

GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, 3 October 2007 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Tacoma Nature Center, Auditorium

1919 S Tyler St., Tacoma

Draft Summary

OF THE COMMITTEE'S KEY DISCUSSIONS, DECISIONS AND AGREEMENTS

Attendees and the organizations they represent:

Allison Butcher, Master Builders Association of King and Snohomish Counties; **Sarah Brace**, Puget Sound Partnership; **Paul Bucich**, Federal Way; **Doug Bulthuis**, Padilla Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve; **Bill Derry**, APWA Stormwater Managers; **Karen Dinicola**, Washington State Department of Ecology and the Governance Committee's project manager; **Rich Doenges**, Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR); **Tom Eaton**, United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 10; **Maryanne Guichard**, Washington State Department of Health; **Gary Gill**, Battelle PNNL; **Kris Holm**, Business Groups; **Bruce Jones**, Northwest Indian Fisheries Council (NWIFC); **Heather Kibbey**, Pierce County; **Kit Paulsen**, Bellevue; **Matt Peterson** (Quadrant Corporation), Master Builders Association of King and Snohomish Counties; **Tim Quinn**, Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW); **Joanna Richey**, King County; **Ron Shultz**, Puget Sound Partnership; **Melodie Selby**, Washington State Department of Ecology; **Carol Smith**, Conservation Commission; **Ken Stone**, Washington State Department of Transportation; The Hon. **Steve Tharinger**, Commissioner, Clallam County; **Heather Trim** (People for Puget Sound), Environmental Groups and the Environmental Caucus of the Puget Sound Partnership; **Gary Turney**, United States Geological Survey (USGS) Water Resources Science Center; and **Jim Reid**, facilitator.

COMMITTEE REACHES CONSENSUS ON ITS MISSION

As the result of a ninety-minute discussion, the Committee members agreed to begin organizing coordinated monitoring in the Puget Sound basin. The starting point for this effort will be the 9 March 2007 Report and Recommendations of the Surface Water and Aquatic Habitat Monitoring Advisory Committee. The Committee undertakes the task of organizing coordinated monitoring with these "sideboards" in mind:

1. The Committee intends to carefully coordinate and communicate with representatives of the Puget Sound Partnership, the Puget Sound Ambient Monitoring Program (PSAMP), the Governor's Monitoring Forum, and the Governor's Salmon Recovery Office, as well as with representatives of other federal, state, local and private programs and initiatives that this Committee's discussions and any recommendations from it could "touch."

2. A coordinated monitoring effort needs to have a broader focus than stormwater.
3. Coordinated monitoring must address the interests and needs of rural communities as well as those of urban and suburban communities.
4. The Committee has no preconceived ideas about where a coordinated monitoring effort would be housed. The members intend to offer options, and perhaps recommend one, that would recognize, respect, coordinate and collaborate with other forums, organizations and initiatives that are also working to improve the health of the Puget Sound and lakes, rivers, streams and wetlands in the Puget Sound basin.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION AS WE BEGIN ORGANIZING COORDINATED MONITORING

During the discussion Committee members provided information that will be important to consider when developing options for organizing coordinated monitoring and in communicating, coordinating and collaborating with others, including:

- The Puget Sound Partnership is scheduled to produce a 2020 Action Agenda in Winter or Spring 2008, and by 31 July 2008 must develop benchmarks for gauging progress in improving the Puget Sound's health.
- Discussions are already underway about gathering and managing data. Among the questions being asked are: What is the data? How is it currently collected? How is it being organized and how are decision-makers using it?
- While the Puget Sound Partnership is in its infancy, its Leadership Council has been appointed, and its science panel is about to be put into place.

SOME INITIAL STEPS IN LAUNCHING THE COMMITTEE'S WORK

The agreement about the Governance Committee's purpose resulted in a decision to take these initial steps to implement it:

- Review the legislation passed by the legislature and signed by the Governor earlier this year that established the Puget Sound Partnership. Pay particular attention to any sections of the legislation which may address the Partnership's involvement in or responsibilities for monitoring. Our intention in conducting this research is to more fully and accurately understand the role of the Puget Sound Partnership so that we can: 1) effectively communicate and coordinate with its representatives; and 2) assess how the coordinated monitoring effort we design fits with its interests and role.
- "Reach out" to PSAMP soon to ensure close coordination and continuous communication. The Committee's project manager, Karen Dinicola, has already been invited to meet with PSAMP staff at their next meeting. In addition, Sarah Brace of the Puget Sound Partnership/PSAMP suggested drafting a joint statement that could outline areas of collaboration.
- Using the March 2007 Monitoring Advisory Committee's findings on the roles, responsibilities and organizational structures of various coordinated monitoring programs

across the nation as the starting point, develop 3-4 “large” alternatives for organizing coordinated monitoring.

A subcommittee was established to present those options to the Committee at its 5 December 2007 meeting. Subcommittee members will be Sarah Brace, Karen Dinicola, Joanna Richey and Heather Trim, with Jim Reid serving as the subcommittee facilitator.

If Committee members wish to suggest to the subcommittee other forums, organizations, programs or initiatives that should be considered, call or email Karen Dinicola at 360.407.6550 or kdin461@ecy.wa.gov, or call or email facilitator Jim Reid at 206.324.2061 or falconer@seanet.com.

In addition, the Committee reviewed the list of stakeholders who need to be involved in the Committee’s work and recommended trying to recruit to our group representatives of: 1) the Governor’s Salmon Office (names mentioned: Steve Leiter and Chris Drivdahl); 2) ports (names suggested: Bob Duffner, Port of Seattle [SeaTac Airport] and Patrick Jones and Eric Johnson, Washington Public Ports Association [WPPA]); 3) Northwest Straits Commission; 4) environmental organizations; 5) individual Tribes; and 6) Water Resource Inventory Areas (WRIAs).

COORDINATION WITH THE TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Committee was briefed about the kick-off meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee on 27 September. Like ours, that committee emerged from the March 2007 recommendations of the Surface Water and Aquatic Habitat Monitoring Advisory Committee. (Seven of us in attendance today are members of that group.)

After a brief discussion about that group’s role and responsibilities and its interest in launching some “pilot projects,” we offer some observations and friendly advice:

- The Governance Committee supports the Technical Committee moving forward with “pilot projects” to capture the energy and excitement of numerous jurisdictions about coordinating their monitoring efforts and demonstrate that coordinated monitoring at a regional level can help achieve the interests and goals identified in the March 2007 report.
- As the Technical Advisory Committee considers criteria by which to select projects, it should consider selecting projects that: 1) involve multi-party, interjurisdictional coordination; 2) are not dependent on a governance or management structure being already in place; and 3) can lead to relatively quick successes, thus creating momentum for continuing and building a coordinated regional monitoring effort for the Puget Sound basin.
- As the Technical Advisory Committee identifies and describes the “pilot projects” it wants to move forward with, it would be prudent to include cost estimates and define the kinds of contributions that various parties will make to ensure the projects’ success.

THE GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE’S NEXT MEETING IS WEDNESDAY, 5 DECEMBER 2007