

MEETING SUMMARY – Meeting #6
Water Resources and Quality (Freshwater) Preparation/Adaptation Work Group
Water PAWG
November 7, 2007, 9AM-11AM

ATTENDANCE

1. Water PAWG Members:

- a. Tom Laurie, WA Dept of Ecology (Lead)
- b. Ginny Stern, WA Dept of Health
- c. Denise Clifford, WA Dept of Health
- d. Marketa McGuire Eisner, UW Climate Impacts Group
- e. Michael Garrity, American Rivers
- f. Mo McBroom, WA Env Council (for Rod Brown)
- g. Dave Monthie, King County
- h. Carl Samuelson, WA Dept of Fish and Wildlife
- i. John Stuhlmiller, Washington Farm Bureau
- j. Hal Schlomann, WA Association of Sewer and Water Districts
- k. Tom Ring, Yakama Nation Water Program
- l. Alex McGregor, McGregor Company
- m. Paul Fleming, Seattle Public Utilities
- n. Mike Peterson, The Lands Council

2. Agency and Staff Support:

- a. Nancy Tosta, Ross & Associates Environmental Consulting, Ltd.
- b. Roma Call, Ross & Associates Environmental Consulting, Ltd.

3. Public attendees:

- a. Patrick Williams, Center for Environmental Law and Policy

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:

- 1. Agenda: <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/climatechange/PAWGdocs/wr/110707WRAgenda.pdf>
- 2. Summary of October 9th Meeting:
<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/climatechange/PAWGdocs/wr/10907WRSummary.pdf>
- 3. Draft Water PAWG Recommendations:
<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/climatechange/PAWGdocs/wr/102907WRdraftrecommendations.pdf>

DISCUSSION AND KEY ISSUES:

The PAWG discussed the Draft Water PAWG Recommendations and made edits to the document over the internet at www.Gotomeeting.com. The PAWG discussion included the following topics and comments.

- 1. Prioritization:** The group discussed whether or not to prioritize the recommendations. PAWG members voted unanimously to prioritize the recommendations and agreed to work on that during the next conference call(s).
- 2. Issues not Covered:** The PAWG recognized that there was not enough time for this group to discuss all of the significant freshwater issues. Areas of concern that were not covered by the group include stormwater, water quality, hydropower, flood management and others. The group agreed to include text in the introduction section regarding outstanding issues that should be addressed during future discussions.
- 3. PAWG Continuation:** The group recommended continuing the PAWG through 2008 to refine the current recommendations and to add new recommendations regarding the outstanding issues not yet addressed. The group recognized the need for a forum for climate change discussions over the long-term. The PAWG agreed to include this suggestion in the introduction rather than as another strategy.
- 4. Recommendation 1. Water Resource Management Strategy:** The PAWG agreed to put Section 1.1 aside for later discussion (but was unable to find the time on the call to do so) and will decide whether or not to include it in the final recommendation. The group suggested including language that clarifies the link between Section 1.1 and responses to climate change and did not want to request Legislative involvement in the recommendation. The PAWG suggested evaluating situations where Section 1.2 – flexible water transfers - has already been applied to examine the lessons learned. PAWG members decided to combine Sections 1.2 and 1.3 since they both fall under the topic of water supply, and to keep Section 1.4 separate since it does not pertain to water supply options. The PAWG noted that Section 1.5 would be the exception for Legislative involvement since it concerns funding and creating incentives. New language for Section 1.5 was provided to include consolidation, coordination and cooperation between water systems in place of acquisition alone.
- 5. Recommendation 2. Water Conservation and Efficiency Strategy:** For Section 2.1 a PAWG member suggested applying a multi-agency conservation committee similar to the Water Supply Availability Committee that convenes during drought emergencies. The group refined the language for Section 2.2. Denise Clifford volunteered to work on Section 2.2 to clarify that the recommendation applies across all sectors, including agriculture.
- 6. Recommendation 3. Emergency Preparedness and Drought Management Strategy:** PAWG members suggested that this topic focus on emergency preparedness that ought to also include flooding. New language was offered for the title of Section 3.3 reflecting the need for more study. The text in Section 3.3 needs to be expanded to match the broader title of the recommendation.
- 7. Recommendation 4. Water Resources Planning and Information Strategy:** The group suggested reversing Sections 4.1 and 4.2, to give context for 4.1 – incorporating climate change into long-term planning. PAWG members agreed that the Dept of Health should be included in what is now Section 4.2. It was suggested

that the recommendation focus on the water aspects of planning for climate change. The group discussed whether state agencies should be tasked with addressing or considering the impacts of climate change on their programs, rather than the Legislature. It was suggested that state agencies first offer recommendations for potential changes in state plans to include planning for climate change and that local governments should then incorporate the recommendations into their water system planning, when the Legislature provides funding. More discussion is needed regarding which state agencies, tribal or local governments should be responsible for evaluating which plans and which entities would implement the changes. The group suggested deleting the last sentence in Section 4.3 regarding convening a task force. Information regarding a task force or PAWG continuation will be covered in the introduction.

Public Comment

Patrick Williams, Center for Environmental Law and Policy (CELP) suggested that agriculture should be included under recommendation 2.2, noting that for the most part, large and mid-sized municipal entities are doing a good job on efficiency and conservation. He suggested that all water permitting and transfers should consider climate change as a given as things go forward.

Next Steps:

1. PAWG members will forward their suggested language for the draft recommendations to the group by email.
2. PAWG members will notify Ross & Associates about their availability for scheduling another conference call (November 27th).
3. The PAWG will work to finalize the recommendations during the next call (or two if necessary).
4. Ross & Associates will distribute notes and send a reminder for the next call: December 4th, 2007 and newly scheduled call (November 27th).

[Adjourned]