

WORKING TOGETHER IN ACTION AREAS
Structure and Roles
Agenda Item #04

Introduction

This memo covers two topics. First it discusses proposed roles for Leadership Council members in Action Areas. Second, it discusses progress and next steps for developing Local Integrating Organizations in Action Areas.

Advice Sought

Would the Leadership Council like to adopt, amend, or defer action on the roles proposed below for Leadership Council members in Action Areas?

Action Area Background

Pursuant to our enabling legislation, the Leadership Council initially established seven Action Areas, “delineated based upon the common issues and interests of the entities in those areas, and upon the characteristics of the Sound’s physical structure, and the water flows into and within the Sound.” (RCW 90.71.260(2)). Early in the Action Agenda process, it was determined that San Juan County and Whatcom County should plan separately. Currently, we are functioning with eight Action Areas. With one exception, (North Central Action Area) each Action Area has an assigned Leadership Council member.

Leadership Council representations for each Action Area

- San Juan-Bill Ruckelshaus
- Whatcom - Diana Gale
- Whidbey -Steve Sakuma
- South Central Puget Sound - Martha Kongsgaard
- South Puget Sound - Billy Frank, Jr.
- North Central - David Dicks?
- Hood Canal - Dan O’Neal
- Strait - Bill Wilkerson

Partnership Staff for each Action Area:

- San Juan – Linda Lyshall
- Whatcom – Linda Lyshall
- Whidbey – Rebecca Ponzio and Morgan Schneider - Rebecca (Skagit);
Morgan (Whidbey, Snohomish, King County)
- South Central Puget Sound – Jason Mulvhill-Kuntz
- South Puget Sound – Roma Call

- North Central – John Meyer
- Hood Canal – John Meyer
- Strait - John Cambalik

Proposed Roles and responsibilities of Leadership Council members in the Action Area:

Leadership Council members can play an important role within their assigned Action Area. This role could include:

- Enthusiastic supporters of the Action Agenda, Puget Sound Partnership and our mission within the Action Area
- Interested observers who understand the unique socio-political dynamics of the action area.
- Cognizant of the broad diversity of “partnership” interests within the Action Area.
- Assist with building momentum and interest around commonly agreed upon priorities.
- In collaboration with Partnership staff and the Action Area ECB representative, assist with increasing social and political support for implementing priority near term actions within the action area.

Local Integration Progress and Next Steps

Goals and Expectations of Local Integrating Organizations: Implement and foster implementation of the Action Agenda.

Roles, Responsibilities, and Scope of Work for Local Integrating Organizations.

- Advise the Partnership on local priorities in the Action Agenda.
- Provide assistance to enhance implementation work by local groups.
- Work cooperatively to implement strategic actions in the Action Agenda.
- Base work on the best scientific information available, including from tribal, local, state, federal and the Puget Sound Partnership’s scientific staff and Science Panel.
- Evaluate progress implementing the Action Agenda at the local scale. Report on implementing the Action Agenda at the local scale.

Criteria and process for selecting local integrating organizations:

Local integrating organizations will be selected that have:

- Strong support from the local community and are broadly inclusive.
- Strong capacity to execute roles, responsibilities, and the scope of work.

Local Governments and tribes have been invited to consult with each other and with groups sponsoring or administering watershed programs to evaluate options for organizing a local integrating group. In many cases, an existing organization will be supported to undertake this role. In other cases, a new organization could be formed.

Joint Tribal-Local Government Recommendation. After consulting locally, tribes and local governments from a local area have been invited to make a joint recommendation regarding local integration. It is hoped that this recommendation would identify the local integrating organization and would propose an initial scope of work and geography for the local integrating organization. Partnership staff will prepare an analysis of this recommendation for the Leadership Council. Based on the local recommendation and partnership staff analysis, the Leadership Council will be asked to decide whether to recognize the local integrating organization and whether to accept its proposed scope of work.

Local Integration Update

- San Juan – Close to final proposal on local integration
- Whatcom – Further work is needed
- Whidbey – Further work is needed; conversations on-going regarding whether the Whidbey Action Area would be more effectively organized at a different geographic scale
- South Central – Close to final proposal on local integration
- South PS – Conversations have begun; additional work needed
- North Central – Additional work needed
- Hood Canal – Close to final proposal on local integration
- Strait – Close to final proposal on local integration

Next Steps

Partnership staff proposes to bring forward approximately four local integration proposals to the Leadership Council for its review and approval at the next Leadership Council meeting. These proposals are expected from San Juan County, the South Central Action Area, Hood Canal Action Area, and the Strait of Juan de Fuca Action Area. The staff expects to recommend Leadership Council approval of these proposals.