

**Joint Administrative Policy and Budget/Personnel Committee Report
August 10th, 2015
Robin Riechers & Doug Boyd – Co-Chairs**

The Committee moved to adopt the agenda as written and to adopt the minutes of the March 2015 Joint Budget/ Personnel Committee meeting in Biloxi, MS without change.

Tab G, No. 4 –Discussion to Combine Administrative Policy and Budget/Personnel Committees

The Committees discussed the staff proposal to merge the two existing committees and the potential efficiencies of combining administrative functions into a single committee and discussed the different charges of the Committees. It was noted that there may still be a need for a Personnel Committee to exist even though personnel decisions had been delegated to the Executive Director.

The Committee recommends, and I so move, to merge the budget process into the Administrative Committee and leave the Personnel Committee as a stand-alone Committee of the Council.

Tab G, No.5 -- Historical Performance of Council Scoping Meetings

Staff reviewed the relative performance of scoping versus public hearings noting that only about half the number of people attended scoping hearings relative to public hearings. It was also noted that the full Council process, including AP, SSC, and Council meetings, plus public hearings and Council public testimony were considered part of the NMFS scoping process. Given the time required to conduct scoping hearings, and the need to conduct more frequent AP meetings, staff is asking the Council to consider an increased emphasis on getting AP input rather than scoping meetings when we consider future amendments. No motion was needed on this topic.

Tab G, No. 6 -- Review of AP Staggered Terms

The Committees reviewed the staff plan to stagger the APs to create a procedure for reviewing a third of the APs each year. The relative benefits of staggering the Committees rather than individual members of each committee was discussed. There was also extensive discussion regarding the establishment of multiple year terms for the Ad Hoc APs since the Council had decided earlier to review each Ad Hoc AP charge and need for continuation at each January meeting.

The Committee recommends, and I so move, to have staff return with Tab G-6 with an ad hoc one year review in January to decide whether to continue an ad hoc Committee and/or to reappoint members, and keep staggered Committee terms for the other Committees.

Tab G, No. 7 -- Procedures for AP appointments with respect to Council's Fishing Violation Policy

The Committees extensively discussed the issues associated with the Council's current policy on AP appointments relative to fishing violations. Four motions were passed to clarify policy.

The Committee recommends, and I so move, to recommend that boat owners not be automatically held responsible for violations by a crew member when the owner is not present, relative to our AP appointment process.

The Committee recommends, and I so move, that an individual not be eligible to serve on an AP within three years of the time that the violation was adjudicated.

The Committee recommends, and I so move, the violations (*applicable to AP appointments*) would be federal fishery violations or state violations of federally managed species.

The Committee recommends, and I so move, that after appointment of AP members we request NOAA Law Enforcement to ask state enforcement agencies if those appointees have violations of federally managed species.

Tab G, No. 8 -- Review of SOPPs Revisions

Staff reviewed the proposed changes to the SOPPs based on recent Council decisions regarding the AP and SSC appointment process and the difference between the SOPPs and Administrative Handbook regarding who approves per diem and lodging costs above typical GSA rates. No motions were made but the Committee gave staff guidance to maintain the statement that allows the Council to make interim AP/SSC appointments, where needed. The Committee also stated that the desire was to continue to have the Chair or Vice-Chair make the determination when GSA rates could be exceeded.

Tab G, No. 9 -- Review of MSA Reauthorization Bills

The Committee reviewed the summary of MSA reauthorization items included in 2015 bills that were not reviewed by the Council in 2014. Those aspects of the bills that pertained directly to the Gulf were highlighted. There was some discussion as to the best approach to summarize the various reauthorization bills. Staff was instructed to focus primarily on those aspects of the bills that affected the Council's activities or policies.

Tab G, No. 10 -- NOAA EFH 5-year Review Budget Enhancement

Staff reviewed the recent \$100K increase in the Council's budget NOAA provided to support additional resources to help the Council achieve its goal to conduct a comprehensive EFH review by the end of 2016. The funds will be used to establish a temporary position to conduct the literature search and help to incorporate EFH into future amendments.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my report.