

Meeting Summary Notes

Today's Date: 15 February 2016

Task Force on Independent Scientific Review for Natural Resources

Monday, 8 February 2016, 9:00am-4:00pm

Portland State University, Market Center Building
1600 SW 4th Ave, Room MCB123
Portland, OR 97201

Attending

Task force members: Mark Sytsma, Maryanne Reiter, Linda George, Jason Younker, Sara Gray, Dan Edge, Barbara Bond (Co-Chair), Tim Deboodt, Adell Amos, Cass Moseley, Allison Aldous, Michael Harte (Co-Chair), Jennifer Allen

Facilitator: Jane Barth

INR staff: Lisa Gaines, Jeff Behan, Sarah Brennan

State Representative: Judith Callens, Karen Tarnow, Ian Madin

Public: Jerome Rosa, Clare Klock

Decisions by vote

- **Decision making:** Adopted the “Proposed Rules” as outlined in the Legislative Task Force Staff Guide (SB202 Briefing Materials page 8), with the following additions:
 - **Minor decisions** can be made by a quorum.
 - **Defined supra majority:** 9 of the 13 voting task force members.
 - **Major determinations:** supra majority is needed to move forward for major determinations. At any time a voting task force member can call an issue to be a major determination, and if a vote is needed, supra majority is also needed.
 - **Decisions needed by email:** the email will come from the co-chairs; task force members will be given at least 2 working days to respond; no response is considered consent.
 - **For final recommendations to the legislature:** Supra majority is needed, minority reports can be done
- **Governance:** Adopted the “Task Force Roles and Expectations” (SB202 Briefing Materials page 6), with the following additions:
 - “Chair” be changed to “Co-Chair”
- **Co-Chairs:** Michael Harte and Barbara Bond were voted in as Co-Chairs of the Task Force. Barbara will work more on internal matters; Michael with external ones.

- Michael and Barbara have agreed that they will generally try to split functions such that Michael will serve as the “external” chair, representing the Task Force to outside interests and stakeholders, and Barbara will generally serve as the “internal” chair, helping to make sure that communications are smooth among Task Force members and between the members, the INR, and the Governor’s office.
- They will try to keep each other informed about what we are doing so that they can smoothly step in to cover for the other person when he/she isn’t able to. They will continue to refine this arrangement as time goes along.
- Role of the Co-Chairs:
 - Serve as the primary liaison for the task force with the Governor’s Office, INR, and the facilitator (External)
 - Work with the facilitator, Governor’s Office, and INR Director to design task force meetings. (Internal/External)
 - Take the lead in resolving disagreements and seeking consensus among task force members on substantive issues. (Internal)
 - Take the lead in enforcing timelines for task force deliverables. (Internal)
 - Take the lead in reporting to the Governor and/or Legislative Assembly, as necessary. (External)
 - Serve as the point of contact, with the INR Director, regarding stakeholder interactions and communications. (External)

To Dos

- Notify state natural resource agency directors that they will be contacted to schedule a meeting with them and key staff regarding that agency’s need for independent scientific review and the existing state, federal, and academic resources (Objective 1.2 of the task force’s work plan). The task force would like to include stakeholders in Objective 1.2 as they talked about getting a list of stakeholders via agency contacts. *Completed.*
- Schedule a subcommittee meeting for Objective 1.1, regarding designing the literature search protocol. *Completed.*
- Schedule a subcommittee meeting for Objective 1.2, regarding refining the questions for meetings with state natural resource agencies and legislative committees and discussing the methods to be used for information gathering. *Completed.*
- Begin scheduling meetings with state natural resource agency directors and/or key staff and legislative committee members (Objective 1.2) with a target of conducting interviews in March and April. *Week of 22 February.*
- Schedule outreach meeting with the Legislative Commission on Indian Services. *Completed.*
- Post information about systematic reviews (in particular the literature search protocols) on the website. *Week of 22 February.*

- Vet Objective 1.3 questions with task force via email from the Co-Chairs. *By the first week of March.*

General comments

- The decision making rules, and the task force roles and expectations are living documents and can be revisited.
- If it is determined that the task force should move forward with creating a process for independent scientific review, it should:
 - consider a model that would motivate university Provosts and Deans to support the involvement of their faculty experts in independent scientific reviews;
 - consider how independent scientific review bodies can remain scientific rather than being influenced (before, during, and after work) by larger legal and political points of view; and,
 - maintain transparency as agency-related stakeholder and/or technical advisory committees as they will be concerned with how scientific experts of a review are recruited and vetted.

Discussion and actions regarding the straw proposals for the Goal 1 work plan – assessing the need for independent scientific review for natural resources in Oregon

Objective 1.1 – Evaluate whether natural resource agencies, legislators, and public would benefit from independent scientific reviews

Discussion highlights

- A broad approach to meeting Objective 1.1 was identified and agreed to. Discussion focused on possible methods to be used to evaluate benefits to natural resources agencies, policymakers, and the public.
- How to evaluate potential public benefit from independent scientific review of natural resources was considered at some length. Due to the limited time and resources available as well as considerable logistical issues in conducting such an evaluation via direct questioning, options other than carrying out public interviews and surveys (which can be very costly) were explored. The task force considered that a combination of a systematic review of the literature on the benefits (and costs), a public summary report of this review and a public comment period would meet this objective. The task force agreed is that a summary report of the literature would provide appropriate context to allow the interested public to effectively engage with the task force on this question.

- The task force also mentioned that they would like to include questions about Objective 1.1 in the same interview being conducted for 1.2.
- **Overall Actions**
 - Use systematic review techniques to conduct the literature search, including writing a literature search protocol and posting it on the task force website.
 - Based on the protocol a literature search will be conducted and documented, a literature review will be drafted into a summary report. The summary report will be made publically available.
 - This will be a tiered approach. The task force will determine how and when to make the report accessible and how to create opportunities for public comment (in writing or in person). They will also determine if further action and outreach is needed.
- **Subcommittee and considerations**
 - The subcommittee will meet to help with the initial drafting of the protocol and to refine the tiered approach to meeting this objective.

Objective 1.2 – Evaluate whether existing state, federal, and academic resources for conducting reviews are meeting agency & policy maker needs

- **Discussion highlight**
 - A proposal for addressing this objective was discussed. The initial questions developed by INR staff were thought to need only minor revisions. Additional question will be drafted by the subcommittee. The final questions will be posted on the task force website
 - The aim is to have most, if not all, of the meetings with the state natural resource agencies and legislative committees chair or key members before the next Task Force meeting, 28 March 2016.
- **Subcommittee**
 - Schedule the first meeting of the subcommittee
 - The subcommittee will help refine and add to the 9 questions noted in the Briefing Materials (p. 12). It will design the methodology including analysis protocol and determine the stakeholder sample.

Objective 1.3 – Evaluate mechanisms and structures that are in place in other states and at federal level for natural resource policy science reviews.

- **Discussion highlight**
 - A proposed approach to meeting objective 1.3 was outlined and examples of national-, regional-, and state-level review process were presented
 - Many review processes at the state and regional levels point to the National Academies of Science as the gold standard for conducting independent scientific reviews.

- **Actions**
 - Continue to capture information about different review processes, looking at similarities and differences.
 - Capture information about paid staff, paid members of committees and the advantages and disadvantages of payments.
 - Capture information about alternate mechanisms for attracting and/or rewarding high quality staff and committee members, when they are not paid
 - Develop questions and schedule to interview directors and managers of key state and national independent scientific review processes.
 - If a task force member has any specific states or review processes they'd like highlighted, let Jeff Behan know.
- **Considerations**
 - Vet questions to ask directors and managers of key state and national independent scientific review processes with task force via email from the co-Chairs.

Outreach

- **Discussion and actions**
 - Opportunity to outreach to Legislative Commission on Indian Services (LCIS) on 18 February.
 - In addition to those groups mentioned in the legislation, make direct outreach to the regulated community, NGO community, the Legislative Commission on Indian Services, county government and municipalities, quasi-governmental policy advisory groups (e.g., OPAC), other stakeholder groups.
- **Co-Chairs and INR Director**
 - Discuss and develop an outreach plan for the task force.