

Puget Sound Partnership Update

June 2010

National Estuary Program Review and Tour

As many know, the Puget Sound Partnership is part of the National Estuary Program. Each of these programs receives a periodic review – usually every 3 years. The purpose of the review is to determine continued eligibility, identify program strengths and challenges, discuss progress from the prior review and highlight lessons learned that could be transferred to other estuary programs.

The Partnership's review has been underway for the past six months or so, culminating in a site visit by the review team in late June - which included senior staff from EPA headquarters, Region X and the Director of the San Francisco Estuary Partnership. The visit included boat tours of Commencement Bay and the Snohomish River estuary, a first hand look at recovery efforts in Hood Canal, WSU's new Stormwater Technical Resource Center, and briefings on a range of topics. The review team also enjoyed a seafood dinner on the shores of Totten Inlet at the home of Partnership staffer and oyster grower Duane Fagergren.

Participation by members of the Leadership Council, ECB and Science Panel and many partners helped make the tour a success.

Stormwater and Low Impact Development

The Partnership is initiating work on developing a needs assessment for fully implementing municipal stormwater permit programs and retrofitting inadequate municipal stormwater infrastructure in the region. Other tasks include quantifying some of the benefits of these expenditures, developing a stormwater vision for the region, and developing an investment strategy. Work to-date will be presented to the ECB and LC in July.

Washington Marine Spatial Planning Assessment

Marine Spatial Planning (MPS) is a process for coordinating decisions for coastal and ocean activities and environments in a comprehensive plan. MPS uses data on the location of important marine resources, human activities, and other key components to determine the most appropriate locations for particular uses. As per Section 4 of SSB 6350 recently passed by the Legislature, a marine interagency team must assess and recommend a framework for conducting MPS within the State of Washington and integrating the planning into existing management plans, including the Puget Sound Action Agenda. The assessment authorized under this legislation, also requires a summation of existing goals and objectives from various plans, including those important to the recovery of Puget Sound (i.e., Action Agenda,

shoreline plans for shorelines around the state; management plans for state-owned aquatic lands and their associated waters statewide; and watershed and salmon recovery management plans). This marine interagency team will develop and recommend goals and objectives for MPS that integrate with existing policies and regulations, and recommend a schedule to develop marine ecosystem health indicators, while considering the views and recommendations of affected stakeholders and governmental agencies. A draft report resulting from this work will be available for public comment in September with a final report due to the Legislature in December 2010. Partnership staff is actively participating on the marine interagency team.

Tribal Protocols

After a year of effort, the Puget Sound Partnership and tribal representatives produced a set of protocols that will guide the government-to-government relationship between the 19 federally recognized Puget Sound tribes and the Partnership. The protocols establish the Partnership Tribal Co-Management Council, which will meet at least quarterly. The Council will provide an opportunity for improved coordination and collaboration on Action Agenda implementation and updates. David Dicks presented signed copies of the protocols to Swinomish Chairman Brian Cladoosby at the Centennial Accords asking that he distribute copies to the tribal chairs of the Puget Sound Tribes and invite them to sign. Chairman Cladoosby co-chaired the Centennial Accords with Governor Chris Gregoire.

Dashboard Indicators Work Progressing

John Becker presented the DRAFT Dashboard Indicators at a meeting with the EPA, NOAA, state agencies, local governments, tribes and others. Also present were Phil Levin, NOAA, on hand to explain the natural science underpinnings for the new Dashboard Indicators, along with Trina Wellman, from the Science Panel, and Jacques White, from Long Live the Kings to speak about the social science backdrop for the Dashboard Indicators.

The members of the Indicators Action Team included:

- Leonard Bauer, Department of Commerce
- Helen Berry, Department of Natural Resources
- Mary Beth Brown, Puget Sound Partnership
- Rob Duff, Department of Ecology
- Angela Grout, US Environmental Protection Agency
- Ken Currens, Northwest Indian Fisheries
- Phil Levin, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
- Tim Quinn, Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Trina Wellman, Northern Economics, Inc.
- Jacques White, Long Live the Kings
- Bethany Johnson, University of Washington (student)
- Brian Payne, University of Washington (student)

Since that meeting, the Dashboard has been revised based on the input received from many stakeholders along the way, including the Science Panel, the Leadership Council, the State Caucus, the Puget Sound Environmental Caucus and others. Another presentation is planned for the Ecosystem Coordination Board in July, followed by the Leadership Council meeting on July 30th where approval of the Dashboard is anticipated.

This is the first time such a Dashboard is being employed to help illustrate the health of Puget Sound. Other National Estuary and Great Waters programs utilize a dashboard approach to indicators.

Invasive species

In effort to strengthen the state's invasive species management programs and keeping with Governor Gregoire's budget reform mandate, state agencies will propose a sustainable funding package to manage invasive species. Agencies worked through the Washington Invasive Species Council to identified key policy and funding needs. The funding package will include dedicated resources from existing revenue streams or new fees. Agency sponsored legislation will cover part or all of the cost for several programs including: the state ballast water program; the state vessel inspection and enforcement program for zebra mussels and other invasive species; a \$500,000 emergency fund for responding to new invasions; and continuation of the functions of the Washington Invasive Species Council. Members of the Puget Sound state caucus will coordinate proposals for invasive species program funding – and will present them to the ECB and the LC for feedback and approval as necessary.

As part of our Action Agenda goal to enhance and target existing capacity to rapidly respond to immediate invasive species risks, the SeaDoc Society gave the University of Washington a \$35,000 grant to evaluate the impacts of invasive tunicates on native communities and to assess the effectiveness of control and eradicate efforts. This timely grant complements the Partnership's interagency agreement with WDFW to control invasive tunicates in Puget Sound. The UW work could be expanded with additional resources to include evaluation of the effects of invasive tunicates on the commercially important native geoduck population. Through PSP's interagency agreement with WDFW, information on the Invasive Tunicate Management Program is on the web at <http://wdfw.wa.gov/fish/ans/tunicates.htm>. The web page includes information on the risks that nonnative tunicates pose to the environment and economy, their distribution in Puget Sound, management plans and reports of progress at managing these invaders.

Finance and Budget

The Partnership worked with state and federal agencies to collect and complete the initial review of their cost estimates for implementing the Action Agenda in the 2011-13 Biennium. The Partnership's Corrective Action Plan to respond to the State Auditor's fiscal audit was submitted to the Office of Financial Management on June

11th as required by the State Accounting and Administrative Manual. The agency's policies related to contracts, purchasing and other financial matters were reviewed and modified as necessary to address issues raised in the agency audit. An initial review of the current cooperative agreement between the Partnership and the EPA was undertaken for potential second year adjustments.

June Board Meetings

The Science Panel met on June 8 at the WSU Research Center in Puyallup. This was a landmark meeting with the Panel approving the Strategic Science Plan for submittal to the Leadership Council. The next Panel products to be released will be the Puget Sound Science Update, Synthesis Report, and Science Policy Summary. The current list of dashboard indicators were discussed and a target setting process was requested for discussion at the August Science Panel meeting. The Panel was also provided a tour of the new low impact development (LID) research project that is being implemented at the WSU Center.

At the Leadership Council meeting on June 17 the Strategic Science Plan was adopted as an official Partnership document. The Council thanked the Science Panel, and Jan Newton in particular, for the work on this "first-rate" report. The Council was also updated on the dashboard indicators, which are scheduled for approval at the July Leadership Council meeting, and began work on the 2011 legislative session planning.

On June 18, the Ecosystem Coordination Board Executive Committee began preparation for its July 15 meeting. This looks to be a very full agenda focused on 2011 legislative planning and further review and discussion concerning dashboard indicators. The meeting will be held at the WSU Research Facility in Mt. Vernon.

Cross-Partnership Work Groups

The Social Strategies Work Group met and had a robust discussion of the proposed Human Health and Well-Being dashboard indicators led by Trina Wellman. Trina will be taking the group's input back to the Indicators Action Team.

Performance Management Work group met in June. See the "Dashboard Indicators" section above.

Engagement, Stewardship and Communications

David Dicks joined Bremerton Mayor Patty Lent and other city officials for a Low Impact Development tour of various city projects accompanied by a KING-TV crew. KING-TV ran an excellent story on how Bremerton is implementing LID, and how other cities or jurisdictions could follow their lead. David also had a meeting with the Kitsap Sun Editorial Board to discuss Partnership progress and other items of interest.

Action Area Highlights

South Sound Action Area

- The South Puget Sound workgroup completed a draft Outreach Plan as part of its draft proposal for a Local Integrating Organization (LIO).
- The draft LIO proposal, including the Outreach Plan, will be presented to the South Puget Sound tribal and county elected officials for review on July 29th.
- PSP staff met with Dick Muri of the Pierce County Council regarding his recent membership to the South Sound LIO elected officials group.

San Juan Action Area

- At its June 17th meeting, the Leadership Council officially recognized the proposal for a San Juan Local Integrating Organization (LIO). Richard Fralick, San Juan County Council Chair, and member of the San Juan LIO Proposal Steering Committee, presented the proposal to the Council.
- The Salmon Recovery Lead Entity has scheduled a meeting with its technical advisory committee and members of the Regional Implementation Technical Team (RITT) to begin developing a salmon recovery adaptive management and monitoring plan.
- PSP staff met with Common Sense Alliance, a grass roots organization representing San Juan citizens and property rights advocates, to discuss the San Juan LIO proposal and their participation in the process.

North-Central Action Area

- Staff continues to work closely with the Action Area representative and community leaders to consider potential approaches to establishing a Local Integrating Organization (LIO) in the North-Central Action Area.
- The Lead Entity (West Sound Watersheds Council) is currently working on several salmon and ecosystem-recovery project initiatives, including allocating annual funds to on-the-ground protection and restoration projects for salmon, executing the restoration of Carpenter Creek in north Kitsap County, and articulating what large projects of region-wide significance tied salmon and ecosystem recovery may look like in the North-Central Action Area.
- PSP staff continues to work with elected officials, staff, community members, and other agencies to advance critical components of the Action Agenda.

Whidbey Basin Action Area

- Skagit, Stillaguamish, Snohomish, and Island watersheds are continuing to advance a process to fund over \$3 million for habitat restoration and protection capital projects
- Work started to advance a conversation about land uses in the Skagit and Snohomish Counties. The Skagit is being discussed through the Tidegate and Fish Initiative and the Snohomish County process through Snohomish Sustainable Lands strategies.

- An Island EcoNet boat trip occurred to provide local decisions makers with a shoreline perspective of Action Agenda priorities.

Whatcom Action Area

- WRIA 1 (Nooksack Watershed) continuing to advance a process to fund over \$700,000 for habitat restoration and protection capital projects
- Date identified (11/3) for a Nooksack Salmon Summit
- WRIA 1 Marine Resource Committee is working to re-evaluate strategic focus, including incorporating Action Agenda information into their approach

Hood Canal Action Area

- Under direction from the Hood Canal Coordinating Council, PSP staff regularly participates on a working group designed to advance the Council's integrated watershed planning effort. Currently, the working group is focusing on how to develop targets for recovery and monitoring as well as an education and outreach plan to engage the broader Hood Canal community. The purpose of the plan is to provide a coordinated and comprehensive strategy to protect and restore Hood Canal.
- Partnership staff is working closely with the Council and staff to develop a proposal to the Leadership Council to establish the HCCC as the LIO for the Hood Canal Action Area.
- The Lead Entity is currently identifying new projects to move forward in this year's SRFB round, develop a representative list for next year's PSAR dollars (should they be appropriated), and consider what some projects of regionally significant importance may look like in the Hood Canal.
- Partnership staff worked with the Ocean Acidification partnership on the Totten Inlet/Olympia Oyster research project, and confirmed that the "ORCA" buoy that will telemeter real-time water quality data, including dissolved carbon dioxide levels, to the University of Washington was moved into Dabob Bay in Hood Canal. This data will be highly valuable to monitor marine water corrosivity at times of Pacific Oyster setting later this summer.

South Central Action Area:

- At its June meeting, the Leadership Council accepted the proposal from the South Central Action Area Caucus Group to serve as the local integrating organization for the Action Area.
- The Caucus Group continues to advance assessment of restoration actions, to identify local priorities for recommendation to the Partnership.
- The Lake Washington/Cedar/Sammamish, Green/Duwamish, and Puyallup/White watersheds completed their three-year work plan updates for salmon recovery implementation, which are available on the Partnership's website: http://www.psp.wa.gov/SR_threeyearworkplan.php
- The City of Burien's Seahurst Park recently received the 2010 Best Restored Beach Award from the American Shore and Beach Preservation Association.

- Partnership staff attended a reception honoring outgoing Navy Region Northwest's Admiral James Symonds. The reception was also an opportunity to highlight the environmental achievements made during his watch, and he thanked the many agencies, environmental groups and Tribes who had made the Navy accountable and more aware of environmental issues in Hood Canal and broader Puget Sound.

Strait of Juan de Fuca Action Area Progress Report - June 2010

- Strait Ecosystem Recovery Network (Strait ERN) – Staff continues to lead efforts by the Strait ERN Strategic Planning Task Force (Task Force) to prioritize strategies and actions from the Action Agenda across the Strait Action Area. The first attempt to accomplish this task, using a purely quantitative criteria-driven scoring approach was unsuccessful due to complexity and time constraints. In June, the Task Force will consider modifying this quantitative approach, or move toward more of a qualitative approach, using criteria, to accomplish this work.
- Strait ECO Net - Work on the “Voices of the Strait” video project funded by the Partnership is nearly complete. A ‘screening’ of a draft of the video at the June 4th Strait ERN meeting received positive feedback. This video, and a shorter version for use on the Internet, will be completed by June 30th. Staff continues to participate on the advisory group for this work.
- Salmon Recovery and Action Agenda Implementation – Staff, working with a member of the Salmon Recovery Council, drafted the policy review of the 2010 3-Year Work Plan update for the N. Olympic Peninsula Watersheds. Staff is also supporting the technical review of this work plan update by the RITT. Efforts to support the updates of the SMPs for Clallam jurisdictions and to improve the Stormwater Management Program for Clallam County, which are also important to salmon recovery, actively continue.
- Inter-Agency Coordination - Staff work to lead the review for the Partnership of the ALEA and WWRP-HCA proposals is nearly complete. Conflicts with strategies and actions in the Action Agenda were evaluated for each proposal.