

Pribilof ecosystem stakeholder organizing committee
December 13, 2002
Meeting Agenda and Minutes

- 10 a.m. teleconference
- Call in number: 1-800-503-2899
- Access code: 2795504

Agenda

- 1) Updates on conversations with NMFS
 - a) Report on 12/4 meeting (Randy)
 - b) Report on follow-up conversations with Mike Payne, others (Evie)
 - 2) Funding:
 - a) Review draft budget and workplan
 - b) Discuss proposal to North Pacific Research Board
 - 3) Updates re: 501c3 to receive & manage funds for stakeholder process
 - a) SWAMC
 - b) Tides Foundation
 - c) Other ideas?
 - 4) Determine selection process for facilitator
 - a) Determine time frame for developing short list
 - b) Select team to schedule, conduct interviews
 - 5) Updates re: data needs and requests
 - 6) Letter to Hogarth re: stakeholder process
 - 7) Logistics
 - a) Discuss posting minutes, meeting presentations, etc. on WWF web site
 - b) Select next meeting date
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Meeting Minutes, December 13, 2002 meeting:

Present: Aquilina, Evie, Joe, Randy

Not present: Greg, Larry

1. Updates on conversations with NMFS:
 - a) Report on 12/4 meeting (Randy)
 - Larry, Margaret, Evie and Randy had a meeting with Jim Balsiger, Sue Salvison, Mike Payne, and Doug DeMaster of NMFS during the NPFMC meeting in Anchorage on 12/4.
 - Org. committee members updated NMFS staff on Nov. workshop and workshop participants' intention to launch stakeholder process and alerted them about potential future need for data and information.
 - It was a positive and productive conversation; with NMFS staff supportive of stakeholder process plans.
 - NMFS staff stated they do not believe there is enough information to merit an endangered species listing for the northern fur seal at present, and urged stakeholder group to work within MMPA and address fur seal depleted status.

- Org. committee members relayed workshop participants' desire to include work on northern fur seal (NFS) conservation plan (implementation of existing plan and update to existing plan) in the workplan for the stakeholder process, and detailed plans to approach Senator Stevens for funding for the stakeholder process, including work on NFS conservation plan implementation and revision. NMFS staff agreed to share information about their workplan and budget needs.
 - NMFS staff reported that the NFS conservation plan cannot be revised without first conducting an EIS.
- b) Report on follow-up conversations with Mike Payne, others:
- Evie had a follow-up conversation with Mike Payne (NMFS) on 12/12/02 to discuss their budget for northern fur seal conservation plan implementation and revision, and to inquire about schedule for conducting an EIS.
 - Mr. Payne detailed their plan, which covers several research needs spelled out in the current NFS conservation plan.
 - Mr. Payne explained NMFS would plan for 2 EIS processes; one for subsistence harvest revisions and one for fisheries management measures related to the NFS. They anticipate conducting two concurrent stakeholder processes for the two EISs over a 2-year period.
 - Evie asked how NMFS envisions those 2 stakeholder processes will mesh with the Pribilof Islands ecosystem (PIE) stakeholder process currently being planned.
 - Mr. Payne asked questions about the end goal of the PIE stakeholder process, and concluded that he was not sure how the three stakeholder processes would mesh. Conclusion: agreement that org. committee will examine NMFS workplan and budget and continue the conversation at a later date.
 - Discussion about concerns that NMFS/EIS stakeholder processes could capture limited money and people resources from the PIE stakeholder process.
 - Agreement among present org. committee members that we will not willfully agree on a parallel process between the PIE group and the NMFS/EIS stakeholder group plans. Further agreement that we should write letter to Hogarth explaining we are happy to work with them and include their concerns and needs to the greatest degree practicable within the PIE stakeholder process, however we will not seek funding for NMFS to establish stakeholder processes for Pribis issues.

2. Funding:

a) Review draft budget and workplan:

- Agreement draft workplan and budget are a good start, and that detailed discussion and decisions will wait until next org. committee meeting when all members are present. Discussed assumptions behind budget (see updated (12/16/02) draft budget document for details).

- Explanation that teleconference line item not sufficient for making teleconferencing available during all meeting times. Suggestion and agreement to increase this line item to allow for up to 5 people teleconferencing during all 2-day stakeholder meetings.
 - Discussion about personnel line item. Agreement that all NGOs will be seeking funding to support participation in stakeholder process. Agreement that including staff support for process in budget is appropriate. Agreement to postpone further discussion about NGO funding needs until next meeting.
 - Agreement that no stakeholder will be offered stipend for participation.
- b) Discuss proposal to North Pacific Research Board:
- Alan Springer was out of town, and not available for discussion regarding his proposal prior to meeting. Evie will follow up with Alan and get details. Agreement to review and likely endorse his/other's proposal for comprehensive ecosystem research in eastern Bering Sea.
 - Agreement not to endorse any social & economic proposals to NPRB at this time, rather to first scope research needs and researchers, and to wait for stakeholder process to begin and decide on priorities.
 - Evie will look into NPRB RFP and determine if appropriate to request funding to scope social & economic research needs and researchers.
3. Updates re: 501c3 to receive & manage funds for stakeholder process
- SWAMC: Joe spoke with Wayne Stevens (president) and Wanetta Eyers (executive director), both were supportive of idea of SWAMC receiving and holding grants for the stakeholder process. Topic was on the agenda of their 12/12/02 board meeting, however Joe missed the meeting due to an illness. Feedback suggested board was supportive. Joe will work on getting a resolution to that effect to include with the letter to Stevens if we choose to use SWAMC
 - Tides: Discussion about the Tides Center. More information available at www.tidescenter.org, click on "becoming a project". Committee members will investigate and be ready to discuss at next meeting.
 - Discussion about pros and cons of working with different organizations, and if we want to work with an organization that has a local/vested interest in the process vs. one that will be completely separate.
 - Committee members also committed to looking into other possibilities prior to the next meeting.
4. Determine selection process for facilitator
- Discussion about what we need from a facilitator; agreement that we don't want someone who can only run a meeting, rather we need someone who is able to design the process and is experienced and successful with similar processes.
 - Time frame for developing short list: Decision that committee members should make recommendations by our 12/23 meeting.

- Decision to wait until all committee member in attendance to select a team to schedule, conduct interviews
- 5 Updates re: data needs and requests
- Postponed until next meeting when Larry is present
- 6 Letter to Hogarth re: stakeholder process
- Agreement that it is a good idea to send Hogarth a letter, especially in light of his 12/2 National Fisherman article.
 - Joe volunteered to draft a letter
 - Organizing committee will sign, will go on Org. committee letterhead, will be cc-ed to: Balsinger, Salvison, Payne.
- 7 Logistics
- Re: posting minutes, meeting presentations, etc. on WWF web site: Concern that people might perceive that WWF is controlling the process or information; decision to add line item on budget to build a stakeholder process website where all information will be posted, with links to other organizations web sites if they request.
- 8 Other updates:
- Randy reported he has a meeting tentatively scheduled with Lisa Southerland from Sen. Steven's office 12/17, and will include a copy of our letter to NPFMC in his information packet for her, and provide a 'heads-up' regarding the stakeholder process.
 - Joe reported he and Margaret testified to the NPFMC, informing the council of the Nov. meeting and the planned stakeholder process, and delivering the letter to David Benton.

- Re: next meeting date: 12/23, 10 a.m. teleconference
 - Note post-meeting proposal to change to 11:30 a.m on 12/23
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