

## **South Central Action Area Caucus Group Meeting Notes**

**March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2013**

### **Renton City Hall Council Chambers**

#### **Attendance:**

Don Fiene (WRIA 8, Lake Forest Park City Council), Jason Mulvihill-Kuntz (WRIA 8), Doug Osterman (WRIA9), Kathy Minsch (Seattle), Susan Saffery (Seattle) Sarah Hemphill (King CD), Andy Rheaume, Craig Goodwin (SCA), Doreen Booth (SCA staff), Alisa O'Hanlon (City of Tacoma), Erika Harris (PSRC) Christie True (King County DNRP), Tom Kantz (Pierce County), Sherrie Duncan (Citizen for Healthy Bay), Steve Carstens (City of Puyallup) Keri Pravitz (Friends of the Cedar River Watershed), Paul Meyer (Port of Seattle), Megan Smith (KC Exec office), Leda Chahim (Forterra).

#### **1. Welcome and introductions**

Fred began the meeting by introducing Andy Rheaume a council member from the city of Bothell. He is the new Sound Cities Association (SCA) representative replacing Layne Barnes. He is also a Senior Planner for the city of Redmond.

#### **2. Update of LIO Coordinators Meeting**

De'Sean provided a brief recap of the first Local Integrating Organizations (LIO) Coordinators meeting held March 12 hosted by the Puget Sound Partnership.

Jim Bolger facilitated

Puget Sound partnership introduced the idea of changing the architecture of the Action Agenda. Essentially moving away from an Sound-wide ecosystem pressures, strategies and actions to one constructed to highlight local integrating efforts. The intent is to feature the efforts in the local areas as a focus of Action Agenda for 2016 update and future updates.

The purpose of the raising this topic at the LIO coordinator meeting was to get input and feedback on this concept. This would require three coordinated efforts; common language, science and technical information, and common planning processes.

Bruce highlighted potential objectives of this proposal.

- Recognize varying level of development of this work
- Avoid duplication of work at the local (LIO watershed) scale
- Improve direction of state and federal funding to priority issues for LIOs
- Improve ability to identify and represent management gaps and needs at the local level

De'Sean mentioned that the 2014 Action Agenda update will be very minor and limited in scope for the update. This topic will also be presented at the upcoming Ecosystem Coordination Board (ECB) Thursday and Leadership Council.

De'Sean asked the caucus group to identify comments to provide Fred and Christie as both members represent us at the Ecosystem Coordination Board.

Caucus members discussed the information presented and provided a series of considerations and comments.

Susan asked if the purpose of this proposal is to align more with local area priorities and provide more input from LIOs to guide Lead Organization investment.

CM Fiene mentioned that the goal is to restore the Puget Sound by 2020 and asked whether this additional planning process conflict with meeting that deadline. He mentioned the goal of planning is valuable but it is also important to do on the ground projects.

Doug mentioned that there is currently a process underway at the salmon recovery work to shift their planning process. He asked how that process fits in with the new proposal that the Puget Sound Partnership is considering for the Action Agenda.

Susan mentioned that she is pleased that the Partnership is pulling LIOs together to coordinate efforts. She mentioned that there is a role that the Puget Sound Partnership can continue to play in coordinating and facilitating to support LIOs in their work across the sound.

Susan mentioned that it is important that the Partnership identifies the drivers for the proposed shift in structure for the 2016 Action Agenda. Making sure there is a shared understanding where this will lead us, what is the benefit of shifting this planning process and what it means for local area priorities.

Tom indicated his support for Susan's statement and added that he appreciates the coordination and restructuring of Action Agenda as proposed by the Puget Sound Partnership. He asked how that will translate for earning support and funding for the local area priorities.

Doug asked the question. What is the plan for engaging Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the state to allow them to understand and plan for the change in focus?

Jason suggested as the Partnership moves toward planning for the new process it is critical that they demonstrate the benefit to LIOs and the regions. He mentioned that for years as a caucus group we have been seeking a formal role for LIO in resource allocation and other planning efforts and this shift presents an opportunity to realize those efforts.

Susan indicated that in her role as the LIO representative at the cross partnership advisory committee she has advocated that LIOs have a voice with Lead Organizations for funding decisions. She mentioned it is a great idea to beef up the role of LIOs voice in the process where currently it is not coordinated.

### **3. Discuss Working Group progress on refining local actions**

De'Sean provided the caucus a series of documents for members to review that were generated by the working group subcommittee. He explained that the refinement process began with looking at the current profile in the Action Agenda. It involved making small edits updating the narrative and adding narrative focusing on the funding needs.

De'Sean walked the caucus through supporting documents

- Outline document for categories to assist in refinement of local actions
- A table of current local actions separated by strategic initiatives with corresponding sub-strategies.
- Summary document of Strategic Initiatives.
- A table of current sub-strategies and definitions and owners from current Action Agenda.

Next steps the working group will populate fields in table and share and collaborate with the caucus group where ever possible.

Fred mentioned that the documents and process used was informative and the next step is getting to a higher level of specificity.

Andy asked will the local actions have updated information to go along with refinement. He indicated many jurisdictions in the South Central area are doing the work now and it would be great to document that work and add to our profile.

Kathy also mentioned that the owners for projects/programs vary but the intent is to capture as much as possible in the refinement process.

Fred highlighted that the first item listed in South Central's table is "identify regulatory compliance". He mentioned that at this point we have to know what things that we as the LIO wants in local government plans to help us in our efforts to restore the sound.

Doug mentioned that a potential next step is listing out the 3 year Salmon recovery plans and reflecting them in the table of local actions.

### **4. General partnership Update**

Bruce began his update by informing the caucus group that there is currently some work going on in the Salmon Recovery Councils that focuses on monitoring and adaptive management. He mentioned that consultants "Long live the Kings have been hired and are currently assisting in the development of monitoring and adaptive management framework. Their emphasis is on ensuring language is more consistent across WRIA's. The plan is being developed to be implemented by 2014.

Bruce highlighted that every watershed will get \$40,000 for this development work. The deliverables will be to input information into Mauradi software and demonstrate the logic model with periodic check in's with LIOs. This process is referred to as the open standards process.

Bruce shared that the Partnership has a featured performance management system on the website that he encourages caucus members to visit. The webpage has a featured scorecard that highlights the Near Term Actions listed in the Action Agenda and the process.

Bruce also identified Puget Sound Partnership a has a program dedicated to monitoring called the "Puget Sound Ecosystem Monitoring Program" focused on the efforts to coordinate monitoring across the sound. Bruce also suggested to the caucus group go to the web page.

Bruce indicated that currently an RFP from Department of Ecology that is focused on Stormwater Retrofit Planning and design that is available to applicants. De'Sean will provide the link to Caucus members.

Fred asked if there was any news on the Executive Director search at Partnership. Bruce shared that Mark Daly is the interim Executive Director and there is no recent updates on who will be appointed.

## **5. WRIA 9 Stormwater retrofit project**

Fred informed the caucus group that the presenter for this agenda item was not available and stricken with laryngitis. However, the presentation will be available at the next scheduled caucus group meeting.

## **6. Prep for Ecosystem Coordination Board**

Fred asked for feedback on the funding assessment document that will be reviewed at the ECB. Several members wanted a little more time to review and will provide comments to De'Sean prior to Thursday's meeting. Fred also acknowledged that he has heard the comments regarding the shift in the Action Agenda process and will carry those forward to the meeting.

Susan and other caucus group members expressed interest in receiving meeting materials on the Regulatory Subcommittee Report and the Shoreline and Related Incentives agenda item listed.

## **7. Updates and Announcements**

CM Goodwin shared that Sound Cities Association has applied for a Puget Sound Institute grant focused on social science. He indicated that the application has progressed past the first stage. As the process continues SCA reps will keep the caucus group informed.

Sarah shared that she and her organization will be going down to Olympia to talk with legislators about the work of building relationships with property owners across the Sound. These

relationships can assist with regulatory and incentive based programs that are tools that can be used to recover the Sound.