

## Resolution 2011-03 Coordinated Ecosystem Monitoring and Assessment Program

**WHEREAS**, the Puget Sound Partnership Science Panel, with approval of the Leadership Council, shall guide the implementation and coordination of a Puget Sound assessment and monitoring program (RCW 90.71.060); and

**WHEREAS**, the Science Panel is directed to assist the Partnership in developing a strategic science program that addresses monitoring, modeling, data management, and research (RCW 90.71.280(1)(b)(i)); and

**WHEREAS**, the Monitoring Consortium submitted a report to the legislature in 2008 that concluded that a centralized, state agency-based monitoring program would work provided that essential characteristics such as transparency and credibility were met; and

**WHEREAS**, the Puget Sound Partnership Science Panel, the Ecosystem Board and Leadership Council have discussed a governance framework on various occasions; and

**WHEREAS**, the Launch Committee, a multi-stakeholder body convened by the Puget Sound Partnership in 2010, developed a draft charter that describes the organizational framework of a coordinated ecosystem monitoring program that is both consistent with responsibility assigned to the Partnership and in contrast to the centralized, state agency-based model, builds on an independent, multi-stakeholder Steering Committee to develop monitoring plans, direct technical workgroups and support analyses; and

**WHEREAS**, in contrast to having the Science Panel direct the program, the draft charter uses the Science Panel for independent peer review and feedback to guide the program and also provides flexibility for either centralized or decentralized monitoring approaches depending on the technical nature of the monitoring challenge, sources of funding, and organization of expertise.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Puget Sound Partnership Leadership Council endorses the draft charter and directs staff to form a Steering Committee to implement the monitoring program consistent with the recommendations of the Launch Committee and charter; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Puget Sound Partnership Leadership Council direct the Puget Sound Partnership to commission a review of the monitoring program in two years by an objective and independent entity. The review should focus on whether essential characteristics, particularly transparent decision-making, availability and credibility of data, and accountability and trust, are achieved. In the event the review finds deficiencies, deliverables of the review should include any recommendations for improvement, and as needed, information on an alternative

governance structure that could better meet the essential characteristics. Deliverables should be specific about the structure of the governance model, roles and responsibilities of program components, how the program would be funded, relationships to the Puget Sound Partnership and other entities, and any statutory changes required.

Resolution Moved By: David Dicks

Resolution Seconded By: Dan O'Neal

Approved/Denied/Deferred (underline one)

**DATE:** February 17, 2011