

## **North Central Action Area Workshop (Bremerton)**

February 28, 2008

### **Workshop Summary**

#### **Meeting Purpose**

The Puget Sound Partnership held a workshop in Bremerton on February 28, 2008 to gather perspectives from stakeholders and add local knowledge and expertise to Partnership work. The meeting focused on addressing the question: *What is the status of the health of Puget Sound and the greatest threats to it?*

#### **Meeting Overview**

Approximately 65 people attended the workshop at the Kitsap Conference Center at Bremerton Harborside. Among those represented were local and tribal governments, local organizations, businesses, federal and state agencies, non-profit organizations, and citizens, all working for the protection and restoration of Puget Sound.

#### **Meeting Summary**

Darlene Kordonowy, Mayor for the City of Bainbridge Island, welcomed those in attendance and expressed her excitement about the prospect and potential the Puget Sound Partnership offers.

Chris Townsend, Special Assistant to the Executive Director for the Puget Sound Partnership, provided an overview of the Action Agenda development process and an update on the Sound-wide status and threats evaluation. He followed with a presentation of sample maps and diagrams portraying status and threats data and gave an overview of data collected to date.

A four person panel presented local status and threats information based on existing local assessments. Presenters included:

1. Bob Johnston – Navy ENVEST Project
2. Shawn Ulican – Kitsap Health District
3. Jim Bolger – Kitsap County
4. Paul Dorn – Suquamish Tribe

Bob Johnston explained that an important aspect of the Action Agenda development is to hear about items of local importance. He is involved in a project that examines ecological systems comprehensively. Shawn Ulican discussed the relationship between water quality and public health, and Jim Bolger reviewed a study about the effects of armoring in East Kitsap County, including impacts on salmon populations. Paul Dorn gave an overview of assessment and monitoring programs conducted by the Suquamish Tribe.

Five topic specific workgroups, based on the ecosystem goals, were asked to consider and provide input on indicators currently being used, threats to Puget Sound and criteria for establishing priorities. The topic specific discussion notes will be available upon request. Key responses are highlighted below:

What are the biggest threats to the Puget Sound?

Water Quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stormwater</li> <li>• Lack of enforcement</li> <li>• Accountability for existing mandates</li> <li>• Non-point pollution</li> </ul>
Water Quantity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Low summer flows</li> <li>• Increased demand for supply</li> <li>• Inadequate knowledge of supply</li> </ul>
Habitat/Land Use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Water quality</li> <li>• Shoreline modifications</li> <li>• Fragmentation of habitat</li> </ul>
Quality of Life/Human Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ignorance</li> <li>• Population growth and consumption</li> <li>• Uplands impacts in general</li> </ul>
Species/Biodiversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack of knowledge</li> <li>• Invasive species</li> <li>• Chemicals/endocrine disruptors</li> </ul>

What criteria are most important in evaluating potential projects?

Water Quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Optimize existing resources/structure</li> <li>• Buy-in/political will based on education</li> <li>• Associated risk based on negative impact to human health/environment</li> </ul>
Water Quantity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Does it improve or preserve infiltration?</li> <li>• Does it protect groundwater for human consumption?</li> </ul>
Habitat/Land Use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cumulative impacts and benefits</li> <li>• A tiered approach to restoration</li> <li>• Focus on behavioral and easily achievable solutions</li> </ul>
Quality of Life/Human Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adaptive management techniques with quantifiable and demonstrable outcomes</li> <li>• Sustainability</li> <li>• Leverage programs and efforts (synergy)</li> </ul>
Species/Biodiversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Impact to species</li> <li>• Ease of implementation</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Certainty</li><li>• Public support/buy-in (including political will and multi-jurisdiction coordination)</li><li>• Target economically valuable species</li><li>• Access for humans and wildlife</li><li>• Synchronize with other priorities</li></ul>
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Following the breakout sessions Chris Townsend asked the group to discuss what criteria should be used to focus priorities for action in Puget Sound, then opened up the discussion for questions and comments. The following are the responses. Answers are highlighted in italics:

What criteria should be used to focus priorities for action in the Puget Sound?

- *Involvement of the community from the grassroots level*
- *Community buy-in*
- *ENVEST program*
- *Must have a good data base with metadata included – ENVEST*

Open comments/questions:

- Is it possible to establish a page for each action area on the Website in order to post notes and coordinate? *The summaries for each of these meetings will be posted to the Web.*
- Cross pollination of different action areas could be very valuable to this process.
- Demonstrating to the public that this process is saving them money will engage more people.
- On the preliminary inventory report, is everything entered from this area? *No, it is incomplete and still a work in progress.*
- Did any of the small groups discuss oil spills? They are definitely a threat to the Puget Sound.
- Does the Puget Sound Partnership have a “brand” and is there a manager of the brand? This effort will require public participation at an unprecedented level in order to succeed. What part is that going to play in this process? *The Partnership has a communications director, Paul Bergman, and a director of new media, Jon Bridgman. They are working to direct public outreach through some very*

*aggressive and innovative strategies. At this meeting today, there have been some suggested strategies that are very good: billboard campaigns, round table Webcasts, and happy hour/open houses.*

**Wrap-Up**

Chris Townsend thanked people for coming and invited them to stay for the Community Conversation coming up next. He also reminded people about the inventories, where and how to send them, and the deadline.