

Meeting Summary of June 11, 2012 South Central Action Area Caucus Group

**Topics: Action Agenda Update Schedule Ecosystem Coordination Board Subcommittees
Overview of Round 3 Lead Organization Funding
Puget Sound Champions Awards
Q and A with Martha K. and Gerry O.
Update on Priority Project**

Attendees: Don Fiene (WRIA 8, Lake Forest Park City Council), Jean White (WRIA 8) Fred Jarrett(Chair of Caucus Group and Deputy Executive of King County), Doug Osterman (WRIA9 Normandy Park City Councilmember), Kathy Minsch (Seattle), Sarah Hemphill (King CD), Don Davidson (Bellevue City Councilmember, WRIA 8), Craig Goodwin (Black Diamond City Council member, Suburban Cities Association), Layne Barnes (Maple Valley City Councilmember, Suburban Cities Association), Brad Gaolach (WSU Ext.), Monica Whitman (SCA staff), Kristin Williamson (South Sound Salmon Enhancement Group), Chris Towe Pierce Conservation Dist./PECO .Net) , Leda Chehim (Forterra), Alisa O'Hanlin (City of Tacoma), Martha Kongsgaard (PSP), Susan O'Neil (PSP), Stephanie Jones Stebbins, Megan Smith (King County).

Introduction of a new member, Sara Hemphill, Executive Director of the King Conservation District and her designated alternate Brandy Reed, Conservation District Staff. And guests Gerry O'Keefe and Martha Kongsgaard. Lorin Reinelt, who had been representing Pierce County, is being replaced by Tom Kantz. Tom was unable to attend today's meeting but will be joining us in the future.

De'Sean Quinn outlined the decision points and opportunities to comment and influence the final Action Agenda Update outcome.

Action Agenda Update Summary of Events: The Action Agenda is progressing and is set to be presented to the Leadership Council for final action on August 6th.

Book 1 – will contain highlights of the problems facing Puget Sound and an explanation of the approach to recovery. Book 1 - will be open for comments starting July 2- and concluding on July 13.

Book 2 –will be available near the end of July, it will be a full description of

1. strategic initiatives
2. sub-strategies
3. Near-term actions
4. Ongoing programs
5. Targets
6. And local profiles

ECB has formed subcommittees that will meet this week.

Three strategic Initiatives

1. Shellfish
2. Stormwater (Tacoma City Councilmember Ryan Mello, and Betsy Cooper of King County are serving on behalf of the South Central Caucus)
3. Habitat- Doug Osterman chair, Jean White King County and WRIA 8, and Council member Joan McGilton and Kathy Minsch representing cities

Serving on behalf of the Caucus group is: Stormwater: Tacoma City Councilmember Ryan Mello and Betsy Cooper of King County are serving on behalf of the South Central Caucus Habitat: Doug Osterman chair, Jean White King County and WRIA 8, and Council member Joan McGilton and Kathy Minsch representing cities. Re-ranking of pressures and sub-strategies to refine the survey are also ongoing Deb Lester of King County and Scott Stolnack of WRIA 8 are participating on behalf of the caucus group there is still the opportunity for technical experts to participate on June 18-25.

This will result in a total of three lists rather than one

- A. Upland/terrestrial
- B. Marine/shoreline
- C. Pollution

Final Corresponding dates to mention regarding Action Agenda update activities:

- ECB will be meeting on July 25 for the final review of the Action Agenda.
- Leadership Council meeting to adopt the Action Agenda Update on August 6.

Puget Sound Champions Awards

- *King County, Vashon-Maury Island Shoreline Protection* – represented by Mark Isaacson and Kevin Brown;
- *Totem Ocean Trailer Express (TOTE) Rain garden* – represented by Phil Morrell, VP of Marine and Terminal Ops.
- *South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group's Kristin Williamson* – Greenwater River restoration project
- *Green Shorelines Steering Committee* – represented by Jean White and Annette Frahm of WRIA 8
- *Feet First – Watershed Walks* – represented by Lisa Quinn, Executive Director (Honorable mention for SPU/ECOSS)

Caucus members were very appreciative of the organizations that were present and invited them to attend future meetings.

Q and A with Gerry O'Keefe and Martha Kongsgaard

Gerry and Martha started the discussion with the recognition that to make progress we need to present action, clear goals and targets with improved performance management systems.

The Puget Sound Partnership must continue to lead and understand the scope they have been given by the Governor and legislature. We are making progress, but it's complicated and not simple work. It's our job to stay connected to work, and show progress over a large geographic area.

The speakers said they appreciate the caucus groups and stakeholders engagement in Olympia.

Caucus group members made the following points:

- Our group has been supportive of getting to a short, focused set of actions that can be embraced and moved forward, and the Strategic Initiatives in Book 1 are a big step in this direction.
- Under the revised schedule, the work on Strategic Initiatives and re-ranking of sub-strategies seem to still be on parallel tracks. How will they get synthesized?

Speakers responded: Strategic Initiatives were achieved by consensus and the initiatives will guide the priorities for 2012-2013 this effort to increase funding and policy changes overlap somewhat with the re-ranked sub-strategies.

PSP will attempt to resolve this with a combination of the ranking process and work done by subcommittees

The Tribes are developing a separate set of actions, but it seems to be on a different schedule. How will these actions inform the Strategic Initiatives if they come in after? We are particularly interested in actions to be carried out by local governments.

Speakers responded:

The anticipated schedule of tribal habitat work and recommendation on strategies should occur June 25 or 26th.

- The group discussed funding and leveraging Federal, State and local dollars to help us in the effort to address problems in Puget Sound.

The great challenge of the work is to fund it appropriately.

- Restoration of eco-system long term commitment is not funded and will require coordinating efforts.

Although the organization has limited staff resources we will work to maximize opportunities to collaborate with our stakeholders.

Funding Committee report

The ECB funding sub-committee met two weeks ago. It covered an overview from Partnership staff regarding a possible new approach to PSAR grants.

Some of the money would be spread out geographically to ensure that all watersheds continue to make progress (this is the current model). A new twist would be to also allocate funding to some

larger scale projects that are critical to salmon recovery but are at a scale that simply is too large for the typical funding awards.

This seems aligned with discussions we've had about trying to better align state and federal funds with actions that are most central to moving toward recovery targets.

Gerry O. responded:

PSP developed some assessment processes the organization understands what ECB means to the process

Funding report continued:

The funding sub-committee recommends developing a funding strategy focused on the Strategic Initiatives, and that we do a gap analysis that looks at:

- cost to implement Strategic Initiatives, current funding landscape (what are we funding now and how),
- opportunities to re-align existing funding, gaps (both in type and amount of funding),
- potential synergies between actions (e.g., between transportation and stormwater, flood hazard reduction and habitat, agriculture and water quality),
- constraints of existing funding mechanisms, and recommended near-term and long-term funding strategies.

Gerry O. responded:

Funding is a challenge at watershed level a dedicated revenue source does not exist. PSP understands we need you and you need us as working partners. We can accomplish all by being creative

Caucus group members made the following points:

- The LIO have been working hard to come up with a wish list based on how priorities are set.
- How is that work integrated into the work of the LO's?

Speakers responded:

Yes the approach to integrate work in final Action Agenda update through both local profiles and throughout the Actions Agenda.

The discussions of consolidated watershed plan needs to be transparent

Our challenges have been timing (Strategic Initiatives and cost estimates delayed and resources to do the gap analysis).

Critical Gap analysis is a significant body of work. It cannot be accomplished without dedicated staff or consultant resources from the Partnership. Chris Townsend says they will use EPA funds to try to secure consultant in July.

As we move into the next legislative session, still need near-term funding strategy hang onto existing grant funds (PSAR discussion is encouraging).

Watershed Improvement District is still in the discussion stage. But, hearing interest from WRIA 9 in keeping the Watershed Improvement District concept on the table. Should talk more about what this might mean. Start briefings with legislators re: the funding gap and need for better alignment of funding sources this fall? Funding summit (WRIA 9 proposal).

This year Salmon recovery funding board has seen money cut by the legislature Watershed is essential to success.

Caucus member mentioned: Farm and Fish –partnerships leverage their role Ag and forestry protect open space collectively finds a way to keep people this may be a good of example of the partnership that need to continue to occur in our efforts to restore the sound.

Caucus member mentioned that permit and regulation is not a substitute for funding

Caucus member mentioned:

It is important to consider creating a clear understanding of ownership and responsibility of funding from local, state and federal sources. – Currently its obscure it's important to be clear about funding need (reality). What is most effective is getting what was developed integrated. It is important to keep all watersheds a float. For example Puget Sound acquisition these our concepts that can be supported and expanded.

Caucus member mentioned:

Watershed groups realize the importance of having the appropriate answer for governance.

Caucus member mentioned:

The Partnership needs to support the effort of telling the story of the current state of Puget Sound and reason for all efforts. It is import to encourage creating a clear understanding of ownership and responsibility of funding from local, state and federal sources.

A committee member mentioned that they would like to focus future meetings on this topic. Important work that needs to be completed is to develop funding at the state level. One step could include gap analysis of the current need and opportunities for alignment Department of Ecology money needs to be more aligned with the Action Agenda.

Caucus group raised the following questions in discussion of funding:

- How do we keep the conversation going even though there are gaps?
- How do you increase current funding available for restoring Puget Sound?

There are current discussions of the possibility of a summit on the LIO level, ask state legislative leaders watershed how efforts fit together toward a comprehensive solution for the sound.

Potentially WRIA 9 can host this summit –in their efforts to organize a yellow bus tour can be an opportunity for summit event.

Caucus member mentioned there is no coordination with tribes and our efforts

1:45 pm

Overview of Round 3 Lead Organization Funding

EPA receives federal funding to support efforts to protect and restore Puget Sound. Most of the funds are used for financial assistance to state, local and tribal governments for their efforts to implement the Puget Sound Action Agenda

Lead Organizations include:

Washington State Department of Ecology
Washington State Department of Health
Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife
Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission
and Puget Sound Partnership

Lead Organizations use competitive processes, and in some cases direct awards, to fund work identified in their six-year strategies.

There is a total of \$48.4 million for Year 1, 2, and 3.

Lead organizations are making investments in 2012 (round 3) Puget Sound Action Agenda and the three Strategic Initiatives for 2012/2013.

Round 3 will include funding for
Toxics/Nutrient Prevention, Reduction, and Control
Pathogen prevention, reduction and control
Watershed protection and restoration

Currently RFP's are scheduled to be released late summer early fall.

Decision and Action Item:

De'Sean Quinn will compile suggestions from members to generate a response letter to EPA on the Lead Organization funding model.

Themes for the letter should include high priority items identified by the caucus group

- Implement stormwater management
- Technical assistance to private sector
- Allow for meaningful voice at the local level

Along with the letter he will send out a list of projects funded in Year 1 and 2 to organizations and jurisdictions within the South Central Action Area.

A caucus member

Decision:

Caucus member agreed that the caucus meeting should now begin at 12:30 and end at 2:30 unless there is a good reason to extend meeting

Upcoming 2012 Caucus Group Meetings

- August 6
- October 15

Directions to Renton City Hall and parking details:

<http://rentonwa.gov/government/default.aspx?id=1172>

Respectfully submitted

South Central Caucus Group Coordinator