

Puget Sound Ecosystem Coordination Board  
Meeting Summary

December 14, 2007  
Federal Way Community Center

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Strait of Juan de Fuca	Steve	Tharinger
San Juan Islands	Bob	Kelly
Whidbey Island	Gary	Rowe
Hood Canal	Teri	King
North Central Puget Sound	Steve	Bauer
South Central Puget Sound	Ron	Sims
South Puget Sound	Dan	Wrye
Business Interest	Samuel	Anderson
Small Business	Bill	Dewey
Environmental Interest	Kathy	Fletcher
Environmental Interest	Jacques	White
Cities	Jeanne	Burbidge
Counties	Kevin	Ranker
Ports	John	Calhoun
Tribal Government	David	Troutt
Tribal Government	Randy	Kinley
Tribal Government	Dave	Herrera
Legislative caucus	Christine	Rolfes
Legislative caucus	Dale	Brandland
Legislative caucus	Phil	Rockefeller
Federal Government	Elizabeth	Babcock
Federal Government	Ken	Berg
Federal Government	Tom	Eaton
Washington State Agencies	Jay	Manning
Washington State Agencies	Jeff	Koenings
Washington State Agencies	Doug	Sutherland

Leadership Council Members Present:

- Bill Ruckelshaus, chair
- Bill Wilkerson
- Diana Gale
- Martha Kongsgaard
- Dan O'Neal

Staff:

- David Dicks, Executive Director
- Martha Neuman, Action Agenda Director
- Paul Bergman, Communications Manager
- Tammy Owings, Special Assistant to the Leadership Council
- Terry Wright, Special Assistant to Tribes

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

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Action Items:

- Approval of 2008 Meeting Schedule
- Election of Board Chair and Vice Chair
- Approval of Alternates

Meeting Summary:

- Action Agenda Development – update and Council guidance
- General Council Business

**10:00 a.m. CALL TO ORDER – Bill Ruckelshaus, Chair**

The Board was welcomed to Federal Way by the city's Mayor, Michael Park. Mayor Park thanked the Board for having its first meeting in the Federal Way Community Center and challenged other cities to host a meeting as the city of Federal Way sponsored the use of the meeting room and afternoon snacks for this Board meeting.

Jeannie Burbidge, Ecosystem Coordination Board member and city of Federal Way Councilwoman, provided an overview of the city and issues it faces in the line of the Puget Sound Partnership and expressed her excitement for working on the Action Agenda.

Chair Ruckelshaus thanked the Mayor and Councilwoman Burbidge for hosting the meeting and work with the Partnership. He then introduced Bill Ross who facilitated the meeting.

Bill Ross thanked everyone for attending and asked everyone to introduce themselves.

**ROLE OF ECOSYSTEM COORDINATION BOARD AND RELATIONSHIP TO LEADERSHIP COUNCIL**

David Dicks provided an overview and status of the Leadership Council, Ecosystem Coordination Board, Science Panel and Partnership staff.

- The Leadership Council has now had six meetings with the next meeting scheduled for Monday, December 17 in La Conner
- This is the first meeting of the Ecosystem Coordination Board
- The first meeting of the Science Panel will be in January
- Staff are working through the integration of Shared Strategy with the Puget Sound Partnership

- The Partnership management team has been working on reorganizing the agency and hiring the staff needed to accomplish the three big tasks that need to be completed this year: Create the first Action Agenda, engage the public in a meaningful way, and develop a new accountability system

Bill Ruckelshaus provided his overview of the new agency and organization.

- Reminded everyone that it takes time to start a new agency and find the right people to hire at the same time as working to meet deadlines set by the Legislature
- We are all in this together and committed to restoring the health of Puget Sound by 2020 – which is worth doing but also a very big job
- He asked for patience since it takes a long time to put all the right people in place
- Fortunate to have this Ecosystem Coordination Board in place now and all working toward the same goal – with a mix of representation
- He sees the first role of the Board is to help with the development of the Action Agenda
- A letter has been sent to both the Federal and State Caucuses and a draft letter has been sent to the Tribal Caucus, asking them to identify actions needed to reach a healthy Puget Sound by 2020. Letters will be going to all the sectors represented on the Board
- In other agendas, such as this, there has not been an accountability system put in place – in this process, as we develop the Action Agenda we will be developing an accountability system to track and report progress
- The role he sees for the Action Area Representatives on this Board will be to:
  - Take the lead, along with the Leadership Council member assigned to the action area, in pulling key groups together to get comments on the various draft documents as they are rolled out
  - Identify existing area plans and the contacts so we have a good inventory of what is currently happening in the region
- There is a very tight timeline so will need to be imaginative in how to get the information out and comments back

David Dicks reviewed Section 7 of the Partnership statute where it outlines the need for the Ecosystem Coordination Board to assist the Leadership Council in developing the Action Agenda and identifying the existing plans that need to be rolled into the Action Agenda.

The Board then had a discussion on the short deadline for getting the Action Agenda in place by September 1, 2008. After discussion, the Board agreed that this is a living document that will continue to change over time as gaps are identified, questions answered, and we see what works and what doesn't. September 1 will just be the first step. Timing for this first Action Agenda may not be ideal but the goal is to meet this deadline with the best document possible and then continue to work to make it better

over time. Historically planning, actions, and monitoring have been separate issues. This is a new paradigm where all three need to work together. We will need to decide what can be done by September 1 and then do it very well.

**ACTION AGENDA – David Dicks and Martha Neuman, Action Agenda Director**  
(See notebook tab for details.)

David Dicks reviewed the status of the Action Agenda and what he believes can be completed by the September 1 deadline:

- NOAA will have the Risk Assessment and Indicators work available for use in the Action Agenda
- Human health, wellbeing, and prosperity will be addressed in the Action Agenda
- Will be able to start working on setting some priority direction
- Will start to identify the problems and who is responsible for completing actions

The Board discussed the work needed to compile and synthesize existing studies, reports, and work that has been done around the region in the last 2 years.

The Action Agenda timeline and flow chart will be discussed at the Leadership Council meeting on December 17

Martha Neuman reviewed her handout and flow chart:

- Discussed the need for a system to input all the information that will be coming in.
- Explained the task teams and workshops that will be organized so people can review and comment on all the steps
- There will be a tight schedule to get all the work done in time to meet the September 1 deadline
- The Science Panel will need to review pieces along the way to make sure it is science based
- By end of January want to have all the information gathered through the inventory process in one place
- Will begin synthesizing the information and then do the gap analysis and start workshops in February
- Will start writing the Action Agenda in March with review, comment and rewrites in April, May, and June

The Board then discussed the need to work closely to decide which plans are the most important for inclusion in this first Action Agenda. Talked about how NOAA's Risk Assessment can be used to help prioritize needs and how the Partnership staff will be working in a team with the Leadership Council and Ecosystem Coordination Board Action Area Representatives to gather the data and make sure interest groups are

informed of the process. Part of the overall process to make sure the Action Agenda works is to make sure that all interest groups are included to get their buy in and support – constituency outreach is key to success.

Outreach for the Action Agenda will be discussed at the next Ecosystem Coordination Board meeting.

The Board asked about the role of the Science Panel. Chair Ruckelshaus noted that the Science Panel had not yet met and will still need to clearly identify how the process will work but there are specific assignments for the Science Panel that are under statute.

### **COMMUNICATION AND OUTREACH**

Paul Bergman provided an update on what is happening with the communication and outreach. Take away message is that we need your help – he is committed to make sure the Ecosystem Coordination Board has everything they need to get the message out.

The Board discussed the need to make this a personal issue for people and possible linkage with climate change issues. Many of the groups have existing communication staff and need to make sure the different representative groups are coordinated. Talked about the communication needs, what is happening currently, and how some communication teams are already in place. Talked about the problem of mixed messages – showing progress in one message and highlighting issues in the next article so need to harness the issues and make one voice and one message.

The Action Agenda needs to clearly articulate what is wrong with the Sound and what needs to be done to restore its health. We haven't been clear on what is wrong in the past. Need to have the right message with optimism that it is not too late.

### **ACCOUNTABILITY**

David Dicks provided an overview of the current thinking on how to put together an accountability program. One of the reasons other efforts around the world haven't worked is because there was no way of accounting for what was happening.

Need to have a way to track what commitments have been made and if there has been follow through. This is being worked on now but will really need to be in place once the Action Agenda is developed.

Bill Ruckelshaus discussed the system being created by the Academy of Science and how the Puget Sound Partnership will be monitored on progress.

Putting a monitoring system in place will not be cheap but it is critical to the success.

The Board discussed past efforts and plans that had good actions recommended but they didn't get implemented or monitored for progress. Some members believe that monitoring has already started, the public is already monitoring us to see how much money is being spent and what they are getting out of the money going into it. Really do need to have a way to show how the money was used and what it did.

### **ACTION AREAS**

David Dicks reported that Leadership Council members have taken on responsibility for working in each of the Action Areas:

- Dan O'Neal – Hood Canal
- Billy Frank, Jr. – South Puget Sound
- Martha Kongsgaard – South Central Puget Sound
- Diana Gale – San Juan
- Steve Sakuma – Whidbey
- David Dicks – North Central Puget Sound
- Bill Wilkerson – Strait of Juan de Fuca

Each of the Action Area teams will be having a meeting to start working together and report back on progress at the next Ecosystem Coordination Board meeting.

### **BOARD BASICS**

Nomination of Chair and Vice-chair:

- Discussed the process and what would be expected of the chair and vice-chair
- Asked about Bill Ross continuing to facilitate the meeting – this would be possible if the group would like to continue to have the meetings facilitated – the group concurred with the desire to have the meetings facilitated

Dan Wrye made a **MOTION** to elect Ron Sims as the chair with a tribal representative as vice chair. Teri King **SECONDED** the motion.

Dave Herrera was suggested as vice chair.

Dale Brandland **NOMINATED** Steve Tharinger for chair. Steve appreciated the nomination but does not believe he has time to do this with his role as the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) Chair so respectfully **DECLINED** the nomination.

It was confirmed that Dave Herrera is interested in being vice-chair.

**Board Discussion:**

Sam Anderson is concerned with the business side's perception on who is running the process.

Bill Dewey is also concerned and may be prudent to have someone from the business community as vice chair.

The Board then discussed the pros and cons with having a second vice-chair. Other groups also expressed interest in vice-chair position. After much discussion, the decision on vice-chair was **TABLED** until the next Board meeting.

Dan Wrye **WITHDREW** his motion for nomination of the chair and vice-chair position. Teri King withdrew the **SECOND**.

Kevin Ranker then **MOVED** to elect Ron Sims as chair. Sam Anderson **SECONDED** the motion. Board **APPROVED**.

**Alternates:**

The Board discussed designating one alternate who could sit in your place but needs to be named. Kathy Fletcher **MOVED** and Steve Tharinger **SECONDED**.

It was clarified that the alternate would not sit as chair or vice-chair.

The ability to designate an alternate was **APPROVED**.

**Meetings:**

Agreed to have the meetings start at 10:00 a.m.

Want to have agendas out at least one week before the meeting.

Fridays are bad for some of the members and they would like to have the proposed meeting dates looked at again. The next meeting will be on Friday February 8. Will look at the other dates to see if there are better dates for the currently proposed meeting dates falling on Fridays. Will adopt the 2008 meeting scheduled at the February meeting.

**OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT**

**Mark Hersh**, Biologist, Puget Sound Environmental Caucus

- The Ecosystem Coordination Board is suppose to not only assist with the Action Agenda but to implement it
- Need to craft messages to all the different groups to make sure they are included in the process

**Naki Stevens**, Director of Programs, People for Puget Sound

- Heard discussion on money but not in a strategic way
- As the Action Agenda proceeds hopes that the public is involved in the process to get support for the money
- Would also like to see the group organize around the issues not just the action areas

**Kathy Minsch**, Senior Planner, City of Seattle

- Would like to have the Action Agenda address climate change and urban flooding
- Had workshop in Seattle on climate change – looked at predicting storm and weather changes

Kathy Fletcher suggested putting the public comment period earlier in the agenda.

**2:50 p.m. ADJOURN**

Ecosystem Coordination Board Approval

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Executive Ron Sims, Chair

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Date

Next Meeting:       December 17, 2007  
                          Maple Hall  
                          La Conner, Washington

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