

Prince William Sound Oil Spill Recovery Institute Advisory Board Minutes - February 2005

Meeting Location: The Egan Center, Anchorage

<p>Thursday, February 10, 2005</p> <p>Announcements and Roll Call</p>	<p>Board Chair John Calder called the meeting to order just after 9 a.m. and announced the resignation of board member Gail Evanoff effective immediately. Board vacancies will be discussed during the Director's Report.</p> <p>OSRI Board Roll Call: John Calder, Douglas Mutter, Leslie Pearson, Mark Fink, Glenn Ujioka, R.J. Kopchak, Doug Lentsch, Marilyn Leland, Susan Saupe, John Goering, were present. A quorum of 10 voting members was established. Later arrivals: Jack Davin, Carol Fries, Michael Bronson, and Walter Parker. Absent: Virginia Adams.</p> <p>Staff: Nancy Bird, Carl Schoch, and Penny Oswalt</p> <p>Recorder: Nancy DiNapoli No visitors present.</p>
<p>Approval of Agenda</p>	<p>The agenda was approved without objection.</p>
<p>Approval of Minutes</p>	<p>Motion to approve Fall 2004 Board meeting minutes without change. Approval unanimous.</p> <p>Motion to approve Executive Committee minutes of Dec 6, 2004. Approval unanimous (by Executive Committee members present).</p>
<p>Arrivals</p>	<p>9:10-9:15 Carol Fries, Jack Davin, Walter Parker, and Michael Bronson arrive at the meeting having been delayed by heavy snow.</p>
<p>Chair's Report</p>	<p>John Calder had no report, opened the floor to questions.</p>
<p>Director's Report</p>	<p>Nancy Bird gave a slide presentation on current projects.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oil and Ice Workshop proceedings have been translated into Russian, courtesy of the US State Department and US Coast Guard; publication is expected within 2-3 months. • 2004 Drifter Buoy Experiment report is ready to post on the PWS Science Center web site. A print run of 100 copies of the approximately 100-page document will be ordered for distribution. • Revision of the Oil Spill Curriculum is under way with substantial support from PWS Regional Citizens' Advisory Council (PWS RCAC). Kate Alexander is assisting Linda Robinson (PWS RCAC) in reviewing and updating the 1990 publication which was partially updated in 1995. Bird solicited Board members or others they might recommend to review and offer critiques of the curriculum. Mark Fink, Carol Fries and Leslie Pearson asked to be included as reviewers and Jean Eiseman, a teacher from Kodiak, and Laurel Devaney were recommended as knowledgeable contacts. • Nancy Bird, in her capacity as OSRI Director, is replacing Walter Parker on the North Pacific Research Board (NPRB). Her first meeting in that capacity is in March 2005. • Bird, as a representative of Alaska Ocean Observing System (AOOS) governance committee, will attend a meeting in Washington, D.C. this month on the formalization of a National Federation of Regional

<p>Board Vacancies</p>	<p>this month on the formalization of a National Federation of Regional Ocean Observing Systems. The group will likely plan its structure as a non-profit 501c3 corporation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bird has been filling the non voting seat PWS RCAC has reserved for an OSRI representative. • Legislation: A high priority this year of the Prince William Sound Science Center’s Board of Directors is to achieve a Congressional amendment to legislation extending the expiration date for OSRI from the current 2012 to match “the life of the pipeline.” The PWSSC also intends to explore the possibility of increasing the OSRI fund principle from \$22.5 million to \$50 million. The principle is maintained within the National Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund and discussion ensued on the health and status of that fund. Bird stated several reasons for pursuing an increase in the principle noting that the original intent had been that the interest earnings would be in the \$1-1.3 million range (instead of the current \$880,000) and stated increased revenues would allow OSRI to implement more programs in partnerships and in the response arena. • Administrative: Timing of contract issuance is being adjusted to improve tracking of contracts and match fiscal years. The 2004 audit was completed promptly. The OSRI Two Year report for 2003-2004 is in progress and will be printed this spring. • Board vacancies: Six seats on the OSRI Board are appointed as two-year terms by the Governor. While these six members’ terms technically expired in May 2003, and several current members have requested reappointment, the Governor’s office has not take action. Bird said she received legal advice in the fall of 2003 that there is precedence for those members to continue to serve until replaced. She contacted the Governor’s office several times in 2003 and early 2004. Discussion ensued on how OSRI might assist the Governor by providing a list of interested people for the 6 seats, hoping to simplify their selection search. Congressional authorizing legislation specifies interested organizations in fishing, native and oil industries “may submit the names of individuals for consideration”. Bird said OSRI has, in the past, contacted groups requesting they make nominations to the Governor. Can solicitation of nominees be delegated to OSRI? Glenn Ujioka remarked on the bylaw Article IV 4(D) limitation that states nominations funnel through the Alaska Federation of Natives rather than any native entity. Douglas Mutter questioned why more uniform language is not used in subsections C, D and E (i.e., invite nominations for the Native representatives from any Native organization rather than limiting submittals from AFN). He suggested amendments be pursued through Congressional legislation in conjunction with the life extension. <p>Motion by Bronson, seconded by Mutter requesting the OSRI Board Chair and Executive Director to approach the governors office to “get back on track” with the board appointment process. Motion passed</p>
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	<p>unanimously after further general discussion.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Copper River Nouveau gourmet fundraising dinner is scheduled June 11, 2005, in Cordova. Honorary Host Senator Lisa Murkowski and her family plan to attend and the new fast ferry is scheduled to be running by early June. The EVOS Trustee Council and their Public Advisory Committee is also planning to meet in Cordova that week, in conjunction with the Copper River Nouveau. This year, a preview event in Anchorage, likely a reception, is also being planned with a tentative date of June 1, 2005.
Grant Policy Manual amendments	<p>Executive committee (12/6/04) approved amendments to Grant Policy Manual (GPM) section 4, addressing the distinction between duties of the Director and the Science Director. Discussion of Section 2.0 Research Programs revealed a consensus that the GPM needs further revision immediately. There was consensus that the contact information in Section 1 be updated. Mutter proposed section 2 be deleted as obsolete. Fries and Fink advocated retention of section 2 until 2005 Science Plan is finalized (action item for later in this meeting).</p> <p>Motion by Calder, seconded by Mutter directing staff to compose a paragraph, with a link to the Science Plan, to replace Section 2 of the Grant Policy Manual. Motion passed unanimously.</p>
Morning Break	10:15am till 10:40am
Finance Committee Report	<p>R.J. Kopchak, Treasurer, presented FY04 4th quarter and FY05 1st quarter reports for any questions. None were raised. Kopchak commented on the latest audit with no findings and commended staff on its performance.</p> <p>Marilyn Leland asked the Director to clarify the handling of OSRI funds as federal, expressing concern as to the cost of a single-site audit for some organizations receiving OSRI awards. Bird explained that OSRI funds were deemed, by legal opinion, to be non-federal. However, PWSSC manages the OSRI funds in accordance with federal guidelines, which require entities receiving over \$500,000 to complete a single site audit. After a brief discussion, Kopchak noted that the Finance Committee agreed to review all documents related to this issue and will report to the Board on it at the next meeting.</p>
Science Director's Report 2005 Work Plan	<p>Science Director Carl Schoch presented the Annual Work Plan, along with a summary handout. Budgets for the three program areas are: Understand \$557k, Respond \$225k, Inform \$98k and administration \$132k. The total FY05 budget of \$1014k is comprised of the interest earnings revenue received in October 2005, less 20% administrative fee due to PWSSC, plus the required supplement from OSRI's reserve account. Details are available in the 2005 Work Plan, pg. 47.</p> <p>1. Understand</p> <p>a & b) Upgrade meteorological stations to SnoTel standard. Six stations on the coast and two stations at tree-line. Schoch noted this is an outstanding opportunity to coordinate with the buildup of the Alaska Ocean Observing System (AOOS).</p> <p>c) Operational atmospheric modeling with Alaska Experimental Forecast</p>

- Facility (AEFF), University of Alaska Anchorage.
- (d) Operational ocean circulation modeling. OSRI funds are supporting development of the Regional Ocean Modeling System (ROMS) of PWS and GOA with the University of California and the NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory. This project is funded principally by Congressional grant funds awarded to PWSSC through NOAA.
- (e) Wave modeling done by Texas A&M, project funded principally by Congressional grant funds awarded to PWSSC through NOAA.
- (f) Observational oceanography based at the PWSSC in Cordova includes salary for post-doc oceanographer, marine technician, supplies and vessel charters.
- (g) A video camera project at the Needles related to marine mammal studies was to have been coordinated with the Alaska Sealife Center. This project is in review since the Seal Rocks camera system was taken off line due to prohibitive costs.
- (h) Data management and development of a mirror site at AEFF. OSRI is committing \$40K and AOOS is planning to contribute up to \$200k toward this effort. UAF is also ramping up an Operational Modeling effort which may involve \$300k of funding.
- Ongoing study of ecology of the Copper River Delta (i), and zooplankton monitoring (j), both based at PWSSC.
- (k) Two graduate research fellowship positions are funded. One is a continuation for Mr. Wu (Univ. of Miami) to maintain the Prince William Sound Princeton Ocean Model, and the second is an open position now advertised with a closing date of March 31.
- (l) Steve Okkonen (University of Alaska) is the first to be awarded an OSRI Senior Research Fellow and is advising the oceanography program.

2. Respond

- (a) Cold Climate Oil Spills; more detail on the partnership with the Coastal Response Research center (CRRC) and the Cooperative Institute for Coastal and Estuarine Environmental Technology (CICEET) will be presented later in the meeting during the Science Plan presentation.
- (b) One Graduate Research Fellowship funded in the response goal area (currently being advertised with a closing date of June 1).

3. Inform

- (a) K-12 science program funding continues through *Science of the Sound and Forest to the Sea*.
- (b) The Anchorage Imaginarium is partnering on development of a coastal marine science program.
- (c) New this year; college scholarships totaling \$1k are being awarded to Cordova High School students based on winning science fair projects.
- (d) National Ocean Science Bowl team received \$1k for materials and books and \$1k was contributed as OSRI sponsorship of the NOSB. The Cordova team's well-researched paper will be posted on the OSRI web site.
- (e) One graduate student fellowship is funded in the inform category.
- (f) The OSRI web site maintenance and annual report, (g) are ongoing.

<p>Open Graduate Research Fellowship Solicitation</p>	<p>Science Director was commended by Michael Bronson on his presentation. Discussion followed on fellowship solicitation. The respond category for fellowships has few inquires. While the understand category has more inquiries, better publicity may be needed for all fellowship announcements. To encourage applicants in the Respond category, Bronson encouraged circulating solicitations at the statewide community college level. Carol Fries suggested solicitations circulate to educators and universities.</p>
<p>Active Contracts Spreadsheets</p>	<p>Reference was made to Active Contracts spreadsheets (tab 5). New multi-year contracts will be made to start quarterly in order to simplify accounting and decisions on contract renewal.</p>
<p>AOOS and Ocean.US</p>	<p>Science Director Schoch explained the funding which supports AOOS as a part of the Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS) and OceanUS. AOOS program funds are appropriated as a congressional line item through NOAA and support also comes from the North Pacific Research Board (NPRB) for the program administration. The longevity of AOOS is not known. In the FY05 budget, \$1.8m is allotted to AOOS for programs; other regional associations - several on each coast and in the Great Lakes – are receiving line item funding as well. Data from an ocean observing system (OOS) should be available and useful to communities, aviation, tourism, weather forecast, researchers and marine users. User communities are to be consulted during model production. Hatchery managers, for example, have asked for forecast of plankton availability and current monitoring to optimize fry release.</p> <p>Ocean observing statewide: UAF is enhancing its modeling and data management efforts; a vessel support coordinator is going to be needed to compensate for the removal of the Alpha Helix. In the Arctic; ice thickness, ice radar and sea level sensors are needed. In the Bering Sea AOOS has requested mooring deployments. In the Gulf of Alaska and PWS, biophysical models and acoustic monitoring needs are being considered, as well as moorings in Resurrection Bay and Cook Inlet.</p>
<p>Lunch Break</p>	<p>12:05 – 1:05pm</p>
<p>Scientific and Technical Committee</p>	<p>John Goering, the outgoing and long-time Chair of the Scientific and Technical Committee (STC), stated the committee met Feb. 7 in Anchorage. He then introduced Phil Mundy, the newly elected STC Chair, to present the findings and report of the STC. A written report detailing the recommendations from the committee was distributed.</p>
<p>Partnerships</p>	<p>Discussion began on partnership opportunities. Mundy reported that the STC supports partnerships resulting in joint Requests for Proposals with entities like the Coastal Response Research Center (CRRC), the Cooperative Institute for Coastal and Estuarine Environmental Technology (CICEET) and with the NPRB. Walter Parker responded to questions about NPRB’s mission and interest in PWS. Mundy reiterated the STC’s support for the issuance of joint RFPs for projects of mutual interest among partners. Further discussion on this issue was postponed until later in the meeting.</p>

	<p><i>Current NPRB proposal solicitation, review and award process:</i> NPRB announces requests for proposals in early October each year; after technical reviews are received, NPRB's science panel meets in March and makes recommendations for awards to the NPRB Board. The Board receives copies of all proposals confidentiality and makes the final decisions on awards. The proposal abstracts (which include title, summary description and amount requested) are available to the public throughout the review process and awarded proposals are made public following the award. Unfunded proposals remain confidential (except for the abstract page). Science Director asked the board how they wish Pautzke to proceed with the NPRB board on joint research goals and on a fall RFP release.</p> <p>Motion by Saupe, seconded by Fink directing the OSRI Scientific and Technology Committee and three board members to work with NPRB to develop an administrative process for a partnership, and to develop an RFP for consideration this fall. Approval unanimous.</p>
<p>Science Plan Review and Approval</p>	<p>Carl Schoch, Science Director, presented an outline of the OSRI 2005 Science Plan. Budget numbers for the following discussion are on page 39 of the OSRI Science Plan. Below are brief notes on Schoch's presentation.</p> <p>1. Understand</p> <p>(a) Maintain atmospheric circulation model</p> <p>(b) Maintain ocean circulation forecast model which is also to be reconsidered in 2007.</p> <p>(c) A total of ten weather stations of SnoTel standards are to be maintained in the Sound.</p> <p>(d) Oceanography of PWS, the largest funding item, includes ongoing staff and equipment support. This year multiple oceanographic mooring deployments and buoy upgrades will occur at Hinchinbrook Entrance and Montague Strait. Monitoring equipment is scheduled to be placed at several PWS hatcheries. These projects will require scheduled technical maintenance which will be supported by the staff. Several data collection opportunities with no cost to OSRI are coming available. Surface current mappers, satellite and salinity sensing and multibeam bathymetry surveys are already funded by others.</p> <p>(e) Data processing, dissemination and archiving advancement is expected. The S.E. Atlantic region has a good data presentation example.</p> <p>(f) (g) Ecology of the Copper River Delta and of PWS are funded to PWSSC through 2006. In years following 2006, the plan proposes to support a research fellowship open to PWSSC staff with the goal to research diverse issues relevant to OSRI's mission and maintain the highest caliber science possible.</p> <p>(h) Surface wave modeling by Texas A&M will draw on current and wind models already developed.</p> <p>(i) (j) Two student fellowships and one senior research fellowship are planned.</p> <p>2. Respond</p> <p>(a) Cold climate spill research RFPs with CRRC, CICEET and MMS were discussed.</p>

<p>PWSSC Staff and OSRI support</p> <p>Science Plan approved</p> <p>Amendment needed to GPM</p>	<p>(b) One student fellowship in the respond category is funded.</p> <p>3. Inform Sub-topics (a) through (h) were itemized above, during presentation of the 2005 Work Plan.</p> <p>4. OSRI Partnerships (per year) (a) CRRC - \$500k (b) AOOS - \$231k(+) (c) NPRB - \$100k (match)</p> <p>Discussion ensued regarding the justification for the plan's inclusion of funding for Cordova staff researcher positions at PWSSC instead of making these competitive post-doc fellowships. Schoch said that OSRI will outline a project focus for the PWSSC staff and stated this \$80K fellowship will assist in retaining local and regional capacity.</p> <p>Motion by Mutter, second by Kopchak: Board accepts the recommendation of the Director, Science Director, and STC to approve the OSRI Science Plan noting that it is the Board's intention to continue the partnership with CRRC and CICEET, but deferring final commitment until an evaluation is made on the program's first year. Friendly amendment: It should also be noted that the OSRI Science Plan supports implementation of a Drifter Buoy Field Experiment in 2007 with funding sources yet to be determined. Motion carried 9 votes to 1. <i>Comment by Fink:</i> He is in opposition because this plan emphasizes the ocean observing system beyond the stated mission.</p> <p><i>Chairman Calder</i> directed that the Executive Director and Science Director prepare an amendment to the Grant Policy Manual addressing a process for OSRI's involvement with partnership programs.</p>
<p><u>Comment Period</u></p> <p>Clarification: CRRC/CICEET 2005 RFP</p> <p>Budgeting the reserve account</p>	<p>Schoch asked for clarification for the upcoming CRRC/CICEET meeting on OSRI's deferring final commitment on the next RFP. Chairman Calder responded that the Board will evaluate year one's results (i.e., the awards made) and then determine continuation of the same process, or a modified process for year 2. Calder suggested that CRRC and CICEET be informed that OSRI retains the option of canceling its involvement. There was brief discussion regarding the timeline. Dates are so tight that Schoch shall report back on the selection process by email to the entire board. He will also report on dates necessary for the next round in the RFP process to occur. The OSRI STC will participate in drafting the next RFP.</p> <p>Schoch asked for a clarification on how it is determined which components of the annual work plan are paid from the OSRI reserve account or from the annual deposit received from the Treasury Department/USCG. He asked with regard to the indirect or administrative fees due to the PWSSC for some of those funds. Kopchak explained that only part of the reserve account represents interest income and only on that portion will PWSSC charge its administrative overhead. He said funds withdrawn from the reserve account</p>

	<p>are not project specific and that the interest income portion of the account has not yet been tapped. The funds generated by interest can be reduced by the administrative overhead in order to calculate what will be available to spend. The Work Plan will be tracked for yearly deductions from the reserve and it will be clear what proportion is from the reserve's principal versus the reserve's interest earnings.</p> <p>Chairman Calder directed that the Finance Committee review this issue at its next meeting and bring a report to the Board.</p>
<p>Future of reserve account directive</p>	<p>Lentsch commented on the Science Plan's five-year budget which will spend down the reserve account to zero. He suggested that if OSRI's existence is successfully delayed beyond 2012, the Board may want to rethink the current plan to spend down the reserve.</p> <p>That item will be placed on the Board's agenda when/if the 2012 date is changed.</p>
<p>Retirement announcement</p>	<p>Capt. Jack Davin announced that he retires in June and said his replacement will be Captain Steve Hudson. Chairman Calder thanked Davin for his service to OSRI and wished him well in his retirement.</p>
<p>Calendar issues</p>	<p>Next meeting scheduled for September 22-23, 2005, in Cordova.</p>

Meeting adjourned about 4:45 p.m.