the Council concurred, to reduce the IEAB membership from eight to five members and to meet quarterly instead of monthly. That change was made to free up more of the IEAB's fixed funding of \$100,000 per year for carrying out Council approved Tasks instead of routine meetings. That strategy seemed to bear fruit with two major tasks being completed by the IEAB. One task successfully evaluated the concept of economic modeling as a decision aid in making fish tagging decisions. The other task was a substantial update to the report on likely economic effects of a potential Quagga mussel infestation in the Columbia Basin.

In February staff will bring to the Council for its approval a list of potential Tasks for the IEAB to address.

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# NOTICE

## **The Northwest Power Planning Council is seeking a distinguished economist to serve on its Independent Economic Analysis Board**

The Pacific Northwest Electric Power Planning and Conservation Council (the Council) established an Independent Economic Analysis Board (IEAB) in November 1996. The IEAB is a board of economists whose expertise improves fish and wildlife programs established under the Northwest Power Act. The board also provides economic advice and analysis regarding regional environmental and energy issues at the Council's request. For more information on the IEAB see the Council's web site at <http://www.nwcouncil.org/fw/ieab/>.

The Council is currently seeking applications to fill one opening on the IEAB. The new member is expected to be appointed by mid-2014. Economists on the IEAB serve a four-year term. Terms expire on a staggered basis such that some members' terms expire every two years.

**Qualifications:** IEAB members represent a variety of natural resource economics specialties, and are required to be independent and must meet the IEAB conflicts of interest guidelines (attached). IEAB applicants must be well-qualified in areas of economic analysis relating to natural resources and fish and wildlife policies or the potential effects of those policies on other sectors of the economy. Some familiarity with Pacific Northwest salmon policy and energy issues is desirable, but not required. Most importantly, IEAB applicants must demonstrate the ability to provide credible advice and analysis that is objective and independent, and widely perceived to be so.

**Remuneration and Time Commitment:** The IEAB typically meets in Portland, Oregon, two times a year with quarterly teleconference meeting in between. Much of the board's work is carried out by e-mail. Members are paid an hourly rate of \$90 for work on Council-approved tasks plus travel expenses, as necessary. The amount of time required beyond the IEAB meetings varies depending on the individual's area of expertise and time availability. A typical board member might devote 2 to 6 weeks a year to IEAB tasks including meeting time.

**Selection Process:** Applications will be screened and ranked by a nominating committee. The nominating committee will submit its recommendations to the Council, which will make the final selection based on the committee's recommendations and public comment regarding qualifications and perceived independence.

**Application:** If you are interested in serving on the IEAB send a letter of application to the Council at the address below by January 31, 2014. The application should include a vita and a cover letter indicating what particular expertise you would contribute to the IEAB, and why you are interested in being on the board. References are not required, but are welcome.

Please send applications to:

Tony Grover, Director  
Fish and Wildlife Division  
Northwest Power and Conservation Council  
851 S.W. Sixth Avenue  
Suite 1100  
Portland, OR 97204-1348  
tgrover@nwcouncil.org  
www.nwcouncil.org  
503-222-5161

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