

Puget Sound Leadership Council
Meeting Summary
Nisqually Wildlife Refuge
100 Brown Farm Road
Olympia, Washington
October 22 & 23, 2008

DAY 1

Members Present:

- Bill Ruckelshaus
- Martha Kongsgaard
- Billy Frank, Jr.
- Diana Gale
- Dan O'Neal (p.m. only)
- Steve Sakuma
- Bill Wilkerson

Staff and Other Presenters:

- David Dicks, Executive Director
- Martha Neuman, Action Agenda Director
- Chris Townsend, Special Assistant to Executive Director
- Tammy Owings, Special Assistant to the Leadership Council
- Diane Hodgson, Management Assistant to Bill Ruckelshaus
- Terry Wright, Special Assistant for Bill Frank, Jr.
- Scott Redman, Action Agenda Manager
- Joel Baker, Science Panel Chair
- Mary Ruckelshaus, Chief Scientist

*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 Puget Sound Partnership as the formal record.*

Action Items:

- Approve June 12 & 13, 2008, Meeting Summary

Meeting Summary:

- Action Agenda Status and Update
- Action Agenda: Step through each of the four questions
- Communication Strategy
- Education and Outreach Strategy

Day 1

CALL TO ORDER – Bill Ruckelshaus, Chair

Chair Ruckelshaus called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m.

Nisqually Tribal Chair Cynthia Iyall welcomed the Leadership Council to the Nisqually Wildlife Refuge. Chair Iyall discussed upcoming Tribal events and provided a copy of the Tribal plan.

Chair Ruckelshaus discussed the work of the Nisqually River Council and the good partnerships that they have created in this area working together toward a common goal and plan.

Refuge manager Jean Takakawa also welcomed the group and discussed the current Nisqually estuary restoration project.

Chair Ruckelshaus then reviewed the agenda explaining that the meeting will be focused on preparation of a draft Action Agenda for public comment on November 6.

APPROVE JUNE MEETING SUMMARY

Martha Kongsgaard **MOVED** to approve the June 12 & 13, 2008, Meeting Summary. Bill Wilkerson **SECONDED**. Council **APPROVED** the June 12 & 13, 2008, Meeting Summary as presented.

COUNCIL MEMBER UPDATES/COMMENTS - Councilmembers

- Steve Sakuma (Whidbey & Whatcom Action Areas) discussed the number of public meetings that have been held since the last meeting in July.
- Billy Frank, Jr. (South Puget Sound Action Area) noted that the Tribes have been staying the course in managing their resources no matter who is in office. He is a member of the Nisqually Tribe and lives just a short distance from today's meeting location. This was his playground when growing up but things have changed since he was a youth. He stressed the need for everyone's help in restoring the Sound.
- Bill Wilkerson (Strait of Juan de Fuca Action Area) reported that since July there have been a number of meetings focused on the Action Agenda. This is an exciting time; starting to get the information pulled together into one document. He talked about the communication needs and how this must be a big focus with the Action Agenda. His last point was on the aggressive agenda and how we may be asking the agencies to do more than they are able to do. We need to sit down with the agencies to discuss capacity and make sure it is there.
- Diana Gale (San Juan Action Area) agreed with a lot of what Bill said. She has been meeting in the Bellingham area and there is a lot of anxiety on the need for funds and capacity to do what needs to be done. She would like to spend time talking about the unique features of the Action Areas. She was invited to an

international water meeting and there is a lot of work going on that we could learn from and use. It is exciting to listen to what is going on around the world and the environmental concerns.

- Martha Kongsgaard (South Central Action Area) has been in the watersheds attending meetings. She had the great pleasure to see some spawning salmon during one tour and was very moved. The best meeting she has been to so far was the Ecosystem Coordination Board (ECB) meeting in Sequim where the ECB started vetting the initiatives. This was the first time she saw some concrete evidence of efforts. This approach will be different and bold. She was very energized with this meeting.
- Dan O'Neal (Hood Canal Action Area) was not able to attend the morning portion of this meeting.

Chair Ruckelshaus introduced Science Panel Chair Joel Baker and discussed the work the Science Panel has been doing.

He then discussed funding and budget needs in the current economic climate; some work may need to be staggered out over a longer period and in some cases we need more information on where to most wisely spend the resources. There will be funding available again, it just may take longer to get it all in place. We need to be ready to spend funds on the highest priorities.

Billy Frank discussed the culvert case and how the Tribes sued the state about this issue. This has been in negotiations for the past several years.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR UPDATE – David Dicks

David Dicks provided an update on what has happened with Puget Sound Partnership since the last meeting.

- He was in the Governor's Office three days ago talking about the culvert case; this is just one of the really complicated and difficult things we are trying to get taken care of.
- He agreed with Martha about the ECB meeting. The Council will be doing the same thing today, going over the pieces of the Action Agenda - with Joel Baker and Mary Ruckelshaus here to help with the science questions.

ACTION AGENDA STATUS AND UPDATE – David Dicks

David reported that the four questions have worked well for framing the Action Agenda discussions, but we still need to define the “it.” Once the “it” is defined, we will be able to put the rest of the pieces together.

To get everyone working in the same direction, we need to be clear on what the goal is and where we are going. At this meeting the Council will be going through each of the four questions.

ACTION AGENDA: STEP THROUGH EACH OF THE FOUR QUESTIONS – Martha Neuman, Scott Redman, David Dicks, and Chris Townsend (See meeting materials for details.)

Question 1 – What is a healthy Puget Sound

Martha Neuman and Scott Redman reviewed the draft information on “What is a Healthy Puget Sound?”

Council Members asked for staff to clarify the different terms because this is very complicated for people who aren’t working with this information daily. Staff agreed that the terms will be clarified.

They discussed how this question is meant to lay out what a healthy Puget Sound would look like, where as Question 3 will be used to identify what needs to be done to get us to a healthy Puget Sound by 2020.

Joel Baker and the Council talked about the Science Panel’s work on the indicators and need for benchmarks and goals. There are some indicators that lend themselves toward specific benchmark numbers. Others could be argued forever and never get agreement on an exact number, but could reach agreement on the direction that indicator needs to go in.

The Council will come back to this discussion after hearing how the whole document links together.

Question 2 – What is the current status of Puget Sound and what are the biggest threats?

Scott walked through the logic and usefulness of the document, linking it to question #1. He explained how this chart articulates the most important and relevant connections between threats and outcomes, and blanks represent the ‘not knowns’. There are a number of areas of certainty but still a number of unknowns.

David Dicks’ dream scenario would be to have pie chart displaying the relative magnitude of threats to Puget Sound. The problem is we’ve never defined what the

problem is. We know the symptoms. Based on our analysis, we need to protect the remaining habitat places. The proposed chart lays out the problem, threats and what we should do about it.

Question 3 – “What do we need to restore and protect the Puget Sound?”

Martha Neuman reviewed the four priorities and objectives:

- A. Protect intact ecosystem processes, structure, and function
- B. Restore ecosystem processes, structures, and functions
- C. Reduce the sources of water pollution
- D. Work effectively and efficiently together as a system on priority needs

She noted that the wording still needs to be worked on to make sure we are clear on what is meant by each of the four priorities.

Joel Baker discussed the opportunity and obligation to weave the science through each of the priorities. The Science Panel is actively engaged in the ongoing work for the Action Agenda. The Action Agenda is being built around the idea of adaptive management and performance measurement. Today we don't know the most effective way to restore the Sound, but that's not an excuse to not get started. The question is how does the Science Panel weave the specifics into the four topic areas. Two years from now we want to be able to look back and use some of this information in the next version of the Action Agenda.

Joel then walked through the handout, and talked about being able to study and find scientific understanding to make recommendations. He noted that the Nisqually project is a great example of an opportunity to study and monitor the effects of a project. A monitoring system will be included in the Biennial Science Work Plan.

Mary Ruckelshaus then talked about the need for accountability and, at the high profile projects, making sure there is a scientist attached.

David thanked both Mary and Joel on their unbelievable amount of work. He talked about how the science and policy interface is very complicated and difficult.

Biennial Science Work Plan (BSWP)

Scott Redman and Joel Baker presented the BSWP. Joel explained where the Science Panel is on the BSWP and the thinking they have had on the science and staffing needed for the Action Agenda.

In the next biennium the Science Panel work products will include:

- Assisting in production of the 2009 State of Sound Report
- Overseeing adaptive management science assessment
- Producing 2010 Puget Sound Science Update

- Establishing an information management working group and data exchange network

Joel reviewed the scientific investigation work the Science Panel identified for the biennium. The goal of this section is to contribute to the development and application of the science of adaptive management of the Puget Sound region.

Top priorities include:

1. Adaptive management of large river delta and shoreline restoration,
2. Watershed-scale study of changes in land use patterns or stormwater management strategies on pollutant loads and biological effects,
3. Stressors affecting the Puget Sound pelagic food web and forage fish restoration,
4. Ecosystem services and socioeconomic indicators,
5. Future scenario modeling, and
6. Emerging issues research.

Chair Ruckelshaus asked the difference between the overall Science Plan and the BSWP and which one, if either, helps people figure out where research should be done?

Joel explained both would eventually help, but not this version of the BSWP; the next BSWP should have a prioritized list of research projects and data needs. The goal for the Strategic Science Plan is to provide the tools to prioritize the research and data needs.

Joel reported that the Science Panel has reviewed draft pieces of the Action Agenda and, from the science side, they didn't see any fatal flaws in the initiative list the Council is reviewing at this meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Stewart Toshach, NOAA, discussed information management. When looking at the list of initiatives he found that the data management is at the very end of the list. The Leadership Council has an opportunity to make information management important by putting this prominently in the Action Agenda. This is the building block for science and for adaptive management. He suggested the need for a high-level agreement between executives and people in the regions agreeing to exchange data and that the data is important. He would like to invert the table with the data first. The Partnership needs to be successful for the rest of the Sound to be successful.

Paul Sparks, Washington Council of Trout Unlimited, provided words of praise on how far things have come in the past year.

Bruce Wishart, People for Puget Sound and environmental caucus, provided copies of written comments on candidate initiatives. He congratulated the group on the excellent

work done to date in getting the list of initiatives. He stressed the need to have a 2020 plan and if it can't be done in this timeframe, then at least include a timeline to get to the 2020 plan. This will be an adaptive management plan, but it needs to have benchmarks. For the budget, if you don't ask you don't get; the items identified won't break the bank so he would encourage making the request. There is a need for a new revenue source.

Fred Felleman, Friends of the Earth, was surprised to see the grey whale in the list of indicators; he believes the harbor seal would be a better indicator. He also provided his thoughts on all the indicators and benchmarks. He noted that the Neah Bay tug has already been approved and is no longer seeking funding. He feels the Action Agenda is missing the sense of urgency.

Laura Hendricks, Coalition to Protect Puget Sound, has concerns with the aquaculture indicator.

Rein Attemann, People for Puget Sound, talked about how the post card campaign brought 600 comments to the Leadership Council meeting in Mt. Vernon. He brought twice as many comment cards to this meeting. He then read a few quotes on the cards and talked about a poll that was done over a year ago and findings of that poll.

ACTION AGENDA: STEP THROUGH EACH OF THE FOUR QUESTIONS - Continued

Chris Townsend and Martha Neuman reviewed the list of candidate initiatives.

Diana Gale asked when the cost layer will be included in the list of initiatives. David reported that Jim Cahill has been working on the cost and will get to that later, but that staff wanted to get a refined list before including the costs.

Chris reported there will be a cost benefit analysis in the next version.

The Council discussed different acquisition programs and then need for an organizing set of principles. Staff highlighted the basic principles listed in the Question 3 handout that were used to pick this list of initiatives.

David Dicks noted that staff is asking the Council for direction and feedback on how to think through the initiatives being strategic and combine actions to make the most progress in the first year of the plan.

The Council asked where and how some of the suggestions came from. Chris reported that they have come through a variety of different means and that some have been well vetted with staff, where as others are listed, but staff doesn't have a lot of background

around the suggestion. The Council asked to have the list sorted by those that have staff review and those that don't have the background yet.

The Council then reviewed the list of potential initiatives, realizing that some projects are ongoing, being done through the salmon recovery process, some just need additional funding to be completed, and others need agreement from the Partnership for continuation.

The Council reviewed the list through C.1 and then closed this discussion for the day; they will continue on day two of the meeting with C.2.1.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Dan Wrye, South Sound Coordinator, talked about the ECB meeting and noted that the list is not a recommendation from the ECB. He would suggest the Leadership Council take a step back and look at the balance. Any successful effort has several components. It would be healthy for the Council to make sure the balance is correct, have them ask themselves who is doing the heavy lifting and helping them be successful.

Fred Felleman, Friends of the Earth, talked about the ballast water issue and how it used to be oil and water and standards of ballast water. He encouraged setting the standards higher; he suggested using the green ports standard for cruise ships and no discharge. He supported the need for the Elwha dam removal to be completed.

RECESSED FOR EVENING

The Council recessed for the evening at 4:20 p.m.

Puget Sound Leadership Council
Meeting Summary

October 22 & 23, 2008
Olympia, Washington

DAY 2

Members Present:

- Bill Ruckelshaus
- Martha Kongsgaard
- Diana Gale
- Dan O'Neal
- Steve Sakuma

Staff and Other Presenters:

- David Dicks, Executive Director
- Martha Neuman, Action Agenda Director
- Chris Townsend, Special Assistant to Executive Director
- Tammy Owings, Special Assistant to the Leadership Council
- Diane Hodgson, Management Assistant to Bill Ruckelshaus
- Terry Wright, Special Assistant for Bill Frank, Jr.
- Kristen Cooley, Education and Outreach Specialist

8:30 a.m. CALL TO ORDER – Bill Ruckelshaus, Chair

Chair Ruckelshaus reconvened the meeting at 8:35 a.m. by welcoming everyone to its second day.

Chair Ruckelshaus reviewed the presentations from day one of the meeting and discussed the plan for this meeting day.

ACTION AGENDA – Martha Neuman and Chris Townsend

Martha Neuman continued where the Council left off on day one with C.2.1

The Council discussed the water quality issues and various ways to assist with issues such as Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDL) and Combined Sewer Overflows (CSO).

The Council discussed various plans and where the Council could or should be involved with the plan or committees. There may be a need for statutory change and or persuasion to get the work coordinated and harmonized with the Action Agenda.

The Partnership may need to provide technical assistance, funding, influence, and/or persuasion. The Partnership needs to reach a place where the local governments trust what the Action Agenda says needs to be done.

Chris Townsend and the Council discussed the mitigation and in-lieu fee recommendation and how that is envisioned to work. This, in David's opinion, is one of the critical activities to make a difference in the Puget Sound.

The Council discussed the projects that need to be done in each of the individual Action Areas. Martha explained that some actions are Soundwide initiatives but that Action Areas would also like to include them on their individual Action Area lists. The Leadership Council agreed with having the same actions on both the Soundwide and the individual Action Area lists.

Diana Gale noted that some of the actions listed in the Action Agenda aren't on the initiatives list and wanted to know if that was intentional. Martha noted that some of the actions wouldn't rise to the initiative list level – which is the Soundwide framework.

David further explained the differences between Action Area specific actions and the Soundwide initiatives.

Jim Cahill came forward to discuss his thoughts on the adaptive management process, science level of indicators, and the need for benchmarks to get to 2020. We will need to have performance measurements to track implementation of actions.

Martha's next step is to take input from this meeting and continue to revise the list of actions and initiatives to include in the final draft Action Agenda.

COMMUNICATION STRATEGY – Kristen Cooley for Paul Bergman

David Dicks introduced Kristen Cooley, who worked for Beachwatchers before coming over to the Partnership.

Kristen noted that Paul was unable to attend this meeting but will provide the Council with a communication briefing at the November meeting.

Kristen explained the work she has been doing working with the ECO network, a group of more than 100 environmental education groups.

She then reviewed the list of education and outreach initiatives and provided more details for each.

After reviewing the list of initiatives, she provided information on a number of upcoming events she is assisting with.

Chair Ruckelshaus noted the work Kristen is doing on short- and long-term communication and education efforts is very important.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Alison Graham, Environment Washington, delivered 2,300 public comment cards in support of a strong Action Agenda. She is finding people are really excited with the Partnership work and Action Agenda, and she looks forward to working with the Partnership in the future.

Ron Shultz, Washington State Conservation Commission, provided a handout on the work happening with the Conservation Commission and the budget needed to get the proposed work completed. He talked about using existing funds to better align with goals and objectives. He provided the 2008 annual report for the Conservation Districts and explained the budget request the Conservation Commission put forward for the next biennium.

David thanked Ron and the Conservation Commission for working with the Partnership to develop the Action Agenda.

Tim Smith, Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), provided several general comments concerning the Action Agenda and the criteria used to prioritize the initiatives. He believes the initiatives document is very good because it acts on what we know and resists the urge to act on actions that we don't know. This will add credibility to the efforts. He stressed that it is important to include actions that are visible to the public; protection projects many times are not visible to the public. He noted that the Sound is in decline and there is a need to motivate the restoration community.

Mike Grayum, Department of Natural Resources, (DNR) Legislative Liaison, appreciates the work of the Partnership. He talked about the collaboration between Partnership staff and DNR.

Jeff Sax, Building Industry Association of Washington (BIAW), provided his thoughts on the priorities and initiatives. He believes the Puget Sound Partnership is at a critical juncture and that there is an iceberg in the agency with lots of information that is written but not out for people to review yet. He looks forward to seeing this information. He noted that resource lands already have a legal description for urban, rural, and resource in the Growth Management Act (GMA). He urged the Partnership to use the predefined language. He would like to have the Partnership look at the NPDES process.

Bill thanked Jeff for his comments and asked that when the full set of comments comes in, if he would help to provide ways to do this work and be successful.

Jacques White, Environmental Caucus, echoed Tim Smith's statement that the Action Agenda is a very impressive document focused on what needs to be done to save

Puget Sound and is the first document articulating what needs to be done. He then provided a few suggestions for changes focused on the work of the Science Panel.

Chair Ruckelshaus noted that there is not a bright line between science and policy. He asked Jacques to provide the question he asked in writing to be able to get answers from the Science Panel.

David Dicks thanked everyone for their time and efforts and all his staff for the work that has been done. Diana Gale thanked the staff on behalf of the Council.

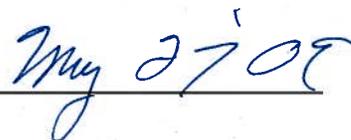
12:25 p.m. ADJOURN

Leadership Council Approval



Bill Ruckelshaus, Chair

Date



Next Meeting: Next meeting November 11, 2008
Embassy Suites Seattle-Tacoma International Airport
15920 West Valley Highway
Tukwila, Washington