

Puget Sound Ecosystem Coordination Board
Meeting Summary
(As amended)

May 29, 2008

WSU Research Center, Sakuma Room, Mt. Vernon

Strait of Juan de Fuca	Steve	Tharinger
San Juan Islands	Bob	Kelly
Whidbey Island	Gary	Rowe
Hood Canal	Teri	King
North Central Puget Sound	Steve	Bauer
South Central Puget Sound	Ron	Sims
South Puget Sound	Dan	Wrye
Business Interest - Alternate	Allison	Butcher
Small Business	Bill	Dewey
Environmental Interest	Kathy	Fletcher
Environmental Interest	Jacques	White
Cities	Jeanne	Burbidge
Counties	Kevin	Ranker
Ports	John	Calhoun
Tribal Government	Randy	Kinley
Tribal Government	Dave	Herrera
Legislative caucus	Christine	Rolfes
Legislative caucus	Dale	Brandland
Legislative caucus	Phil	Rockefeller
Federal Government	Barry	Thom
Federal Government	Ken	Berg
Federal Government	Tom	Eaton
Washington State Agencies	Josh	Baldi
Washington State Agencies	Tim	Smith
Washington State Agencies	Fran	McNair

LC Members Present:

- Bill Ruckelshaus
- Steve Sakuma for a portion

Staff:

- David Dicks, Executive Director
- Martha Neuman, Action Agenda Director
- Jim Cahill, Budget and Accountability Director
- Mary Beth Brown, Agency Accountability Specialist
- Scott Redman, Action Agenda Manager
- Paul Bergman, Communications Director
- Tammy Owings, Special Assistant to the Ecosystem Coordination Board
- Terry Wright, Special Assistant to Billy Frank, Jr.

It is intended that this summary be used along with notebook materials provided for the meeting. A full recording of this meeting is retained by PSP as the formal record.

Action Items:

- Approval of February 8, 2008, Meeting Summary

Meeting Summary:

- Action Agenda Development – update and solicit Ecosystem Coordination Board (ECB) feedback for Leadership Council
- Funding Strategy - update and solicit ECB feedback for Leadership Council
- Accountability and Adaptive Management – review approach and solicit ECB feedback for Leadership Council
- General Council Business

10:00 a.m. CALL TO ORDER – Ron Sims, Chair

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m.

Gary Rowe welcomed the group giving a brief overview of the Whidbey Action Area and meeting facility.

AGENCY PROGRESS REPORT

David Dicks provided an overview of staff work since the last meeting

- Deadline extension from September 1 to December 1
- Martha Neuman will provide an update on the status of the Action Agenda
- Science Panel is up and working – this group will be writing the strategic science plan
- David, members of the Leadership Council, and staff met with Jeff Lape from the Chesapeake project
- Leadership Council will be meeting on June 12 & 13 where decisions will be made from information provided from this meeting
- Several Seattle Times articles were released recently and were very good and a great communication tool for letting the public know what is happening with the Puget Sound

ACTION AGENDA – Martha Neuman, Action Agenda Director

Martha Neuman provided the update on the status of the Action Agenda. She reported that there are action area maps now in draft and she has them at this meeting for the group to review.

Randy Kinley missed the last meeting of the ECB and had a couple questions about the process for the ECB to be the “how” group and how much time the tribes have to identify their alternates.

Chair Sims noted the process is to have the technical committees provide the recommendations, the ECB would then provide suggestions on how to implement the recommendations, and the Leadership Council will make the decisions on which recommendations to move forward with.

Chair Sims asked that all alternates be identified by the next ECB meeting (June 25).

ACTION AGENDA: Emerging Themes – David Dicks, Executive Director (See meeting materials for details.)

David Dicks provided an overview of the process for this meeting and what the Board is being asked to provide. He then reviewed the “Emerging Themes” paper and questions being asked for ECB response. Due to the meeting dates of the ECB and LC, the document being discussed today has not been endorsed by the Leadership Council yet. The document and questions are being presented to the ECB today, revised per today’s conversation, and then presented to the Leadership Council at its June 12 and 13 meeting.

David provided his vision of what needs to happen to be able to be successful.

Bill Ross facilitated the discussion.

The four emerging theme titles in the paper are:

- Theme A: Protect ecologically important places now
- Theme B: Implement restoration projects that provide high ecological benefit
- Theme C: Reduce water pollution with a special emphasis on stormwater runoff
- Theme D: Build an accountability system for success

The following is a brief cross-theme synopsis of the feedback provided by the ECB on the four emerging themes. (For more detailed theme-by-theme feedback see ECB response paper included in the meeting materials.)

1. The critical importance of protecting and restoring functions within Puget Sound (themes A, B, and C):

- It is very important to display the integration of issues and approaches across themes to reinforce the ecosystem approach needed for protecting and restoring Puget Sound.
- We need to protect and restore functions more than places, as in a functional sense no “places” are “unimportant.”
- Ecological functions are performed in marine waters, nearshore, and uplands across the landscape, and all of these areas should be considered for function preservation and restoration.
- Defining endpoints, particularly what a healthy Puget Sound means, is important for establishing a clear vision about the functionality we are working to preserve and restore.
- Sequencing, leveraging, and integrating protection and restoration efforts will be important so that “one plus one” can equal “three” with regard to improving functions.
- Ecological services for people (providing habitat for fisheries, protection of water quality, flood control, carbon sequestration, etc.) are important outputs of functioning ecosystems that also benefit local economies.

- The Partnership legislation provides a framework for how all of this fits together and thus the impetus to move beyond (media, species, activity, etc.) “silos” through an emphasis on ecological functions.
 - Non-point source pollution and surface runoff in Puget Sound are both crucial water quantity *and* quality issues, and are broader than stormwater alone. Hydrological function, for example, is as important as reducing pollutant loading.
 - Future threats to Puget Sound, such as preventing potential recontamination of restored sites, identifying emerging pollutants, and the effects of climate change also need attention and emphasis.
2. *Engaging people in protection and using the right tools:*
- Citizen engagement and education about problems and solutions is critical to success.
 - The Partnership must clearly communicate the facts about what is needed (to protect and restore the Sound) and then work to make sure it happens.
 - We need to offer incentives and education about opportunities to do the right thing so that smaller cities and landowners are real engines of progress.
 - We need to use the existing tools and authorities more effectively (e.g., enforcement, Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs), etc.).
 - We also need to go beyond the existing tools and find creative ways to leverage and support progress (e.g., transfer of development rights (TDRs), multiple benefit projects, etc).
 - Monitoring is needed to show progress (or not) and to target opportunities and priorities on restoring critical ecosystem functionality.
3. *Sufficient resources will be needed for success:*
- Monitoring, incentives, new tools, etc., all will require resource investments. Sharing the burdens and benefits of raising the needed money can be a principle for the Partnership.
 - Capacity at the local and tribal levels (in addition to the clear need for capacity at the state and federal levels) is needed to effectively develop and implement the projects needed.
 - It is critical that funding be tied to projected outcomes and that real priorities guide what projects receive funding.

Bill Ruckelshaus noted that this kind of feedback and discussion is exactly what the Legislature meant to do when they created the ECB. Most of what he heard was “how,” this is what the Leadership Council needs to help make its decisions. The overarching theme he heard is what we are doing now isn’t working and doing the same things we have been doing harder won’t make it work. We need to do some things we are currently doing better and try some new ways of doing things. There are a lot of variables, our task is to figure out what to do first (big projects versus small projects), how to get the public to support what we are trying to do, and the need to change public opinion. He hopes this group will stay engaged and help to make this succeed.

Once the Action Agenda is in place, the question on what to do next, and how, will be the focus along with understanding of what the tools are.

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT

Ellen Bynum, Friends of Skagit County, talked about efforts in Skagit County and work being done and how the Friends of Skagit County fits in. Have about 83,000 acres left zoned agriculture. Land use coordination is critical, she is not sure if it should be handled with MOU's or carrots and sticks. She suggested integrating policies on land use.

Stewart Toschak, NOAA Fisheries, talked about information systems and databases and how there are many systems out – one missing principal is of integration of data systems. Lacking representatives from the software industry. Need outreach to this group.

Mary Heinrich, Washington Agricultural Institute, has been in Washington State 3 years today. She worked on the Chesapeake before coming to Washington. She is concerned that there is not a working lands group. Actions tend to be species centric. Provided her thoughts on the current efforts happening with working lands. Talked about soil being an ecosystem in itself and need to protect this resource. Talked about the need to change the GMA to include the state agencies.

Laura Hendricks, Coalition to Protect Puget Sound Habitat, is concerned with aquaculture being a threat to the Sound. This is an ecosystem coordination board and she wanted to remind them that means all of the ecosystem.

APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY MEETING SUMMARY

Dale Brandland **MOVED** to approve the February 8, 2008, meeting summary. Steve Tharinger **SECONDED**. Board **APPROVED** the meeting summary as presented.

FUNDING OPTIONS AND STRATEGIES

Jim Cahill provided this agenda item. (See meeting materials for details.)

Jim reported that the funding strategy is also due on December 1. He reviewed the memo in the meeting packet outlining the process to get to a funding strategy by December 1. There are four components to the plan: Cost Analysis; Cost-effectiveness Analysis; Analysis and Identification of Gaps in Existing Funding Sources; and Proposals for New Funding Sources.

The fourth component is where this process will be a new way of doing things.

David Dicks reviewed the spending plan for the Federal money:

- \$20 million appropriation
- General categories for division of the funds:

- \$1.1 million for work on the Action Agenda
- \$250,000 for Strategic Science Plan development
- \$3.5 million for strategic science work (toxic loading, nutrient loading, nearshore, hood canal)
- \$1.5 million for monitoring efforts
- \$2 million for tribal support
- Some portion of the funds for EPA support
- Will hold the rest (\$10-12 million) for projects. We are hoping for state match and private funds to provide additional funding for projects

Questions for ECB:

Any concern about this plan and breakout?

The group discussed the challenge of picking the right projects in such a short timeframe. There was concern with how the projects will be decided and the cost benefit analysis.

Jim reported that the Partnership has hired EcoNorthwest to survey what it has cost for different projects in the past that will give us a range of costs. Staff will bring the results to the ECB to review the results and truth it. The group would like the cost analysis work to relate to the goals and benefits.

Another concern was need for public support when looking at fund sources so there is not a backlash. A suggestion was made to look at existing fund structure, to see if there are ways to loosen up some restrictions on fund sources so they can be used in different ways to help local governments. There was general agreement on not wanting to see this effort increase costs. The current economic situation is hard for everyone and we need to look at ways to use existing funds more efficiently and to get people educated on what needs to be done and why.

There was also discussion on how the timing is off this round for state agency budget development but that staff is hoping the themes will be able to be used to help this budget cycle.

The group agreed that the funding plan should be sustainable over the long-term and not change every time there is new leadership.

Jim will bring this issue back to the ECB at its next meeting.

ACCOUNTABILITY

Mary Beth Brown and Scott Redman presented this agenda item.

Mary Beth provided an overview of the accountability process and how to develop outcomes and tracking.

Scott provided an overview of the Ecosystem monitoring aspect of this project and how the science panel fits in with identifying environmental indicators and recommendation of benchmarks that will be brought to the Leadership Council for inclusion in the Action Agenda.

Mary Beth then provided the monitoring plan for adapting the Action Agenda over the next few years. The plan is to keep getting better with each revision of the Action Agenda.

She outlined the “Plan, Do, Assess, and Adapt” model being used, explained how this process works, and what is needed for success. The “Do” phase is important to the success. We need to build a system that can be maintained and is easy for groups to provide the data.

Questions and comments by ECB members:

What benefits and challenges do you see in using this approach?

When you think about a coordinated monitoring program, what does it look like now and how do we get to where we want to be?

David Dicks discussed how we are doing things differently by flipping the funding and monitoring efforts. The Action Agenda will get to a list of the most important things needing to be done. We will then need to get agreement on what actions groups are willing to take responsibility for, each group would then have their list of priorities and will be responsible for accomplishing them.

Some ECB members were concerned and don't believe it will work to just have a few groups do certain actions that need to be done by everyone or by certain counties.

David explained that some of the work does need to be done by more than one group or county but we need to have the “what needs to be done” first before figuring out who is or should be responsible for getting it done.

It was asked where the benchmarks are decided? And when will the decisions be made?

Scott Redman explained that the Science Panel is to provide the benchmarks to the Leadership Council and then the Leadership Council will decide the priorities.

Bill Ruckelshaus explained that the benchmarks are only partly to do with science and that the other part is policy. The Science Panel will make science related recommendations. The Leadership Council will also need to get feedback from the ECB before making its final decisions.

The ECB would like to see more detail on the process to get to the benchmarks and indicators. They would like more information and discussion on this topic at the next ECB meeting so they can feel comfortable with the process.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Bill Dewey, Taylor Shellfish, talked about a large farm in Sammish Bay and the effects of a recent rain event. He explained the local connection for the Puget Sound Partnership.

Randy Kinley noted that the same thing happened to the tribe and how they had problems getting reimbursed for the losses and stressed the need for enforcement.

OUTREACH AND COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE

Paul provided a communications update. The communication team is fully staffed now.

The Seattle Times article shows we are on the right track and this effort has gotten on the radar as a regional “to do.”

He talked about the public awareness campaign and survey and how this will be a targeted approach drilling down to the community level. The survey will be out in mid-June and once results are in he will bring to this group to review.

The Partnership is working with Stormwater Outreach for Regional Municipalities (STORM). This group is working on behavior changes and is an effort to coordinate the 36 jurisdictions in having the same list of things to do to help with behavior change. This doesn't cover everyone in the Sound but does get a big chunk of the Sound and should be able to share with the rest of the Sound once in place.

The group talked about how we need to make the Action Agenda personal so that it is the driver for public change not just in their backyards but also in their checkbooks.

Paul announced:

- Communication side of the Action Agenda has a full team now with the addition of the new liaison for the North Sound, Sarah Lingafelter
- The next round of Action Area workshops will be held in July
- Volunteer and Education manager, Kristin Cooley, has been hired. She is not inventing another program but going to work to steer the existing efforts toward a common goal and direction

ECOSYSTEM COORDINATION BOARD PLAN FOR REST OF YEAR

David Dicks provided an update on next steps from today's discussion on emerging themes:

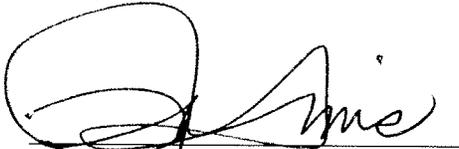
- There will be a synthesis of today's discussion and results from the topic forums on emerging themes
- This information will then be presented to the Leadership Council at its June 12 & 13 meeting

- The Leadership Council will use this information in making decisions on Action Agenda emerging themes

Ron Sims explained that more work came out for the ECB in today's meeting. The next meetings of the ECB will need to focus on what needs to be done and how to get the work done. There may need to be a change in the meeting schedule to better fit with the Leadership Council meetings. He will send a notice out if the schedule needs to change.

3:25 p.m. ADJOURN

Ecosystem Coordination Board Approval



Ron Sims, Chair

Date 7/18/08