

Puget Sound Partnership Ecosystem Coordination Board
September 10, 2010
Meeting Summary

Pierce County Environmental Services Building, University Place, WA

Strait of Juan de Fuca	Steve	Tharinger	Tribal Government	David	Troutt
Whidbey Basin	Ron	Wesen	Tribal Government	Randy	Kinley
Hood Canal	Teri	King	Tribal Government	Dave	Herrera
South Central Puget Sound	Dow	Constantine	Legislative caucus	Christine	Rolfes
North Central Puget Sound - Alternate	Patty	Charnas	Legislative caucus - Representative	John	Charba
South Puget Sound	Dan	Wrye	Federal Government	Elizabeth	Babcock
Business Interest	Sam	Anderson	Federal Government - Alt	Tom	McDowell
Small Business	Bill	Dewey	Federal Government - Alt	Michael	Rylko
Environmental Interest – Alt.	Dave	Peeler	WA State Agencies - Designee	Josh	Baldi
Environmental Interest	Chris	Davis	WA State Agencies - Designee	Margen	Carlson
Cities	Jeanne	Burbidge	WA State Agencies - Designee	Naki	Stevens
Counties	Dave	Somers	Northwest Straits – ex officio	Caroline	Gibson
Ports	Johan	Hellman			

*It is intended that this summary be used along with notebook materials provided for the meeting.
A recording of this meeting is also retained by the Partnership.*

Action Items:

- Approval of July 15, 2010, Meeting Summary

Meeting Summary:

- Welcome by Pierce County Executive, Pat McCarthy
- Vision of the Partnership by Leadership Council Chair, Martha Kongsgaard
- Oil Spill Prevention Workgroup
- Stormwater
- Shoreline Work Group
- EPA Restoration and Protection Grant
- Updates from Agencies and other implementing agencies re: Legislative and budget planning to implement the Action Agenda in 2011.

CALL TO ORDER

- Chair Dave Somers called the meeting to order at 10:16 a.m.
- Pierce County Executive Pat McCarthy welcomed the Board and provided an overview of activities, amenities, upcoming changes and restoration actions happening in Pierce County.
- Chair Somers talked about how the Ecosystem Coordination Board (ECB) Executive Committee is working make meetings more productive by focusing on action items and using written updates for issue briefings. He asked Board members to provide feedback.
- Chair Somers reported that due to workload and county priorities, Steve Bauer has resigned from the Board. He recognized the contributions Steve made during his time on the ECB. The Leadership Council will be soliciting nominations for a new North Central Action Area Representative, for appointment at its November 19 meeting.

APPROVAL OF JULY 15, 2010, MEETING SUMMARY

Jeanne Burbidge **MOVED** to approve the July 15, 2010, ECB meeting summary. Dave Herrera **SECONDED**. Board **APPROVED** the July 15, 2010, ECB meeting summary as presented.

VISION FOR THE PARTNERSHIP

Leadership Council Chair, Martha Kongsgaard, shared her thoughts on direction for the Partnership:

- She is currently meeting with individual ECB members. Members may contact her at any time with thoughts or concerns
- Martha recognized Bill Ruckelshaus and his tremendous contributions over the past three-and-a-half-years in building the Partnership
- She commented on recent media coverage, which Leadership Council has taken under consideration. Most issues were old news, having already been resolved. We need to focus more on telling our story, the progress we've made, and that we are worth the public's investment. We are now starting phase 2 of the Partnership's work
- The Partnership is all of us and she is honored to be the chair of this effort

David Dicks noted that we look forward to working with Martha. He discussed the agency's responses and corrective action to address all audit findings, and apologized for any problems that this may have caused for our partners. The agency is now in our new office, with all staff in one place, which will be a real asset for the agency. There are a lot of good projects going on and we will be telling the story over the next few months.

Dave Somers commented that he was surprised about the level of interest in the audit and would have been surprised if nothing had been missed with a start up agency.

Randy Kinley commented on the Medicine Creek event and how the tribes aren't going anywhere. He stressed the need to focus on the things we can do without money and would like to sit down with different leaders such as Dow Constantine to discuss opportunities.

Naki Stevens inquired whether a discussion about target setting would be included at this meeting, as she would like to have an update. Lynda Ransley replied that the Leadership Council is now scheduled to adopt targets in early 2011. The ECB will discuss at the November meeting.

Martha Kongsgaard noted the importance of timing and that target setting needs to have both ECB and Science Panel input and the timeline should incorporate that.

OIL SPILL PREVENTION WORK GROUP

Todd Hass, Puget Sound Partnership Oil Spill Prevention Program Manager, provided an overview of the program and plans for moving forward with this work. (See meeting materials for details.)

- Science Panel member, Tom Leschine, will chair Oil Spill Prevention committee for the short term. Todd is looking for a diverse group of interested parties
- This work group will complete two reports. Phase 1 will be an interim report presented to the legislature in December 2010 with priorities for short-term work. Phase 2 will focus on technical issues and will be completed June 2011. Todd will build on work done by past workgroups and focus on recommendations with legislative potential
- ECB members provided Todd with feedback and suggestions for membership on the work group
- Chair Somers asked for ECB approval to appoint the ECB representative between this meeting and the next, and report back to the ECB. The Board approved the request

STORMWATER

- Chair Somers discussed the need for an ECB stormwater workgroup. (See meeting materials for details.)
- Sam Anderson asked for clarification of this workgroup's objectives; we don't want to duplicate efforts
- Dave responded that the prime objective for this workgroup would be legislative recommendations to address funding needs
- Josh Baldi reported that the stormwater policy workgroup is meeting with AWB next week. Stormwater will be a big issue this legislative session and funding recommendations would be very useful
- The Board agreed to form a stormwater workgroup to focus on funding
- Martha Kongsgaard would like to have legislative priorities be coordinated and vetted with this group before presentation

- Naki Stevens, Sam Anderson, Bill Dewey, Dan Wrye, and Josh Baldi volunteered to be on the ECB Stormwater Funding Subcommittee. Dave asked Sam to take the lead on this workgroup.

An E-mail notification will be sent to ECB members regarding this workgroup.

SHORELINES WORK GROUP

- ECB Shorelines Subcommittee Chair, David Troutt, led this discussion. (See meeting materials for details.)
- Shorelines subcommittee has reviewed two legislative proposals: 1) Ecology's Green Shoreline pilots, and 2) the Department of Fish and Wildlife's Habitat Protection Act (HPA) proposal
- The subcommittee was generally supportive of the proposals, and suggested continued engagement and involvement of the Partnership and ECB

Subcommittee supports the need:

- For resources for permitting and enforcement by local government and state agencies
- To look at loopholes and identify ways to fix them
- For resources for and identification of the science needed to update Shoreline Management Plans (SMP)
- To identify data gaps and address them

Martha Kongsgaard asked if the subcommittee had thought about including the Science Panel in these discussions.

There is some concern with waiting for science answers before doing anything. The ECB agreed that this was a good question, including what "best available science" (BAS) is. It was suggested that the new Puget Sound Institute might be able to help answer the BAS question.

The group discussed the use of open standards and the contract with Foundations for Success. New Science Program Director, Ken Currens, is working to get this process up and running.

On the targets discussion, Deputy Director Gerry O'Keefe noted that the goal is to have a small set of targets move to the Leadership Council for decision in early 2011. In this process the Science Panel will decide whether the work underpinning the targets is vigorous and the ECB will say whether the targets have been vetted for policy issues. A joint meeting with all three groups may be held to keep the process as transparent and inclusive as possible.

The Shorelines Workgroup will develop a comprehensive legislative strategy to bring to the next ECB meeting.

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT

David Batker, Executive Director, Earth Economics, highlighted their new report “Puget Sound – Our Best Investment.” He talked about work being done with paper mills and in watersheds, and he stressed the need to include both science and economics in order to be successful. He would like to make a presentation to the ECB in the future and would like to work with the Partnership.

EPA RESTORATION AND PROTECTION GRANTS

Michael Grayum provided an overview of details laid out in the EPA Ecosystem Restoration and Protection grants RFP. (See meeting materials for details.)

Discussion:

- \$12 million in funding: four categories with \$3 million per category; six year’s plan; funding contingent on Congressional authorization; EPA reserves the right to adjust funding among categories
- Concern that 4 new grant processes will be overwhelming. One comprehensive process would be desirable
- Local Integrating Organizations (LIOs) could be helpful and block granted but not all LIOs are in place at this time
- PSP is helping to coordinate across work areas – the four categories can’t exist on their own
- We want to have a transparent process and coordination among the four categories. Everyone wants to see these groups work together
- The deadlines are tight -- RFP is due October 1, EPA review is in December, and completed applications are due by Jan 1, 2011

UPDATES FROM AGENCIES AND OTHER IMPLEMENTING ENTITIES

RE: LEGISLATIVE AND BUDGET PLANNING TO IMPLEMENT THE ACTION AGENDA IN 2011

- Dan Wrye highlighted a display that illustrated efforts in this Action Area
- David Troutt suggested staff find a way to showcase Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR) funds and projects
- Teri King reported that sanitation concerns which were a problem last year in fishing areas are no longer so thanks to Action Area efforts. A current is the wave action created by large vessels pushing shellfish higher up on the beach. Locals have gone directly to Governor Gregoire’s office with their concerns
- Christine Rolfes reported that recent Navy maneuvers caused the oysters to shift and may cause shoreline erosion. The Navy is following up on the problem; this is not a monetary issue but concern with shellfish not returning. She would like to help with this issue, and wanted to bring it to the ECB’s attention

- Elizabeth Babcock reported that Jim Cahill has asked agencies to provide information for the Action Agenda Cost Estimate Report. Jim is now reviewing the information before providing it to the Legislature
- Naki Stevens reported that the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has submitted its report on eelgrass targets. They lack good historic data on eelgrass but it appears we have lost about 50%. DNR science and policy staff has proposed a 20% increase in eelgrass by 2020 as the target. This goal represents their best professional judgment

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 2:18 p.m. The next meeting of the ECB is scheduled for November 4, 2010.

Ecosystem Coordination Board Approval

Dave Somers, Chair

11-4-10
Date