

Proposed Next Steps in Developing an Integrated, Coordinated Puget Sound Ecosystem Monitoring and Assessment Program

Task 1. Analyze and describe path forward to establish program by either governance model

Timing: April-June 2009

Who: Partnership and Consortium staff (Redman & Dinicola), Governance Committee (members and facilitator), Partnership's Assistant Attorney General.

Why: Support and provide meaningful and immediate steps to follow the Leadership Council's decision on governance at the May 27-28 meeting.

Funding

- Staff time & meetings logistics via existing arrangements for FY09.

Work Elements

1a. Clarify legal authorities (existing and needed) to establish an independent institute or a program at the Puget Sound Partnership. Complete by May 10.

1b. Prepare a side-by-side comparison of steps and costs for start up and continuing operation of two governance models. Complete by May 10.

1c. Prepare discussion materials on what is known and not known about cost savings and other efficiencies that might be realized in transitioning to a coordinated regional monitoring and assessment program. If possible, this discussion and material should also address how stakeholders might contribute funds and/or in-kind programs to establish and implement a coordinated monitoring program. Complete by May 10.

1d. Discuss governance models and paths forward with Partnership's Ecosystem Coordination Board on April 23.

1e. Develop interagency agreement between Ecology and Partnership for development of monitoring program in FY10 and FY11. Depending on the final state budget, this agreement would transfer up to \$400,000 (the Consortium proviso for 2009-2011) from Ecology to Partnership and specify Partnership's (and others') roles and responsibilities and deliverables. Complete by June 30. (General form of tasks and deliverables suggested below in tasks 2 through 4.)

Deliverables

- Briefing materials for May 27-28 Puget Sound Partnership Leadership Council:
 - Side-by-side comparison of startup and implementation costs for the two model options.
 - Proposed approach for identifying potential cost savings and other efficiencies that might be realized by a coordinated program.
 - Partnership staff report on Assistant Attorney General's advice regarding legal authorities for governance models.
 - Governance committee report on work plan for transition to a coordinated regional monitoring program.
- Interagency agreement between Partnership and Ecology.

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Task 2. Establish interim steering committee and hire staff to shepherd program development prior to establishing an institute or new program at the Partnership

(This task might be blended with Task 3 if selected governance approach does not require any new legislative authority)

Timing: May 2009 – June 2010

Who: Partnership and Consortium staff, Governance Committee (members and facilitator), Science Panel, members of newly established interim steering committee.

Why: Enable a successful transition and start-up in a timely manner while keeping all of the interested parties engaged and committed to the regional program.

Funding

- FY09 staff time via existing Consortium and Partnership arrangements.
- \$70,000 of Consortium's 2009-11 proviso for 9 months FY10 staff appointment (or equivalent services via contract).
- \$30,000 of Consortium's 2009-11 proviso for facilitation and logistics support for interim steering committee.

Work Elements

2a. Decide composition of and establish interim steering committee. Composition arrived at by discussions among Consortium's Governance Committee members and Partnership Science Panel members and staff. Interim steering committee established by June 30; initial meeting in July.

2b. Procure facilitation and support services for interim steering committee work for FY10.

2c. Describe relationships among interim steering committee, staff, Science Panel, technical committee, work groups, etc. Initially by Consortium's Governance Committee and Science Panel, then formalized by interim steering committee. Initial version by June 30. Formally adopted by interim steering committee by August 31.

2d. Hiring and/or procurement of monitoring program lead staff. Develop position description (and/or RFP?) by August 31. Appointment or executed contract by October 31.

2e. Develop cost sharing for FY10 and FY11 to provide program funds needed to initiate coordinated monitoring and/or complete transition to the coordinated program.

Deliverables

- Interim steering committee charter, including description of roles and responsibilities of the committee and others. Complete by August 31, 2009.
- Work plans for interim steering committee for FY10 and staff for FY10 and early FY11 (implement tasks 3 and 4 below). Complete by November 30, 2009.
- Summary of status and next steps in developing cost-sharing arrangements. Complete by June 30, 2010.

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Task 3. Establish coordinated program per model selected in May 2009 by Partnership's Leadership Council

Timing: July 2009 – June 2011

Who: interim steering committee, monitoring program lead staff, Partnership boards and staff.

Why: Build upon current momentum to create a program where data are credible, usable, and accessible; parties agree to coordinate and share costs of monitoring and assessment efforts; limited resources are used more efficiently; and a credible forum for science-policy discussions is provided and supported.

Funding

- \$100,000 of Consortium's 2009-11 proviso for staff and facilitation and logistics support for program coordination.

Work Elements

Path A – Establish an independent institute

3Aa. Develop and engage stakeholder support for legislation to authorize institute. Work bills through 2010 legislature.

3Ab. Develop board. First meeting by June 2010.

3Ac. Develop articles of incorporation, bylaws, etc. Complete by June 2010.

3Ad. Hire Executive Director. Start in summer 2010.

3Ae. Hire other staff as funds allow.

3Af. Develop program plans and program funding and budget for FY11, 2011-13, and beyond.

Path B – Establish a program at the Puget Sound Partnership

3Ba. Develop and engage stakeholder support for legislation to authorize program at Partnership. Work bills through 2010 legislature.

3Bb. Develop steering committee. First meeting by June 2010.

3Bc. Develop charter for the program, steering committee, technical committee, etc. Complete by June 2010.

3Bd. Hire staff and, as appropriate, transition program lead staff from task 2 to new assignments.

3Be. Develop program plans and funding and budget for FY11, 2011-13 and beyond.

Deliverables

- Institutional documents (e.g., charter, bylaws, etc.) completed by June 30, 2010.
- Strategic plans and implementation plans for oversight board/committee, staff, and technical committee for FY 11 and longer-term completed by December 31, 2010.
- Budget proposal for 2011-13 state funding, including description of program funding anticipated from other sources, included in Partnership or other agency budget request by September 1, 2010.

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Task 4. Establish technical committee and commission, support, and coordinate the efforts of work groups to describe (and implement?) topic-specific approaches to coordinated monitoring

Timing: May 2009 – June 2010

Who: interim steering committee, monitoring program lead staff, Partnership boards and staff, Partnership science coordination staff.

Why: Ensure that stakeholders and implementers are working together to agree on standard sampling methods, data management approaches, and regional monitoring and assessment strategies that inform Puget Sound ecosystem recovery actions.

Funding

- EPA-Partnership Agreement for federal FY08 funds allocation for work group coordination: 1 year staff and facilitation and logistics support for technical committee and work group coordination.
- \$150,000 of Consortium's 2009-11 proviso supports the Stormwater Work Group for FY10:
 - \$50,000 for 0.5 FTE staff support (project manager).
 - \$75,000 for technical task teams (2 x 7 months) and implementation planning (5 months).
 - \$25,000 for facilitation and logistics support.
- \$50,000 of Consortium's 2009-11 proviso to support technical committee and work groups in FY11.

Work Elements

4a. Develop technical committee to include leaders or other representatives of work groups. Establish technical committee core membership by September 30 and have initial meeting by October 31. This element would be part of the work program for the Partnership's regional science coordinator, who would coordinate with the Science Panel and the interim steering committee.

4b. Coordinate technical work group efforts to develop aspects of the coordinated monitoring program. Commission existing and new work groups to develop monitoring strategies, coordinated implementation plans, standard operating procedures, etc. Work groups likely to include stormwater work group (see 4c below), PSAMP steering committee, Chinook recovery monitoring and adaptive management team, and others. Identify key staff participants on various work groups and relationships among work groups. Support for (some) work group leaders, consultants, etc. anticipated via Partnership work group support (FFY08 federal funds).

4c. Complete initial efforts of stormwater work group. By June 2010 prepare implementation plans (including cost sharing approach for FY11 if appropriate) and monitoring strategies for coordinated monitoring of stormwater characterization, impacts to beneficial uses, and program and BMP efficacy.

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Deliverables

- Technical Committee
 - Work group commissions regarding sampling and assessment strategies, implementation plans, and protocol development. Complete by December 31, 2009.
 - Quantified cost savings and other efficiencies expected to be realized by the coordinated program.
 - Detailed work plan and FY 10 and 11 funding allocations and cost-sharing from others for work group support. Complete by December 31, 2009.

- Stormwater Work Group
 - By June 30, 2009: prioritized monitoring objectives, testable hypotheses, study design framework, and proposed peer review strategy.
 - By January 31, 2010: peer-reviewed scientific design for the regional stormwater monitoring program for impacts to beneficial uses, characterization, and efficacy.
 - By June 30, 2010: an implementation plan (including cost-sharing and recommended NPDES permit requirements) for the regional monitoring program.