

Draft Summary
North Pacific Research Board
Anchorage, Alaska
December 5, 2006

Call to Order

The Board convened in the NPRB Conference Room at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, December 5, 2006. Present were Tylan Schrock (Chairman), Stephanie Madsen (Vice Chair), David Benton, Nancy Bird, Dorothy Childers, Douglas DeMaster, Michele Eder, John Gauvin, Leslie Holland-Bartels, Howard Horton, John Iani, Earl Krygier, Paul MacGregor, LT Alan McCabe, Gerry Merrigan, Pam Pope, and Dennis Wiesenburg. Robert Gisiner, Alexandra Curtis, and Robin Samuelson were absent. Clarence Pautzke and Francis Wiese staffed the meeting. Kris Holderied attended for Gary Matlock of NOS.

The Board had one major item to address: review pre-proposals to the Bering Sea Integrated Ecosystem Research Program (BSIERP) and determine which to invite for full proposals. Upon request of the Executive Director, the Board also took action to extend regular two-year terms to four Science Panel members: John Piatt, Michael Dagg, Andre Punt, and Seth Macinko.

Before taking any action on reviewing pre-proposals, the Board members reviewed their current operating procedures for avoiding conflicts of interest. The Board also reviewed a cash-flow analysis by staff showing the maximum funds that may be used during the three field season years of the BSIERP.

Review BSIERP Pre-proposals

The release of the call for pre-proposals to the BSIERP was approved by the Board at their October 18, 2006 teleconference after thorough review of the potential partnership agreement with the National Science Foundation. Five pre-proposals were submitted by the November 22, 2006 deadline. Three were variants in species focus of a pre-proposal submitted by a large group of scientists representing the AFSC, PMEL, UAF, UW, and St. Paul Island in the Pribilofs. One was submitted by a combination of consulting entities from Oregon and Alaska. The fifth pre-proposal was submitted by representatives of UBC, UAA, UAF, Princeton, and UCLA. The staff reviewed the general contents and subject area of each pre-proposal. The Board then heard the recommendations of its Science Panel and discussed the merits of each pre-proposal.

A main motion was made by David Benton (seconded by Stephanie Madsen) to follow the Science Panel recommendation to invite full proposals from AFSC et al. and from UBC et al. In the invitation, the Science Panel's detailed recommendations would be sent to the invitees, who would be asked to (1) clearly identify how their research is new and not just a continuation of regular activities, (2) provide a clear statement of how the researchers would access vessel time, and (3) better describe how local and traditional knowledge would be incorporated in their overall program. The Board also would emphasize that it may not fund anything if no invited proposal is sufficiently compelling. It was also the sense of the Board that it is seeking one proposal from the group of three pre-proposals submitted by AFSC et al. and they would have to justify the particular combination of species that are emphasized in the full proposal.

The main motion passed with Doug DeMaster and Dennis Wiesenberg recusing themselves.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 12:30 p.m.