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SCIENCE PANEL CONFERENCE CALL MEETING SUMMARY

Date: Friday, October 3 2008
Time: 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Science Panel Members On Call:

Joel Baker
Guy Gelfenbaum
Robert “Bob” Johnston
Jan Newton
Tim Quinn
John Stark
Usha Varanasi
Katharine “Trina” Wellman

Staff on Call:

Scott Redman
Mary Ruckelshaus
Tammy Owings

Others on Call:

Karen Dinicola

Call opened at 11:07 a.m. by Science Panel Chair Joel Baker.

During this call the Science Panel discussed:

- Water Quality Topic Paper Peer Review
- Human Wellbeing Indicators
- Biennial Science Work Plan Review Draft
- Georgia Basin Conference
- Salish Sail

Water Quality Topic Paper Peer Review

John Stark provided an update on the Water Quality review. Comments have been received by all three of the reviewers and the comment summary drafted.

All three reviewers have different areas of expertise under the water quality issue, which is a very complex subject.

All three reviewers found the paper to have lots of good, usable information. They also pointed out several shortcomings and areas of missing or old information.

John asked the rest of the Panel to review the summary he wrote and provide him with any comments. The Panel will discuss again during next week's meeting before transmitting to the Partnership to use in the Action Agenda.

Scott Redman asked about follow-up on this review and if there needs to be a meeting with John, Jan Newton, Martha Neuman and the author to discuss any revisions. The Panel is not sure there is time for a complete revision but the group may want to have the conversation to see what can be done in the short-term and what to do in the long term.

Scott reminded the Panel of the need to formally transmit this paper to the Partnership as soon as possible.

Joel reminded the Panel that, once the papers are transmitted, they become part of the public domain and the Panel needs to make sure the cover letters are clear on what the peer review is. The public is not used to seeing peer review work and the Panel would not want information taken out of context.

In the Biennial Science Work Plan, the Panel may want to recommend updating the Topic Forum papers periodically.

Human Wellbeing Indicators

Trina Wellman provided the Human Wellbeing Indicators Report to the subcommittee. Joel asked Tammy to send this report on to the rest of Science Panel. There will be additional discussion during next week's meeting.

Biennial Science Work Plan Review Draft:

Joel reported that the Panel has a half-day work session planned during the October 7 meeting to focus on the Biennial Science Work Plan (BSWP). During today's call he would like to get general sense on the draft and if there are major problems or gaps in the draft Plan dated September 29, 2008.

The Panel members generally agreed the document is in pretty good shape but needs some editing to eliminate duplication and tighten up the writing. Tim Quinn provided the group with an alternate way to organize the information.

The group was reminded that the BSWP is the document detailing what the Panel plans to accomplish in the next two years and to be used in budget development where the Strategic Science Plan is the overarching plan to provide direction over the long run. The Science Panel needs to get the BSWP ready first and then work on the Science Plan.

Mary Ruckelshaus wants the Panel to make sure, once the final list of initiatives is approved, that any science needs or gaps in the initiatives are referenced in the BSWP. She wants to make sure the Science Panel has that review loop included in their schedule.

The Panel was concerned that the BSWP won't have the level of detail needed to create the budget for the science program. Scott reported that he has discussed this concern with Jim Cahill and this Plan will provide enough information for the Partnership and Leadership Council to make decisions about resources needed to continue development of the science program.

Joel, Scott, Mary, Tim and Trina will work on revising the BSWP and bring to the meeting on Tuesday. This revision will not have any content changes, just organizational and wordsmithing, if members have content changes they need to send them to Scott. Scott will then compile and bring to the meeting as a separate document.

Georgia Basin Conference

Bob Johnston reminded the group that the deadline for getting abstracts in for the Georgia Basin conference is on October 10. He believes the Science Panel should plan to provide a session at the conference. Other Panel members also had ideas on what they would like to see the Panel contribute to this conference. Scott noted that there is a half hour scheduled during next week's meeting to discuss this topic.

Mary Ruckelshaus and Bob will lead the discussion on Tuesday and if Panel members have suggestions on what the Panel should do at the conference, they should get ideas to Bob and Mary.

Salish Sail

Trina noted that, although this afternoon's sail was canceled, the Salish group would like to present information to the Science Panel on the work they are doing. It was decided that having a presentation during next week's meeting would not work, we will look for another time or way of interacting with this group. The Panel is also looking to reschedule the sail next spring.

Conference Call adjourned at 12:01 p.m.

Next call is scheduled for October 17, 2008, 11:00 a.m.