

Puget Sound Partnership Science Panel
Meeting Summary

April 15 & 16, 2008
Allmendinger Center, Puyallup

Day 1

Science Panel Members Present:

- Joel Baker
- Guy Gelfenbaum
- Robert Johnston
- Jan Newton
- Timothy Quinn
- Frank Shipley
- John Stark
- Katharine Wellman

Leadership Council Members Present:

- Bill Ruckelshaus
- Martha Kongsgaard

Staff:

- Cullen Stephenson, Deputy Director
- Sarah Brace, Science Manager
- Tammy Owings, Special Assistant to the Science Panel
- Scott Redman, Action Agenda Manager
- Terry Wright, Special Assistant to the Tribes

*It is intended that this summary be used along with notebook materials provided for the meeting.
A full recording of this meeting is retained by Puget Sound Partnership as the formal record.*

Action Items:

- Approval of February 26, February 29, March 12, and March 27 meeting summaries
- Approval of Conflict of Interest Statement

Meeting Summary:

- Introductions, agenda review, and overview of recent events
- Update on Provisional Indicators Work and Risk Analysis Status
- Briefings on Salmon Recovery and Adaptive Management, Puget Sound Assessment and Monitoring Program, Cooperative Monitoring, Evaluation, and Research Committee, Monitoring Consortium, Funding for Science, and Adaptive Management and Accountability
- Discussion on Action Agenda Monitoring needs and the Strategic Science Plan

10:00 a.m. CALL TO ORDER – Joel Baker, Chair

Joel welcomed everyone and asked everyone to introduce themselves.

Joel reviewed the agenda. The Conflict of Interest topic was moved to the afternoon session and Funding for Science was moved to the morning session.

SCIENCE PANEL BASICS

Overview of events since the last meeting.

The Science Panel has been working to prepare the draft outline for the Strategic Science Plan for use at today's meeting.

Several Panel members have been involved in Action Area meetings and Topic Forums.

There are many moving parts, and the Panel is still attempting to grasp the full spectrum of activities and determine how everything will fit together. They want to keep it clear when they are the review arm for the Partnership and when they are document developers. The Science Plan will be the constitution of the Science Panel, and the Work Plan will be the guiding principles.

Action: Approval of Past Meeting Summaries

The summaries for the February 29, March 12 and March 27, 2008 conference calls were **APPROVED** as presented.

The February 26, 2008 Meeting Summary was **APPROVED** after it was revised to note that Steve Ralph is a consultant for the Partnership.

ACTION AGENDA - Scott Redman

Scott Redman provided an overview of the Action Agenda timeline. (See meeting materials for details.)

April-May: Prepare Action Agenda building blocks to create a problem statement and to give strategic and tactical direction.

Early to mid-June: Leadership Council will provide guidance for the problem statement, strategic and tactical directions, and types and locations of near-term actions.

Late June and July: All interests will review Council guidance and identify consistent actions. Hold the next round of Action Area meetings.

August: Staff will organize comments and near-term actions.

September to mid-October. Leadership Council will provide near-final guidance and direction on the Action Agenda refinement of near-term actions. Staff will work to prepare the final Action Agenda document, Monitoring and Adaptive Management Plan, Science Plan, and the Funding Plan.

Mid-October through November. Produce the Action Agenda – Send to the printer by November 1 for printing by November 21.

The Science Panel will need to make decisions and possibly find new ways to present comments to the Leadership Council, particularly because the current meeting schedules do not align well. Additional meetings during the summer might be necessary. Scott highlighted the areas he believes the Science Panel should check.

The Puget Sound e-Newsletter, Edition 3, outlines the Topic Forums schedule. These Forums will ask two science questions and two policy questions.

On May 28, all Topic Forums will come together to identify relationships between the topics and to develop an integrated understanding of the priorities for restoring the health of the Puget Sound ecosystem.

Collection of the information from all Topic Forums will begin May 6. The Science Panel may review this information and they might also want to engage in the Topic Forums, provide comments on the white papers, and attend the May 28 symposium. They expressed the need for a clear path for input into their work.

An innovative, on-line process is being used to take public comments
<http://actionagenda.psp.wa.gov/topicforum>.

PROVISIONAL INDICATORS WORK - Sandie O'Neill and Tracy Collier (See meeting materials for details.)

Sandie O'Neill provided an overview of the Indicators process.

Phase I has four tasks:

- Develop criteria and framework
- Create conceptual models
- Identify, compile, and summarize former, current, and proposed indicators for the Puget Sound ecosystem
- Select and evaluate the most suitable environmental indicators based on criteria/framework and the conceptual models

Sandie explained the process for identifying individual indicators and the development of conceptual models. After a brief question and answer period, it was agreed that work would begin on Phase 2 identification next week.

RISK ANALYSIS STATUS - Mary Ruckelshaus (See meeting materials for details.)

Mary Ruckelshaus provided an overview of the Risk Analysis work and explained how it is out of sync with the Science Panel. The group is now in step two of the Integrated Ecosystem Assessment (IEA), assessing current status and listing priority strategies for the PSP Action Agenda. She reviewed the six ecosystem goals.

Potential threats have been organized into six threat types (habitat alteration surface/groundwater impacts, pollution, artificial propagation, harvest, species invasion, and natural drivers).

During the first year the Risk Analysis group plans to identify key ecosystem components and major threats, decide upon the level of detail, and then provide summaries and visually appealing, accurate information.

A general discussion with Mary yielded the need to have baseline information, including both what we currently know and what we don't know and cannot do without more information. The Panel discussed trend analyses, competing hypotheses, questions and conceptual models, marine and fresh water division, and whether or not to map individual attributes or roll up at the watershed or action area levels. Bob, Frank, John, and Guy will review the risk assessment document from Mary and bring back their comments to the whole group. Joel and Trina will work on human health and well-being components.

Bill Ruckelshaus urged the Panel to do the necessary scientific work and give scientific direction so the \$20 million from EPA can be spent in the best ways possible to do the most good and make the most difference to the health of the Sound. We need to be able to explain where we spend the money and why this is the best way to spend it. (We are not simply funding someone's favorite project.)

Joel noted that Mary presented questions in her document; the subcommittee will provide written comments to Mary.

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT

Heather Trim, People for Puget Sound, would like to have public comment time on the Action Agenda schedule. She also expressed her opinion that the human health portion of the Topic Forum is very marine-focused. She stressed the importance of maps and thinks the Panel should meet more frequently this summer.

Tom Mumford, Department of Natural Resources, offered comments about the DPSIR model that Sandie mentioned in her presentation.

Helen Barry, Department of Natural Resources, expressed her interest in the risk assessment discussion, maps and how to roll up the information, stressing the need for it to be simplified.

Tim Towey, citizen, is not a representative of the SeaKeepers, but he provided some information about the group. SeaKeepers, which is funded by yacht owners, has developed technology to gather data and they would like to initiate a project with the Partnership.

SALMON RECOVERY AND ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT – Joe Ryan and Ken Currens (See meeting materials for details.)

Joe Ryan presented the first portion of this agenda item. He talked about the big circle of the Partnership and how the salmon circle is completely within the Partnership circle.

Ken Currens provided an overview of the Monitoring and Adaptive Management Approach (MAMA), explained how the Shared Strategy began, and reviewed the work that has been done through this group. He described various areas of uncertainty and reviewed different types of monitoring with options for conducting them.

While this plan is comprehensive, it not complete. He asked for Science Panel assistance in finalizing the plan. The Panel can provide guidance in areas not yet addressed, oversight, and coordination. The RITT provides technical support for salmon issues. The ensuing discussion revolved around current status and trends monitoring, gap analysis, and the adaptive management program.

PUGET SOUND ASSESSMENT AND MONITORING PROGRAM (PSAMP) – Jim West and Rob Duff (See meeting materials for details.)

Jim West, Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), explained that PSAMP was formed in 1988 as an extensive network of regional scientists who monitor key indicators of ecosystem health. It provides a forum for sharing and coordinating the monitoring of the Sound.

Rob Duff, Ecology, discussed the sampling, how it is used and the lessons learned. PSAMP has identified baseline conditions and trends of importance to the health of the Sound. This important data can then be used for a wide range of management actions.

COOPERATIVE MONITORING, EVALUATION, AND RESEARCH COMMITTEE (CMER) – Sally Butts, USFWS (See handout for details.) •

Sally Butts explained the CMER program and provided the lessons learned. A CMER Protocols and Standards Manual is available.

Nancy Sturhan, Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission (NWIFC), was scheduled to make this presentation with Sally Butts, but at the last minute she was unable to attend.

MONITORING CONSORTIUM – Karen Dinicola, Ecology (See meeting materials for details.)

Karen provided an overview of the Puget Sound Monitoring Consortium and provided two options for this group; either restructure PSAMP and house it at the Partnership or create a private institute modeled after the San Francisco Estuary Institute (SFEI). A discussion about these proposals ensued.

Bill Ruckelshaus asked the Science Panel to provide input regarding the need for an organizational structure and to be clear to the Partnership the desired outcome from this comprehensive monitoring system, its cost effectiveness and accountability.

DISCUSSION: ACTION AGENDA MONITORING NEEDS – Scott Redman and Sarah Brace (See meeting materials for details.)

Scott explained that PSP staff is looking for objectives and hypotheses to be used in the creation of study designs. This information will be used at the June meeting.

Bill Ruckelshaus talked briefly about the Monitoring Forum. He thinks PSP need not do the monitoring itself but should coordinate the overall plan. He reminded the Panel that Bill Wilkerson, who is the new chair of the Monitoring Forum, is also a member of the Leadership Council.

Jan Newton explained that the word “monitoring” has different meanings. She appreciates the handout of monitoring types that Ken provided. She believes we might need to have open access to data so that others can do analyses of the data.

Sarah reported that there is a monitoring atlas in the making. The atlas will provide locations of current work and perhaps reveal where additional work needs to be done. Further discussion concluded there is a need to identify monitoring needs and benchmarks.

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT

Bruce Crawford, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), former program manager for the Monitoring Forum, encouraged a full briefing on the Comprehensive Monitoring Strategy and the Monitoring Forum. He reminded the Panel that monitoring was included in the statute and that it needs to work together with the Partnership.

Bruce described how there are layers of scales for different indicators. He also talked about funding and how the Salmon Recovery Funding Board's funding of monitoring allows local groups to get the information they need.

The group then discussed aspects of data, funding requirements, conceptual models and what is being done in state agencies, which is reported to the Office of Financial Management and to NOAA, who has its own reporting system.

Heather Trim, People for Puget Sound, requested that two options for the Monitoring Consortium be provided at the next consortium meeting.

Tom Mumford, DNR, suggested populating the indicators' conceptual models with stickpins.

Sarah Brace described the upcoming inventory of existing monitoring efforts, which will then be included in a searchable database. It is expected that the database will be populated by mid-June.

Jan Newton is concerned about the quantity of information and so much emphasis being put on creating a new organization. She would like to figure out what informational capabilities we need. Others commented about this, time, flexibility, another inventory and how to bring the right people to the table to work on the solutions.

Kit Paulson, city of Bellevue, relayed that local governments are very excited to have an organization coordinating local, regional and state monitoring efforts.

5:05 p.m. RECESS FOR THE EVENING

Puget Sound Partnership Science Panel
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Allmendinger Center, Puyallup

Day 2

Science Panel Members Present:

- Joel Baker
- Guy Gelfenbaum
- Robert Johnston
- Jan Newton
- Timothy Quinn
- Frank Shipley
- John Stark
- Katharine Wellman

LC Members Present:

- Bill Ruckelshaus
- Martha Kongsgaard
- Diana Gale

Staff:

- Cullen Stephenson, Deputy Director
- Sarah Brace, Science Manager
- Scott Redman, Action Agenda Manager
- Tammy Owings, Special Assistant to the Science Panel
- Terry Wright, Special Assistant to the Tribes
- Mary Beth Brown, Accountability Coordinator

8:30 a.m. RECONVENED MEETING – Joel Baker, Chair

Joel welcomed everyone and asked for introductions.

Changes to the agenda

- Conflict of Interest Statement
- Funding for Science
- Adaptive Management
- Break
- Spend rest of time on Strategic Science Plan

John Stark **MOVED** to accept the Conflict of Interest Statement and Tim Quinn **SECONDED** the motion.

No Panel discussion.

The Conflict of Interest Statement was **APPROVED** as presented.

FUNDING FOR SCIENCE

David Dicks provided a funding update, noting the increase to \$20 million from the federal government this year contrasted with \$1 million the year before. This first \$20 million is for the creation and development of the Action Agenda. The next step will be figuring out the best way to spend this money that meets the intent of Congress. He explained the breakdown and potential projects.

David will meet with EPA to hone in on the proposals that meet the objects of bill under 2007-2009 plan, and after working with others, he will present a spending plan to the Leadership Council in two weeks. High priority items are ready to go and have been well vetted. This is a transition year and in the future there will be a formalized process. In the meantime, he would like to have the Panel, or a subset of the Panel, review the projects.

Bill Ruckelshaus noted that there is a rating process used for distribution of Salmon Recovery funds.

ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY - Scott Redman, Sarah Brace, and Steve Ralph (See meeting materials for details.)

Scott outlined the adaptive management team and explained what they have accomplished to date. He reviewed the vision for adaptive management and how to get there by September. He cautioned us to stay focused on the following:

- Are we doing what we said we would?
- How is status of the resources changing?
- Are our actions having intended effects?

The panel explained different types of monitoring and the inclusion of a validation/research portion, which might not be "monitoring" but is a science function and needs to be linked some way.

Task 1:

- To define what we need to know to evaluate progress
- Objectives and evaluation questions from the Topic Forums
- Provisional indicators and conceptual models (DPSIR) - Tracy and Sandie's work

- A short list “Dashboard” of key indicators for high-level policy decisions, the Leadership Council, and communicating to the public
- Benchmarks and targets - defining where we need to be by 2020. This will be a joint science and policy decision. – Sarah’s work

The discussion centered on the number of indicators needed to provide the story of the Sound and how to open up a dialogue with the public to help them understand the problem. Time will be dedicated at the next meeting for a more thorough discussion of communication. Bob, Jan, and Tim will study indicators and present their work to the entire group.

Task 2:

- Define the Partnership’s approach for collecting, analyzing, synthesizing and reporting
- Catalog existing monitoring efforts (in progress)
- Consortium’s advice re: governance
- Develop a proposal for monitoring and analysis (what, where, when, by who?)
- Work with “implementers” to develop proposals for next biennium’s increment
- Develop information management and analysis approach for adaptive management and accountability

Task 3:

- Define how the Partnership will use information to make decisions
- Review literature and solicit input regarding possible trigger points, strategy and policy responses
- Facilitate policy discussions and decisions regarding trigger points and triggering and response processes

Timeline

April-May: The Science Panel and Leadership Council will provide feedback on a general approach. Create a synthesis of Topic Forums, monitoring team ideas and provisional indicators.

June: Draft a discussion paper on indicators, dashboard, and benchmarks (draft Adaptive Management Plan). Hold adaptive management and monitoring workshop(s). Leadership Council, Science Panel, and Ecosystem Coordination Board (ECB) will give guidance and direction.

Late June and July: ECB will discuss implementation issues and state budget development. Discussions with various stakeholder caucuses will be held for monitoring “straw dog” ideas. The Leadership Council will give indicators direction.

August: The Science Panel will adopt environmental indicators and recommend benchmarks. Discussions will continue with stakeholder caucuses and potential implementers.

September to mid-October: The Leadership Council will provide near-final guidance and direction on the Action Agenda and refine near-term actions. Staff will prepare final Action Agenda. Additional work as identified.

Jan Newton and Joel Baker will revise the Strategic Science Plan outline. Joel, Jan, Martha Neuman and Tammy Owings will work on the schedule for the remainder of the year.

A general discussion included the process for selecting and marketing the indicators, the criteria needed to make those decisions, and the timing. The Panel also discussed the monitoring and analysis diagram, possible revisions over time, research and what should be included in the monitoring plan. The goal is to develop a unified strategic science plan, not just a checklist.

The subcommittee on monitoring will consist of Scott Redman (and possibly other PSP staff), Joel, Tim Quinn, John Stark, Jan, and Bruce Crawford. Bill Wilkerson and perhaps others might need to be included.

STRATEGIC SCIENCE PLAN – Joel Baker and Jan Newton (See meeting materials for details.)

Joel introduced this agenda item and reviewed the proposed schedule. Then Jan reviewed the outline and some of the changes that were discussed during the April 10 conference call.

Today's goal is to reach agreement on the components of the outline. Concerns were voiced and questions asked about the implementation section, Canadian/Georgia Basin work and its possible addition to the overarching challenges section. Further discussion included how much emphasis should be given to adaptive management and whether there will be a separate monitoring plan or should it be included in this plan. The reason for linking policy and science is that they can learn from each other.

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT

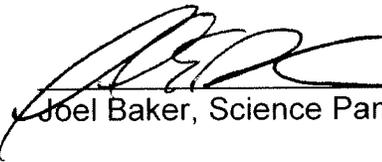
Terry Wright, NWIFC, suggested that the Panel open up the September peer review process to a broader group, perhaps even hold a day-long workshop to include both Puget Sound and Georgia Basin scientists. This would help educate and engage as well as promote the goals.

Ken Dzinbal, Ecology, sees on-the ground, detailed monitoring work missing, and he spoke to the issues of regulatory or emergency monitoring and directed studies. His concern is that too often information has not been coordinated, or is used for a short time and then lost. Standardized methodologies are needed, perhaps in the form of a Management Response Scientific Investigation.

Others suggestions included adding an offshoot to analysis for diagnostic studies, institutional coordination in the overarching issues section, and clarification was made regarding funding strategies for the Action Agenda and the Science Plan, including the possibility of a cost review in September.

12:15 p.m. ADJOURN

Science Panel Approval


Joel Baker, Science Panel Chair


Date