

PugetSoundPartnership

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Science Panel Appointment Process Agenda Item #4

Presented by: Martha Kongsgaard and Lynda Ransley

Proposed Action: Decision

Background:

- Three of the Science Panel members' terms will be up on November 10, 2009.
- The Leadership Council is responsible for managing Science Panel appointment process.
- The initial Science Panel appointment process was specified by statute. No clear process was established for ongoing appointments.
- The Leadership Council is scheduled to approve an appointment process at its September 2-3 meeting.
- The recommendations below were generated by an ad hoc Council/Board/Panel Administrative Committee

Questions Brought to the Council/Board/Panel Administrative Committee:

1. Appointment/Reappointment Philosophy: What is the Leadership Council's philosophy regarding appointments, and how is this reflected in the process?
2. Role of Washington State Academy of Sciences: Does the Council want to involve the Academy in the process? If so, how?
3. Role of Science Panel: Does the Council want the Panel involved in the criteria and/or selection process? If so, to what degree?
4. Assignments/Timeline/Leadership Council Schedule: How would the Leadership Council like to incorporate this process into their fall meeting schedule?

Recommendations:

1. Appointment/Reappointment Philosophy: Recommendation that members interested in reappointments (within the 12-yr. limit) would reapply and be considered as part of the pool of all applicants.
2. Role of Washington State Academy of Sciences (WSAS): Recommendation that WSAS would review and endorse applicants as qualified scientists from applications received.
3. Role of Science Panel: Recommendation that the Science Panel provide the Leadership Council the following: A) recommended size of Science Panel, B) recommended areas of expertise and institutional representation, and C) recommended criteria for selection/evaluation.

4. Proposed Assignments, Timeline and Leadership Council Schedule:

Assignments

Staff – Support process, solicit applications, assist in development of the evaluation criteria, participate on evaluation subcommittee, and develop materials for the Council and Panel as needed

Science Panel – Make recommendations to the Leadership Council on what an optimal size and discipline balanced Panel would look like and establish selection/evaluation criteria

Academy – Review and endorse applicants regarding scientific qualifications

Subcommittee – Appointed by Leadership Council Chair, would use the approved selection/evaluation criteria, to review and rank the applications

Leadership Council – Approve process; make final selection of candidates

Timeline & Leadership Council Schedule

September 2-3, 2009 - Leadership Council Meeting – Council approve process

September 4 – Send Science Panel related meeting materials

September 9-10 – Science Panel members decide criteria for evaluation/selection of Panel members and recommendation on Panel make-up and size

September 11 – Post solicitation (draft attached)

October 5 – Applications due

October 6-16 – Academy review applicants for scientific viability

October 19 – Academy provide findings to Council

October 19-23 – Subcommittee evaluate and rank applications

November 2-3 – Leadership Council appointment decisions

November 17-18 – Science Panel meeting

Science Panel Statutory Requirements

Table 1

90.71.270	Requires
(1)	To provide independent, nonrepresentational scientific advise to the council and expertise in identifying environmental indicators and benchmarks for incorporation into the Action Agenda
(2)	In establishing the panel, 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 PS
(2)	Nominees should reflect the full range of scientific and engineering disciplines involved in PS recovery
(2)	At a minimum, the WAS shall consider making nominations from 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 board
(2)	Solicitation should be to all sectors, and candidates may be from all public and private sectors
(2)	Persons nominated by the WAS must disclose any potential conflicts of interest, and any financial relationship with any LC member, and disclose sources of current financial support and contracts relating to PS recovery
(3)	Panel members shall serve four-year terms, except the council shall determine initial terms of two, three, and four years to provide for staggered terms
(3)	The Council shall determine reappointments and select replacements or additional members of the panel

Current Panel Make-up

Table 2

Panel member	Current Term Ends (11/10)	Years on Panel as of Nov 10	Discipline	Expertise	Association
Joel Baker	2011	2	Environmental chemist and engineering scientist	Modeling contaminant transport in natural waters	University
Guy Gelfenbaum	2009	2	Oceanographer	Sediment transport and erosion	Federal
Bob Johnston	2009	2	Biological oceanography	Environmental and systems modeling and marine biogeochemistry and toxicology	Federal
Jan Newton	2011	2	Oceanographer	Management of research projects and marine and terrestrial research and modeling	University
Frank Shipley	2009	2	Biology	Science quality and policy and coastal ecosystem restoration	Federal
John Stark	2010	2	Entomology & pesticide toxicology	Pesticide exposure and toxicity and hazard assessment	University
Tim Quinn	2010	2	Wildlife ecology & chemistry	Vertebrate ecology, sampling design, and adaptive management	State
Usha Varanasi	2011	2	Organic chemistry	Habitat conservation	Federal
Trina Wellman	2010	2	Natural resource economics and marine policy	Economic assessment and environmental impacts of estuary and ocean conservation and management planning	Business

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Call for Applications for Nomination to the Puget Sound Partnership Science Panel

The Leadership Council of the Puget Sound Partnership is soliciting nominations for appointment to the Puget Sound Science Panel.

The Puget Sound Partnership was established as a state agency by the 2007 Legislature and the Governor to develop and implement an aggressive action agenda for restoring the health of Puget Sound by 2020.

The Partnership is a new and dynamic organization charged with taking a collaborative and accountable approach to accomplishing its mission. It relies on the contributions of a variety of entities, including state, local, federal and tribal governments, community and environmental organizations, businesses, watershed and salmon recovery groups. The Partnership's work will require creativity, innovation and a wide variety of tools and approaches to engage the public, track performance and guide progress, disseminate information to stakeholders, manage data and work collaboratively with individuals and groups throughout the region.

The Partnership is guided by the Leadership Council, consisting of seven individuals committed to the environmental and economic prosperity of Puget Sound. As the decision-making body for the Partnership, the Council depends on the Ecosystem Coordination Board to provide policy recommendations and the Science Panel to provide the scientific guidance needed to reach the goals set forth in the Action Agenda.

The Science Panel is an integral link between the Leadership Council and the scientific work being carried out in Puget Sound. The Panel is also key in communicating the scientific work and analysis to the broader public and to policy decision makers around the Sound.

More information on the Partnership is available at our Web site:
<http://www.psp.wa.gov>.

Applications are due no later than October 5, 2009. Please see the details below.

Overview of the Science Panel

The statute creating the Puget Sound Partnership (Partnership) states that the Leadership Council of the Partnership shall determine reappointments and select replacements or additional members of the Panel. The role of the Science Panel is to provide independent, nonrepresentational scientific advice to the Leadership Council, Ecosystem Coordination Board, and Executive Director of the Partnership on issues related to Puget Sound's ecological and human health. The Science Panel consists of experts from scientific, engineering and social science disciplines representing different groups engaged in the conservation, recovery and management of Puget Sound. Panel members are established scientists or senior managers with recent hands-on field experience. Prior to considering the applications, the Leadership Council will request

that the Washington State Academy of Sciences (WSAS) review the applications and endorse the applicants regarding scientific qualifications. The Leadership Council will make the final appointments.

The Science Panel's responsibilities include the following:

- Assist the Leadership Council, Ecosystem Coordination Board, and Executive Director in carrying out the obligations of the Puget Sound Partnership, including preparing and updating the Action Agenda;
- Provide recommendations on scientific issues identified by the Partnership and evaluate the technical merit of scientific and technical projects proposed to the partnership;
- Assist the Partnership in developing an ecosystem level strategic science program that:
 - addresses monitoring, modeling, data management, and primary research;
 - identifies science gaps and recommends research priorities in an biennial science work plan.
- Develop and provide 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. Science Panel members may be reappointed after their initial term but no member may serve longer than 12 years.

A key function of the Science Panel will be communicating scientific results to the public and policy makers. Panel members should be currently engaged in the interaction of science and policy on a professional level. Members should also be familiar with the implementation of science and have recent experience in applied science and research. 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 shall serve without compensation. However, members will be compensated for their travel expenses.

(Revise, if necessary, after Science Panel Meeting)

Criteria for Science Panel

Each member **must meet** the criteria:

1. Knowledge, recognized 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, 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.
5. Objectivity, flexibility and independent thinking.
6. Hold a scientist or management position with recent hands-on research experience.

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 inform policy-makers so they are able to forge creative solutions to complex management problems.

Process for Appointment to the Science Panel

The Partnership is soliciting nominations for the Partnership Science Panel. Self-nominations are encouraged. The WSAS will review and endorse applicants regarding scientific qualifications. A subcommittee of Leadership Council members, Ecosystem Coordination Board, and staff will evaluate the applicants using evaluation criteria developed by the Science Panel and provide the top names to the Leadership Council. The Leadership Council will make the final appointments of members to the Science Panel.

Nominees with recognized expertise in fields and disciplines of science directly related to the recovery of Puget Sound will be considered for appointment to the Science Panel. For appointments to be made in late 2009, the Science Panel especially encourages nominations for panel membership from persons who would provide expertise in: (fill in after SP September discussions). 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 for application of a candidate for consideration by the Partnership:

- 1 **Self-nomination:** Candidates interested in submitting themselves for consideration to the Science Panel must submit a cover letter and resume. The cover letter should indicate why the candidate is interested in this position and how the candidate meets the criteria identified above (up to 2 pages). Candidates must also submit contact information for three individuals who support their nomination.
- 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 (up to 2 pages). In addition, contact information for two additional individuals who support the nomination of the candidate. Contact information for the candidate must be included.

Application Submittal Guidelines

Submit electronic or hard copy of materials described above by **5:00 p.m. on Monday, October 5, 2009** to:

Puget Sound Partnership
Science Panel Nominations
Box 40900
Olympia WA 98504-0900
Applications@psp.wa.gov (need to confirm this is mailbox set up before solicitation posted)

An email will be sent confirming that the information has been received.

For questions on the Science Panel appointment process, please contact Scott Redman, Puget Sound Partnership at (360) 725-5448; email at scott.redman@psp.wa.gov