

Puget Sound Leadership Council  
Meeting Summary  
Edmonds City Hall – Brackett Room  
121 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue N  
Edmonds, Washington  
June 17, 2010

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Members Present:

- Bill Ruckelshaus
  - Martha Kongsgaard
  - Diana Gale
  - Steve Sakuma
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*It is intended that this summary be used along with notebook materials provided for the meeting. A recording of this meeting is retained by Puget Sound Partnership as part of the formal record.*

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Action Items:

- Adopt Strategic Science Plan
- Approve Ecosystem Coordination Board (ECB) member terms
- Appoint ECB Environmental Representative

Meeting Summary:

- Agency Update
  - Staff and organizational update
  - Progress report
  - Response to recent audit
- 2011 Planning
  - 2011 PSP Legislative Agenda
- Budget and Funding – State budget overview
- Council Business
  - Science Panel – Strategic Science Plan approval
  - Ecosystem Coordination Board
    - Approval of ECB member terms
    - Environmental Representative appointment
- Monitoring Program - development update
- Performance Management – update on setting ecosystem indicators
- Working together in Action Areas – Local Integrating Organization proposals – recognize Hood Canal, San Juan, and Strait of Juan de Fuca

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Ruckelshaus called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m. and reviewed the agenda for the day.

### **AGENCY UPDATE**

The new Puget Sound Partnership Deputy Director, Gerry O'Keefe, has been on staff for a month, the hardest month in agency history. He explained how the audit was actually a tool for improving our organization. He then gave an organizational update listing:

- The audit and how staff are correcting issues
- Critical gaps in staffing and how he is working to fill those gaps, including the Science Program Director, Data Manager, and Oil Spill position
- How staff are in the process of work planning and strategic planning for the agency. Once they are completed, he will bring both the strategic plan and staff work plan to the Leadership Council. Quarterly management meetings will also be provided. The first quarterly meeting is scheduled for October

Bill discussed David's annual work plan and the need to organize both the staff and strategic work plans around it, developing a sequence to link them all on an annual basis. Gerry agreed.

Executive Director, David Dicks, then reported, starting with the audit and follow-up.

- He reported that he underestimated the impact of the audit report on the public. The vast majority of items were technical procurement issues and have already been addressed
- Chair Ruckelshaus noted that David has talked individually to all the members of the Council and he believes staff is taking very strong steps to make sure these rule violations don't happen in the future. It is crucial that we, who are holding others accountable, hold ourselves to a higher standard
- David then explained the federal legislation that would authorize the Puget Sound Partnership and would secure a funding source the same as Chesapeake Bay and the Everglades
- The EPA National Estuary Program (NEP) review is next week
- David commended Martha Kongsgaard and Bill Wilkerson on the work they are doing with the tribes. A good working relationship with the tribes is essential to working hand-in-hand with them and other partners, just as we are doing with budget and legislative projects
- He also thanked Diana Gale for her work on indicators reporting. John Becker and his group are doing a good job identifying the dashboard indicators for approval in July

The Council discussed a recent letter to the Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) concerning floodplains and how the Partnership is involved. The Council was not clear how the Partnership decides what role it should take and which issues to address. David reported that David St. John is our Policy/Planning Analyst, that staff supported the letter and the Partnership is working with the King County Flood Plain District to work on a settlement.

The Council's concern was how to avoid taking a stance on a position when we should be convening to reach an agreement. David thought the Partnership could either be an impartial convener or take a position on the issue but still bring people together to address all sides. We have a mandate to find a resolution that is best for the Sound.

The Council does not want to require staff to include the Council every time they sign a letter but would like to find a way to keep them better informed in the future.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

*Pete Granger, Washington Sea Grant*, provided a report and information on oil spills.

*Naki Stevens, Department of Natural Resources (DNR)*, is happy to see John Becker's indicators work. Eight of the nineteen indicators are within the DNR purview, and the agency is including the indicators in their strategic plan with Puget Sound being one of agency's six goals. Having indicators is an important first step. In addition to developing 2020 targets for the agency, DNR is thinking of other ways to link their work with the Puget Sound recovery goals.

Chair Ruckelshaus noted that it is very reassuring to hear what the DNR is doing with this and meshing with their targets is good.

Naki reported that the agency is trying to model good behavior and hopes that other agencies will follow their lead.

*Fred Felleman, WAVE Consulting*, talked about attending a recent event at Cherry Point. He where he saw many seabirds concentrated in the area. He noted that although there was not a strong herring run, it was still bringing seabirds to the area.

Concerning Martha's comments on the Partnership taking a stand, he supports the Partnership having an opinion and convening groups for a facilitated discussion.

Fred also wants to be sure there is historical data for the selected indicators and a direct link to Puget Sound. The number of Killer Whales in Puget Sound may not be a good indicator, but how much time they spend in the Sound is possibly a better indicator. He also suggested herring might be a better indicator than jelly fish due to the historical data available. For the human health question, a good indicator may be harbor seals because we have historical data.

Fred will provide feedback to John Becker in writing and copy the Leadership Council members.

*Heather Trim, People for Puget Sound*, sees the Strategic Science Plan as a strong document and endorses the Council's adoption of this document. She generally likes

the proposed indicators but agrees with Fred's comments. She does not support the water quality index indicator because when you do this kind of composite, you mute the problems. She would like to see more break-outs in the water quality section. Regarding Naki's comments, she would also like to see the schedule for 2020 target development.

Randy Kinley, Lummi Nation introduced *Stillaguamish Tribal Chair, Shawn Yanity*

Shawn thanked the Partnership for giving recognition at the Centennial Accord. He noted that a lot of tribal work is dependent on local, state, and federal work. He believes the fish consumption rates need to be increased on the water quality standards because tribal fish consumption rate is so high. .

*Randy Kinley, Lummi Nation*, voiced concern that the tribes may not have had time to thoroughly vet the dashboard indicators yet, but will try to vet the indicators by the July approval date. He would like to find a way to make sure there is tribal representation at key meetings.

Chair Ruckelshaus assured Randy that there is still time between now and the July meeting. He reminded him that we have been working on this for a long time and at some point, we need to go forward. However, the indicators will not be written in stone.

Randy agreed with the need to move forward and is glad that the indicators can be changed if necessary. He encouraged the Partnership to make sure that message is included..

He was also concerned with Fred's comments that sometimes the tribes will want the Partnership to address conflicts, for example, using the cross-purposes of the Salmon Recovery and Mammal Protection Acts.

Diana Gale reported that the Performance Management Cross-Partnership Workgroup discussed the need to get indicators from the tribes. The Partnership needs to continue to move ahead, but they also need the tribes to provide core indicators.

**Action:** David Dicks will follow up with the tribes.

## **COUNCIL BUSINESS**

**Science Panel** (See meeting materials for details.)

*Strategic Science Plan Approval*

Science Panel member Jan Newton presented the Council with the Strategic Science Plan for approval.

Chair Ruckelshaus thanked Jan and the Science Panel for the work on this document and agreed with Heather Trim's comments that this is an excellent document.

Jan responded that she is happy to present this document to the Council on behalf of the Science Panel. She explained how the three Science Panel documents (Puget Sound Science Update, Strategic Science Plan, and Biennial Science Work Plan) complement each other. The Strategic Science Plan lays out the overall science direction; the details are defined in the Biennial Science Work Plan, which sets the biennial priorities; and all the work will include the science behind the Puget Sound Science Update, a comprehensive view of the science around the Sound.

Chair Ruckelshaus asked whether we have the right sequence for the reports. Does this document need to be reproduced in the statute?

Jan reported that approval is required for the initial Strategic Science Plan, but there is no schedule for revisions. The Science Panel believes it is a living document, will revise if needed, and bring back to the Council for approval. Timing is not an issue with this document.

Martha Kongsgaard **MOVED** to adopt the Strategic Science Plan. Diana Gale **SECONDED**. The Council **APPROVED** the Strategic Science Plan as presented.

## **2011 PLANNING**

### *2011 Puget Sound Partnership Legislative Agenda*

David provided an overview of the legislative strategy and explained how in some cases the Partnership will support, facilitate, and lead the legislation. He then reviewed some of the potential items listed as follow: (See meeting materials for details.)

- *Shoreline Management Act* – facilitate
- *Oil Spill Prevention and Response* – due to problems in Gulf, this has become foremost in everyone's minds and will take on an even higher profile in the legislative session
- *Invasive Species* – we need to get ahead on this so that the species don't become an even bigger problem
- *Growth* – deal proactively with – looking at Growth Management Act for change needs – Action Agenda requires us to protect the best remaining areas which is what the watershed characterization work is doing – staff have been talking to the Cascade Land Conservancy about a tax increment finance bill
- *Stormwater fee bill* – The Governor supported this legislation last year and it came close to passing. There is still concern about whether this is this the right vehicle or not – good news is that everyone agrees we need to do something big and serious; we just haven't reached agreement on how
- Also thinking about the broader funding of Puget Sound – couple years ago looking at the taxing district – not sure what to use – there are lots of initiatives out there

David noted this is the initial briefing and the Council will spend time at its July meeting planning for the 2011 legislative session.

Council Comments:

- Need a process for approving the legislative package
- Need a subcommittee to work with staff on legislation between meetings
- For the most part, the only legislation the Partnership would lead would be changes to our statute; we should co-lead with partners on other issues
- Need feedback from the Ecosystem Coordination Board (ECB) before approval of legislative package
- Council would like to know proponents and opponents of the legislative items before making any decisions
- Restrict Leadership Council approval of the legislative package to issues where the Partnership is lead or co-lead and/or there are changes to the Partnership statute
- Council will need to agree on general themes, but recognize that things will change before and during session

## **BUDGET AND FUNDING**

### *State Budget Overview*

Jim Cahill provided the budget overview and explained this discussion is in preparation for the July meeting when the Council will be asked to approve the Partnership's budget request for submittal to the Governor in September. (See meeting materials for details.)

Jim then provided details on the budget proposals. The Partnership has a \$16 million overall budget with \$4.3 million consisting of pass-through grants to other organizations. The state budget outlook continues to look grim and the Governor is looking for federal funding to help balance the budget. If that doesn't come through, the outlook could be even worse. Asking for state money next biennium will be very hard. The goal will be to keep funding at the current level.

The Management Team met and agreed that asking for state money wouldn't be very fruitful this session, so we are now focusing on a federal budget request. Staff will bring the budget package to the Leadership Council for approval at the July meeting. The agency budget packet is due on September 13 to the Office of Financial Management (OFM).

Staff will continue to narrow and develop a complete package by July. The question before the Council at this meeting is if there are any additional issues they would like addressed and included in the next biennium.

Chair Ruckelshaus stressed the need to be honest about how much it will cost to accomplish our goal of a healthy Puget Sound by 2020. Jim responded that the

Legislature plans to have this conversation using the required Cost Estimates Report due on September 1. Staff will bring this report to the Council for approval at the July meeting.

Diana Gale noted that it is hard to talk about the need for money when there is no money. She is a fan of citizen science initiatives, which gets people engaged and builds support in the future. She believes staff is already working on this.

Martha Kongsgaard discussed how communications is always the first to be cut, but she believes it is the third leg of our stool and we need to make sure that it is funded. Gerry O'Keefe noted that although it is hard to fund communications with state funding, federal funds could be used. We need to identify the needs and then look for the best fund source.

David Dicks discussed the competitive process use by the EPA for distributing funds. The current construct is to distribute the funds in four areas with a lead agency for each. The Partnership is working with the other state agencies to put together our package.

After discussion with the Leadership Council the main themes for the state budget request will include:

- Support for local integrating organizations
- Science and monitoring support
- Staffing for other key initiatives

Diana commended David for holding the line on Puget Sound funding.

## **COUNCIL BUSINESS**

**Ecosystem Coordination Board** (See meeting materials for details.)

### *ECB Member Terms*

Tammy Owings presented the proposed ECB member terms to the Leadership Council. She had briefed the Council at its March meeting and reported that the proposed terms were vetted by the ECB who had no objections.

Diana Gale noted that all the positions held by women have their terms up at the same time. She would like to pay more attention to diversity on this body.

It was suggested to exchange the terms of Action Area representatives King and Wrye.

Tammy will change Teri King's term to 2012 and Dan Wrye's to 2011.

Diana Gale **MOVED** approval of the proposed terms. Martha Kongsgaard **SECONDED**. Council **APPROVED** the proposed terms.

Tammy will work with Chair Ruckelshaus to provide letters to ECB members noting their terms.

#### *Environmental Representative Appointment*

Tammy Owings reviewed the appointment process with the Council. The Environmental Representative position is to be appointed at this meeting. She reported that one application was received. The Environmental Caucus supports this appointment and staff recommends appointment of Chris Davis as the Environmental Representative to the ECB.

Martha Kongsgaard also voiced her support of Chris' qualifications and **MOVED** the Council to approve this appointment. Diana Gale **SECONDED** the appointment. Council **APPROVED** the appointment of Chris Davis as the Environmental Representative on the ECB.

Tammy will work with the Chair to send a letter to outgoing board members to thank them for their work on the Board.

#### **PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT**

John Becker provided an overview of the process used to identify the draft dashboard indicators list, steps to get to Leadership Council decision in July, and continuing process to improve over time. (See meeting materials for details.)

The Council asked John how to integrate all the performance processes (such as the Governor's management system) and ensure they don't drive you to different outcomes. John explained the Leadership Council would have the dashboard before them at all meetings to keep them focused. They then discussed the need for adaptive management, ways to visually capture changes, communicate with the public and tell the story. John noted this is pioneering work and we aren't sure how it will work, but we are going to try – it is a great challenge.

John explained the champion process he used for development of the indicators and the new plan to develop a formal target setting process.

Phil Levin then presented information about the indicator portfolios and explained how the information presented today was built from work done over the last many years, including the indicator work of Sandie O'Neill and others. He explained the first step was organizing the list of 705 indicators using the open standard framework. After this, they were evaluated for science using eighteen different criteria:

- 5 scientific criteria
- 8 data criteria
- 5 other criteria

Phil talked about how to use the proposed portfolios and substitute one indicator for another using the general equivalent indicators. The next step in making the final selections is to focus on the societal needs. They have already been reviewed for the science. Now we need to look at the social resonance of the proposed indicators.

He used herring versus jellyfish as an example. These are two equivalent indicators that could be swapped with both pros and cons for both. They are very similar as indicators although food web wise, herring have more connections, but jellyfish have more *direct* connections. Monitoring costs for these two indicators are also comparable. In the end, the deciding factor will be the social resonance.

He explained that as the systems change, the indicators will need to change and that once developed, the social indicators will help direct the ecosystem indicators.

Trina Wellman then provided an update on progress made on the social science indicators. She explained that this work wasn't completed in time to use with John's work. She noted that the process to identify the human wellbeing indicators began in 2008 and the human wellbeing indicators listed in the draft Ecosystem Indicators Dashboard are based on expert opinion. She then reviewed the list of potential indicators.

The Leadership Council will have a presentation on the Social Strategies Index at a future meeting.

In July, the Leadership Council will be provided with the proposed options, along with information on costs, feedback from the Ecosystem Coordination Board and Science Panel, and other items to assist with the decision. It is critical for the Leadership Council to decide on the indicators in July.

John reported that, once the indicators are identified, the Science Panel will help with the identification of the targets and ranges for the Leadership Council to select from.

### **MONITORING PROGRAM**

Nathalie Hamel reviewed the work of the monitoring program, Launch Committee, and progress being made. (See meeting materials for details.)

She reminded the Council that there is already monitoring going on in Puget Sound and that the Partnership doesn't want to duplicate efforts but to coordinate and help tell the story about what is happening around the Sound. We will rely on partners to share their data and also help to tell the stories.

She reported that the Launch Committee will be meeting in July and then once a month for the next 6 months.

Chair Ruckelshaus voiced concern with the indicators work starting in August. Nathalie noted that the group wanted to wait to get started until after the Leadership Council approval in July, but heard during the discussion the need for gathering of data prior to the July Leadership Council meeting.

Nathalie discussed how the Partnership can't do this alone and that we need to honor the monitoring efforts currently in place. The Partnership will play a role as leader, facilitator, and moderator in the Monitoring Program. Monitoring in Puget Sound is a network and the Partnership is just part of that network.

Gerry reminded everyone that it is critical for the data to be transparent and all the raw data be available.

### **WORKING TOGETHER IN ACTION AREAS – STRUCTURE AND ROLES**

Joe Ryan provided an overview of how the Partnership plans to use Local Integrating Organizations (LIO) to coordinate work in the Action Areas and introduced the three LIO groups being recognized at this meeting: San Juan, South Central, and Strait of Juan de Fuca. He then asked each of the representatives to give an overview of their action area. (See meeting materials for details.)

Mayor Joan McGilton, City of Burien, provided the overview of work being done in the South Central Action Area. Councilman Richard Fralick presented the San Juan Island overview, and Commissioner Steve Tharinger. Their area had the concerns with the AA map of change and the organic nature of Action Areas presented for the Strait of Juan de Fuca.

Chair Ruckelshaus thanked all three of the representatives for their presentations. He noted how important it is to recognize the independence of the people. He explained the need to be able to amend the Action Area profiles in the Action Agenda to fit better their. All three groups have different needs but all need funding, which we are trying to get in place.

David Dicks thanked the groups and noted that local governments are where the action is. They have to be players in this work or it won't be successful. He noted how he had discussed this when he met with EPA director, Lisa Jackson, and when she spoke on the radio the next day she described how different Puget Sound is from the other efforts because of the local involvement.

After some discussion about the differences between these three LIO groups and their efforts, Martha Kongsgaard questioned the use of the word "approval" for the LIO groups. She sees these as local efforts that will evolve and change as needed. After discussion the Council decided they would "recognize" these groups.

Steve Sakuma **MOVED** to recognize the Hood Canal, San Juan, and Strait of Juan de Fuca Local Integrating Organizations. Martha Kongsgaard **SECONDED**. The Council **APPROVED** recognition of the Local Integrating Organizations.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

*Kris Holm, Association of Washington Business*, thanked the Council for the opportunity for business and other interests to testify. Business has been involved with the stormwater consortium and supports an entity that is independently funded. She reported that the stormwater workgroup (SWG) report is expected to be final by June 30.

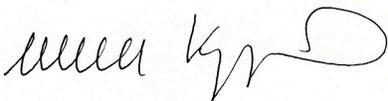
Chair Ruckelshaus reported the SWG came before the Council a year ago supporting an independent group and that has not been ruled out. However, the Council needs to move the monitoring work forward before coming to that solution.

*Fred Felleman, WAVE Consulting*, thought the conversation on the indicators was very enlightening and that Phil Levin's discussion was very illuminating. He noted that none of us is fully informed, and he hopes to have a more interactive discussion before the final decisions are made. We need to value these indicators as if they are the only indicators we will get. To him it seems like one criteria should be that the indicator has information to help set a benchmark, so even if both herring and jellies are the same, herring has 30 years of information and you can't buy that. He said that he's not saying we shouldn't monitor jellyfish but we shouldn't start monitoring jellyfish to the detriment of historical data.

Fred reported that he is talking to lots of media concerning the Gulf oil spill and how he becomes very popular when spills happen. He discussed the letter that was sent to the Legislature concerning the tug and how he would like to send a letter concerning oil spills with the Governor's signature. We need people all around the Sound to be on standby ready to react if a spill happens.

**4:15 p.m. ADJOURN**

Leadership Council Approval



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Martha Kongsgaard, Chair

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April 28, 2011  
Date