

Puget Sound Partnership

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SCIENCE PANEL INDICATORS WORKSHOP MEETING SUMMARY

Date: Monday, July 21, 2008

Time: 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Science Panel Members Present:

Joel Baker

Guy Gelfenbaum

Jan Newton

Tim Quinn

Frank Shipley

John Stark

Usha Varanasi – came in late (11:30)

Others:

Scott Redman

Tammy Owings

Martha Neuman

Sandie O'Neill

The workshop opened at 9:59 a.m. by Science Panel Chair Joel Baker. Joel reviewed the plan for the morning portion of the workshop.

This being an informal workshop, no recording was made.

DISCUSSION OF INDICATORS WORK

Joel discussed the progress on indicators work to date and how the Science Panel needs to discuss how to present this information to the Leadership Council for its approval.

Sandie O'Neill reviewed the process used to get to the list of indicator categories and attributes before the Science Panel at this meeting. She explained smaller working groups reviewed each of the full lists of indicator categories and attributes reviewing for duplicates and ways to group to get to the shorter list.

The Panel agreed that it is important to propose a process to add new indicators that aren't currently on the list (phase 2) and to make sure this process is incorporated in the message when relaying the first phase indicators to the Leadership Council. The process can be outlined in both the Biennial Science Work Plan and the Strategic Science Plan.

The Panel discussed the process forward with indicators, monitoring, and science plan development.

Scott Redman reviewed the list of screened, available indicators listed on the meeting materials handout. (See meeting materials for details.)

This round the Panel will be working with indicators that already exist and, to get from a provisional indicators list to final indicators.

Quality of Life

The Panel didn't discuss since Trina Wellman was not available for this meeting.

Species and Biodiversity

Scott is not confident with his groupings or the categories.

Sandie reported that the species list is still not final with about 40 indicators to still review. She is going to suggest having a Department of Fish and Wildlife team look at the remaining indicators.

There was a question on how many of the indicators on this list are due to legislative mandates.

Sandie reported that more of the harvest related issues are legislatively mandated.

It was suggested to look at the legislatively mandated indicators and then see if there are gaps in that group.

There was concern about the limited biodiversity list with invertebrates and plants missing from the categories.

Sandie reported that they are on the list but not quite as full as could be.

A subgroup consisting of Tim Quinn, Frank Shipley, and Jan Newton, will work with Sandie and Mary Ruckelshaus on the Biodiversity issue.

Habitat

Sandie reported that many of the land use indicators were rolled into one (terrestrial land cover status and trends).

Water Quantity

The list is missing ground water.

Alternate ways to organize this list were suggested such as organizing by water supplies for humans and water supplies for geo-hazards or by water supply, use, and geo-hazards.

There was discussion on whether there should be a category for Natural Disasters, which would include floods and earthquakes but then decided this wouldn't be a good indicator since you want the benchmark to be zero and we have no control to change the results.

Bill Ruckelshaus noted that it would be helpful to have a definition of a close to perfect system. What are the necessary indicators to show a healthy Puget Sound? Then identify the list of existing indicators, what should be measured. Of the missing indicators, describe what is needed to get those indicators. This would help the Action Agenda even though we won't have the answers yet, it will be able to start going in the right direction.

Water Quality

The group talked about the different water quality indicators such as pathogens and fecals in swimming versus non-swimming beaches. Several of the indicators are in other categories and the Panel may want to duplicate some indicators in more than one category. For example healthy beaches could be on both the Human Health and Water Quality indicators list.

Sandie will send the Science Panel a revised list with suggested changes from the morning's discussion other than the Biodiversity indicators, which will be worked on by the separate workgroup.

The Panel agreed with a need for a crosswalk index to show where indicators are in multiple categories.

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT:

No request for public comment.

The group discussed next steps for indicators work and what still needs to be done

Bill Ruckelshaus would like a narrative description on where efficiencies can be found for the Action Agenda even though identifying the efficiencies will be part of the phase 2 work.

Scott Redman reviewed the proposed schedule from today through the August 6 & 7 Science Panel meeting.

After August 7, Scott suggested having a workgroup look at the benchmarks since the Panel can't look at benchmarks until after the indicators are identified.

The Science Panel plans to report on the suggested indicators at the September 3 & 4 Leadership Council meeting.

Scott will work with Joel to draft a letter to go with the indicators report when transmitting to the Leadership Council. The letter needs to be ready by August 1.

A subgroup of Frank Shipley, Joel Baker, and Tim Quinn, with Bob Johnston as an alternate, were identified to start the work on the benchmarks.

Morning session workshop adjourned at 1:06 p.m.

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SCIENCE PANEL CONFERENCE CALL MEETING SUMMARY

Date: Thursday, April 10, 2008

Time: 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Science Panel Members Present:

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

Others:

Scott Redman
Tammy Owings
Martha Neuman
Mary Ruckelshaus
Phil Levin

Meeting opened at 1:06 p.m. by Science Panel Chair Joel Baker. Joel reviewed the plan for this afternoon's workshop.

This being an informal workshop, no recording was made.

PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION OF INTEGRATED ECOSYSTEM ASSESSMENT (IEA) WORK:

Mary Ruckelshaus and Phil Levin provided an overview of the IEA work and then opened the discussion to the Science Panel members.

An IEA is a synthesis and quantitative analysis of information on relevant physical, chemical, ecological and human processes in relation to specified ecosystem management objectives. It has five components, which include:

- Status of topic to be considered,
- Causes and consequences of the status,
- Forecast of future status with and without management action,
- Costs and benefits of possible management actions, and
- Evaluation.

IEA's are new tools being used by NOAA. The Puget Sound IEA covers the area from Neah Bay to South Sound from snowcaps to white caps.

Phil reviewed the two models that could be used in the Puget Sound, Ecopath with Ecosim and Atlantis. Both models have pros and cons. Mary reported that they are gravitating toward using the Atlantis model since it is more robust.

Phil reported that he would never use the models for tactical decisions due to too much uncertainty but the models would be good to help with developing strategies, which would help move work forward. The model is for looking at past actions not predicting the future.

After they get the final conceptual models, Mary would like the Science Panel to comment on next steps for the conceptual models.

The Science Panel had a very robust discussion with Mary and Phil on how to use this work, what the next steps are, how this work will help the Partnership and other details on when and how this work has been used.

Bill Ruckelshaus would suggest proving out the system on a smaller scale before suggesting a Sound-wide proposal due to current economic conditions. Staff needs to present the proposal to the Leadership Council for approval. Scott will work on the proposal.

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT:

No public comment

Workshop adjourned at 3:57 p.m.

Science Panel Approval



Joel Baker, Chair

9/16/08
Date