

PUGET SOUND PARTNERSHIP

State of Washington

July 23, 2007

TO: Leadership Council Members

FROM: Ron Shultz, Acting Executive Director

RE: Status of the Partnership Science Panel

As you know, the statute creating the Puget Sound Partnership also created a new entity, the Science Panel. This Panel is to consist of nine members selected by the Council from a list of 15 names provided to you by the Washington Academy of Sciences. The Academy is a joint program between the University of Washington and Washington State University, and has just recently been organized.

On July 5, I met with representatives of the Academy, and I was joined by Keith Phillips, policy advisor to Governor Gregoire; Karen Terwilleger, Washington State Legislature, House Caucus Staff; and Gary Wilburn, Washington State Legislature, Senate Caucus Staff. Governor Gregoire has a strong interest in the Academy, and her staff is working closely with the Academy on administrative issues while the Academy gets up and running. Legislative staff joined the discussion to share with the Academy members the interests of legislators in the Academy.

The Academy has no staff, no office, no web page, no phone number, and no permanent board. We met with some of the members of the organizing committee who may, or may not, be part of the final board of the Academy. However, those with whom we met are very enthusiastic about helping the Partnership and Council in this task.

Since the Academy currently has no administrative structure to assist them in their tasks, I offered the services of Partnership staff. Members of the Academy had reviewed the attached memo and supported the listed proposed criteria. The Academy also proposed the following next steps:

1. Partnership staff will develop a draft a proposed application process, including criteria for consideration by the Academy. (See draft document attached)
2. Once approved by the Academy, they will begin distribution of the call for applications.
3. The application period will close September 5, 2007.
4. The Academy will then screen candidates and present the Council with 15 names at the September meeting (target date).

There are two documents attached:

1. A June 12 memo to Bill Ruckelshaus on proposed criteria for the Science Panel.
2. A proposed "Call for Applications for the Puget Sound Partnership Science Panel"

Memorandum

Date: June 12, 2007
To: Bill Ruckelshaus
From: Martha Neuman and Ron Shultz
Cc: Linda Hoffman
Re: Recommendations for Partnership Science Panel Selection Process

As identified in legislation, the Leadership Council shall appoint a nine-member Puget Sound Science Panel. This memo outlines the legislative direction and recommendations for Science Panel nomination process and criteria.

Legislative Direction in Appointing the Council

As described in legislation, “the Council shall request the Washington Academy of Sciences to nominate 15 scientists with recognized expertise in fields of science essential to the recovery of Puget Sound. Nominees should reflect the full range of scientific and engineering disciplines involved in Puget Sound recovery. At a minimum, the Washington Academy of Sciences shall consider making nominations for scientists associated with federal, state, and local agencies, tribes, the business and environmental communities, members of the K-12, college, and university communities, and members of the [Ecosystem Coordination] board. The solicitation should be to all sectors, and candidates may be from all public and private sectors. Persons nominated by the Washington Academy of Sciences must disclose any potential conflicts of interest, and any financial relationship with any Leadership Council member, and disclose sources of current financial support and contracts relating to Puget Sound recovery.”

Recommended Science Panel criteria and selection process

The Leadership Council should provide guidance to the Washington Academy of Sciences (WAS) about criteria for nominating potential scientific advisors. Based on our discussion with Mary Ruckelshaus about how other similar teams have been selected for other large ecosystem management projects and input from the Puget Sound Assessment and Monitoring Program (PSAMP), we recommend the following nominating process and criteria.

The WAS should solicit nominations for the Partnership Science Panel. Nominations should be open, and scientists can submit their own nominations or be nominated by someone else. Members of the Science Panel should be chosen using the criteria below. The WAS will evaluate all nominations to ensure that they meet the selection criteria. The WAS will provide a list of qualified candidates to the Leadership Council, who will make final appointments to the Science Panel.

Each member **must meet** the first 5 criteria below (numbers 1-5) **and at least one** of the remaining three criteria (numbers 6-8).

1. Recognized expertise and achievement in a relevant discipline, such as terrestrial and marine ecology, wildlife biology, genetics, toxicology, fisheries, hydrology, oceanography, river geomorphology, land use planning, resource economics, human health, or other social sciences.
2. High standards of scientific integrity, independence and objectivity
3. A demonstrated interest in, and ability to work effectively in, an interdisciplinary team setting.
4. Strong communication skills to articulate scientific issues to a range of audiences such policy makers and the public.
5. Clear understanding of the distinction between policy decisions and the scientific analyses and conclusions that can be used to guide (but do not dictate) such decisions.
6. Extensive knowledge of the physical, biological, or social elements of the Puget Sound ecosystem
7. A record of scientific achievement documented by contributions to peer-reviewed literature or other evidence of success in creative scientific endeavor.
8. A demonstrated ability to forge creative solutions to complex management problems.

The Science Panel ideally will include representation from different groups involved or interested in science supporting management of the Puget Sound ecosystem. Science Panel members must be prepared to commit sufficient time for fulfilling the duties of the Panel, including conducting scientific analytical and review work, writing up results, attending meetings, and communicating results to the Leadership Council, Ecosystem Coordination Board, and the broader Puget Sound community.

The Leadership Council may wish to use these same criteria as they make their final selection of the Panel members from the list provided by the Academy of Sciences.

DRAFT – PROPOSED - DRAFT

Call for Applications for the Puget Sound Partnership Science Panel

Overview of the Science Panel

The statute creating the Puget Sound Partnership (Partnership) states that the Leadership Council of the Partnership shall appoint a nine-member science panel. The role of the science panel is to provide independent, nonrepresentational scientific advice to the Leadership Council, Ecosystem Board and Executive Director of the Partnership on issues related to Puget Sound's ecological and human health. The Science Panel will consist of experts from scientific, engineering and social science disciplines representing different groups engaged in the conservation, recovery and management of Puget Sound. The Legislature has directed the Washington State Academy of Sciences (WSAS) to provide a list 15 names for the science panel to the Leadership Council, which will make final appointments.

The Science Panel's responsibilities include the following:

- Assist the Leadership council, Ecosystem Board, and Executive Director in carrying out the obligations of the Puget Sound Partnership, including preparing and updating the Action Agenda;
- Assist the partnership in developing an ecosystem level strategic science program that:
 - Addresses monitoring, modeling, data management, and research;
 - Identifies science gaps and recommends research priorities;
- Develop and providing oversight of a competitive peer-reviewed process for soliciting, strategically prioritizing, and funding research, monitoring, modeling and other science projects;
- Provide input to the Executive Director in developing biennial implementation strategies; and
- Offer an ecosystem-wide perspective on the science work being conducted in Puget Sound and by the partnership.

Science Panel appointments will be four-year terms. Initial appointments to the Science Panel will include two and three year appointments of some of the Panel members to provide for staggered terms. Science Panel members may be reappointed by the Leadership Council, but no member may serve longer than 12 years. Science Panel members must be prepared to commit sufficient time to fulfill the duties of the Panel, including conducting scientific analysis and review, writing up findings, conclusions and recommendations, attending meetings, and communicating results to the Leadership

Council, Ecosystem Coordination Board, and the broader Puget Sound community. Panel members will be compensated for their travel expenses.

Criteria for Science Panel

Each member **must meet** the following criteria:

1. Expertise and achievement in a relevant discipline, which could include but is not limited to terrestrial and marine ecology, wildlife biology, genetics, toxicology, fisheries, hydrology, oceanography, river geomorphology, land use planning, resource economics, pollution engineering, coastal engineering, human health, or other social sciences.
2. A demonstrated ability to work effectively in an interdisciplinary team setting.
3. Strong communication skills to articulate scientific issues to a range of audiences including policy makers and the public.
4. Clear understanding of the distinction between policy decisions and the scientific analyses/conclusions that can be used to guide policy decisions.

Each member **should have** experience in one or both of the following:

1. A record of scientific achievement documented by contributions to peer-reviewed literature or other evidence of success in creative scientific endeavor.
2. A demonstrated ability to forge creative solutions to complex management problems.

The Leadership Council may use these same criteria as they make their final selection of the Panel members from the list provided by the Academy of Sciences.

Process for Appointment to the Science Panel

The WSAS is soliciting nominations for the Partnership Science Panel. The WSAS will evaluate all nominations to ensure that they meet the selection criteria provided above. The WSAS will then provide a list of 15 qualified candidates to the Leadership Council, who will make final appointments of 9 members to the Science Panel.

Nominees with recognized expertise in fields and disciplines directly related to the recovery of Puget Sound will be considered for appointment to the science panel. Nominees may include scientists associated with federal, state and local agencies, tribes, businesses, environmental organizations and institutions of education (including K-12, colleges and universities).

There are two options submitting a candidate for consideration by the WSAS:

1. **Self-nomination:** Candidates interested in submitting themselves for consideration to the Science Panel must submit a cover letter and resume to the WSAS. Cover letter should indicate how candidate meets the criteria identified above. Candidates must also submit written endorsements from three individuals who support the nomination of the candidate. Contact information from these individuals must be provided.
2. **Nominate a candidate:** To submit the name of an individual for consideration to the Science Panel, a letter of support for the candidate indicating how he/she meets the criteria listed above must be submitted. In addition, two written endorsements from individuals who support the nomination of the candidate must be submitted. Contact information for nominator and the two endorsers must be included.

Following a review of the applicants, the WSAS may conduct interviews of selected applicants on September 15th, 2007 (place-holder date).

Application Submittal Guidelines

Submit electronic or hard copies of materials by **5:00 PM on Wednesday, September 5, 2007** to:

Science Panel Nominations
Box 40900
Olympia WA 98504

For questions on the science panel appointment process, please contact Sarah Brace, Science Program Coordinator, Puget Sound Partnership at (360) 725-5464, email at: sarah.brace@psp.wa.gov