

Puget Sound Partnership Ecosystem Coordination Board  
Meeting Summary

January 21, 2010  
Olympia, WA

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Strait of Juan de Fuca	Steve	Tharinger
San Juan Islands	Bob	Kelly
Whidbey Basin - Alternate	Gary	Rowe
Hood Canal	Teri	King
South Central Puget Sound - Alternate	Susan	Saffery
South Puget Sound	Dan	Wrye
Business Interest - Alternate	Allison	Butcher
Environmental Interest	Kathy	Fletcher
Environmental Interest	Jacques	White
Cities	Jeanne	Burbidge
Counties	Dave	Somers
Ports	John	Calhoun
Tribal Government	David	Troutt
Tribal Government	Randy	Kinley
Tribal Government	Dave	Herrera
Federal Government	Barry	Thom
Federal Government – Designee	Mary	Mahaffy
Federal Government	Tom	Eaton
Washington State Agencies	Ted	Sturdevant
Washington State Agencies – Designee	Lisa	Veneroso
Washington State Agencies – Alternate - a.m.	Margen	Carlson
Washington State Agencies - Alternate	Naki	Stevens
NW Straits Commission	Ginny	Broadhurst

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

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**Action Items:**

- Approval of October 14, 2009, Meeting Summary
- Approval of Board Charter, Roles, and Guidelines document

**Meeting Summary:**

- Panel Basics
- 2010 Legislative Session
- 2010 State Budget
- 2010 Performance Management Products and Process
- 2010 ECB Work Plan
- Focus on Implementation – Federal 2009 Funding
- Member Updates

## **CALL TO ORDER**

Ecosystem Coordination Board Chair Dave Somers called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m.

## **APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 14, 2009 MEETING SUMMARY**

Naki Stevens **MOVED** to approve the October 14, 2009, meeting summary. Tom Eaton **SECONDED**. Board **APPROVED** the meeting summary as presented.

## **PANEL BASICS** (See meeting materials for details.)

Chair Somers presented the draft Charter and Operating Guidelines document to the Board. He reported that the newly created ECB Executive Committee developed this document and requested the Board review and approval at this meeting.

Chair Somers then reviewed the document section by section. Members asked for clarification and/or the following revisions to the document:

*Membership and voting membership status* - Joe Ryan explained that it would take legislative change to add to the official membership of the Board. Staff will ask for legal clarification on whether non-voting members can be added to the Board and, if so, would they be eligible to receive per diem or travel reimbursement.

*Terms* – The Board agreed with the desire for additional membership terms and asked for the amendment to include: In the event a member resigns mid-term, the new appointment would begin a new 4-year term.

*Roles* – The Board agreed to add acknowledgement of the need to collaborate with the Science Panel. They also discussed the Board role in the partner designation process. The group decided the Board will advise the Leadership Council in this and other processes. Designation of Puget Sound partners falls within the ECB role of providing advice to the Leadership Council so a separate partner designation role will not be added.

The Board agreed that the agenda include decisions and action-oriented items in order to justify travel to the meetings. Chair Somers agreed and noted the ECB Executive Committee will work to make the meetings more action-oriented and worthwhile.

Kathy Fletcher **MOVED** to approve the Board Charter, Roles, and Guidelines as amended during the discussion. David Troutt **SECONDED** the motion.

The Board was reminded that these are guidelines and are not set in stone. The Board will make amendments as needed, but this document is a good starting place for creating a more effective board.

The Board **APPROVED** the amended Charter, Roles, and Guidelines document.

The amended version of this document will be provided to the Leadership Council at its January 28, 2010 meeting for review and comment.

Leadership Council Chair Bill Ruckelshaus noted there are roles for the ECB and for individual members of the Board. The partner designation process is one of those issues that would be a good issue for the ECB to work on.

Leadership Council Vice-chair Martha Kongsgaard visualizes the ECB as an engine; not everything should be sent to the Leadership Council for action. She would like to see this group move issues forward for implementation.

**2010 LEGISLATIVE SESSION** (See meeting materials for details.)

Partnership Executive Director David Dicks welcomed new Ecology Director Ted Sturdevant to his first ECB meeting.

David reviewed the Partnership legislative strategy:

- *Senate Bill 6557* limits the use of copper and other substances in vehicle brake pads. This is agency-requested legislation jointly initiated by the Partnership and the Department of Ecology. Ted Sturdevant reported that he likes the co-agency bill and the precedence it sets. This legislation also provides an opportunity to have a broader discussion about toxics. There have been good discussions with the automobile industry and, if this bill passes, it would be the first of its kind in the country and would set the tone for national debate.
- *Senate Bill 6350* utilizes marine spatial planning for management of marine waters. This legislation establishes an interagency team to assess and make recommendations to develop a marine management plan with a marine spatial component. Marine spatial planning is in the Action Agenda and, if this bill passes, the plan generated by the interagency team will be used to amend the Action Agenda.

Bill Ruckelshaus provided additional details about the bill and discussed how the federal government will be issuing an executive order to do this kind of work around the nation. Passage of this bill would put us ahead of the issue and in place to be one of the pilot areas. This would also bring in additional federal money for the work, making it cost neutral for the state.

Mary Mahaffy reported that US Fish and Wildlife Service is working on a landscape conservation cooperative, which includes addressing science and climate change, and this region is starting to lead the efforts. They will want to connect with the ECB. She will provide additional information at the next meeting.

David Dicks continued the review of bills and budget issues being tracked by the Partnership, noting the first two he discussed are the issues the Partnership is most focused on this session.

Ted Sturdevant discussed oil spill funding for Ecology, noting that there is a budget fix being looked at; doing less oil spill prevention work is not desirable. Ecology had a bill ready for the Governor to put forward, but it didn't make it through the process because it would have been only a partial fix. Ecology withdrew that bill. Fortunately there is now a funding bill that would be a complete fix, and it is going through the House. He is hoping this session will come out with a solution to this problem.

Dave Somers asked about the stormwater bill. David Dicks discussed how last year's House Bill 1614 is not our preferred alternative but noted that there is a bill currently being examined that would double or triple the Model Toxic Control Act (MTCA) tax. Funding generated from this would be used for education and a portion would go for clean up of hazardous sites and stormwater fixes. He is not sure how far this issue will go this year.

David Trout asked about marine shorelines and the continuing loss of this resource.

David Dicks recounted the evolution of related shoreline bills and the decision that shoreline-related legislation is not doable this session.

It was suggested that the ECB might form a shorelines workgroup to develop a strategy for the next legislative session. This was amended to look at a multi-pronged strategy to include communication and incentives.

Dave Somers agreed this was a good suggestion and he will ask members to be on this workgroup.

The group also discussed the idea to pick a topic for each meeting and have subcommittees work on the topics between meetings such as restoring shorelines, stormwater, toxics, etc. The first step would be to look at the Action Agenda and spend time during the meetings figuring out how to move forward on these issues using a multipronged approach. This way the ECB could really make some progress before the next legislative session.

The group discussed the need to restore the MTCA funds or it will be impossible to maintain the super fund clean up. Ted Sturdevant reported that he met with chairs of both Ways and Means committees. He talked about the need for a strong enough coalition to remind the legislators that funds meant for environmental issues is to be spent on environmental issues.

#### **OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT**

*Dale Jensen, Department of Ecology* spoke on his concerns with oil spills. He reported that Washington State has the lowest spill rate in the nation and he believes this is due to the spill response program that is in place. He doesn't want to see that program terminated due to budget cuts. He urged support for legislation to fund the spill response program.

#### **2010 ECB WORK PLAN** (See meeting materials for details.)

Joe Ryan laid out the work plan. He reported that today's goal is not to fill in all the blanks but to start the discussion.

The Board discussed the idea of picking an issue for each meeting and delving into the subject. Suggested topics could include:

- Stormwater
- Shoreline protection
- Toxins
- HPA program changes

The group decided that with the limited number of meetings, they need to focus on one or two issues and they decided to go forward with two workgroups at this time - a shoreline protection workgroup and a strategy (or bold moves) workgroup.

Other items the ECB would like to include in the 2010 work plan include:

- 2010 legislative outcomes in May

- 2011 legislative strategy discussions

Bill Ruckelshaus agreed with the need for a strong legislative agenda but warned that coordinating all this work is very complex. There is concern about the position for the Partnership if the Board or Leadership Council comes up with an independent legislative agenda. The Partnership and state agencies need to support the Governor's legislative agenda. Bill suggested the Leadership Council come back to the ECB with a process to move legislative issues forward.

The Board discussed concern about the need to track progress and move actions along. They asked if there is a way to accelerate the development of the performance measures and accountability system.

Chair Somers reported that the ECB Executive Committee will look at the meeting calendar and work plan and bring suggestions to the Board for review and approval.

It was requested that the Executive group identify the issues and, once in place, the workgroups provide the materials to the Board early enough that representatives can work with their caucuses before the ECB meetings.

**2010 PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT PRODUCTS AND PROCESS** (See meeting materials for details.) Martha Neuman reviewed the performance management process and how the ECB fits in. She noted that much of the work would happen during the summer. Staff needs ECB's assistance mostly with the threats work and by participating in the cross-partnership work groups. She reported that a Web page is being developed to house the cross-partnership workgroup meeting information.

She also noted that budget guidance information is needed from the state agencies by March so they can submit funding request estimates in by June. The hope is that the budget guidance and threats information will also be used by the federal agencies and local groups to decide which projects to move forward.

The list of components will be provided for review at the March ECB meeting and at the cross-partnership work group meeting.

Martha noted that timing for the Action Agenda update has not been decided yet, but she will bring the schedule to the ECB as soon as possible.

The Board discussed the need to put the 2020 targets in place and stressed how setting targets is critical and needs more emphasis.

Martha stated the need for completion of the Puget Sound Science Update, but conceded some targets might be set before then.

There was concern that the Puget Sound Science Update may not be done on time but targets and benchmarks should still be put into place.

Martha agreed and said staff is doing some of the work independent of the science. This will be discussed during the cross-partnership workgroup meeting.

Kathy Fletcher had two areas of concern and comment. First, she is concerned with the pace of the preparation for the legislative session and budget process. Second, she is puzzled why we aren't using the threats that have been identified for years. This process seems to her like we are reinventing the wheel.

Martha responded that we are using the open standards process to give us a consistent process where we can show the work.

Jim Cahill reviewed the work Mary Beth Brown is doing with the state agencies to set up performance measures. This work is to be completed by June. Statute requires that state agencies need to provide an estimated cost for implementation, but once we get the state process in place, we will be working with other groups to get their performance measures and cost estimates.

**2010 BUDGET** (See meeting materials for details.)

Jim Cahill reviewed the state budget status and cuts to Puget Sound programs. He reported that there is some incentive money on the capital side of the budget - \$10 million for Puget Sound projects. Jim provided the detailed list of projects to be funded with this money. This list has \$40 million in projects - the first \$10 million for funding. If projects are funded with federal monies then we will continue down the list and fund the next projects. This will be a good match amount for any federal money that comes in.

The Board asked about the criteria used for ranking the projects on the list.

Joe informed the group that the Partnership was informed, with little notice, that \$10 million might be available. Staff went to the Action Agenda list of projects and used the ranked near term priorities list. (This is the same ranked list of priorities the ECB approved last October.)

Dave asked Jim what the ECB could do to be helpful. Jim noted that he can't advise them but would suggest, if ECB members have projects on the list that are important, to let their legislators know.

Steve Tharinger described how we are slicing a smaller and smaller pie, so the issue is the need to raise additional funds. Letters to newspapers would inform people how important natural resources are. He said it is a myth that taxes will ruin the economy – taxes are used to pay salaries and build jobs and actually grow funding. We need to figure out how to change that misperception.

Dave Somers discussed a poll recently completed by the Puget Sound Regional Council. It concluded that protecting Puget Sound was high on the public's scale of important issues. We need to find a way to sell a new funding source for Puget Sound.

Dan Wrye noted that Pierce County conducted a Stewart Elway poll that had the same response.

Dave and Dan will provide these reports to the ECB members.

**FOCUS ON IMPLEMENTATION – FEDERAL FUNDING** (See meeting materials for details.)

Tom Eaton introduced EPA project staff members Michael Rylko, Jo Henry, and Chris Castner.

Tom reviewed the funding process used for the EPA federal fiscal year '09 funding. He then asked for comments on the process used for the 2009 distribution to help with the 2010 distribution of funds. He stressed the need to focus on broad range issues rather than specific projects.

ECB comments included:

- The process was too slow
- Putting the information out helped, even when the dates weren't firm
- Would like more flexibility for the match requirements
- Would like to look at non-government entities other than education and research being eligible for funds
- Prioritize continuing recovery plans and science
- Focus on actions that move us forward, not to backfill state or local budget gaps
- More on-the-ground project funding
- Would like to see the process be a little more strategic – focus funds on specific needs or issues

Barry Thom reminded the group that this doesn't represent all the funding that comes into Puget Sound. NOAA received \$7.5 million for Puget Sound salmon recovery efforts. There are also Salmon Recovery Funding Board and Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration funds available.

#### **ECB MEMBER UPDATES**

Various members provided updates on projects and events happening around Puget Sound. Several handouts were provided. (See meeting materials for details.)

Naki Stevens reported that the Department of Natural Resources is requesting public comment on its strategic plan.

Kathy Fletcher provided two handouts – a request for nomination for the Magnuson Heritage Award and an announcement that People for Puget Sound will no longer provide paper copies of their newsletter. She then provided the way to get on their e-newsletter list.

Lisa Veneroso from the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) provided a status sheet for last year's projects. This is how WDFW shows what has been done and which projects are moving forward. She also reported that Puget Sound Nearshore Estuary Restoration Program (PSNERP) is nearly ready to issue its report and requested support for the recommendations. She will provide a template letter to the Board members if they would like to support the effort.

John Calhoun reported that the Ports are on track with the "green ports" initiative. The group working on this issue has defined what a "green port" is.

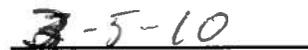
**FOLLOW UP WORK**

- Chair Somers will get the two work groups going – shorelines and strategic issues
- Tammy Owings will make amendments to the Guidelines
- ECB members will contact legislators concerning issues needing support
- Dave Somers and Dan Wrye will provide the survey reports from the PSRC and Elway polls

**3:24 p.m. ADJOURN**

Ecosystem Coordination Board Approval

  
Dave Somers, Chair

  
Date

Next Meeting:            March 5, 2010  
                                  GA Auditorium  
                                  Olympia, Washington