

South Central Action Area Caucus Group Meeting Summary Notes

November 18, 2013

Renton City Hall Council Chambers

Attendance:

Fred Jarrett (Chair, King County), Jason Mulvihill-Kuntz (WRIA 8), Kathy Minsch (Seattle), Susan Saffery (Seattle), Doreen Booth (SCA staff), Erika Harris (PSRC), Tom Kantz (Pierce County), Doug Osterman (WRIA 9), Megan Smith (KC Exec office), Don Fiene (WRIA 8), Bruce Wulkan (PSP), , Heather Trim (King County ECO-Net), Brandy Reed (KCD), Christie True (King County) Mieke Hoppin (City of Tacoma), Alisa O'Hanlon (City of Tacoma) Brian Walsh (PSP), De'Sean Quinn (LIO Coordinator, King County)

1. Welcome and introductions

The meeting began with the introductions.

Chair Jarrett mentioned that we are losing two members of the caucus group. Councilmember Andy Rheume (Bothell) has served as one of the two Sound Cities Representatives. Councilmember Joan McGilton (Burien) represented WRIA 9. She has been instrumental in leading protection of habitat and an important fixture in WRIA 9 and South King County for over a decade.

Chair Jarrett recognized both for the participation and leadership in the work of the Caucus Group and mentioned we will miss their advocacy and leadership as we continue to work towards Puget Sound recovery.

2. Legislative Update/Action Agenda update timeline

Bruce Wulkan updated the group.

- The Puget Sound Partnership Executive Director position is still unfilled; however Marc Daily continues to lead the organization in an interim capacity.
- This year all Local Integrating Organization's (LIO's) around the Sound are refining Near Term Actions and updating narratives.
- The South Central Caucus Group chose submittal Path A (due October 30, 2013). Bruce thanked the working group and the caucus for their hard work meeting that deadline. The Puget Sound Partnership staff has formally received the Near Term Actions (NTA) and updated narrative for the 2014 Action Agenda Update and will continue to work with De'Sean on edits to the submitted document.
- The Puget Sound Partnership staff are reviewing all Path A submitted Near Term Actions with a working team headed by Brian Walsh.

- The 2014 Action Agenda update will continue. In January there will be government to government communications; in March there will be 4 public workshops around the Sound as part of the public review; in April the Science Panel and ECB review will review and discuss; and in May (the 29-30) the Leadership Council will review and approve.

- Included in the 2014 Action Agenda update will be “development of new test “Implementation Strategies” to meet 2020 Ecosystem targets. Implementation Strategies are intended to be plans that describe the implementation path to meet 2020 Ecosystem Recovery Targets. The Puget Sound Partnership has contracted with a consultant to help develop a test Implementation strategy, for the shellfish recovery target to test this concept. Based on this first strategy, the Partnership hopes to develop two additional implementation strategies by March 2014. The 2014 Action Agenda will also include Ocean acidification, as per the governor’s executive order and a review of all existing NTA’s.
- Developing Legislative Agenda – All of this is from Nov 6th email from Michael Grayum, Partnership’s Director of State and Local Govt Relations.
- Partners around the region were asked what their top leg priorities were. Necessary to prioritize.
- Caucuses are now in the process of rating the list of policy proposals.
- Ratings are due to Michael and Tammy by tomorrow – the 19th.
 - These will then be compiled for discussion and review at upcoming board meetings.
 - Nov. 21, Ecosystem Coordination Board - review, discuss, and develop recommendation for the Leadership Council.
 - Dec. 6, Salmon Recovery Council - review, discuss, and develop recommendation for the Leadership Council.
 - Dec. 12-13, Leadership Council - discuss recommendations from the boards and endorse Puget Sound legislative priorities.
 - Dec 18 – Science Panel for science implications
- Several proposals have come from this LIO – it’s well represented!
 - Federal policy - Puget Sound as a “Great Waterbody” at federal level – funding!
 - Ballard locks – repair and upgrades
 - Buckley Diversion Dam – Repair and upgrade of fish collection
 - State policy – Incentivizing recycled oil programs
 - Supporting product stewardship/replacement
 - As well as a few others some of you may have worked through the associations.
- If interested in getting on the legislative calls distribution list, let me know and I’ll pass on to Michael Grayum and Tammy Antilla.

Caucus members asked several questions regarding the Implementation Strategies:

- Who has the primary responsibility for developing the “Implementation Strategies? The Partnership was asked by state and federal agency partners to develop implementation strategies. Partnership staff are taking the lead on developing a first strategy to test the concept, with assistance from a consultant. All work will be presented as draft to Partnership boards and councils for review and discussion.
- With this new effort how are the Strategic Initiatives being handled by the Partnership? As the Strategic Initiatives are the focused topics and activities to work on in the short term, needed actions from the Strategic Initiatives will be added, as appropriate to the test Implementation Strategy (Shellfish Harvest) and other Implementation Strategies, as they are developed.
- Where can the caucus get more information on these Implementation Strategies? “At the September 19th ECB meeting, Partnership staff presented a memo to the ECB on the Action Agenda update process and details. This memo contains information on Implementation Strategies. See:
http://www.mypugetsound.net/index.php?option=com_docman&task=cat_view&gid=611&Itemid=238
- What is the list of other possible Implementation Strategies, after the Shellfish one is developed? Shoreline armoring, Estuaries, Onsite sewage, and Swimming beaches.

Caucus members expressed concern that the legislative agenda is a collection of partners’ interests in legislative items. However, members felt the Puget Sound Partnership staff should specifically be requesting Action Agenda priorities.

3. Green River System Wide Improvement Framework(SWIF) (Please see attached presentations)

Caucus member’s questions included:

- What is the current Cubic Feet per Second (CFS) and temperature in the Green River?
- Is there a way to increase flows to assist with managing the temperature of the river?
- How does the Green River SWIF view the Seattle’s variance request for vegetation on levees?
- What is the national standard for vegetation on the levees?

Chair Jarrett commented that this process is an opportunity to breakdown silos and provides an opportunity for groups to talk about water stormwater/flooding and water quality.

Chair Jarrett added that the SWIF process has a timeline associated with the federal funds that support this process that can contribute to achieving a substantial outcome.

4. Update on “Building cities in the Rain” South Central’s Regional Alliances project. (Please see attached presentations)

5. South Central Caucus Near Term Action (NTA) document submittal.

De'Sean provided the most recent copy of the South Central Caucus NTA, and mentioned that the NTA document will be used as a basis for providing letters of support to grant applicants that request support from the South Central Action Area.

De'Sean mentioned that he will work closely with the working group to assist in identifying eligible grant applicants to make sure they are consistent with the Near Term Actions established.

Doug Osterman asked about outreach on this document, and suggested focused outreach to cities on it (in addition to working with the SCA.

6. Next Steps (Ecosystem Coordination Board(ECB) Meeting review agenda topics)

7. Chair Jarrett invited caucus members to identify any messages that they would like him to carry to ECB. Chair Jarrett mentioned the next ECB meeting will be on Wednesday, November 21 at Edmonds City Hall. The ECB agenda and list of topics is included in the caucus meeting materials. Members suggested conveying:

- Concerns by some caucus group members over the legislative agenda process.
- Additional need for identifying funding strategies.
- Potential for flexibility in the legislative strategy because of shifting priorities.
- Continued questions regarding the link between funding NTAs and Lead Organization priorities.