



Oil Spill Recovery Institute (OSRI) Advisory Board Meeting Minutes Wednesday, October 6, 2010

The meeting was held at the Cordova Public Library meeting room with some members participating via teleconference. It was called to order about 9:35 a.m. by Chair John Calder; he asked Vice-Chair Doug Mutter to chair the meeting because Calder joined via teleconference.

Board members present in person: Doug Mutter, Capt. Craig Lloyd, Bradley Dunker, Doug Lentsch, Susan Saupe, David Totemoff, Bill Lindow, Glenn Ujioka and Charles Meacham. **Present via teleconference:** John Calder, Carol Fries, Angela Totemoff, and John Goering. **Absent:** Bob Mattson and Joe Banta.
Staff present: Nancy Bird and W. Scott Pegau.

Orientation for new Board members: This 20-minute session preceded the Board meeting.

Approval of Agenda – Motion by Totemoff, seconded by Lentsch to approve the agenda. **Motion passed without objection.**

Public Comments – None. One visitor, John Harvill, was present for most of the meeting; Harvill introduced himself and noted that he recently joined the Board of Directors of the Prince William Sound Science Center.

Approval of minutes – Motion by Lindow, seconded by Saupe to approve the Feb. 12, 2010 minutes. **Motion passed without objection.**

Motion by Lindow, seconded by Lentsch to approve the July 19, 2010 minutes. **Motion passed without objection.**

Chair's Report – Calder said he had nothing to report.

Appointments to the Scientific and Technical Committee (STC)

Pegau reported on behalf of STC Chair Terry Whitledge. He called attention to three applications received (from Eppie Hogan, Stacy Studebaker and Jerome Montague, Ph.D.) to fill two vacancies on this committee. He noted that the committee was particularly looking for individuals with expertise in two areas: oil spill technical expertise and educational or outreach expertise. After reviewing the applications, the STC recommends appointment of Hogan and Studebaker. Discussion followed as to how the STC reached their recommendation.

Motion by Lentsch, seconded by Ujioka to accept the STC's recommendation to appoint new members Eppie Hogan and Stacy Studebaker to their committee, and also to re-appoint Terry Whitledge. **Motion passed without objection.**

Motion by Meacham, seconded by Lloyd to direct staff to maintain the application of the third nominee, Jerome Montague, for a future opening on the STC. **Motion passed without objection.**

Finance Committee Report

Bird reviewed the 11-month Finance Report for FY10, explaining in some detail the summary sheets (page 1 and the final page). It was noted that this fiscal year is the first time OSRI has started spending from its reserve.

Motion by Lloyd, seconded by Meacham to approve the 11-month finance report for FY10. **Motion passed without objection.**

The proposed FY11 budget was reviewed and a discrepancy of about \$16K was noted on the summary pages (page 1 and 8); staff will determine the cause of that error and report back to the Board after discussion of the FY11 Work Plan. The budget is slated for approval after that discussion.

Review and approval of the FY11 Work Plan and Budget

A draft FY11 Work Plan dated August 30, 2010 was reviewed page by page and modified as follows:

- A.1.b. Hydrological Model Validation – It was suggested that when the RFP for this project is issued, that additional explanation be included regarding this project’s association with the modeling already underway through the Jet Propulsion Lab.
- A.2.b. Temporal variability – After considerable discussion, it was recommended that instead issuing a RFP for a project on this topic that a workshop be conducted in FY11 to better define methods, scales and information needs with plans to issue a project RFP in FY12.
- C.1.c. K-12 School Year Programs – It was requested that the plan for delivery of these types of programs in other areas of the state include a stronger focus on tribal communities.
- C.1.e. Summer Programs – After review of the various approaches offered by staff (see memo dated Sept. 13, 2010 sent to the Work Plan Committee), the Board recommends the second approach, to issue a RFP requesting development of an oil spill related summer education program over five years. The program will be planned in Year 1, piloted in Year 2 and implemented in Years 3, 4 and 5 to multiple organizations and a diversity of geographic locations in Alaska’s marine environment.

In regards to the previously noted error of \$16K on the summary page of the proposed FY11 budget, Bird reported that she had found the reason and apologized. On page 1 of the proposed FY11 Budget, the “Total Unencumbered Program Funds” should be \$818,552, and on page 8 the “FY11 Budget & Encumbered less expenses as of 8/31/10” should be \$1,362,119. Bird explained the error was due to a modification she had made on page 8 during the past week and that, with the Finance Director out of the office, it had not been properly reviewed.

There was discussion regarding how much is being appropriated from the reserve funds for the FY11 budget. Without knowing exactly what the FY11 deposit is yet, it’s uncertain how much of the reserve funds might be used but staff estimate about \$200K. If all projects included in the FY11 Work Plan are contracted and if the FY11 deposit is \$560,000, at the end of this fiscal year, OSRI will have about \$820,000 remaining in its reserve fund.

Motion by Lentsch, seconded by Ujioaka to approve the 2011 Work Plan as modified and detailed above with the corresponding **FY2011 Budget** at a total of \$967,500. **Motion passed.**

Lunch break taken for about one hour.

Carol Fries, Angela Totemoff and Brad Dunker were not able to rejoin the meeting right after lunch. Dunker and Totemoff did rejoin later in the afternoon.

Executive Director’s Report

- Bird distributed a press release regarding passage of a re-authorization of the Coast Guard bill. While a provision to increase OSRI’s funding had been included earlier, it was not included in the final bill passed. She reported that the PWSSC will continue efforts to have Congress approve the proposed OSRI provision.
- She also noted that OSRI and the PWSSC have responded to numerous press and other organization queries about linkages between the Gulf of Mexico’s Deepwater Horizon oil spill and the EVOS event. There was a brief discussion on development of a possible Oil Pollution Act of 2011 or 2012; Pegau said he has responded to Congressional staff questions on potential provisions for inclusion in such a bill.

Research Program Manager’s Report

The powerpoint presentation made by Scott Pegau is attached to these minutes. His report highlighted:

- recent meetings attended on behalf of OSRI
- Testimony presented to a Senate committee on oil spill technologies
- Results from a field test of the balloon surveillance system – It was suggested that the Alaska Regional Response Team would be a good group for demonstration of this system. Pegau noted that BP placed an order for two of its own similar systems to be used during response to the Deepwater Horizon spill event, but the manufacturer was not able to provide the cameras specified in a timely manner.
- Review of the Prince William Sound Observing System is ongoing; this review is being conducted by the Alaska Ocean Observing System and is hoped to result in transfer of some of the meteorological stations and other components to other entities.
- Status of continuing and new projects:
 - Physical oceanography in PWS – the oceanographic moorings in PWS were retrieved and researchers are now focused on data analysis and writing reports and publications.
 - Herring larval drift modeling – Originally, a partnership project with the North Pacific Research Board, this is entirely funded by OSRI from FY10 funds; and also the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council’s PWS Herring Survey project. Project just began and work will continue in FY11.
 - PWS Data Management – this is a new project funded in FY10 but is just beginning work so will continue in FY11. This project complements work Axiom Consulting, the contractor, is doing for the Alaska Ocean Observing System. <http://data.aaos.org> is the temporary website that shows some preliminary products we expect to tie into.
 - Cook Inlet Spill Prevention & Response, Inc. test tank for spill response experiments – this will provide facilities in-state to test various tools.
 - Shorezone – Support is being provided for data analysis/processing primarily of the barrier islands on the Copper River Delta; other than the Southern Alaska Peninsula, this will complete Shorezone for southcentral Alaska.
 - Work continues to review and validate the ocean models of PWS; Pegau showed a graphic of one of the drifters from the 2009 experiment and describes several other drifters and their tracks. He acknowledged the donation by Alaska Clean Seas of many drifters that PWSSC staff are continuing to periodically deploy.
 - Ongoing education programs at the PWSSC – The summer Ocean Science and Leadership Expedition focused on oceanography and oil spill response; about 6 of the 10 students were from the Gulf of Mexico region and they culminated their expedition by participating in a day-long mock oil spill, with each student playing the role of the various entities involved (Coast Guard, the press, the angry fisherman/public, the oil company, etc.).
 - New graduate student project by UAF student Emilie Springer titled “Cultural Dimensions of Community Response Preparation and Vulnerability to Future Oil Impacts of the Copper River Region;” she’ll be examining three communities, the general Cordova community, the Prince William Sound drift gillnet fleet and the Prince William Sound Regional Citizens’ Advisory Council.

Pegau acknowledged with thanks Doug Mutter’s sharing of the joint industry oil spill preparedness and response Task Force recommendations. He noted that he has sent messages to several Task Force members and looks to some in this group as partners on future projects.

Presentations Two presentations were provided to the Advisory Board as titled below. Both of these powerpoint presentations are available on request.

Perspective from the BP Gulf of Mexico oil spill, by Doug Mutter, Department of Interior.

PWSSC education projects in regards to OSRI, by Alice Dou-Wang, PWSSC Education Specialist.

Board comments

Ujioka appreciated the presentation on education projects. Dunker expressed appreciation for being able to participate via teleconference. Totemoff said he is very glad OSRI is no longer threatened with going out of existence (as when he first joined the Board). Lentsch said he thinks OSRI is headed in the right direction and looks

forward to tying into some of the Deepwater Horizon spill related work. He also thanked Pegau and Bird for their work. He also noted how many Alaskans have been called to work on the Gulf of Mexico spill because of the state's expertise. Saupe complimented staff on their work and said she also appreciated hearing more about the education programs. Mutter had no further comments and adjourned the meeting.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at about 4 p.m.

These minutes were reviewed and approved on

Susan Saupe, Secretary