

**Oil Spill Recovery Institute Advisory Board**  
**DRAFT Minutes of Special Meeting – Tuesday, May 22, 2007**

This meeting was held via teleconference. Chair John Calder called the meeting to order about 9:35 a.m. and requested that Nancy Bird chair it due to it being a teleconference.

**Board Members present:** John Calder, Doug Mutter, Capt. Steve Hudson, Leslie Pearson, Mark Fink, Carol Fries, Doug Lentsch, Joe Banta, Susan Saupe, John Goering, and Chuck Meacham. **Absent:** Glenn Ujioka, Pete Kompkoff, George Levasseur and Bill Lindow.

**Scientific and Technical Committee Chair R. Ted Cooney** was also present.

**Staff present:** Nancy Bird and W. Scott Pegau.

**Executive Director's Update**

Bird reported on four issues: 1) Katey Walter has worked recently to compile the Two-Year Report for 2005-2006. A final draft of this publication is expected within two weeks. 2) Walter's official employment with OSRI terminated at the end of April although she will continue to help out on a few tasks in the next month or two (as a short-term contractor). While she had originally intended to remain a part-time employee through the summer, Pegau has quickly been able to take over most of the ongoing project work and Walter's status with the University recently became a faculty position rather than the fellowship. 3) Efforts are continuing to amend OSRI's enabling legislation and increase the funding received through interest earnings. Senate staffers have indicated they will try to include an amendment in revisions to the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 and Bird will notify Board members as she learns more. 4) Bill Schoephoester officially resigned from the OSRI Board last week as one of the two representatives for the Oil and Gas Industry. Bird was asked to suggest possible nominees and has submitted the names of two individuals who have contacted her in the past year expressing an interest in serving on the OSRI Board; they are Ron Morris (Alaska Clean Seas) and Pamela Pope (BP).

**Report from Scientific and Technical Committee–** STC Chair R. Ted Cooney referenced minutes of the STC April 10 meeting (previously sent to all Board members). He reported that after review with the NPRB Science Panel, the STC had recommended award of a proposal to Mary Anne Bishop for a project focused on tracking and monitoring of rock fish near an artificial reef outside Whittier. The STC also agreed to recommend renewal of the Request for Proposals for the socio-economic project; this would be part of the joint OSRI/NPRB partnership solicitation that is included in NPRB's annual project solicitation released in early October. The STC has been discussing a possible focus for this partnership RFP on the nearshore environment since this is the region most at risk to future spills. The focus will assure that the rather modest annual funding over the years for collaborative work will contribute information closely matching the overall OSRI mission. This will be further discussed at their upcoming meeting June 18 in Cordova (with the Board's Work Plan Committee).

Cooney reported that the STC asked Pegau to either develop a white paper incorporating a literature review on the effects on biology of oil spills on ice. The committee also asked Pegau to provide them a summary on the status of the Prince William Sound observing system.

Finally, Cooney reported on two others issues: 1) the STC would like to schedule a 2-3 day retreat annually for the STC to have more time for discussions on oil spill research and OSRI's mission; and, 2) the committee is discussing ways to assure that the data obtained by OSRI projects is applicable and appropriately incorporated into use for oil spill prevention and response. One way to address the latter issue is to support synthesis studies, which Calder voiced support for.

**Report on Joint Industry Program Activities** – Research Program Manager W. Scott Pegau highlighted sections of the trip report previously sent to Board members (covering his travel to the SINTEF JIP program meeting in Svalbard, Norway April 23-26, 2007). It was helpful for him to meet steering committee members and discuss their visit to Alaska in October; since his travels, Pegau has finalized plans for the October meeting on October 12-15 and will include a field trip to Kenai with assistance from CISPRI and CIRCAC. This meeting will follow the oil-in-ice workshop on Oct. 10-11.

Pegau also noted that meetings in Norway with David Dickins and Steve Potter provided him knowledge of studies relevant to the effects of oil in ice covered environments on arctic biota. These references and reports (some of which Dickins offered to make available through MMS's website) will be used in Pegau's development of white paper on this topic.

**Status report on oil spill recovery prize challenges through InnoCentive**

Since the late February workshop with InnoCentive staff, five challenges have been developed and Pegau now has two of those almost ready to be posted. Two potential partners for this program – Prince William Sound Regional Citizens' Advisory Council and the North Slope Charter for Development – remain interested in possible future participation but are not joining the project this fiscal year. PWS RCAC has requested a presentation by Pegau at their fall Board meeting.

In discussion of this program, it was noted that a frequently asked questions document is available, but not posted at the website. Several Board members supported an idea to consider hiring an engineer or other independent expert in OSRI's review of any solutions of challenges deemed accepted by InnoCentive.

The STC and staff recommend to the Board that \$50K be added to this project's FY07 budget, making a total of \$100K available for the program (to cover the access fee, postings for each challenge, the prize funds and costs for expert reviews). Pegau recommended that the FY07 budget be amended by reducing \$25K from the line item for partnership response programs and \$25K reduced from the Joint Industry Program line item. This action will result in \$100K for the oil spill recovery prize program, \$25K for response partnership programs, and \$45K for the JIP. **Motion by Calder**, seconded by

Fries to approve Pegau's recommendation for these budget amendments. **Motion passed without objection.**

**Upcoming meetings**

- June 18, a joint meeting of the FY08 Work Plan Committee and the Scientific and Technical Committee, is scheduled in Cordova.
- Dates for the Fall Board meeting for OSRI will be reconfirmed by staff within the coming week. The tentative Sept. 17-18 dates will not work for the Board Chair and, if those dates are changed, later in September is preferred by most others.

The meeting adjourned about 10:20 a.m.

These minutes were reviewed and approved on \_\_\_\_\_