Oil Spill Recovery Institute (OSRI) Advisory Board Meeting Minutes  
Friday, October 25, 2015

This meeting was held at the Alaska Ocean Observing System conference room, Anchorage, AK.  
It was called to order at 9:00 am by Chair Doug Helton.

Teleconference number: 1-888-387-8686, code 8442517#

**Board members present** – Doug Helton, Joe Banta, Charles Meacham, Jeanette Alas, Philip Johnson, Samantha Carroll, Rick Bernhardt, Diane Durham, and Susan Saupe.

**Staff present** – Scott Pegau and Katrina Hoffman. Penny Oswalt teleconferenced in for the Finance Committee report.

**Additional Meeting Participants** - Bill Lindow and Angela Totemoff. Andres Morales and Andrew Craig teleconferenced in for a portion of the meeting.

**Visitors present** - Jessica Garron, University of Alaska Fairbanks.

**Approval of Agenda** - Agenda approved.

**Public Comments**
Katrina Hoffman outlined the OSRI advisory board’s fiduciary responsibility to authorize and approve the annual budget and allocate funds. PWSSC is the fiscal administrator; OSRI board members decide how much of the oil spill trust fund to use each year and any unspent funds from go into a reserve account that the Science Center manages for OSRI. At any time, the OSRI board members can choose to spend any amount of the reserve. PWSSC may not receive more than 20% of OSRI’s expended funds for administration. OSRI may not spend money on capital projects.

**Motion** to reconsider the format and content of the minutes and make them more succinct. Motion seconded. **Motion** approved unanimously.

**Motion** to correct errors in content and accept the minutes from the February 9, 2015 meeting, as well as to capture discussion (rather than play-by-play detail) in future minutes. Motion seconded. **Motion** passed unanimously.

**Chairman’s Report**
Doug Helton delivered the Chair’s report, which included recent regional and national political and scientific events that could affect the board. A bill to remove the oil export ban has been proposed, which would change transportation routes out to the west and through the Aleutians. There has been a proposal to adopt new dispersant regulations in Alaska, which have been pushed off to a future meeting to capture all 700 comments delivered. The Science Action Network will be piloted
for academic scientists to become a part of the command and provide counsel. A proposal was set up after Deepwater Horizon with NOAA, the Department of Interior and Coast Guard, working with Stanford University to better engage scientists during spills, which could include OSRI in operations during spills. The Alaska RRT may become a pilot project for that on a nationwide basis. There is a new report on sublethal effects of oil on herring from Exxon Valdez and studies about the sublethal effects of oil from Deepwater Horizon, which the OSRI board will have to consider how the science applies.

**Executive Director’s Report**
Katrina Hoffman congratulated Scott on the wrap up of the JIP project. She mentioned the visit with Murkowski and Senator Sullivan to raise awareness of the OSRI mission. A key issue is to get on the EPA’s Supplemental Environmental Project (SEP) funds allocation list for environmentally beneficial projects. Research is being conducted on appropriate advisors to revise OSRI and PWSSC finance committee investment policies. NPRB has several proposals of mutual interest.

Hoffman is working with the Governor’s office and Alaska Federation of Natives to ensure completion of appointments for expired seats on the Board. First, changing the Coast Guard Department listing from transportation to reflect a Coast Guard seat. She will also explore whether it is possible to change the authorizing legislation to extend the length of the terms until replaced by the Governor and suggest a minimum term (with an exit strategy if it does not work out). The categories represented are legislated to be from communities that were affected by the Exxon Valdez oil spill; however, OSRI’s mission expanded beyond a PWS-centric focus to Arctic and sub-Arctic marine waters. Board members proposed that the at-large seats should include other communities with coastal expertise and to add seats to the board to match the expanding mission. The seats would be approved through a Coast Guard reauthorization bill, with PWSSC lobbying on behalf of OSRI.

**Research Program Manager’s Report**
Scott Pegau summarized the current status and future direction of projects. He explained the contract established for the hydrological model and circulation project. The toxicology project shifted to Sitka Sound Science Center and the species is now coho, not chums (Dana Wetzel, Mote Marine). OSRI co-funded NPRB projects on effects of dispersed oil on bay mussels (Katrina Edgar, Alaska Sea Life Center) and a modeling study to understand the larval dispersal of Arctic cod and saffron cod, both keystone species, under variable climate forcing (Franz Mueter, University of Alaska Fairbanks).

Arctic technology JIPs are coming to an end and it’s time to apply the lessons and identify the next steps. Technologies will benefit from additional testing, such as blind tests beyond the level-ice scenario and adding snow and rubble. The report for the Joint Industry Program is a comprehensive summary of all experimental work done over the last three years, spanning almost 400 pages with appendices.

For partnerships, Pegau was contacted about doing a demo to convert long-armed concrete pourers into long-arm oil-skimming machines to have a long reach for vessels in the Arctic. The PWSSC Headwaters to Oceans education programs took OSRI-related education exercises to St. Paul Island and the National Ocean Sciences Bowl has teams from around the state. There was a technology transfer workshop in August in Anchorage, exploring new technologies from the research and development side and getting them applied. OSRI will decide what the major hurdles are and the
organization’s role in getting new technologies implemented. The OSRI graduate fellowships and internships will require more one-on-one recruiting and revised scopes to attract the right candidates, especially since OSRI has a very high rate of students getting hired by oil spill response organizations during or immediately after.

Emergency Prevention Preparedness and Response, which is the committee under the Arctic council, asked if OSRI can update the field guide for oil spill response in Arctic waters as a contribution to the goals of the US chairmanship. The field guide was one of the first projects OSRI supported when it started funding in 1998 and OSRI can update with lessons learned and new technologies since then. Another remote sensing project being promoted by the Harris Corp.

Upcoming opportunities include the NPRB Arctic ecosystem study, the UAF Arctic Sustainable Development Center, and a follow-on project to the recently completed JIP on remote sensing of oil in ice. Pegau will also learn about remote sensing technology being developed by Harris Corp. The USCG Healy cruise is scheduled for next year and they are starting to identify the types of technologies they’ll want to test.

Break
10:45-11:00

Pegau reviewed the research plan. The focus of the Understand goal is degradation and toxicity, ecological research, and ocean observing. The Respond focus is spill response information tools, best practices, oil spill detection and tracking, and spill response in ice. The Inform focus is workshops and conferences, education, outreach, and partnership.

Motion to adopt the 2016-2020 Research Plan as presented. Motion seconded. Motion approved unanimously.

Finance Committee Report
Scott Pegau delivered the highlights of the FY15 3rd Quarter Report. Negative interest noted during the last finance committee call was likely due to market fluctuations and a lower investment balance compared to the previous year. Pegau then reviewed the FY16 budget, based on the 3rd Quarter Report since the fiscal year is not over. This year’s deposit is estimated to be the same as last year’s. The estimate is typically within 10% accuracy.

Hoffman explained future spending capabilities, reserve levels, the low deposit of FY08 and the subsequent establishment of a laddered bond investment strategy to buffer against such extreme impacts in the future.

Lunch Break

Working Lunch
Pegau reviewed the FY16 Work Plan.

Motion to approve the FY16 Work Plan and the FY16 budget not to exceed $1,020,000. Motion seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
Presentation by Jessica Garron
Jessica Garron is from the University of Alaska Fairbanks, Office of Vice Chancellor for Research under Dr. Nettie LaBelle-Hamer at the Center for Arctic Sustainable Development. She came to give an update on the Center for Arctic Sustainable Development at UAF, which aims to be an Arctic-specific research collaborative on campus and connect knowledge across university and industry. The center would like OSRI to join the advisory board to propose projects and identify research leads and would like to work directly with OSRI scientists.

Scientific and Technical Committee Charter
Scott Pegau reviewed the STC charter. Saupe requested the removal of language from the background that is already covered in 3)a. and Banta suggested to pull the background from the charter and make it a preamble. Background was requested from the NRC report to take informed action in refining the selection process for members. Johnson requested expanding the number of members to enhance the expertise in areas that are lacking.

Motion to accept recommended changes to the charter. Motion seconded.

Motion to amend the motion by dividing the background section from the charter into a preamble and that the preamble may be edited. Motion seconded.
Amendment to the main motion passed, one opposed (Capt. Durham).

Motion to accept changes to the charter passed unanimously.

Science and Technical Committee Appointment

Motion to add Sara Allen for a three year term and Todd O'Hara for a two year term. Motion seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Final comments:
Bernhardt stated that Governor Walker proposes to tax undeveloped gas or refined products on leases, which may affect transport of hazardous materials if it moves forward.

Motion to adjourn. Motion seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 2:56 pm.

Schedule of Future Events:
Friday, February 12, 2016
OSRI Advisory Board fall meeting in Anchorage

March 12-18, 2016
Arctic Science Summit Week in Fairbanks

September 28, 2016
Alaska Regional Response Team fall meeting in Nome

These minutes were reviewed and approved on __________________by___________________.
Susan Saupe, Secretary