



MARINE RESOURCES ADVISORY COUNCIL

Meeting Summary

August 26, 2014, 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Conference Call

Meeting Attendance and Objectives

The Washington Marine Resources Advisory Council (MRAC) held its fifth meeting on August 26, 2014 via conference call. The meeting was facilitated by Angie Thomson of EnviroIssues and Martha Kongsgaard, MRAC Chair.

Members in attendance: Martha Kongsgaard (Chair), Ron Schultz & Mark Clark (Washington State Conservation Commission alternates for James Peters), Dick Sheldon, Mike Cassinelli, Megan Duffy (Department of Natural Resources alternate for Peter Goldmark), Tom Davis, Bill Dewey, Christine Woodward, Kelly Wood, Garrett Dalan, Hedia Adelman (Department of Ecology alternate for Maia Bellon), Steve Hollenhorst, Keith Ledford (Makah Tribal Council alternate for T.J. Greene), Lisa Graumlich, Phil Rockefeller, Paul Dye, Rich Childers (Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife alternate for Philip Anderson)

MRAC members not in attendance:

Terry Williams, Tony Floor, Brian Allison, Senator Kevin Ranker, Representative Dave Hayes, Senator Steve Litzow, Representative Larry Seaquist, Norm Dicks, Libby Jewett, Dennis McLerran

Other participants

Abby Ruskey (E3 Washington), Amy Sprenger (NANOOS), Betsy Peabody (Puget Sound Restoration Fund), Cathy Cosca (NOAA), Julie Horowitz (Governor's Office), Laura Francis (NOAA), Meg Chadsey (SeaGrant), Michal Rechner (DNR), Mindy Roberts (ECY), Nina Bednarsek (PMEL), Shallin Busch (NOAA), Terrie Klinger (WA OA Center), Tina Echeverria (DOH), Mark Plunkett (Seattle Aquarium), Jessie Turner (Cascadia Law Group), Amy Grondin (Fishing & OA outreach), Cinde Donoghue (DNR), Micah Horwith (DNR), Gary Wilburn, Jessie Turner, Brian Campbell, Linda Anderson-Carnahan, Mark Clark, Lacey Chancy, Richard Feely (NOAA)

Meeting objectives:

- Review draft decision packages for state funding developed from proposals presented at July meeting
- Review progress made on other proposals targeting federal and private funding

Materials distributed:

- Draft decision packages for potential state funding

Welcome, recent and upcoming happenings

Chair Martha Kongsgaard opened the meeting and thanked Council members for participating in the call. She explained the goals of the meeting and the recent work to develop decision packages for the Council review. She emphasized that ocean acidification is a top priority for Governor Inslee and it

is important to have Washington, a state being affected by ocean acidification sooner than other states in the US, begin implementing policies to mitigate its effects. She also mentioned that the MRAC has made important connections with Senator Cantwell's office to see how the Council can work with her politically and logistically, in light of her recent work on ocean acidification.

Angie Thomson invited council members to share updates on recent happenings related to ocean acidification. Topics discussed included:

- Hedia Adelman explained that a year ago the Pacific Coast Collaborative (PCC) sent a letter to President Obama and Prime Minister Harper to encourage collaboration between federal agencies and California, Oregon, Washington, and British Columbia. The PCC has been planning an in-person meeting of federal agencies and state representatives for this fall. A draft agenda has been developed, and the meeting will focus on collaboration in research and monitoring, developing mitigation and remediation policy, and funding work in the ocean acidification field. The meeting time and location has not yet been determined.
- Shallin Busch, Libby Jewett, and Richard Feely recently attended a roundtable on ocean acidification held in Washington, DC. The meeting focused on how various agencies are working with the US State Department to integrate with international efforts on ocean acidification. A series of recommendations from the meeting are still being edited, which include engaging other countries to expand the global ocean acidification network and begin international coordination; developing funding resources at the international level to help sustain the acidification network; and working with world banks to help developing countries develop capabilities to address ocean acidification.
- Bill Dewey shared that on June 20 Taylor Shellfish hosted a hatchery tour for Governor Inslee and on June 30 hosted a tour for the Washington State House Environment Committee.
- Mindy Roberts explained that in response to a recent national request for letters of intent on ocean acidification, the University of Washington and the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory have submitted letters for federal funding of modeling upgrades.

MRAC decision packages

Angie explained the process for developing draft decision packages. She reminded the Council that the proposals presented at the July MRAC meeting fell into three categories: 1) proposals considered for state funding, 2) proposals considered for federal funding, and 3) proposals considered for non-profit and private funding. She explained that this meeting would focus on moving the decision packages for state funding forward due to the October deadline for state funding, but assured Council members that the other proposals will continue to move forward. She emphasized that the decision packages shared with the Council are drafts and do not have finalized budget information. She welcomed input from the Council on the overall content and the budget information, and explained that the Office of Financial Management and Department of Natural Resources shared the decision package template with the MRAC and thus the format cannot be significantly altered.

Martha noted that the decision packages identify lead agencies for the proposed work, and emphasized that the MRAC itself will not do the work established in the proposals, but rather a state agency will lead the work with support from other agencies. Rich Childers asked for clarification on the budget breakdown if projects will not be accomplished by a single agency. Angie explained that the budget details will depend on the individual decision package. In some cases, the programs are

cooperative and will involve multiple agencies, whereas some decision packages create or expand programs housed in one agency. The budget and funding requests will reflect this. Mike Cassinelli commented that decision packages that expand work currently being done by an agency should continue to be housed in the same agency, and funding should continue to go to the lead agency. Angie confirmed that where there is an identified agency currently working on the programs covered in the decision packages, the funding will continue to go to that agency.

Richard commented that in addition to requests for funds by various agencies, there are also collaborative efforts occurring with federal agencies. This should be noted in the decision packages to emphasize that the funding requests are not duplicative. Hedia agreed and added that it is important to emphasize that the state funding is still needed to fund these programs, and that federal action on ocean acidification does not mean the efforts are redundant. Rather, the MRAC should explain in the decision packages the leveraging of federal funds in partnerships with state funds to show that this is a collaborative partnership.

Dick Sheldon expressed concern that the native oyster restoration decision package focuses on too few species. He suggested that rather than going after species in a piecemeal fashion, there should be an effort made to explore more species and understand their importance. The native oyster restoration will not have an impact on oysters in Willapa Bay, and thus the MRAC should focus on other species as well. Betsy Peabody responded by explaining that the proposals were built on the recommendations of the Blue Ribbon Panel, and will test ideas explored in the Panel's recommendation to understand what will improve carbonate chemistry and mitigate the effects of ocean acidification. She acknowledged that while the native oyster restoration program established in the decision package may not have a significant impact on oysters in Willapa Bay, there are many opportunities for the program in Puget Sound. She also agreed that a different program may need to be established in Willapa Bay to improve filtering of water by oysters. She expressed concern that without commercial shellfish, the area would be overwhelmed by nutrient pollution, and in the future the MRAC may look to develop a program that may have a more significant impact in Willapa Bay.

Richard commented on the biological experiments decision package, noting that current research has expanded the suite of organisms being studied. He emphasized that the decision packages need to explain the collaborative work going on and that it may be useful to put laboratory studies in the context of other work being done. Angie asked that Richard help in developing the language to strengthen this proposal. Terrie Klinger explained that in the current biennium, experiments focused on species of chief commercial interests instead of managed species, based on recommendations by the Blue Ribbon Panel. She suggested that the decision package should clearly explain that the MRAC recognizes the need for and importance of extending studies to managed species of ecological importance. Angie asked Terrie to help in fine-tuning the language of the decision package to reflect this.

Paul Dye noted that the native oyster restoration decision package does not reference the Puget Sound Recovery Goals or the Washington Shellfish Initiative. It references the governor's priorities and agency strategic plans, but highlighting the Recovery Goals and Shellfish Initiative could strengthen the package by noting that it is also important to other goals.

Megan Duffy asked for clarification on the funding source for these decision packages, especially given that agencies have been asked to cut 15% of their budgets. Angie and Martha explained that in meeting with OFM, they were told that the decision packages will outline the costs and the justification for the programs. If OFM finds that the decision packages are important and necessary, they will find the appropriate funds to move the programs forward.

Richard asked Angie about the decision package funding the Washington OA Center, and she responded that Stephanie Harrington at the University of Washington is drafting the decision package and that she will send it to the council once it is completed.

Angie concluded discussion of the state decision packages by explaining that over the next month she will work with many Council members to finalize the packages. The final decision packages are due to OFM by October 1. She encouraged Council members to submit any other commits via email before September 12 and assured them that she would continue to update them as the decision packages are finalized and submitted. Council members will also receive a draft copy of the letter to be sent to Governor Inslee on October 1 explaining the need for funds. Martha added that the input and suggestions of the Council were very helpful and will go a long way in improving the decision packages.

Other MRAC priorities

Angie explained to the group the plan for the other proposals presented to the MRAC at the July meeting. Although those proposals were not the focus of this call, she emphasized that the MRAC is still working to move them forward and seeking other funding sources.

Bill asked Angie if the Legislative ad hoc committee is meeting and working on a plan for the coming legislative session. Angie explained that the committee is working on a strategy, and that a simpler version of decision packages with the main highlights of the programs will be developed to get support from the legislature.

Shallin noted that for proposals seeking federal funding, it may be necessary to wait until the fall when federal agencies have figured out how to incorporate ocean acidification into their own budgets.

Julie Horowitz suggested that collaborating with the PCC for the fall meeting may help encourage federal funding of ocean acidification programs. Hedia suggested that Richard, Terrie, and Jan Newton help connect the MRAC's decision packages and the work of the West Coast Ocean Acidification & Hypoxia Science Panel to further encourage federal funding. Richard agreed and commented that the stronger collaborations between MRAC and other organizations, the more it becomes attractive to federal agencies to support this kind of research. The MRAC has to articulate those collaborations and provide that information in a portfolio to convince federal agencies of the importance of the programs.

Hedia asked Martha if she is engaged with the four legislators on the Council and suggested that they could be championing the work of the MRAC. Martha explained that she is engaged with them and encouraging their participation. Bill suggested that the next in-person MRAC meeting be scheduled after November elections so legislators may be able to participate.

Julie asked if there has been any coordination with Washington's tribes and the Olympic Coast Intergovernmental Policy Council. Martha responded that there has not been coordination. Terrie noted that the Washington OA Center works closely with tribal representatives and the Intergovernmental Policy Council and agreed that MRAC should collaborate with them. Keith Ledford responded that tribal participation needs to be improved given that most of Washington's tribes have treaties with the federal government. Cross-agency collaboration to address OA is likely to be more successful once guidelines managing the federal agencies' interests in Puget Sound waters, salmon and shellfish are implemented.

Angie updated the group on the education and outreach proposals. She explained that she has asked members of the Education and Outreach ad hoc committee to help put together a list of people that can help in discussing K-12 education, and that she will be planning a meeting with ad hoc committee members and representatives from the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction to discuss how to integrate ocean acidification into K-12 education. She expressed that the committee is hopeful that this will move the proposal forward to integrate ocean acidification into K-12 education. Betsy added that she had a discussion with someone from the EPA about the specific outreach proposals presented at the July MRAC meeting and was given the impression that the EPA would embrace those outreach strategies as the right strategies to engage the public. She suggested that the MRAC look to the EPA and other federal agencies for funding of the outreach proposals. Angie noted that the Education and Outreach ad hoc committee will be meeting soon and that she will update the MRAC on its progress.

Martha thanked everyone for participating and for their comments on the decision packages. Angie thanked everyone and adjourned the call.

Next Steps

- Angie will accept comments from Council members on the decision packages until September 12
- Angie will send a draft of the letter to the governor and the draft decision package for the Washington OA Center
- The Legislative ad hoc committee will develop a legislative strategy in the next month
- MRAC will coordinate with PCC meeting to advance proposals for fed funding
- The Education and Outreach ad hoc committee will meet to move its proposals forward; an additional meeting with OSPI will also be held to focus on K-12 education
- The next in-person Council meeting will be held in November to discuss federal funding for proposals, education and outreach proposals, and feedback from OFM after the submission of decision packages