PugetSoundPartnership
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**SCIENCE PANEL**
**CONFERENCE CALL SUMMARY**
**Friday, February 15, 2008**
**2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.**

**Present on Conference Call**
Science Panel Members:

- John Stark
- Tim Quinn
- Jan Newton
- Usha Varanasi
- Bob Johnston
- Joel Baker
- Guy Gelfenbaum
- Frank Shipley
- Katharine Wellman

Bill Ruckelshaus, Leadership Council Chair
Martha Kongsgaard, Leadership Council Vice Chair
Sarah Brace, Science Manager
Tammy Owings, Special Assistant to the Science Panel

**Public in Attendance:**
Doug Myers, People for Puget Sound

Meeting opened at 2:05 p.m. by Joel Baker.

Review of Agenda, Conference Call Procedures, and WA Open Public Meetings Act Requirements
Reviewed the agenda, noting that the meeting is not being recorded but notes are being taken. This is an open public meeting.

As this is a conference call, each member was asked to identify themselves before speaking.

Discussed the Open Public Meetings Act Guidelines.

For this Panel, five members would constitute a quorum.

Tammy will check with the Assistant Attorney General to see if the guidance on workshops, retreats and meetings is different for the Science Panel or the same as for the Leadership Council.

Discussed e-mail correspondence and how this also falls within the Open Public Meetings Act.

Expectations and Responsibilities of the Science Panel

*Legislative Mandate*
The group reviewed the legislative mandates.

- Sarah Brace is the science manager for the Partnership interaction with the Science Panel
- As time goes on, additional staffing needs may be identified for the Panel
- Science Panel duties include:
    - Assist Leadership Council in developing and revising the Action Agenda
    - Develop ecosystem level strategic science program
    - Identify environmental indicators (by July 31, 2008)

Sarah talked about the ecosystem level strategic science program. There are many moving parts that will need to fit in with the Action Agenda and biennial work plan. This will be the institutional capacity to get the science work done in Puget Sound.

The Science Panel will assist the Leadership Council in deciding what pieces of the plan should go forward. The Science Panel will not be doing the implementation portion.

There is a science team that will be working with the Science Panel. At the next regular meeting of the Science Panel, there will be a briefing on what work this team has done to date. This team consists of Sarah Brace, Scott Redman, Ken Currens, Mary Ruckelshaus, and Bruce Crawford. The science team will work on the monitoring program with guidance from the Science Panel.

The Science Panel talked about not wanting to get bogged down in fine details but believe it is very important for the Science Panel, as a group, to discuss what the science plan should look like. They are worried that as the ad hoc groups get formed that they might forget things. Some of the plans may not identify science gaps.

Talked about possibly assigning different Science Panel members to the various groups to split up the workload. They decided to wait to decide on how to do this until after issues such as the chair, vice chair, term limits, etc are decided.

There was concern with the Science Panel breaking into smaller groups at the beginning and after additional discussion the need to work together at the beginning of

the process was recommended. The Science Panel should decide collectively on what needs to be done – some projects can be done in smaller groups and then to bring back to the larger group.

Discussed the need for a monitoring plan by September 2008. Sarah reported that there is not going to be final monitoring program in place by September but need to have a process outlined by September. It will be another year or so before getting the final indicators in place.

The Panel decided to have a brainstorming session at the Science Panel meeting on February 26 on what the science plan should look like.

Discussed the possibility of hiring the Science Panel members for different services. The legislation does provide for hiring the services of various Science Panel members. There will be needs that individual Panel members may be able to provide and the legislation makes it so there isn't a limitation in hiring due to the person being on the Panel. Normal level of work for the Science Panel would be gratis but if more time is needed for specific duties would be able to get a contract to pay for additional time and expertise.

Three Science Panel deliverables are:

- Assist with Action Agenda
- Develop Strategic Science Plan
- Develop Monitoring Program

*Meeting Schedule*

The Panel talked about the upcoming workshops and meetings. Sarah provided an overview of the February 20 workshop.

The workshop on the 20th is focused on the science community. Additional meetings have been scheduled for the Action Areas and these meetings will be inviting members of science community but is more focused at the local level. The purpose of the Action Area workshops are to get information from the community members and to find out what they think the status and threats are is in their particular Action Area.

After the workshop on the 20th and the Action Area workshops, there will be a round of topic forum meetings on the six goals outlined in the legislation. The information from the topic workshops will then be used in the Action Areas to identify specific actions to take.

Some of this information was presented to the Science Panel at its first meeting. The workshops are being used to start to identify needs and get feedback from the communities.

Talked about the differences in the Risk Assessment and the Indicators work. These are related as the indicators will eventually inform the risk assessment. Mary Ruckelshaus, on loan to the Partnership from NOAA, is heading up the risk assessment work. Sandie O'Neill, on loan from WDFW and whose salary is covered by NOAA, and Tracy Collier are heading up the indicators work.

Sarah will provide a calendar of upcoming meetings. Bill Ruckelshaus asked the listing of meeting be divided in meetings focused on the Science Panel and the more general meetings.

Sarah will try to get more information from Mary Ruckelshaus and Martha Neuman for the Science Panel members to be prepared for the February 20 workshop.

Sarah will provide the following information to the Science Panel prior to meeting on the 26th for discussion at the meeting:

- List of workgroups (Ad hoc groups that have started after the Partnership got in place)
- List of upcoming meetings and workshops

<u>Discussion of Science Panel Function and Interaction with Puget Sound Partnership Staff</u>

*Roles of Puget Sound Partnership Staff*
Sarah reported:

- She is the main conduit between the Science Panel and the Puget Sound Partnership staff
- Martha leads the Action Agenda where Sarah does the science portion of the Action Agenda
- Sarah is the first stop when Science Panel members have questions on the Action Agenda
- She will get Science Panel needs delivered to the appropriate staff
- The Panel could contact Bill Ruckelshaus or David Dicks directly if they have questions for them
- Ways to get a hold of Sarah include: e-mail Sarah.Brace@psp.wa.gov phone (360) 725-5464, or cell phone (360) 791-3154
- Scott Redman is special projects staff for both the Action Agenda and Monitoring Program
- Sarah will provide a list of contact information

Bob Johnston asked about staff meetings and if the Science Panel would be included in these meetings? Sarah didn't see why they couldn't be included but they are mostly focused on internal agency updates.

Sarah noted that if the Science Panel believes there needs to be more staff to help with the Science Program work then bring that concern to the Partnership.

The Panel talked about whether they will do hands on work with specific deliverables or more oversight, review, and advisory work. Bill Ruckelshaus noted that the general assignment is oversight, review, provide guidance but there may from time to time be specific assignments.

Talked about the importance for a panel such as this, when presenting information as a member of the Science Panel, to speak as one voice. There may be need for a minority decision from time to time but will want to go with a consensus after deliberations for the most part. Discussed how the Open Public Meetings Act is not in place to limit what people are saying and it is okay to disagree in public. It is good for the public to see that there are disputes between the Science Panel members and that they can work through the issues to reach consensus.

Science Panel Retreat

The Panel believes it is important to have a retreat to get to know each other better. Will need to figure out the time and details. Will discuss during the February 26 Science Panel meeting. Tammy will look for dates and get suggestions on possible locations by the February 26 meeting.

Selection of Chair

The Leadership Council still needs to provide initial terms for the Science Panel members. Bill Ruckelshaus promised to have this completed by the Science Panel meeting on February 26.

The Panel discussed the different possibilities setting up terms for the chair and vice chair. After much discussion the Panel decided to select the first chair and vice-chair to serve for one year and revisit term of chair and vice chair after one year.

The Panel discussed whether or not the chair would need to go to all the Leadership Council, Ecosystem Coordination Board, and other related meetings, and it was decided that the chair doesn't need to go to all the meetings but should try to make it to as many as possible. The chair may also need to represent the Science Panel at other meetings or hearings.

Decided to wait to vote for vice-chair until after the chair is decided.

Three Science Panel members voiced interest in being the chair: Frank Shipley, Jan Newton, and Joel Baker.

Bob Johnston **MOVED** to nominate the slate of three candidates (Frank, Jan, and Joel). Tim Quinn **SECONDED**. **APPROVED**.

The nominees will send a paragraph on reason they should be elected chair to Tammy. She will then put together e-mail with the paragraphs and ballot for voting. The final decision will be announced at meeting on 26th.

Tim Quinn **MOVED** to use the same process for vice chair (decide slate of candidates at the February 26 meeting). Bob Johnston **SECONDED**. **APPROVED**.

Bill Ruckelshaus thanked everyone for their time on this call.

Meeting Adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Science Panel Approval

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Joel Baker, Chair Date

Next Meeting: February 26, 2008
NWIFC Conference Room
Lacey, Washington