

# PUGET SOUND PARTNERSHIP LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

## Agenda Item Briefing Sheet

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**Meeting Date:** September 21, 2007

**Agenda Item:** Role of the Ecosystem Coordination Board and Selection Process

**Staff Contact:** David Dicks, Executive Director

**Presenter(s):** David Dicks, Executive Director

**Action Requested:** No action. Discussion and review.

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### **Background:**

The Partnership statute requires that the Ecosystem Coordination Board be convened by October 1, 2007. The Board consists of 27 members, with membership selection varying with the entity being selected for the Board. The Leadership Council appoints 14 of the 27 Board members, including representatives of the cities, counties and ports (to be selected from nominees provided by the respective associations) and representatives of Action Areas and business and environmental interests. . The attached memo provides information on the selection process and its status.

The statute also identifies a number of responsibilities for the Board. The attached memo also provides background on these responsibilities.

The statute is silent on many of the details on the operation of the Board. The Council should be aware of these issues and provide guidance on them.

### **Action Requested at Today's Meeting:**

No action. Briefing and general guidance only.

September 19, 2007

**TO:** Leadership Council  
**FROM:** David Dicks  
**RE:** Background on the Ecosystem Coordination Board

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Leadership Council members should review and provide guidance on the proposed selection process and the proposed selection criteria as discussed below.

### Membership

The statute requires that the Ecosystem Coordination Board (Board) is to be convened by the Council, not later than October 1, 2007.

The board shall consist of the following (27 total):

- **One** representative from the geographic area of each Action Areas appointed by the council (**seven** total). The council shall solicit nominations from, at a minimum, counties, cities, and watershed groups;
- **Two** members representing general business interests, one of whom shall represent in-state general small business interests, both appointed by the council;
- **Two** members representing environmental interests, appointed by the council;
- **Three** representatives of tribal governments located in Puget Sound, invited by the governor to participate as members of the board;
- **One representative each** from counties, cities, and port districts, appointed by the council from nominations submitted by statewide associations representing such local governments;
- **Three** representatives of state agencies with environmental management responsibilities in Puget Sound, representing the interests of all state agencies, one of whom shall be the commissioner of public lands or his or her designee; and
- **Three** representatives of federal agencies with environmental management responsibilities in Puget Sound, representing the interests of all federal agencies and invited by the governor to participate as members of the board.
- The president of the senate shall appoint **two senators**, one from each major caucus, as legislative liaisons to the board. The speaker of the house of representatives shall appoint **two representatives**, one from each major caucus, as legislative liaisons to the board.

The board shall elect one of its members as chair, and one of its members as vice-chair.

Members of the board, except for federal and state employees, shall be reimbursed for travel expenses in accordance with RCW 43.03.050 and 43.03.060.

### **Membership Selection Process**

As noted in the descriptions above, the selection process for membership to the Board varies by the position. Generally, the appointments can be classified as follows:

#### Invited to participate by the Governor:

- Three representatives of tribal governments
- Three representatives of federal agencies

Legislative members are selected by the respective party caucuses.

The method of nomination for state agency representatives is not identified in statute. The state caucus met on September 17, 2007 to discuss and identify the state agency representatives.

#### Appointed by the Leadership Council:

- Seven members, one from each Action Area
- Two members from the business community
- Two members from the environmental community

The statute requires the Action Area nominees to be solicited “from, at a minimum, counties, cities, and watershed groups” within each Area. Notice and a call for nominations have gone out to these entities in each Action Area. Notice was also distributed broadly throughout the region for the environmental and business representatives.

#### Appointed by the Leadership Council from nominees provided by associations:

- One representative of cities, nominated by the Association of Washington Cities
- One representative of counties, nominated by the Washington State Association of Counties
- One representative of ports, nominated by the Washington Public Ports Association

A request for nominations has gone out to each of the associations.

### Next Steps on Selection:

The Governor's invitations to the Board as representatives of tribal governments and federal agencies will be announced by October 1, 2007.

The legislative party caucus selections of legislative liaisons to the Board will be announced by October 1, 2007.

State agency representatives to the Board will be announced by October 1, 2007.

For the 14 appointments to be made by the Leadership Council, the Partnership staff recommends the following:

1. Nominations are to be submitted to the Partnership by September 21, 2007.
2. Staff will compile the nominations, along with letters of support and other information, and evaluate nominees' qualifications relative to the criteria outlined below.
3. Staff will deliver compiled nomination materials and recommendations for Board appointments to Leadership Council members by September 26, 2007.
4. The Council will review the nominees and make final appointments at the October 1, 2007 meeting.

### **Criteria for Selection to the Board**

Partnership staff have previously recommended to the Leadership Council some criteria for evaluating nominations to the Ecosystem Coordination Board. These criteria were distributed as part of the call for nominations in order to provide information to potential applicants. The recommended criteria include:

The Action Areas representative to the Ecosystem Coordination Board should be familiar with a broad range of entities within the Action Area, and have a demonstrated ability to work collaboratively with these groups.

Other Ecosystem Coordination Board members should represent specific interests, preferably through a caucus format.

This means that successful candidates for board membership will have:

- Demonstrated capacity (i.e., available time, appropriate networks) to represent the Action Area or caucus and/or to convene or participate in meetings of various groups in the Area or in an existing or newly developed caucus, and
- Endorsement from others in the Area or caucus for representation on the Board.

Board members should share core values and are skilled group participants.

Partnership staff recommends that successful candidates for Board appointments will have:

- Experience in and commitment to interest-based negotiation and collaborative problem-solving,
- Commitment to community-based action, and
- Exceptional communication skills.

Board members should have experience and expertise relevant to the goals and objectives of the Puget Sound Partnership.

Fundamentally, Board members should have an understanding of ecosystem processes and ecosystem-scale planning. Partnership staff recommends that successful candidates for appointment to the Board have experience and expertise in science, management, policy development, law, and/or advocacy related to one of more of the following:

- Relationships among human health, quality of life, and ecosystem services.
- Puget Sound native species, food webs, and biodiversity.
- Puget Sound-relevant habitats and habitat-forming processes.
- Stream and groundwater hydrology and water supplies.
- Water quality and sediment quality.
- Education and public involvement.
- Public-private administration.

### **Roles and Responsibilities**

The Board shall advise and assist the council in carrying out its responsibilities, including development and implementation of the Action Agenda.

The Board's duties include:

- a) Assisting cities, counties, ports, tribes, watershed groups, and other governmental and private organizations in the compilation of local programs for consideration for inclusion in the Action Agenda;
- b) Upon request of the Council, reviewing and making recommendations regarding activities, projects, and programs proposed for inclusion in the Action Agenda, including assessing existing ecosystem scale management, restoration and protection plan elements, activities, projects, and programs for inclusion in the Action Agenda;

- c) Seeking public and private funding and the commitment of other resources for plan implementation;
- d) Assisting the Council in conducting public education activities regarding threats to Puget Sound and about local implementation strategies to support the Action Agenda; and
- e) Recruiting the active involvement of and encouraging the collaboration and communication among governmental and nongovernmental entities, the private sector, and citizens working to achieve the recovery of Puget Sound.

With respect to development of the Action Agenda, the Board, working with the Executive Director, shall compile and assess ecosystem scale management, restoration, and protection plans for the Puget Sound basin.

If the Board identifies conflicts or disputes among ecosystem scale projects or programs, the Board may convene the agency managers in an attempt to reconcile the conflicts with the objective of advancing the protection and recovery of Puget Sound.