

MEETING SUMMARY

WASHINGTON CLIMATE CHANGE

Coastal/Infrastructure Preparation/Adaptation Workgroup

Meeting #3 – August 20, 2007 9:00am – 3 p.m.

Lacey Community Center

Attendance:

Preparation/Adaptation Workgroup members:

Nancy Boyd, Washington Department of Transportation
Randy Carmen, Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife
Dan Cheney, Pacific Shellfish Institute
Cyrilla Cook, People for Puget Sound
Clare Fogelsong, City of Bellingham
Doug Peters, CTED
Andy Haub, City of Olympia
Richard Myers, Washington Public Ports Association
Michal Rechner, Department of Natural Resources
Chris Regan, Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission
Todd Zackey, Tulalip Natural Resources Department
Rajan Phadnis, BNSF Railroad

Washington Department of Ecology staff: Tom Clingman, Hedia Adelsman

Background Documents:

1. Meeting Agenda
2. HB 1302 Coastal Sector Scope - CIG
3. Coastal PAWG Prioritization Tasks – Adapted by Tom C from Lara
4. Revised List of Key Vulnerability/Adaptation Topics
5. Table: Coastal PAWG Actions and Criteria – Adapted from Nancy Tosta
6. (Distributed at meeting) Shellfish farming implications of SLR and CC – From Dan Cheney

Discussion items:

1. **HB 1303 Coastal Sector Scope** – Daniel Huppert, CIG

Discussed two-page draft scope from CIG for this work. Anticipated products include draft report in December 2007 and final report December 2008.

Key comments from PAWG:

- Focus for this report is on locations with extensive low-lying land. While such areas should be one focus, this initial report will not address important geomorphologic impacts in areas such as bluffs – where impacted area will be

narrow but threat may be significant. The study focus may reflect limited geomorphologic technical capacity at UW.

- “Motivating questions” include impact on shellfish aquaculture. CIG will hopefully include both *naturally-occurring* and *planted* aquaculture in this assessment.
- At next meeting, PAWG would like to discuss this scope directly with the assigned leads at CIG. We have a mutual need to coordinate our efforts, to hopefully have a consistent overall message.

2. Update on Report to Governor – Hedia Adelsman, ECY

- Principle author of report will be Barb McGregor. She has extensive experience in preparing reports on complex policy issues. Barb will pull all the separate products into coherent report.
- Assessment of vulnerability in each sector will be prepared by CIG.
- PAWGs will propose early actions to address key concerns.
- Anticipate that PAWG will have a brief opportunity late in the year to review and comment on the draft section relating to their sector.

3. Coastal PAWG Prioritization Tasks – Discussion of draft adapted by Tom from draft prepared by Lara.

Discussion, clarification and additions to list of SLR-related risks. Agreed that these should be in order they are likely to be experienced, with extreme storm event-related impacts first. Key issues missing from Lara’s initial list include:

- Invasive species impacts.
- Beach and bluff process impacts, and related conflict between property protection and coastal process protection.
- Changes in ownership and management responsibilities due to shift in coastline (ex. MHHW line.)
- Challenge to long-term effectiveness of habitat protection and restoration efforts.

For details on PAWG revisions, see revised document prepared for 9/11 meeting.

4. Assessment and prioritization of potential recommendations – Table developed by Nancy Tosta was utilized for discussion.

See revised version of table prepared for 9/11 PAWG meeting for details regarding proposed revision and rating of the individual action items.

Key issues regarding format of the draft table:

“Actionability” criteria: The group designed three categories for this important evaluation criteria:

- 1 = Implement now
- 2 = Start activity now for results later
- 3 = Implement later; requires precursor actions.

Criteria that did not resonate with the group: Two of the proposed criteria seemed of questionable utility in guiding prioritization:

- “Does this increase flexibility to prepare/adapt” seems redundant. All potential recommendations are on the list because they have promise to accomplish this.
- “Relative effort to implement” was not sufficiently clear or distinct to be generally useful. “Difficult” could include politically challenging; costly; significant precursor actions required; etc. Not clear how such a diverse set of challenges are useful in comparing alternative recommendations.

Action Categories: The “categories” of actions were also problematic in actual application. These were initially revised by the PAWG to two principle categories:

- “Category 1: Enhance ability of state and coastal communities to prepare/adapt to impacts of SLR and other CC influences.”
- “Category 2: Increase ability of natural ecosystem to adapt to impacts of SLR.”

However, in further discussion it became apparent that many proposed actions may address both these objectives. With the addition to Category 1 of “...coastal communities and ecosystems to adapt...”, this single statement becomes an overall objective applicable to all potential action items.

A useful categorization of action recommendations remains to be resolved by the PAWG.

5. Next meeting

Agreed to meet from 9 – noon at next meeting, as long enough to be productive but not too long for sustained discussion. Topics are intended to include:

- Discussion with CIG leads on the Coastal Sector Scope for HB 1303 reports.
- Continued refinement of action alternative descriptions and ranking. Staff will continue to work on refining land use planning recommendations, include proposal from Ecology on linkage to Shoreline Master Program updates and SEPA review process.

Notes prepared by Tom Clingman

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