PugetSoundPartnership
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Puget Sound Partnership Science Panel
Meeting Summary

November 17 & 18, 2009
Carkeek Park Environmental Learning Center, Seattle

**Day 1**

Science Panel Members Present:

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

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

Meeting Summary:

- Open Meeting
- Introduction of New Panel Members
- Ecology's Water Quality Composite Index and Sediment Quality Triad Index – Presentation
- Strategic Science Plan
- 2010 Science Panel Work Planning
- Recognition of Outgoing Science Panel Members
- Stormwater Monitoring Work Group – Presentation
- Future Risk Assessment Project (FRAP) – Presentation
- Puget Sound Science Update Work Session

**1:10 CALL REGULAR MEETING TO ORDER – Joel Baker, Chair**

Joel Baker opened the regular meeting of the Science Panel, reviewed the agenda, and noted that this meeting was scheduled to overlap with both the past members and new members to provide for a smooth transition.

**INTRODUCTIONS OF NEW PANEL MEMBERS**

Leadership Council Chair Bill Ruckelshaus introduced two of the new panel members, Bill Labiosa and Joe Gaydos. Tom Leschine will be in attendance on day two and be introduced at that time.

Joel Baker reported that Natalie Hamel has accepted the monitoring manager position with the Partnership. Natalie will start on January 4, 2010. The agency is also in the process of hiring the performance manager position and science program director.

**ECOLOGY'S WATER QUALITY COMPOSITE INDEX AND SEDIMENT QUALITY TRIAD INDEX**

Chris Krembs, Department of Ecology, provided a presentation on Ecology's new modular Water Quality Composition (WQC) Index. (See meeting materials for additional details.)

Chris discussed how an index is used for communicating complex information to the public and management. He provided a presentation showing how the information can be presented in different ways. He noted that this is not a way of replacing scientific studies but a way to communicate information with the policy makers.

Chris and the Panel discussed the different ways to communicate the information gathered and show the variables using monthly measures. Work is still needed to figure out how and what indicators to provide information on.

Maggie Dutch provided a presentation on Ecology's Sediment Quality Triad Index (SQTI) work. (See meeting materials and Ecology's Sediment Monitoring Web site http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/eap/psamp/index.htm for additional details.)

Maggie highlighted how the triad provides an overarching indicator that covers three of the provisional indicators listed in the 2008 Action Agenda (species and food webs, habitat, and water quality). She then provided a comparison of the different SQTI approaches highlight different attributes and show different outcomes.

Joel Baker noted that the presentations are part of the indicator work. He believes this is progress and will be useful to the State of the Sound Report.

The Panel discussed how both approaches are both nationally and locally accepted. The challenge for the Science Panel and Partnership is to decide on what indicators are the most useful sets of indicators and to figure out what process to use to decide on the indicators and the monitoring needed. The Science Panel's role isn't to worry about the cost to monitor but to select a group of indicators for each of the goals and let the Leadership Council decide on the final indicators to communicate the work being done and how to fund.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**
*Nels Sultan, PND Engineers*, provided information on his companies cell buoy project.

**STRATEGIC SCIENCE PLAN**
Jan Newton provided an overview of the Strategic Science Plan and is requesting Science Panel approval to release this document for public review.

Panel members discussed how this is a living document that will change over time and be used as the foundation for writing the Biennial Science Work Plan and development of the Science Panel roles. They don't want to keep reinventing this document but to move it forward so it can be used as a science base for policy development.

The Panel **MOVED** and **SECONDED** the plan to have staff to take this version of the document, add references, fix typos and formatting, and then release it for a public review period before finalization of the document.

Bob Johnston discussed the additional changes he proposed and the need to make the document more usable to other science community members. The Panel decided that after a public review period, a subcommittee will review the comments received and make final revisions before the release of the final document.

Membership **APPROVED** having staff take the document from here, make edits, and post for review prior to having a small group of Science Panel members make the final edits before finalization. There was one opposed (Bob Johnston) and one abstention (Joe Gaydos) in the vote.

**2010 WORK PLANNING**
Scott Redman provided an overview of the key assignments for the Science Panel in 2010:

- Completion of the performance management system
- Implementation of the 2009-11 BSWP
- Implementation of the Strategic Science Plan
- By April 2010 deliver Puget Sound Science Update to the Partnership's Executive Director
- Complete the 2011-13 BSWP

The Washington State Academy of Sciences is scheduled to provide an assessment of the basin-wide restoration progress by December 1, 2010. There is concern that this may be too soon for this assessment and the Partnership may want to ask the Legislature to change the schedule for this work.

The Panel discussed the timelines and how to work through everything along with additional pending work products. One item on the list of pending work is the final list of status indicators. The Panel talked about whether this list should be completed by the Science Panel or the Science Policy Workgroup since it overlaps with both science and a policy call. The Panel suggested the Science/Policy workgroup should develop the final list, bring to the Science Panel for final review, and then to the Leadership Council for final approval.

The Panel will review assignments on the Science Policy Workgroups on day two of this meeting.

Frank Shipley provided his final comments as a Science Panel member. He stressed the need for development of a process to use to work through the issues. If he were still on the Panel, he would be looking forward to where the Panel is headed and work it will be doing. He sees the Science/Policy workgroups as helping with moving work forward and he believes things look positive. He likes the current version of the Strategic Science Plan better than he did at first. He wished everyone good luck on all this work.

Guy Gelfenbaum thanked Bill Ruckelshaus and the Leadership Council for the guidance and leadership and noted how critical it is to have the leadership behind the work. To the Science Panel, he is amazed at the amount of work that is expected from the Science Panel and noted that the Panel is not meeting frequently enough to do all that is expected. He would suggest either limiting the amount of work coming out of the Panel or adding additional capacity.

Tim Quinn encouraged Guy and Frank to provide additional comments on how the Panel could work better.

**RECOGNITION OF THE OUTGOING SCIENCE PANEL MEMBERS**

Leadership Council Chair Bill Ruckelshaus thanked departing Science Panel members, Frank Shipley and Guy Gelfenbaum for their work on the Panel. The Leadership Council appreciates the work done by the Science Panel to date and contributions made by both Frank and Guy. He asked both to stay connected with the work of the Puget Sound Partnership and Science Panel and presented each with an appreciation plaque from the Council.

**4:45 p.m. RECESS FOR THE EVENING**

Puget Sound Partnership Science Panel
Meeting Summary

November 17 & 18, 2009
Carkeek Park Environmental Learning Center, Seattle

**Day 2**

Science Panel Members Present:

- Joel Baker
- Joseph Gaydos
- Robert Johnston
- William Labiosa
- Thomas Leschine
- Jan Newton
- Timothy Quinn
- Usha Varanasi
- Katharine Wellman

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

Joel asked the new Panel members to introduce themselves and explain how they came to be on the Panel.

Bill Labiosa works for the US Geological Survey (USGS) and moved to the Puget Sound area recently. He works on modeling and is interested in working with the Partnership framework and ways to work together to support the efforts instead of groups working in parallel.

Labiosa has worked as a Research Physical Scientist with USGS since 2001, specializing in watershed/ecosystems management decision analysis and decision support. He has extensive ecological experience and knowledge of Puget Sound serving as the project manager and primary investigator for the Puget Sound Ecosystem Portfolio Model project – a model-based evaluation of ecosystem services and metrics of human well-being as influenced by land use change and regional-scale coastal anthropogenic modifications. Prior to working for USGS, he worked for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Water in Washington, D.C.

Thomas Leschine is a member of Puget Sound Nearshore Science Team. He sees himself helping with the integration of work being done by both groups. He works on all things environmental.

Since 2003 Leschine has served as the director of the UW School of Marine Affairs. A marine policy specialist trained in mathematical logic, he made the transition to marine

affairs through a post-doctoral appointment at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution. He specializes in policy analysis and marine environmental decision-making and is widely known for work on the application of risk and decision analysis and other analytic techniques for environmental problem solving. His topical interests include oil spill prevention and response, long-term management of long-lived environmental hazards, and coastal and estuarine environmental restoration.

Joe Gaydos' work is focused on healthy fish and wildlife populations. He works for the SeaDoc Society, which provides targeted funding of science projects to get data to help influence policy makers.

Gaydos is the Chief Scientist for the SeaDoc Society, a marine ecosystem health program of the UC Davis Wildlife Health Center. Over the past eight years, he has actively participated in the collection and dissemination of scientific data on marine wildlife ecosystems focusing on the Puget Sound/Georgia Basin. He is a trained biologist and veterinarian with an advanced degree specializing in the health and diseases of wildlife populations.

**STORMWATER MONITORING WORK GROUP**

Stormwater Work Group Chair Jim Simmonds and Project Manager Karen Dinocola provided an update on the current work of the Stormwater Work Group (SWG). (See meeting notebook for details.)

At this meeting the Science Panel was briefed on the group's progress to date in creating a regional Stormwater Monitoring and Assessment Strategy for Puget Sound. The SWG representatives updated the Panel on the schedule and approach to finalize, adopt and implement the draft strategy, including the formal peer review process. Comments are due on the strategy by close of business on November 30, 2009.

Joel Baker will work with Karen to figure out what the SWG needs from the Panel. Science Panel members will read the strategy and provide individual comments. When the Partnership's new Monitoring Program Manager starts in January, she will begin work on the organizing framework for the monitoring program and connections with the Stormwater Work Group.

**FUTURE RISK ASSESSMENT PROJECT (FRAP)**

John Bolte provided an overview the Future Risk Assessment Project (FRAP) process used and conceptual structure for landscape models. (See http://envision.bioe.orst.edu and meeting notebook for more details.)

Using the below assumptions:

- Puget Sound wide datasets were employed in the analysis

- UGA's were assumed to be fixed throughout the analysis period
- Road networks were assumed to be fixed throughout the analysis period
- The same policy sets were applied in each sub-basin – no sub-regional differences in policies were considered
- Population growth had the same number of new people
- Static climate

John Bolte provided examples of the results and showed the mapping of the information and video of different scenarios (2060 managed growth, status quo, and unconstrained).

His next steps include:

- Verify/interpret/mine/and report current Envision results
- Work with partners on assessment of current Envision results
- Initiate projects in Skagit and Kitsap Counties
- Identify additional opportunities for refining Puget Sound information

Curtis Tanner noted his appreciation for the work that John has done and noted that the Puget Sound Nearshore Ecosystem Restoration Program (PSNERP) will be using this model for its work. He would like to see the Science Panel and PSNERP work together to move forward on some additional FRAP modeling needs such as on climate change. Bill Labiosa reported that he is working with this information and that John's model outputs become his modeling inputs.

**CONTINUED DISCUSSION OF 2010 WORK PLANNING**

*Cross Partnership Work Groups*

With new Panel members in place, the Panel updated members on the Cross-Partnership workgroups.

Performance Management
Bill Labiosa
Trina Wellman
Tom Leshine (Alternate)

Threats to Ecosystem Health
Jan Newton
Bob Johnston
Joe Gaydos (Alternate)

Implementation Strategies
John Stark
Joel Baker
Bob Johnston (Alternate)

Social and Outreach
Trina Wellman
Tom Leschine
Usha Varanasi (Alternate)

Finance and Funding
Chair and Co-chair
Tim Quinn and Joel Baker in 2010

As Science Panel Chair, Tim Quinn will keep track of all of the groups and attend as needed.

Joel proposed the Science Panel meet as a group less often and the Cross-Partnership work groups lead the work. This could put the Science Panel in more of an advisory role.

Tim would not want to cut down on the number of scheduled meetings but would ask members on these groups to report at meetings.

*Science Panel Role*
Joel would like to get the Science Panel's focus back to what they are statutorily required to do. There are several groups wanting to "partner" with the Panel and the Panel needs to define its role to help decide when and where it should provide advice or direction. The Panel discussed the need to define the roles not just for the Panel but also the Ecosystem Coordination Board, Leadership Council, and Partnership staff.

Bill Ruckelshaus discussed the need for the Leadership Council to get the roles clearly in place before taking on any additional roles or duties.

Jan Newton, Joel Baker, and Tim Quinn will draft the Science Panel roles document and circulate it to the rest of the Panel before providing to the Leadership Council for its review and approval.

**PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**
*Nancy Malmgren, Director, Carkeek Watershed Community Action Project*, welcomed the Panel to the Learning Center. She would like the Panel to think of ways that Carkeek Park and Piper Watershed can help the Partnership and Science Panel to be successful. She noted how difficult it is to keep partnerships going and successful. She provided several handouts about the Learning Center. (See meeting notebook for details.)

*Heather Trim, People for Puget Sound,* agrees with the need to clearly identify the Science Panel roles.

**PUGET SOUND SCIENCE UPDATE WORK SESSION**
Mary Ruckelshaus provided an overview of the Puget Sound Science Update project and reviewed the schedule for hearing from the author groups.

She noted that sections 1 and 2 will be completed by April 30 with sections 3 and 4 completed by June 2010. This document will be provided in a Wiki format. Some of the details still need to be worked out on how the Wiki will work and need for a gatekeeper. The Science Panel's role in this project is as final editor and approval.

The Science Panel will review sections 1, 2a, and 2b in March and sections 3 and 4 around May.

The lead authors then provided an overview of their sections and the Science Panel asked clarifying questions, provided comments on the draft outlines, and made suggestions for changes.

Section 4 – Richard Horner and Eric Knudsen
Section 2b – Richard Morrill and Doug Mercer
Section 1 - Phil Levin and Mark Plummer
Section 2A - Tim Essington and Terri Klinger

If Science Panel members have additional comments they are asked to work through Mary.

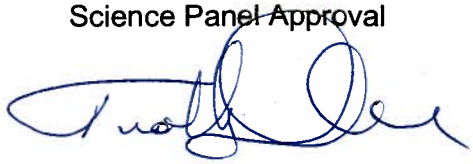
*Role of Science Panel and Next Steps*
The next step for the authors is to draft the sections. The Science Panel will review the document when it comes out. The Panel would suggest Mary coordinate with the Cross-Partnership work groups to develop this report. Mary reported that the teams will be meeting with the Cross-Partnership Performance Management work group.

Mary asked the author teams to limit their section outlines to three pages for the meeting with the work group.

Scott Redman will send the Partnership's glossary of terms to the author teams so everyone can use the same language

**3:55 p.m. ADJOURN**

Science Panel Approval



Joel Baker, Science Panel Chair

2/17/10
Date

Next Meeting: February 9 & 10, 2010
NWIFC Conference Room
Lacey