

Puget Sound Leadership Council
Meeting Summary

December 17, 2007
Maple Hall, La Conner

Members Present:

- Bill Ruckelshaus
- Dan O'Neal
- Bill Wilkerson
- Steve Sakuma
- Martha Kongsgaard
- Billy Frank, Jr.
- Diana Gale

Staff:

- David Dicks, Executive Director
- Cullen Stephenson, Deputy Director
- Martha Neuman, Action Agenda Director
- Tammy Owings, Special Assistant to the Leadership Council
- Diane Hodgson, Management Assistant to Bill Ruckelshaus
- Terry Wright, Special Assistant for Bill 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 the Puget Sound Partnership as the formal record.

Action Items:

- Approval of November 9 & 10, 2007 Meeting Summary
- Approval of 2008 Leadership Council Meeting Schedule

Meeting Summary:

- Action Agenda Development – update and Council guidance
- General Council Business
- NOAA Risk Analysis Briefing
- Whidbey Island Action Area Issues Briefing

Day 1

10:00 a.m. CALL TO ORDER – Bill Ruckelshaus, Chair

Welcomed by Town of La Conner Mayor Wayne Everton and Swinomish Tribal Chair, Brian Cladoosby.

David Dicks reviewed the agenda for the day.

Chair Ruckelshaus discussed the Ecosystem Coordination Board and gave a quick overview of its first meeting. Ron Sims has been elected Chair of this Board but they did not reach agreement on the vice-chair position or the 2008 meeting schedule. The next meeting of the Ecosystem Coordination Board is scheduled for February 8, 2008 in the Olympia area.

COUNCIL MEMBER UPDATES/COMMENTS

- Martha Kongsgaard reported that the Leadership Council had a retreat on December 3 and 4 in Blaine. She discussed how this retreat was a way for the Council members to get to know each other better and to talk about the huge assignment before it.

Chair Ruckelshaus asked audience members to introduce themselves. A good mix of interested people attended this meeting

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR UPDATE

David Dicks provided an update on what has happened with the agency since the last meeting:

- Agency focus is on three items: The Action Agenda, Budget and Accountability, and the Public Engagement Plan.
- There will eventually be 26 total staff but so far only 20 positions have been hired.
- Have interviewed for the salmon manager position and will be announcing soon.
- Will be hiring salmon staff next.
- Loaned staff (David St. John to help with the Action Agenda, Mary Ruckelshaus to help with the science side of things, Ken Currens to assist with monitoring, and Ron Kreizenbeck with general assistance wherever we need help).
- Budget – governor’s budget will be coming out on December 18. David will send an e-mail to update the Leadership Council on what is in the budget for the Puget Sound Partnership. The federal budget will be out soon.
- Legislature will be going into session on January 14, 2008. There is no agency-promoted legislation but there are other bills that staff will be reviewing.
- Have discussed the need to start having Action Agenda workshops and draft chapters out for the public in a “real time” way so that the public is involved every step of the way.
- Will have new Web site out in a couple weeks which will be very robust.
- Salmon integration meeting was held and are starting to figure out how to keep the energy behind this effort as we integrate the salmon plan into the larger Puget Sound plan.
- Science Panel will have its first meeting in late January. Excited to have the Science Panel members come on and provide assistance in the development and review of the Action Agenda.
- Communication Director, Paul Bergman, will be bringing the communication plan to the Leadership Council meeting in January for adoption.

Bill Wilkerson attended the Ecosystem Coordination Board (ECB) meeting and was struck by the political force this Board can provide. Before the meeting he was cynical about the group but

left the meeting feeling very enthusiastic about the whole process. He is part of the communication subcommittee and although everyone is wanting to get the communication plan in place it is better to get the plan right so he would rather take time to get it correct than to start now. Do it in a way that is effective and do it right.

Diana Gale thought the ECB was very energized. There are a couple interest groups that aren't being represented such as the agricultural community and Public Utility Districts. Both of these groups will be affected by the Action Agenda, need to make sure they are included in review and comment of the Action Agenda. She would like topical workshops (stormwater, land use, etc.) rather than panel briefings at the Leadership Council meetings to really get to hear the dialogue.

Bill Ruckelshaus stressed the need to recognize we are all in this together and focusing on the same goal of an action agenda that restores the health of the Puget Sound and need to include the human aspect of the restoration. Need to recognize that all the interests aren't represented on the Board, which is no ones fault but still need to make sure all have been included in the outreach and communication of the Action Agenda. He agrees with the need to have workshops but also need to be aware of the size of staff and how much work goes into setting up these workshops.

David Dicks noted that consultants will be hired to assist in workshop development.

The Council discussed the need to have a process to provide input on legislation and to make sure all sides are heard before taking a position on any legislation. The main focus of the Leadership Council, this legislative session, will be getting the Action Agenda completed on time and will not be spent on specific legislative initiatives this year. Once the Council decides what role it would like to play in legislative issues, they would like to develop a process to use in the future.

NOAA RISK ANALYSIS BRIEFING – Mary Ruckelshaus (See notebook handout for details)

- Mary provided an overview of how the risk analysis was developed and how it will be used
- This process will take two years to complete, it was started in September of 2007
- The group contains many different interests but still need to add representation from Ecology and a couple other groups
- Looking at doing a red, yellow, green indicator listing
- Will also do spatial indicators by region
- Will meet with steering committee in January to review the information
- Will need to decide on which indicators (or actions) the Action Agenda should focus on, and choosing indications that cover multiple threats versus a single species threat

First step is deciding what the indicators are. A presentation on this topic will be presented to the Leadership Council at its January meeting.

The Science Panel will be involved in reviewing this information.

Bill Wilkerson talked about the Forest and Fish process and how it focused on functions. He asked if this is what the thought is for the marine environment. Mary noted that the Forest and Fish process is a good model and is being used to help develop this process.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Ron Shultz, Conservation Commission

- Talked about the work being done by the Conservation Commission and how they can help with the Action Agenda. The Conservation Commission will be working with the Conservation Districts to identify actions that can help. The Conservation Commission and Conservation Districts are one of the links to the agricultural community.

Carolyn Kelly, Skagit Conservation District

- Talked about the work being done in the Skagit Conservation District. She believes in using a watershed approach.

George Boggs, Whatcom Conservation District

- Provided an update on Whatcom Conservation District work.

Sue Karahalios, Oak Harbor and active citizen

- Was a legislator, currently a city leader, and, as of January 2, will be a full-time active citizen.
- Stressed the need for help for small communities to be able to communicate the unique issues facing them and providing assistance today to help them to do the right thing now.

Panel of Environmental Caucus members: Naki Stevens, Bill Robinson, Mark Hersh, Lisa Paribello, and Margaret Shield

- Discussed actions they would suggest are the top things to start working on. A packet was provided to the Leadership Council members with 39 actions and additional support for their top 5 priorities.

The Leadership Council does not have a process for recommending actions yet. The Council discussed the need to develop a process in the future. At this time, if the action is imbedded in the current plan, it is supported by the Leadership Council as the actions in the current plan have been well vetted. They do not want to start having individual members endorse new actions but would rather wait to develop a process to handle the requests. The environmental caucus will be critical in reviewing and providing comment on the proposed actions.

ACTION AGENDA – Martha Neuman, Action Agenda Director, David Dicks, and Mary Ruckelshaus (See handout for details.)

David reviewed the memo on current status of the Action Agenda. The four questions being:

1. What is a healthy Puget Sound?
2. What is the current status of Puget Sound?
3. What actions need to be taken to move us from where we are to where we want to be in 2020?
4. Where do we start?

David reviewed the legislation on what the Action Agenda needs to include, goals, and description of a healthy Puget Sound.

The Action Agenda will need to have a process in place for selecting and prioritizing actions to:

- Protect existing habitat and prevent future losses,
- Restore habitat functions and values,
- Significantly reduce toxics entering Puget Sound fresh and marine waters,
- Significantly reduce nutrients and pathogens entering Puget Sound fresh and marine waters,
- Improve water quality and habitat by managing storm water runoff,
- Provide water for people, fish and wildlife, and the environment,
- Protect ecosystem biodiversity and recover imperiled species, and
- Build and sustain the capacity for action.

Another objective that was not in the original list but needs to be included is climate change.

Need to get from a “laundry list” of issues to a prioritized list, which then leads to the answer to the fourth question, where do we start?

The indicators work, which will be presented to the Council in January, is a piece that will help the Council to start to develop benchmarks and show progress.

A narrative explaining what is wrong with the Sound needs to be written. Staff will start work on this along with developing the Table of Contents for the Action Agenda.

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT

Karen Bishop, Whidbey Island Conservation District

- Pleased to see low impact development will be addressed in the action plan.

Mary Heinrich, Washington Ag Institute

- The Washington Ag Institute is a new organization that promotes agriculture.

- She was pleased to see agricultural practices are being addressed in the Puget Sound initiative at the beginning.
- Believes land use is the major issue that needs to be addressed.

Gene Derig, Citizen

- He is wondering if there is going to be a carrying capacity study for this area to decide on population growth.
- Can't tell people to not have children but maybe a study would open people's eyes on the population effects.

Bill Austin, Citizen

- Advocate for the Sound and agriculture.
- Asked about the process for new ideas that don't fit under the headings.

David Dicks noted that there will be an interactive web site where comments from people can be posted and new ideas presented. Steve Sakuma also talked about how the Action Areas are set up which gives citizens another place to go to present new ideas.

- Will there be a step to look at the value (cost benefit analysis).

Bill Ruckelshaus agreed that a cost benefit analysis should be in the mix in choosing what the priority is.

Stewart Toshach, NOAA Information Management

- Talked about what resources NOAA has and the need for leadership to pull the information together and take it to Washington DC to get the funding needed.
- Stressed need for a data system and need for leadership to make this happen.

Sandy Mackie, Association of Washington Business

- Presented the Association of Washington Business' goals and priorities for the Puget Sound Partnership and 2020 Action Agenda. (See handout for details.)

WHIDBEY ISLAND ACTION AREA ISSUES BRIEFING – Panel (See handout for details.)

A panel consisting of Gary Rowe ECB member and Skagit County Administrator, Rick Haley Skagit County Marine Resources Committee, Jeff Tate Island County Planner, and Tim Walsh Watershed Coordinator for Snohomish County presented an overview of issues facing the Whidbey Action Area. They discussed low impact development practices, citizen involvement, septic systems and private wells, and unique make up of the counties within this action area.

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT

Mike Shelby, Western Washington Agriculture Association

- Provided an overview of the handout he provided titled "Agriculture: Collaborative Farmland and Resource Stewardship Solutions . . . The Skagit Delta Story."

Bill Ruckelshaus asked Mike to make sure to link into the Action Agenda and keep the agricultural community involved.

John Miller, Clallam County Department of Community Development

- Stressed the need to continue to have a Puget Sound Partnership Liaison for the Strait of Juan de Fuca Action Area.
- Port of Port Angeles has been designated as one of the clean up areas designated by the governor, which is another reason to have a liaison in this area.

David Dicks noted that there will be a staff liaison in each of the action areas plus a Leadership Council member and Ecosystem Coordination Board member representative assigned to each of the action areas. Steve Tharinger had made the same points at the Ecosystem Coordination Board meeting

Ellen Bynum, Friends of Skagit County

- Will send a letter with details and comments but wanted to highlight the need to stay the course and make the plan flexible. Rural solutions will be different from urban solutions.

ADOPT 2008 LEADERSHIP COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE

Tammy Owings presented this agenda item proposing a meeting schedule in 2008 as follows:

January 28 & 29, 2008	Monday & Tuesday
March 3 & 4, 2008	Monday & Tuesday
April 29 & 30, 2008	Tuesday & Wednesday
June 12 & 13, 2008	Thursday & Friday
July 23 & 24, 2008	Wednesday & Thursday
September 4 & 5, 2008	Thursday & Friday
October 22 & 23, 2008	Wednesday & Thursday
December 1 & 2, 2008	Monday & Tuesday

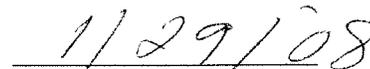
Consideration of Resolution #2007-01 - 2008 Leadership Council Meeting Schedule
Adoption of the 2008 meeting schedule **MOVED** by Bill Wilkerson. **SECONDED** by Diana Gale. **APPROVED** by the Council as presented.

4:40 p.m. ADJOURN

Leadership Council Approval



Bill Ruckelshaus, Chair



Date

Next Meeting: January 28 & 29, 2008
 SW Washington Pipe Trades Training Center
 Lacey, Washington