

DRAFT MINUTES

Prince William Sound Oil Spill Recovery Institute
 Advisory Board *Draft* Minutes – February 16, 2007

Meeting Location: Board Room, Egan Civic and Convention Center, Anchorage, Alaska

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| <p>Roll Call</p> | <p>Call to order by Chairman John Calder at 8:49 a.m. OSRI Board Roll Call: John Calder, Douglas Mutter, Mark Fink, Glenn Ujioka, George Levasseur, Bill Lindow, Doug Lentsch, Bill Schoephoester, Susan Saupe, Joe Banta, John Goering and Chuck Meacham were present. Pete Kompkoff was present via teleconference. Absent: Capt. Steve Hudson, Leslie Pearson. It was noted that Carol Fries would be joining the meeting late. A quorum was established. OSRI staff present: Nancy Bird, Katey Walter, Scott Pegau and Penelope Oswalt Public: Ted Cooney (OSRI Scientific & Technical Committee chair), Carl Schoch (Alaska Observing Ocean System) Recorder: Signe Fritsch.</p> <p>Note: In the future, Ujoka and Finch would like to have hard copies of the meeting packets mailed to them in advance of the meeting so that they can spend more time going through things and making notes.</p> |
| <p>Agenda Approval</p> | <p>Mutter moved, and Lentsch seconded the motion to approve the agenda for February 16, 2007. The motion passed unanimously.</p> |
| <p>Public Comments</p> | <p>None present</p> |
| <p>Approval of September 2006 Minutes</p> | <p>Mutter moved, and Lentsch seconded a motion to approve the minutes of September 12, 2006. The motion passed unanimously.</p> |
| <p>Chair’s Report <i>John Calder Ph.D.</i></p> | <p>Not much to report. Learned that the Senate voted on the FY07 budget for federal agencies. NOAA, home to the IOOS (Integrated Ocean Observing System) is moving ahead to form a focused office of IOOS staff and Climate Observation staff. John Calder is involved in this and will be physically moving into a new office.</p> |
| <p>Executive Director & Research Program Manager’s Report <i>Nancy Bird, Ex. Director</i> Welcome Scott Pegau</p> | <p>Bird asked that everyone take a moment to introduce themselves, She appreciates all new members being here.</p> <p>Bird welcomed the new, incoming Research Program Manager, Scott Pegau. She is glad that he could be here today so that he can see what the Board Meeting is about. It will be very hard to fill Katey Walter’s shoes. Within the past year she has got some great programs going, which is part of what attracted Scott to this position. He will move to Cordova at the end of February and his family will come in the summer. Upcoming business travel for Pegau includes visiting Cook Inlet Spill Response, Inc. in late March or April, a trip to Seattle for a NOAA “science of oil spills” workshop in Mid-April and in late April he will travel to Norway for a JIP (Joint Industry Program) workshop. He will be attending</p> |

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| | with Walter. |
| 2007 Drifter Buoy Field Experiment | The 2007 Drifter Buoy experiment has been scaled back because of the changes in Congress and the cutting back of funding for the Alaska Ocean Observation System. 2007 will include only tabletop and planning exercises. The actual in-water experiment is postponed until 2008. |
| Legislative Issues | At the request of the PWSSC Board of Directors, Bird has initiated going back to the Alaska Congressional delegation to initiate an increase in the principle fund set aside for OSRI. Currently OSRI gets the annual interest earnings from a \$22.5 million fund maintained by the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund. Since 1996 the interest earnings have decreased from \$1 million or more in the first years to \$840,000 last fall. Bird wants to request to the congressional office that they increase the principle amount by doubling the principle or even increasing the fund up to \$60 million. This would double or triple the interest earnings. Since oil development in the Arctic and sub-Arctic is expanding, this increase in funding would be beneficial for expanding research into the Arctic and possibly the Cook Inlet area. Hopefully by next year a decision will be made. Bird will keep everyone posted of the response. |
| Website Updates | The OSRI website needs updating. |
| Annual Report | Katey Walter and Scott Pegau will be working on the annual report for 2005/2006 in March and April. Publication is planned for May. |
| Bylaws Revision | Bird noted that the Bylaws need a revision to bring them current with the 2005 amendments to the Oil Pollution Act of 1990. Bird will take a closer look by the next meeting. |
| At-large Representative Nominations | Two nominations were received for the At-Large seat. They are Dr. John Kelley from UAF and Susan Saupe, Director of Science and Research, Cook Inlet RCAC. Joe Banta is currently serving as the second At-Large Representative. |
| Governor-Appointed Representatives | Although recent appointments were just made in November, they will only hold their seats until May 2007. This is not the usual 2-year term. Bird wants these appointments to the OSRI Board to be higher on the priority list so she has called into the Governor's office. Bird mentioned a woman from BP who was interested in a seat and asked for other people who might be interested. She did mention to the Governor's office that the very recent appointments will want to continue to serve. |

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| <p>Contract Tracking Worksheet</p> | <p>This is a quick overview of all the projects. They have put together FY 2006, which goes through September 2006 and FY 2007 which is currently active. Walter pointed out that three annual reports that have been submitted were included in the Board Meeting Binder, including a report from Dick Thorne. Fink asked if there was anything unusual on the CTS. Bird said nothing too unusual. Fink then commented on the FY06 CTS, Peter Olson from UAF didn't show any expenses. Bird and Walter said that Olson does tend to get behind on submitting his report. Also, his funding starts in July rather than the previous September.</p> |
| <p>Update on PWSOS/AOOS and the drifter experiment <i>Carl Schoch Ph.D., AOOS</i></p> <p>Observation Program</p> | <p>Carl Schoch, who is the manager of the AOOS program gave an update on the PWSOS/AOOS and drifter experiment. Schoch mentioned that most of their support comes from OSRI. PWSOS demonstrates what things could look like in the rest of the state. By trying different model compositions, it can be determined what works best then it can be scaled up for a larger area, such as the Gulf of Alaska.</p> <p>NOAA Weather Buoys: Provide real-time data for modeling ocean circulation. Schoch has secured funds to install Conductivity-Temperature-Depth recorders (CTD) and Acoustic Doppler Current Profilers (ADCP) on the buoys and moorings. The weather buoys had to be redesigned and modified to accommodate the ADCP.</p> <p>SnoTel: SnoTel weather stations measure accumulated rain and snowfall precipitation, wind speed and direction, air temperature, air pressure and solar radiation. Five stations have been deployed at sea level in Prince William Sound. One has been deployed at 500m elevation, which is up on Mt. Eyak Ski Hill. This SnoTel station has been functioning for one year. Four more stations at 500m need to be deployed on Forest Service land. Schoch is waiting for approval. AOOS wants all of these stations deployed because SnoTel provides an array of valuable data for modeling. Spring melt and runoff is an important driver of coastal ocean circulation and the spring plankton bloom.</p> <p>Stream Gauges: USGS has deployed stream gauges in the Copper River Delta. These provide real-time data, except when they go offline in the winter. This data is important because the volume of freshwater is unique to this area and its influence on the tides.</p> <p>Hydrographic Surveys: There are two vessel-bases surveys. One run by PMEL includes putting a thermosalinograph on one of the AMHS ferries. This provides the surface temperature and salinity, over and over again as the ferry makes its daily trips across Prince</p> |

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| <p>Modeling Programs</p> | <p>William Sound. The second, which is run by AOOS, is provided by smaller vessels equipped with CTD and chlorophyll sensors. These boats will run four seasonal transects across the Sound each year. The results of these surveys will track changes in the physical characteristics of the surface waters in PWS through the year's seasons.</p> <p>PWSSC Moorings: There are currently two in Hinchinboork entrance and two in Montague Straight. These moorings track the volume of water that is transported through these entrances on an annual basis. This is a five year project. The PWSSC bought all of the instrumentation and OSRI keeps the research going. The long-term plan is to see how well the mooring data correlates with other data. It is important that this research continues because we need to understand the annual changes that occur between Prince William Sounds and the Northern Gulf of Alaska.</p> <p>High-Frequency Radar: In 2004, two HF radar stations were installed in PWS. One is at Knowles Head and the other at Shelter Bay. Unfortunately they are not functioning very well due to power supply problems. Wind turbines, solar panels, and propane generators have been tried. Each comes with its own set of complications. The power supply needs to be completely redesigned. When the stations are working, they provide helpful data. These stations map the surface currents of the ocean. It is useful to superimpose this data with other data, such as satellite data of surface temperatures and drifter tracks.</p> <p>Satellite: UAF acquires all the satellite data sets available. Satellites are equipped with instruments that can detect chlorophyll a concentrations, Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) winds, surface temperatures and provide true color images. The latter is important because the surface flow in this area is so variable.</p> <p>RAMS/WRF: The Regional Atmospheric Modeling System (RAMS) and the Weather and Research Forecasting (WRF) model are operated by Alaska Experimental Forecast Facility (AEFF) at UAA. The National Weather Service issued a formal statement that they will never incorporate RAMS data into the NWS. This is a deathblow to RAMS. RAMS provides long-term forecasts, which isn't useful because too much error occurs over time. Six-hour forecasts is what's useful because it reduces the amount of error. However, this takes high-speed computers and UAA just doesn't have the computer power. A new direction is being taken with AOOS providing funding to UAF to run WRF. In collaboration with Rob Cermak (AOOS) and the ARSC, they plan to run WRF</p> |
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| | <p>four times daily on the 4-km PWS grid. Both models will be run simultaneously, but will phase out RAMS.</p> <p>SWAN: Simulating Waves in the Nearshore model is being funded by AOOS and developed by Texas A&M. Observational wave values from buoys and satellites are used to validate the model. This model does well over a range of wave heights.</p> <p>ROMS: A data assimilation Regional Ocean Modeling System for the Gulf of Alaska. Schoch stated that in our lifetime we will never find a perfect numeric model. Numeric model simulation is really not that good because you are forcing a model into a real world configuration. However, the new PWS ROMS configuration uses an array of instruments to constrain the model to a realistic view of the ocean. The moored buoys around the Sound provide continuous data that can be used to correct the computer simulation, or model, with data on real conditions. The model will then be able to provide better forecasts of ocean circulation in PWS over 24 and 48 hour periods. How good this model actually works will be shown during field experiments.</p> <p>Biological Modeling of Coastal Marine Ecosystems:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Pacific Basin Scale Modeling (MOM, ROMS) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Equatorial Pacific ● North Pacific Transitional Zone ○ Modeling Coastal Ecosystems (ROMS, NCOM, POM) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Central California Upwelling System ● West Coast of the North America ● Gulf of Maine |
| <p>Data Management</p> | <p>AOOS Data Management occurs at UAF. Includes automation of data transport (IN), storage and processing of new data, developing new products, data access: data transport (OUT), data archive and safety, and metadata and data lineage. PWS data is backed up at UAA. AOOS data is sent to IOOS. Data visualization is available on the AOOS website. The Data Catalog Explorer on the website allows users to look at all the various weather stations and their cataloged date.</p> |
| <p>Oil Spill Response</p> | <p>The AOOS website draws on hundreds of weather models, NOAA buoy data, and satellite ocean observations to provide a one-stop source for marine weather and other information. In the case of an oil spill, the AOOS website could be accessed for any data needed to determine the current and future state of the oil spill. Instructional tutorials of the AOOS website are provided for any</p> |

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| <p>Field Experiments</p> | <p>group or individual upon request. The value to oil spill response is not without limitations. Forecasts must be sanctioned by the National Weather Service. Other limitations are the expansive coastline of Alaska, continual power supply problems, and the isolated area with CODAR coverage.</p> <p>Walter asked about the state of the HF Radar since it was turned off and removed and whether or not NOAA had plans for redeployment. Schoch stated that there is no long term funding for HF Radar so they are on hold for now, until they get news from NOAA.</p> <p>Lindow asked that in the case of an oil spill, would the Coast Guard completely disregard AOOS data since it's not sanctioned by NWS. Schoch stated the USCG would map the spill by looking at the NOAA forecast. Unofficially they would call up for AOOS data.</p> <p>Overarching questions for AOOS models are: 1) how well do they predict, 2) have the model forecasts been improved since 2004, and 3) what is the cost/benefit? Schoch thinks it will come more so from USCG Search & Rescue, not from Oil Spill Response.</p> <p>Methods: Model performance evaluations will be based on comparisons with 1) model performance during the 2004 experiment and post-2004 experiment reanalysis, 2) model performance during a 2007-2008 real-time "table-top" experiment, and 3) Observational data collected during a 4-week field experiment in 2008. During this field experiment, buoys will be deployed twice over a two week period.</p> <p>Fink questioned the postponed of the field experiment. Schoch said that a key proposal wasn't funded. Cooney asked about the biology of the program-what happened to the fluorometers? Schoch said that there are not enough people to design, deploy and maintain them. He thinks it would be very valuable to do so. Schoch also stated that the USCG will continue to deploy buoys and that the NOAA/CO-OPS is going forward by deploying more moorings. CO-OPS is responsible for making charts and tide and current forecasts. They must revisit some sites to calibrate their models this year in PWS. The data will be used to update tides and currents for this area.</p> <p>Cheryl _____ joined the meeting during Schoch's talk.</p> |
| <p>Mid-morning break</p> | <p>10:38-11:00</p> |
| <p>Research Program Manager Update <i>Katey Walter Ph.D., RPM</i></p> | <p>Walter updated the Board on her latest activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • She was in DC in December and got to meet with Hill staff. She talked with them about room for growth in OSRI's |

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| | <p>programs and got people in DC very excited about OSRI. It was noted that Walter was in Washington because she was the recipient for the most prestigious national honor for doctoral dissertation in Physical Science, Math and Engineering.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Omhsett Visitors Day in New Jersey. Joe Banta was also present. The purpose of this event was to determine the dispersibility of Alaskan crude oil in cold water. They witnessed two oil experiments in a test tank. The first experiment was a controlled spill in the tank without the use of any dispersants. The second test was a controlled oil spill with a dispersant used- Corexit 9500 in 1/20 ratio- The dispersant was effective in dispersing the oil in the presence of breaking waves. • Analysis of Environmental Data for PWS, Phase I and II: Phase I was accepted by the shippers. Utilized data from 1995-2005. Data is presented for four PWS weather regions. Phase II is underway. Ecotrust is creating a GIS to pull up figures, tables and data. Shippers funded the PWSSC for this project. The report is on the OSRI website. A hard, bound copy will be in the OSRI office. • UAF North by 2020 Forum (Think Tank): Global and climate change is happening. The North is a big focus for oil and gas exploration. UAF is forming a “Think Tank” so that Alaska can take a leadership role to resolve pressing issues and questions for sustainable development of resources and participation by all stakeholders and academics. Walter said she may help form the steering committee, which includes engineers, citizens harboring traditional knowledge, environmental scientists and policy makers. The Forum will hold community meetings, invite visiting authorities to give presentations and hold meetings and discussions in order to produce white papers. In the future, OSRI might be interested in partnering, funding research, workshops, and graduate-level fellowship positions. • Transition to Postdoc: Walter’s transition to UAF for her International Polar Year Postdoc has begun. She will spend the first half of March in Cordova to bring Scott Pegau up to speed on OSRI programs and begin work on the 2005/2006 annual report. Then she will travel to Siberia to help make a BBC documentary film on her research studying methane emissions from Siberian thaw lakes. In April she will attend the STC meeting in Seward. Then Walter will attend the second JIP steering committee meeting in Norway with Pegau. She may continue with OSRI part time up until September. |
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| <p>FY07 Work Plan Progress Report Part I <i>Katey Walter Ph.D., RPM</i></p> | <p>a. Moving forward with the NPRB/OSRI partnership. Three proposals were submitted for the Tracking and Monitoring Marine organisms. None were submitted for the Socioeconomic RFP. Proposals are out for peer-review. Reviewers comments will be viewed by the STC and proposals selected jointly with the NPRB in April in Seward.</p> <p>b. PWSSC Research Fellowships: There are two fellowships in FY07, with \$40K each for 3 months salary. One is Dr. Mary Anne Bishop for her data analysis and writing of two publications on the “Copper River Delta Intertidal Resources at Risk” Study. The other is Dr. Tom Kline for data analysis, writing of a publication and continued sample collection for his “Spatial and temporal variability in oceanic substances in PWS using stable isotopes” study.</p> <p>c. FY05-FY06 Cold Climate Partnership: Included CRRC, CICEET, MMS and OSRI. This dissolved in 2006 after accepting only one proposal for joint funding by MMS and OSRI, the Novel Skimmer Surfaces Project.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Test variables included oil type, oil film thickness, drum rotation speed, air temperature, material of the recovery surface (aluminum, polyethylene, polypropylene, neoprene and hypalon), and pattern of the recovery surface (smooth or grooved). Aluminum and Neoprene grooved at a higher drum speed has the greatest recovery rate.2. Phase I, funded by OSRI included Lab Scale studies of the properties of oil at and below freezing, properties of oil/ice mixtures, oil recovery by various materials for oil/ice mixtures and evaluations of the differing recovery surface patterns in the presence of ice.3. Phase II, funded by MMS, the field Scale studies start in Mid-March at the CRELL in New Hampshire.4. Preliminary Results of the Project show that<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Oil density increases as ice % increases, surface tension and viscosity is dependant on oil type and higher viscosity at cold temps increases adhesion.• Elastometric materials perform very well for oil recovery.• Surface material is important for oil only, as ice % increases.• Surface material is less important• Wider grooves are better for very viscous oils.• Narrower grooves will be evaluated for light petroleum products. <p>d. Joint Industry Program (JIP) is a three year study</p> |
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| | <p>organized by SINTEF in Norway. The objective of JIP is: further development of tools and technologies for environmental beneficial oil spill response strategies for ice-infested water. CRRC-OSRI-Shell are discussing a joint RFP for Bioremediation affects of spills & spill response treatments on marine organisms. The goal is to have a draft RFP will completed in March with the scientific steering committee input. The RFP will be presented to JIP in April in Svalbard. Discussion ensued about the Board reviewing the JIP RFP. Walter stated that the OSRI webpage will continue to be updated with JIP information, including OSRI’s involvement.</p> <p>e. Oil Spill Response Prize: OSRI will solicit proposals by offering a prize for anyone who can provide a successful solution to an already identified problem. OSRI has signed a contract with InnoCentive to serve as the go-between for OSRI/partners (the seeker organization) and the solvers (who submit proposals to InnoCentive). OSRI and partners conducted a workshop to define problem statements for the Oil-spill-response Prize in February. After entering into a contract with InnoCentive, they conducted this workshop to help define criteria for what is and is not acceptable in terms of the problem statement. They learned that we can have multiple solutions to a problem statement and have the option of awarding more than one prize. During the workshop, topics that have important implications for OSRI and the Arctic were identified. InnoCentive is in the process of writing up the problem statements. These will be available to the Board in a few weeks. After this time, InnoCentive will market the challenge, screen questions from solvers, survey the solvers to see where they are in progress, package the submissions and conducts preliminary review, then they send OSRI a cleaned-up version. OSRI will not be anonymous, solvers will be. OSRI and PWS RCAC have each committed \$50K. Two to five problem statements will be marketed this year. It can be decided how many solutions are accepted and the total prize for each. Prizes will likely range from \$15-\$25K.</p> |
| <p>Lunch</p> | <p>12:00 – 12:57 Carol Fries arrived.</p> |
| <p>PWSSC Education Program <i>Allen Marquette</i></p> | <p>Allen Marquette updated the OSRI Board on the Education Program ongoing projects.</p> <p>The Discovery Room: A partnership between the PWSSC, the USFS and the Cordova school district drives this program aimed at K-6 graders. At the beginning of each school year, a theme is chosen that will weave through each month’s meetings. The 2006/2007 theme is “Water’s Journey.” The Discovery Room</p> |

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| | <p>consists of three rooms: science/logic, crafts, and activity. Marquette also mentioned the monitoring program involving kids from the 4, 5 and 6 grade classes. Once a month, two students from each class go out to a monitoring station and then provide updates to their classmates in the Discovery Room. This year they are monitoring Cordova's weather. Past years have included Forest Plots and Salmon Habitat.</p> <p>Outreach Discovery: This is a program where the Discovery Room travels to the villages of Tatilek and Chenega Bay. They received money to put together traveling kits with help from the Imaginarium in Anchorage.</p> <p>From the Forest to the Sea Summer Camps: Involves children between the ages of 8-15. Ocean Day, Wetlands Day, Archaeology Day, Geology Day and a Sheridan River rafting trip are the major components of the camp sessions. A new program Youth Education Leadership Program (YELP) for 9-12 graders is in its second year. Students take a raft trip down the Copper River while learning about the Copper River watershed. Upon their return, the students share what they have learned with the community with presentations.</p> <p>Youth Science Workshops: Involvement with other camps and programs during the summer. City-run Bidarki day camps are supplemented with educational programs during their wetlands canoe day. The Education Program also provides science workshops during the 4-H music camp. Guest scientists are brought in to assist with the programs.</p> <p>Community Education Programs: Every Tuesday the PWSSC hosts a community lecture or workshop. Guest speakers are brought in to talk about topics such as their research or the natural history observed during a recent trip. Adult weekend workshops provide opportunities to get out in the field and earn college credit. Such programs have included edible seaweeds and an Egg Island barrier island study. Cordova high school and middle school outreach programs include 1) giving presentations in the classrooms, 2) developing and sharing curriculum with the science teachers and 3) help setting up and providing support for the Science Club. This Spring, 25 students from the Science Club will be making a trip down to Bryce Canyon and the Grand Canyon.</p> <p>Other Involvement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Science Fair and Imaginarium Festival • National Ocean Science Bowl (NOS Bowl). It was noted that this year's team won 5th place. • The Lingering Oil Education Project • Field Notes Radio Program • Earth Day Festival • Alaska Wild Salmon Festival • Community Kayak Day |
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| | <p>In Development:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extend outreach programs to Valdez and Whittier • Summer 2007 adult geology of the Copper River watershed course • Other adult weekend workshops • Conduct surveys with school teachers and community members on all the various programs. Looking for ways to make improvements and come up with new ideas. <p>The Board claimed that it's always a pleasure to hear from the Education Program. It was confirmed that the PWSSC will be involved in supporting the National Competition for the NOSB, which will be held in Seward in 2008. Walter noted that besides OSRI, other sources of funding are provided by BP, Conoco Phillips and private/local industries.</p> <p>Valerie Blajeski from ADF&G arrived during this talk.</p> |
| <p>FY07 Work Plan Progress Report Part II <i>Katey Walter Ph.D., RPM</i></p> | <p>Graduate Research Fellowships: OSRI has \$100,000 a year that goes into four fellowships. Current fellows are Jim Alanko from UAF, Sean-bob Kelley from UAF, Catherine Foster from UW and Xinglong Wu from UF Miami. The latter three will be finishing up their projects this year. Walter hopes that Wu and Moore's POM model will be involved in the drifter buoy experiment in 2008. There are two new opening positions for this fellowship in 2007 for \$25K each. Applications are being accepted until March 1. The third opening will be allocated to a new Blue Collar Oil Spill Technology Scholarship.</p> <p>Blue Collar Oil Spill Technology Development Scholarship: Walter has decided on Kenai Peninsula College for this Scholarship because they have an excellent process technology degree program and come highly recommended by Board and STC members working in the field of spill response. Doug Lentsch has offered to allow the student to work on an internship where they work on oil spill technology. ASC is willing to have that student come up to the North Slope for a field trip. After seeing how this program goes in Kenai, in the future Walter hopes to expand and open this opportunity more statewide possibly through UA.</p> <p>OSRI supported workshops in FY07:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The MMS Oil and Ice workshop, Oct 11-12, 2007 in Anchorage. OSRI has committed \$10K and RPM is on the steering committee. Walter has coordinated such that Hajo Eicken of UAF will participate and present his work on changes in sea ice that will affect oil exploration and development in coastal Alaskan waters as it relates to spill response scenarios. |

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| | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. The JIP Steering Committee workshop and fieldtrip will be held back-to-back with the above workshop. It will be held in Anchorage and may include field trips to Cordova or Kenai. 3. The Cold Climate Spill Response Training workshop in Alaska, which will be similar to the NOAA workshop in Seattle that Walter attended last year and which Pegau will attend this April. It will focus on the science of oil spill response and in particular, the problems faced in cold climates. This will hopefully be put together for late fall 2007. Pegau will likely work with OSRI support staff and John Whitney of NOAA to organize this workshop rather than going through NUKA Research, which is more expensive. 4. The 2007 Alaska Marine Symposium occurred in late Jan. 2007 5. The Alaska Forum for the Environment is in its final day today. 6. The Dispersants Research Forum was in early February in Red Bank, NJ, following the Ohmsett visitor's day. <p>Discussion ensued about the DRF. The main goal of the Forum was to bring together scientists who are conducting dispersant research all the around the nation and internationally to see what we have learned in the two years since the NRC report was developed. Bird stated that the OSRI board has wanted to give money towards more dispersant research and wondered if this meeting revealed where OSRI might want to get involved. Saupe stated that there are still major data gaps, the biggest one being in limitations of putting all the research into some format that is actually used in a decision making capacity. Walters agreed and said another major gap is the effect of dispersants on organisms. A lot of the work in done in labs, but Ken Lee's group will be going out into the field to look at the effects on fish. The CRRC proposal for the JIP wants to looks at basal levels of the marine food web as well.</p> |
| <p>Scientific & Technical Committee Report <i>Ted Cooney, Ph.D.</i> <i>Committee Chair</i></p> | <p>Cooney explained that the STC serves at the pleasure of the Board, especially to advise when asked. They deal with issues that arise from the work that the Board does. It's a nine person committee with 3-year staggered terms. This past year they developed another category of membership-committee member emeritus. John Goering has been granted this position.</p> <p>Issues that the committee is dealing with:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Last fall, in collaboration with NPRB, 2 RFPs were posted. One was for socioeconomic modeling, which no proposals were submitted. The other was for tracking and monitoring marine organisms. Three proposals were submitted. The |

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| | <p>STC will take a closer at the socioeconomic RFP to see if they can determine what happened, then recommend to the OSRI Board to resubmit this RFP. In April the STC will meet with NPRB staff and hopefully get a recommendation for one of the proposals.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. OSRI and NPRB are currently funding a forage fish project led by Scott Johnson of NOAA at Auke Bay Lab. The project seems to be going well. Over the period of the summer, 20,000 fish were captures, 45 species. One major finding was that the nearshore edge zone of PWS is extremely important nursery for juvenile forage fishes, especially in macro algae and eel grass beds. Since this is where spilled oil ends up, in the edge, this research is very important. The STC is going to ask the OSRI board to fund another year of this project. 3. The STC is standing by waiting to provide advice upon request about these various partnering programs that address the respond elements of the OSRI mission. 4. This year they will be looking at the accomplishments of AOOS/PWSOS collaboration in PWS. This is the concluding year for soft support from OSRI for that program. Since OSRI is so heavily investing in the observation program in PWS, Cooney feels that it will be important to establish a plan for subsequent years. The STC will have a dialog about this and will be prepared to answer questions from the Board. 5. Cooney then stated that even though he’s living in Montana, it is his intent to attend as many of these meetings as he can rather that via teleconference. <p>Lindow asked if the STC has addressed the idea of future research on dispersants issues. Cooney replied that the STC has not yet done so, but they certainly could if the Board asked.</p> <p>Calder proposed there be a change in the agenda. He proposed to move the nomination for the at-large seat to before the election of officers.</p> |
| <p>Finance Committee’s First Quarter Report, FY07 <i>Penelope Oswalt</i></p> | <p>Oswalt stated that the Finance Committee did not meet prior to this meeting because their Treasurer is no longer on the Board.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. FY06 fourth quarter report: Last year OSRI expended \$990,273 and has another \$397,833 contracted out. That left \$432,077 to carry over at the end of the year giving OSRI a total of \$1,454,707 unencumbered funds in FY07 2. FY07 first quarter report: As of December 31, 2006 OSRI had \$2,802,985 available. We had an encumbered |

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| | <p>and allocated amount of \$1,322,248 leaving OSRI with an unencumbered an unallocated balance of \$1,186,731 for expenditures. It was noted that in the Encumbered and Allocated section of the report that of the \$591,317 not currently awarded or encumbered, \$466,317 is expected to be contracted. This leaves a difference of \$125K. Bird truly believes that the full \$125K for NPRB will not be contracted and that there will be \$50K available for OSRI to in other ways. The Response Program for \$50K has still not been contracted and the \$25K for the Drifter Buoy Field Experiment could be carried over to 2008 since the experiment has been postponed. As a result of the changes, OSRI would not be using any of the reserve at this time for the FY07 budget. There will still be \$10K left over in the bank account. Bird explained to the Board about the expected allocated funds. She noted that some proposals have been received, but have not yet been awarded. Oswalt further explained that some of the largest contracts are on a January to December schedule. Schoch has instituted that all contracts start at the beginning of a quarter. The fellowships run on an academic year which is July 1 – June 30.</p> <p>3. FY07 Audit: OSRI had a clean audit with no federal findings. Last year there was one finding in which the audit did not make it to the federal clearing house on time. We need two years of a clean audit to become a low-risk auditee. This was a non-financial finding and has since been resolved with our auditing firm on who was going to return that report. The OSRI audit and funds is in the hands of the PWSSC Board Audit Committee. They meet annually with the auditors to address issues and concerns. Even though it has never been officially decided if OSRI is federal or not, OSRI chooses to be audited as federal because we want to act like we're clean and conservative. The finance committee decided to leave the issue aside until someone absolutely needs an answer.</p> |
| <p>Nominations for At-large Seat on OSRI Board</p> | <p>Susan Saupe left the room. The two nominees are Susan Saupe and John Kelley. Bird stated that language in the legislation for this seat states that the Board is looking for a representative who is knowledgeable about the EVOS impacted area and is a resident of that area, which included Anchorage.</p> <p>Mutter moved, and Lentsch seconded a motion to reappoint Susan Saupe.</p> <p>Calder stated that before a vote was taken the Board should review</p> |

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| | <p>and discuss the nominees. Fink commented that John Kelley has a lot of experience, but doesn't feel that Fairbanks really falls into the definition of the At-large seat. Lavasseur suggested that he be placed on the STC. The Board will make STC decisions in the fall. It was determined that Sue Saupe has completed nearly two full terms. Walter noted that Saupe is a fantastic board member. She also noted that Dr. Kelley has done a lot of coastal research, even though he doesn't live on the coast. He also has connections to the North Slope Science Initiative and the northern Arctic waters, which would provide links for OSRI to oil spill response issues statewide. No matter what, she feels that OSRI shouldn't lose this applicant; maybe he could serve on the STC. Ujioka expressed that he had some concerns about the current process the Board takes in nominating and electing. As a result, Mutter withdrew his nomination, since both candidates were already nominated. Bird suggested that in the future, the chair will say that we have two nominations on the floor and invite discussion within the Board. They could then go to a secret ballot vote.</p> <p>Ujioka moved, and Lindow seconded a motion to vote by secret ballot following discussion. The motion passed unanimously.</p> <p>Mutter reemphasized that Kelley could be considered as an applicant in the fall for the STC since having someone with North Slope connections is a good thing. Mutter thinks that Kelley does not qualify for the At-Large seat since he resides outside of the EVOS affected area.</p> <p>Votes were cast on paper. Tally was made by Walter and Bird. Susan Saupe was reappointed for a two-year term. Calder suggested that in the future they strongly suggest that nominees must reside within the affected area.</p> |
| Afternoon Break | 2:35 – 3:03 |
| Election of Officers | <p>Recruitment of Treasurer nominations: RJ could be asked to be a member on the finance committee, since you don't have to be a board member to be on a committee.</p> <p>Ujioka moved, and Lentsch seconded a motion to elect Carol Fries as Treasurer. The motion passed unanimously.</p> <p>The Executive Committee stands as: John Calder, Chair Doug Mutter, Vice Chair Carol Fries, Secretary/Treasurer Mark Fink Doug Lentsch Leslie Pearson</p> |

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| | <p>The Finance Committee stands as: Carol Fries, Chair/Treasurer Mark Fink George Levasseur</p> <p>FY08 Work Plan Committee stands as: Susan Saupe Doug Mutter Doug Lentsch Leslie Pearson Joe Banta Mark Fink – alternate. Wants to be involved in the preliminary talks about the status of the 2005-2010 Work Plan.</p> <p>Calder stated that since we are in 2008 of the 2005-2010 work plan, this is an opportunity to look at the numbers and decide if what they did a few years ago still makes sense for today. The work plan committee and STC can have some preliminary talks about this.</p> |
| <p>Review Calendar/ Schedule for committee and Board meeting</p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. STC Meeting & OSRI-NPRB proposal review, Seward, April 9-10, 2007 b. FY08 Work Plan Committee and STC Meeting, Cordova, June 18, 2007 c. Copper River Nouveau, June 16, 2007 d. Fall Board meeting, Cordova, September 18, 2007 e. Walter and Bird stated that there will be a special Board Meeting in April that would be held prior to the NPRB Board Meeting. Doug Mutter will run the meeting April 17, 2007 via teleconference. The topics for the meeting will be to 1) review the NPRB-OSRI proposals and recommendations from the STC and 2) review the JIP RFP. <p>Discussion ensued about the extra \$150K available in the budget and whether or not these funds should be split between the JIP and Oil Spill Response Prize. Bird suggested that this be a third topic for the April meeting because by then, the problem statements from InnoCentive will be in for review and we will know whether or not there will be other partners coming in for this prize.</p> <p>The Board then discussed the JIP RFP and whether or not it is in the ‘response’ or the ‘understand’ category. The Board wants to fund a project that is focused on response technology. Walter stated that bioremediation fits right into response but should be carefully considered because maybe there are better research questions to fund than bioremediation in ice. She likes the idea of inoculating mineral dispersants with microbes and nutrients to</p> |

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| | <p>increase biodegradation of dispersed oil. There was concern that the partnership with CRRC may not aid in this ‘respond’ goal, since CRRC is focused mainly on the effect of an oil spill on in-ice and under-ice microbes, – which is ‘understand’. Going into partnership with Shell might be better because they are more interested in looking at the use of true ‘respond’ questions, including the use of physical dispersants. The Board will review the JIP RFP in April to determine whether they want to partner with the CRRC for this one year or to put the \$50K back in the budget. Walter and Pegau will move forward with this by talking with CRRC and Shell.</p> |
| <p>OSRI Board Member Comments</p> | <p>Lentsch mentioned that Exxon may be another potential partner for the JIP RFP. He will get contact names to Walter. Fink followed up by saying that ADF&G is usually not too excited about throwing chemicals onto oil in water, even to enhance degradation. ADF&G attempts first, at prevention; second, removing it from the environment if it spills; and if that doesn’t work, then use dispersants. He likes the idea of response technologies and in situ burning. Walter stated that one might take advantage of large scale field experiments and determine the gaps, such as the toxicology effect of the residue that’s left over after in-situ burning.</p> <p>Mutter mentioned that he is excited about the Oil-Spill Response Prize. OSRI has the authority and capability to think outside the box, unlike many other agencies. This is a good way to get on the edge and learn things. There is a lot of potential with this. Walter reiterated Lentsch’s suggestion to see what happens if we get some ideas through the OSR Prize. Maybe OSRI wants to hold some of its respond money for putting those ideas into practice in the future.</p> <p>Meacham thanked Katey for all her work over the past year. She has been tremendous for the program. Welcomes Scott and the new board members.</p> |
| <p>Adjournment</p> | <p>Lentsch moved, and Fries seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously.</p> |