

Puget Sound Partnership Science Panel  
Conference Call Summary

April 13, 2009

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Science Panel Members on Call:

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

Staff and Others on Call:

- Tammy Owings, Special Assistant to the Science Panel
  - Scott Redman, Action Agenda Manager
  - Mary Ruckelshaus, PSP Chief Scientist
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**CALL TO ORDER – Joel Baker, Chair**

Joel Baker convened this Conference Call of the Science Panel at 10:05 a.m.

**PANEL BASICS**

*Upcoming meetings*

April 29, 2009

Joel reviewed the proposed agenda for this work session. The meeting will be held in the Tacoma Room on the University of Washington Tacoma campus. This meeting is scheduled to begin at 9:00 a.m. and conclude by 3:00 p.m. Panel members need to let Tammy know if they will be attending so she can make lunch arrangements.

May 7 & 8, 2009

Joel reviewed the draft agenda for this meeting, reminding the Panel that this is the first draft of the agenda and still being adjusted. The meeting will be held in the main conference room of the USGS Western Fisheries Research Center at Sand Point. Frank reported that USGS would like to host a short reception and lab tour after the first meeting day to familiarize the Science Panel with the work being done at the Research Center. Joel reminded the Panel to let Tammy know their attendance for lunch and overnight planning.

The Panel discussed the need to have time on the May agenda to discuss the Science Policy Work Groups. Joel reported that a letter will be coming from David Dicks or Bill

Ruckelshaus in the next week or so inviting members to the four work groups. Some of these work groups need to get in place soon to answer questions. The Science Panel will help these groups move forward by providing specific questions for the groups to work on. There will be time on the May agenda to discuss the work groups more and to work on the specific questions.

### **STRATEGIC SCIENCE PLAN**

Joel introduced this agenda item noting the need for this call was to clarify whether the Science Panel is writing a strategic science plan or a science program plan. He believes that what the Panel is working on is a strategic science plan.

*What is the difference between a strategic science plan and a science program plan?*

Both documents are plans for how to do something. Where a strategic science plan would document what science is needed to meet the goals and also provide a plan for how to achieve it, a science program would only describe how to put together a science program but wouldn't necessarily describe the scientific subject matter addressed by the program.

Thus, the strategic science plan would describe the types of scientific information needed to support Puget Sound ecosystem recovery as well as the capabilities needed and our strategies for how to achieve that. .

After the discussion, the Panel agreed that what they are writing is a strategic science plan although there was still some concern about how strategic the plan is at this point.

The plan will use the six goals from the Action Agenda:

1. A healthy human population supported by a healthy Puget Sound that is not threatened by changes in the ecosystem;
2. A quality of human life that is sustained by a functioning Puget Sound ecosystem;
3. Healthy and sustaining populations of native species in Puget Sound, including a robust food web;
4. A healthy Puget Sound where freshwater, estuary, nearshore, marine, and upland habitats are protected, restored, and sustained;
5. An ecosystem that is supported by ground water levels as well as river and stream flow levels sufficient to sustain people, fish, and wildlife, and the natural functions of the environment; and
6. Fresh and marine waters and sediments of a sufficient quality so that the waters in the region are safe for drinking, swimming, shellfish harvest and consumption, and other human uses and enjoyment, and are not harmful to the native marine mammals, fish, birds, and shellfish of the region.

And then link the science needed to meet these goals by using the topic forum papers, expert interviews, and, as available, additional Science Panel information.

The Panel, using examples, will identify where science is needed along with the science that is already available, creating a roadmap for making policy decisions using science.

This is a 10-year plan so the Panel doesn't want to link it too closely to the current version of the Action Agenda since it will be revised over time.

Jan Newton then reviewed each section of the document and assignments:

Section 1 – Panel review only

Section 2 – John Stark will rewrite with Trina Wellman's assistance

Section 3 – Panel review only

Section 5 – Joel will revise with help from Trina

Section 6 – Scott Redman will revise with help from Usha Varanasi's assistance as well as others and then Joel's review

Section 4 will be re-titled to something along the lines of "integration of science to achieve partnership goals." For the April 29 work session, Jan, Trina, and Tim Quinn will draft the introduction plus an example of text for one of the goals. Scott is working to get a writer, who is also a scientist, to attend the meeting on the 29<sup>th</sup> and help the Panel have a clearly written plan for use by the Partnership. He will try to get the writer on board before the 29<sup>th</sup> so the writer can assist with the first revision draft of Section 4.

The Panel talked about the need for an executive summary for this document. They all agreed that an executive summary is needed.

Section revisions need to get to Scott by April 26. He will then work to get the complete draft document out to the Panel by end of day on the 27<sup>th</sup> or midday on the 28<sup>th</sup> for the Panel to work on during the Work Session on April 29.

Once the Panel has completed this Plan, Joel would like to come back to a discussion on if the Science Panel would like to write its own strategic plan with Science Panel goals for 2010.

The Conference Call adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

The next Science Panel Conference Call is scheduled for July 1, 2009, 11:00 a.m.