



Oil Spill Recovery Institute (OSRI) Advisory Board Meeting Minutes Wednesday and Thursday, October 7 and 8, 2009

The meeting was held at the Anchorage Hilton Hotel in Anchorage. It was called to order on Wednesday, October 7, 2009, just after 9 a.m. by Vice-Chair Douglas Mutter.

Board members present: Doug Mutter, Rick Rodriguez (alternate for Capt. Inman), Bob Mattson, Gayle Martin, Doug Lentsch, Carol Fries, Glenn Ujioka, Susan Saupe, and Joe Banta. About 9:30 a.m., John Goering joined via teleconference but was unable to continue the call later in the meeting. **Absent:** John Calder, David Totemoff, Bill Lindow, George Levasseur and Charles Meacham.

Scientific and Technical Committee members present: Mike Bronson, John Kelley, and Jeep Rice. At 11:15 a.m., C.J. Beegle-Krause and Alan Mearns also joined the meeting.

Staff present: Nancy Bird, W. Scott Pegau, and Penelope Oswalt.

No visitors attended the meeting.

Approval of agenda: The agenda was approved without objection.

Public Comments: None.

Approval of minutes: **Motion by Lentsch**, seconded by Martin to approve both the February 6, 2009 and May 15, 2009 minutes as presented. **Motion passed** without objection.

Chair's Report

Vice-Chair Mutter said there was nothing to report on behalf of the Chair.

Executive Director's Report

Status report on Board members - Bird gave a status report on vacant Advisory Board seats and her efforts to encourage nominees to the Governor's office. She is currently soliciting for one of the two Alaska Native representatives. She also received a message from fishing industry representative George Levasseur indicating he intends to resign because he is traveling so much and unable to attend the OSRI meetings. Another potential resignation may come from oil and gas industry representative Doug Lentsch who recently left his employment with Cook Inlet Spill Response, Inc.

Revenue shortfall - Bird reported extremely low financial earnings of the \$22.4 million fund set aside for OSRI within the National Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund. The Treasury Department informed Oswalt this week that the FY10 deposit for OSRI will be only \$225,000 instead of the estimated \$730,000 included in our proposed FY10 work plan budget. Bird has asked OSRI's investment advisor (Branch Haymans of Stanley Morgan Dean Witter) to contact the Treasury Dept. to better understand the precipitous drop from last year's \$1 million earnings and to also better plan for the next few years. She may have more news from Haymans before the end of this meeting. The further bad news is that Treasury is estimating the investment revenues to continue at or below the \$225,000 level for 2-3 years.

Revised FY10 Work Plan - In light of this bad news, Bird and Pegau met earlier this morning and have prepared a revised FY10 work plan budget totaling about \$730,000 instead of the original \$992,000 proposal included in the meeting packet. They will present this revised work plan and budget later in the agenda. It is premised on maintaining existing contracts and/or commitments for ongoing projects, and also trying to limit the amount of dollars to be taken from OSRI's reserve fund which is currently about \$1.5 million.

Travel and EVOS partnership for herring research - Bird also reported on a trip she made earlier in September as an OSRI representative to an Arctic Research Commission meeting and tour of the Kotzebue and Arctic region. Finally, she commended Pegau for his successful work to establish and coordinate an expanded herring research program in Prince William Sound; the new 4-year program is funded through the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council and involves five different organizations. While he will be paid one month's salary as a Principal Investigator, he will also be contributing some time in-kind as part of a partnership program for OSRI.

Election of Officers. There was some confusion as the current committee membership list included in the packet appeared to have some errors. Bird suggested this agenda item be deferred until later in the meeting so she could double-check the minutes and clarify the current Executive Committee membership.

Financial Reports

Oswalt highlighted the 11-month budget report for FY09.

Motion by Fries, seconded by Saupe to accept the FY09 budget report for the 11-month period ending August 31, 2009. **Motion passed without objection.**

Proposed FY10 Work Plan

Pegau led discussion reviewing proposed projects included in the FY10 Work Plan. He first highlighted all of the projects included in the original draft work plan within each of the goal areas. Then, in light of the decreased revenues this year, he and Bird jointly recommended reductions in various projects. He noted that the revised FY10 Work Plan is premised on maintaining those projects/programs where OSRI has an obligation or commitment to continue through FY10. After discussion by the Board, agreement was reached to approve the revised FY10 Work Plan as detailed in the tables included below within each program goal area.

OSRI Understand Goals Program

Goal Area	Project	Original Proposed FY10 Work Plan (as of 9-25-09)	REVISED Proposed FY10 Work Plan (Staff Recommendation as of 10-7-09)	Science Plan budget for FY10 (as drafted in 2004)
Understand				
	Meteorological Stations	40,000	35,000	40,000
	Physical Oceanography	130,000	110,000	150,000
	NPRB Partnership	100,000	100,000	100,000
	PWSSC Biological Research (previously called "Biology Fellowship")	70,000	60,000	85,000
	Data Management	0	-	45,000
	Sub-total	\$340,000	\$305,000	\$420,000

There was considerable discussion about the scope and deliverables for the “Data Storage and Visualization” project proposed under the PWSSC Biological Research category. In response to concern over how much value can be achieved with only \$60K, Pegau said he expects the project will result in a good inventory of data at PWSSC, its format and a data management plan implemented to assure that future data collected is accessible and available to the broad research community (through an existing data management system such as GINA). He said it is timely because past data can still be found now (but will be more difficult later) and because PWSSC is pursuing additional funding from other private sources for a larger data management and visualization system. PWSSC would be responsible to submit a proposal for the data management project that has specific deliverables (such as metadata) and includes multiple researchers’ data. Strong support was expressed to include the project for completing the analysis of the biological data collected during the 2009 field experiment. Pegau recommended no less than \$60K be included for the data management project; an additional \$10K was recommended be included for the biological data analysis from the 2009 field experiment (for a total of \$70K for the PWSSC biological research program).

Potential projects within the NPRB partnership were also discussed and the commitment to that partnership was reconfirmed.

In discussion on the 2009 field experiment analysis project (of the models, not the biological data), Pegau noted that he will be contracting for assistance on some issues; it was also noted that PWSSC has about 4-5 months of a data analyst salary available through its AOOS subcontract to help with this project. Beegle-Krause offered several recommendations and Pegau said he would follow up with her. Pegau also recommended that this progress on this project (the model validation analysis) be reviewed at the February Board meeting; if additional funds are deemed necessary at that time, the Board can be notified and decide how to proceed.

Mid morning break

“Sound Predictions 2009” Presentation

Oceanographer Mark Halverson gave a powerpoint presentation describing components of the July 19-August 3 field experiment and provided a few preliminary results. *(Note that Molly McCammon, Alaska Ocean Observing System Executive Director, was unable to attend due to prior commitments.)*

Lunch break The meeting recessed for about 40 minutes.

Proposed FY10 Work Plan

OSRI Respond Goals Program

Review of the draft FY10 Work Plan continued. For budgetary reasons, Pegau recommended that the proposed “Spill Response Information” project be considered as part of the “Partnership Projects” category. He also said he could lead the project to complete an analysis and report on the model validation experiment, and thereby reduce that project cost from \$50K to \$25K. Here and later in the meeting, the Board and STC expressed strong support for a complete analysis of the experiment saying that project is a high priority.

Goal Area	Project	Original Proposed FY10 Work Plan (as of 9-25-09)	REVISED Proposed FY10 Work Plan (Staff Recommendation as of 10-7-09)	Science Plan budget for FY10 (as drafted in 2004)
Respond				
	Partnership Projects	70,000	50,000	150,000
	Spill Response Information	20,000	0	0
	Model Validation	50,000	25,000	0
	Sub-total	\$140,000	\$75,000	\$150,000

Proposed FY10 Work Plan

OSRI Inform Goals Program

In the Inform programs, Pegau noted that several projects do not support ongoing commitments and so is recommending that these not be funded in FY10 but remain in OSRI’s work plan in case additional funds are found and for future years’ work plans.

Goal Area	Project	Original Proposed FY10 Work Plan (as of 9-25-09)	REVISED Proposed FY10 Work Plan (Staff Recommendation as of 10-7-09)	Science Plan budget for FY10 (as drafted in 2004)
Inform				
	Discovery Room	45,000	40,000	95,000
	Forest to the Sea	12,000	8,000	
	Community Outreach	10,000	0	
	Technology Scholarship	25,000	0	0
	Graduate Fellowships	50,000	0	100,000
	Workshops	15,000	20,000	15,000
	Web Page	5,000	5,000	6,000
	Annual Report	Moved to RPM	-	10,000
	Sub-total	\$162,000	\$73,000	\$226,000

Proposed FY10 Work Plan

OSRI Other Programs

This category includes funds for the Research Program Manager’s position and travel as well as the travel costs for the Scientific and Technical Committee. The reductions proposed in the revised budget are possible because the RPM (Pegau) has one month salary included in the EVOS funded herring research program. The STC travel line item has never exceeded \$8K in past years.

Goal Area	Project	Original Proposed FY10 Work Plan <i>(as of 9-25-09)</i>	REVISED Proposed FY10 Work Plan <i>(Staff Recommendation as of 10-7-09)</i>	Science Plan budget for FY10 (as drafted in 2004)
Other				
	Research Program Manager	127,000	118,000	90,000
	STC travel	10,000	8,000	15,000
	<i>Sub-total</i>	<i>\$137,000</i>	<i>\$126,000</i>	<i>\$105,000</i>

Approval of FY10 Work Plan and FY10 budget

During earlier discussions of the goal programs, the Board reviewed the purpose of the “reserve” fund and noted that it has not yet been used (even though prior budgets have anticipated its use). There was also discussion about future revenues with general consensus that it is appropriate to start spending from the reserve. Future work plan budgets can be adjusted dependent on future revenues.

Motion by Saupe, seconded by Banta, to approve the FY10 Work Plan as amended with a total budget of \$589,000 in direct program costs and \$147,250 for administrative costs, for an overall total of \$736,250.

The motion further stated that this budget will be revisited by the Board at the February 2010 meeting.

Motion passed without objection.

Goal Area	Project	Original Proposed FY10 Work Plan (as of 9-25-09)	APPROVED FY10 Work Plan	Science Plan budget for FY10 (as drafted in 2004)
Understand				
	Meteorological Stations	40,000	35,000	40,000
	Physical Oceanography	130,000	110,000	150,000
	NPRB Partnership	100,000	100,000	100,000
	PWSSC Biological Research	70,000	70,000	85,000
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	Sub-total	\$340,000	\$315,000	\$420,000
Respond				
	Partnership Projects	70,000	50,000	150,000
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	Sub-total	\$140,000	\$75,000	\$150,000
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	Discovery Room	45,000	40,000	95,000
	Forest to the Sea	12,000	8,000	
	Community Outreach	10,000	0	
	Technology Scholarship	25,000	0	0
	Graduate Fellowships	50,000	0	100,000
	Workshops	15,000	20,000	15,000
	Web Page	5,000	5,000	6,000
	Annual Report	Moved to RPM	-	10,000
	Sub-total	\$162,000	\$73,000	\$226,000
Other				
	Research Program Manager	127,000	118,000	90,000
	STC travel	10,000	8,000	15,000
	Sub-total	\$137,000	\$126,000	\$105,000
	TOTAL PROGRAM COSTS	\$779,000	\$589,000	\$901,000
	Administrative costs		\$147,250	
	TOTAL FY10 Costs		\$736,250	

The middle column (highlighted) titled “Approved FY10 Work Plan” is the final FY10 Work Plan.

Afternoon break

Introduction of the Five-Year Research Plan

Pegau introduced the draft research plan (found in tab 5 of the meeting packet), noting that it results from first, the Board's review and revision last year of the Strategic Plan including the goals and objectives and second, the Board's discussion last February followed by the Scientific and Technical Committee's meeting in Seattle in mid-April (which was also attended by a few Board members). Sections I and II of the draft research plan provide background about OSRI and its organizational setup.

Understand Goal Program in Five-Year Research Plan

Section III/A details three areas identified as focal research areas for the Understand program; those are Nearshore Biology, Surface Circulation and Ocean Observing. Pegau described each of the potential projects included in the draft plan and limited discussion ensued. Generally, there was support for all of the projects suggested with some Board members expressing interest in OSRI being "pro-active" in promoting a focus on the Arctic. In the ocean observing area, several commented on goals to inform and make use of what has been learned from the program to date; there was also interest expressed in continuing validation exercises (of the models) every few years.

Meeting Recess – The meeting was recessed at about 3:45 p.m. until Thursday morning at 9 a.m.

THURSDAY, October 8, 2009

Roll call - The same Advisory Board and Scientific and Technical Committee members were present on Thursday as were present on Wednesday. Vice-Chair Mutter called the order to order again about 9 a.m.

Respond Goal Program in Five-Year Research Plan

Section III/B details four focal areas for the Respond program; these are Spill Response Information Tools, Best Practices, Oil Spill Detection and Tracking, and Spill Response in Ice. After Pegau summarized each of the potential projects within those focal areas, there was discussion and a few modifications the descriptions were suggested.

Inform Goal Program in Five-Year Research Plan

Section III/C details three focal areas, Workshops and Conferences, Education and Outreach. There was limited discussion of some of the potential projects listed. Mearns shared a photo time series he has maintained since 1989 of one of 10 sites (Mearns' Rock) in Prince William Sound and expressed interest in seeing this photo time series continued by the communities of the Sound. Bird said she would ask PWSSC and other educators working in the region about incorporating this project into an existing program. It was noted that a dollar amount needs to be associated with the graduate research fellowship project under Section III/C/2.

Partner Goal Programs in Five-Year Research Plan

Section III/D outlines the preferred approach – through partnerships - to achieving the projects described in the three earlier sections and notes that OSRI's coffers are not capable of funding all of the programs. In discussion, it was agreed that the EVOS Trustee Council needs to be added to this section as a current partner.

Other Programs in Five-Year Research Plan

Section III/E describes two programs critical to the overall plan and implementation, namely the Research Program Manager's function and that of the Scientific and Technical Committee.

Additional Projects Suggested

Another potential project titled "Assessing Oil Spill Mortality of Marine Birds and Marine Mammals" was submitted for consideration by Mutter on behalf of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The request specifically asked OSRI's science plan to incorporate proposals to document "normal" background mortality for marine wildlife in various regions of Alaska, establish data on carcass persistence rates and conduct experiments looking at searcher efficiency (in looking for carcasses). After discussion, consensus was reached to include another focal area similar to this description in the *Understand* goal section.

Public review process, budgets and timeline for 5-Year Research Plan

There was discussion and agreement reached to direct staff to proceed as follows:

- By November 1, prepare a revised research plan based on the discussions during this meeting and distribute it to the Advisory Board and STC members for a 10-day review period.
- From November 10 – December 10 widely distribute the research plan for comments by the public and, specifically partners and other entities working with or interested in OSRI's programs.
- From December 10 – January 10, staff will collate the comments received and by mid-January send a recommended final DRAFT research plan to the Board.
- At the February 12 Advisory Board meeting, the Board will approve the new 5-year research plan.

It was also agreed that the new 5-Year Research Plan will include estimated costs for the individual potential projects but will not include a five-year budget plan similar to the current science plan. The new plan will state that each year's budget will be determined through the Work Plan Committee process and ultimately approved by the Advisory Board based on revenues and opportunities as they develop.

Committee Appointments and Review of Officers

Executive Committee - Based on the meeting minute record, Bird reported that the current officers' terms do not expire until February 2011 and that the current officers are: John Calder, Chair (designated by legislation); Doug Mutter, Vice-Chair; Carol Fries, Treasurer; and Susan Saupe, Secretary. The two at-large Executive Committee members elected last February for an annual term are Bob Mattson and Doug Lentsch.

Finance Committee - As Treasurer, Fries serves as Chair of this committee. Joe Banta and Chuck Meacham were appointed to this committee.

FY11 Work Plan Committee - Susan Saupe, Joe Banta, Bob Mattson, and Doug Lentsch volunteered to serve on this committee. (Note that additional members may join this committee at the Feb. 2011 meeting since the work plan committee will not meet until early summer 2011.)

Review Calendar / Schedules for Committee and Board meetings

Bird reviewed the proposed schedule of meetings included at the back of Tab 1 in the meeting packet and added that a Finance Committee meeting will be scheduled via teleconference within the coming month (as soon as additional information is available about OSRI's revenues). Other meetings noted include:

- **Alaska Marine Sciences Symposium** is January 17-22, 2010 in Anchorage.
- **Advisory Board Meeting – February 12, 2010** in conjunction with the Alaska Forum on the Environment, in Anchorage.

- **OSRI Scientific and Technical Committee** meets in Seattle in **April 2010** in conjunction with the Science Panel for the North Pacific Research Board for review of the proposals submitted for joint funding by OSRI and NPRB.
- **FY11 Work Plan Committee** will meet in Cordova in late May or June, date to be determined.
- **11th Annual Copper River Nouveau**, a benefit gourmet salmon dinner and auction for the Prince William Sound Science Center, is Saturday, June 12, 2010 in Cordova.
- **Fall Annual Meeting – OSRI Advisory Board** will be **Tuesday, Sept. 21, 2010** in Cordova.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at about 11:45 a.m. and lunch was available. Most Board and committee members visited over lunch.

These minutes were reviewed and approved on February 12, 2010

Susan Saupe, Secretary