

SUMMARY
SOUTH PUGET SOUND MEETING OF
TRIBAL AND COUNTY ELECTED OFFICIALS

July 29, 2010, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Thurston County Courthouse, 2000 Lakeridge Drive SW, Bldg. 1, Room 280, in Olympia

ATTENDANCE:

William Frank III	Nisqually Tribal Councilman
Charlotte Garrido	Kitsap County Commissioner
Pat McCarthy	Pierce County Executive
Lynda Ring Erickson	Mason County Commissioner
Sandra Romero	Thurston County Commissioner
James Slape	Nisqually Tribal Councilman
Andy Whitener	Squaxin Island Tribal Councilman

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Roma Call	Puget Sound Partnership
Jeff Dickson	Squaxin Island Tribe
Rich Doenges	Thurston County
Laurie Fait	Chambers Clover Watershed
Tom Kantz	Pierce County
Cynthia Iyall	Chair, Nisqually Tribal Council
Georgiana Kautz	Nisqually Tribe
Vicki Kirkpatrick	Mason County
Melissa Paulson	Pierce County
Kathy Peters	WSWC/Kitsap County
Debbie Riley	Mason County
Keri Rooney	Pierce County Executive's Office
Joe Ryan	Puget Sound Partnership
Al Schmauder	Chambers Clover Watershed Council
Robert Simmons	WSU Extension
Scott Steltzner	Squaxin Island Tribe
David Troutt	Nisqually Tribe, Nisqually River Council

Welcome and Introductions

Commissioner Romero, Thurston County, welcomed everyone to the meeting and invited all attendees to introduce themselves. She commented on the importance of South Puget Sound and the critical need to organize a structure for working together to achieve a healthy environment and economy.

Joe Ryan, Puget Sound Partnership, spoke on behalf of David Dicks, who was unable to attend the meeting. Joe thanked the elected officials and staff for their efforts to recover the Puget

Sound for over a decade. He commented on the need for a well-coordinated local effort and that the South Puget Sound community knows best how to organize itself and prioritize actions.

Briefing on Background and Context

Robert Simmons, WSU Extension, provided a background briefing on the purpose of the meeting and the effort to form a South Puget Sound organization. He stated that on March 23rd, the tribal and elected officials met at the Lacey Community Center to discuss the need for a local implementation organization in the South Sound. At the March meeting the elected officials assigned an SPS Proposal Workgroup (workgroup) to develop a more detailed proposal on the structure and focus of the organization. Since that time the workgroup met three times to develop a draft proposal for review by the elected officials at today's meeting. Bob reviewed the meeting agenda.

Al Schmauder, Chambers-Clover Watershed Council, presented on the value of partnership and teamwork to solve problems and make progress. He recognized the leadership of the tribal and county elected officials to help the region move forward by engaging in discussions about key sustainability issues in the South Sound, such as stormwater management. He highlighted the need to resolve the low dissolved oxygen problem in South Sound and the need for funds to advance clean up efforts.

Jeff Dickson, Squaxin Island Tribe, provided context on why South Sound entities would want to organize at a regional scale. He called attention to Ecology's Dissolved Oxygen Study and suggested that individuals view a video on the Ecology website describing the study and the preliminary results (http://www.ecy.wa.gov/puget_sound/dissolved_oxygen_study.html). He provided a brief scientific overview of the causes of low dissolved oxygen levels and the need to work at the regional level to find a strategy to constrain nitrogen inputs. Simply limiting sewage treatment sources isn't enough since other sources, such as fertilizer, pet waste, agricultural waste, and other point sources and nonpoint sources, contribute to the problem. He summarized the need for stormwater management as a critical component for addressing the nitrogen problem and emphasized the need for a regional approach to address large-scale issues that cannot be resolved within individual jurisdictions.

Presentation of Workgroup Proposal

David Troutt, Nisqually Tribe, presented the draft proposal to the elected officials on behalf of the SPS workgroup. The organization will focus on sustainability issues in the South Sound, including environmental and socio-economic health. He highlighted the need to develop a strong, vibrant and inclusive process and introduced a draft Council membership list that includes counties, tribes, cities, state and federal agencies, businesses, non-profits, citizens, and others. He reviewed the proposed workgroups that would be assigned to specific tasks as needed, and the Citizen Advisory Committee to provide public input.

David emphasized the need for consistent staffing to keep the agenda going and the organization functioning. Funding is needed from the Puget Sound Partnership to staff the organization, so as not to burden any individual jurisdiction. He commented on the need for science-based decision-making that leads to results and the need for broad ownership from the South Sound community. Choosing how decisions will be made is a key issue for developing an organizational structure and David introduced two possible decision-making options for consideration. One option gives decision-making authority to the elected officials as the

Executive Committee and the other option calls for decision-making by broad consensus through the Council, where all South Sound entities are involved.

Elected Officials' Discussion

Commissioner Romero commented on the importance of an inclusive Council, as well as an Executive Committee, comprised of tribal and county elected officials, to move actions forward. She suggested that the Council advise the Executive Committee, which would have the ultimate decision-making authority. She suggested that certain issues could be identified as not requiring an Executive Committee decision or involvement, to be addressed within the Council.

Commissioner Ring Erickson commented on the need to move forward sooner rather than later, with decisions made by the Executive Committee. She also expressed support for a broader, more inclusive set of actions, but stated that the organization cannot wait for a long period of consensus and discussion regarding urgent issues. The Executive Committee should address these issues in the short term. She commented that the Executive Committee members do broadly represent stakeholder groups in their role as elected leaders.

Andy Whitener, Squaxin Island Tribal Council, commented on the need to have the early support and contribution of a broadly inclusive group in the decision-making process.

Executive McCarthy also supported the option for the Executive Committee as the decision-making body, to take recommendations from the Council and to have fiscal oversight. She suggested that a council member from Pierce County be involved on the Committee as well the Executive.

Commissioner Garrido commented that the workgroup recommendations to the elected officials at this meeting, offers an example of a successful process for informing the decision makers. She supported the option to have the Council provide information to the Executive Committee to support and inform their decision-making. In addition, the elected officials may need to gather support on decisions from their respective councils or boards.

Other comments were made during the discussion as follows:

Specific decisions the Executive Committee will make versus those for the Council, not needing an Executive Committee decision, should be clearly defined.

The workgroup was asked to develop a preliminary scope of work and draft bylaws for review by the elected officials at the next Executive Committee meeting.

The comment was made that it is not necessary for the group to develop a perfect structure for the organization in the short term. The Executive Committee can start meeting now, take initial authority, and then pass off some authority to the Council over time.

Officials agreed that local authority for the organization would be established, although it is not needed for the Leadership Council proposal. A memorandum of understanding between the entities and/or a resolution may be considered. Several elected officials expressed support for the resolution option. The workgroup was asked to develop a draft resolution for review by the Executive Committee.

The councils and boards of the respective jurisdictions will appoint the elected officials to the Executive Committee, as needed.

A first step for the Executive Committee will be to invite members to the Council. The workgroup was asked to identify individuals to represent the constituent groups listed as

members on the Council. The Executive Committee will review the workgroup recommendations, invite, and appoint the Council members. The Executive Committee will meet in the interim of establishing the Council.

Representatives of large cities, small cities, and others, will be participating on behalf of similar entities in the South Sound. It is important that these representatives communicate effectively within the constituencies they are representing.

It was suggested that the Ports may warrant stronger representation on the Council and that the Port of Bremerton be included with the Ports of Olympia, Shelton, and Allyn under the Ports membership.

It was suggested that Lott Alliance be included as a member. The comment was made that some entities, such as wastewater treatment providers, may be invited to participate as advisory workgroups rather than formal Council members.

It was suggested that the organization begin working with the local Action Agenda strategies already developed. The comment was made that more work needs to be done to review the list of strategies and to identify and prioritize actions for the organization, based on science. The workgroup was asked to develop a draft workplan for Executive Committee review.

The Puget Sound Regional Council was mentioned as an example of an operational structure that works, with a body of stakeholders and councils that funnel to the regional council.

The comment was made that it is important to keep science and adaptive management principles in mind. It was suggested that the Executive Committee discuss how to evaluate progress at its next meeting.

It was suggested that the structure and workplan be more clearly defined before showcasing the organization to the public. The outreach strategy could include media releases, presentations at existing meetings and forums, rather than formal public meetings. It was noted that the other action areas that developed local organizations did not undertake formal public meeting processes. The comment was made that the public should be invited to observe and provide input at Executive Committee meetings.

Summary of Key Decisions Made

Organizational Structure: SPS tribal and county elected officials will form an **Executive Committee** that will function as the **decision-making body** for the organization and will provide **fiscal oversight**. The Committee will specifically consider the **recommendations** of the South Puget Sound Council. Certain key decisions will be reserved for the Executive Committee while others will be under the domain of the Council. The Executive Committee will appoint Council members and will begin meeting in the interim of establishing the Council. (See Draft Proposal for a South Puget Sound Local Implementing Organization).

Leadership Council: The SPS Local Implementing Organization Proposal, with any changes recommended by the elected officials, will be presented to the Leadership Council at its **September 16-17** meeting. An attempt will be made to schedule the next elected officials meeting before the September Leadership Council meeting. However, the proposal will move forward to the Leadership Council, with **approval from the elected officials by email**, if unable to schedule a meeting in that time.

Local Authorization: The organization will be established by local authorization. The workgroup will develop a **draft resolution** for consideration by the Executive Committee at the next meeting. The Executive Committee may also consider an MOU approach.

Materials for Next Meeting: The workgroup will develop draft materials for review and discussion by the Executive Committee at its next meeting. The draft materials may include a

workplan, resolution, bylaws, scope of work, list of potential Council members, and recommendations on how the organization will evaluate progress.

Outreach: The proposal for a SPS local organization will move forward to the Leadership Council before public outreach begins. Once the workplan and structure concepts are more clearly defined, the SPS organization and Citizens Advisory Committee will be announced to the public for comment. Outreach will occur at that time through media releases and presentations at existing meetings and forums.

Next Steps

The group identified the following actions as next steps for the SPS organization:

The workgroup will develop draft materials for review and discussion by the elected officials at their next meeting, including, as time allows:

Sustainability Workplan for the Organization,

Draft Resolution and/or MOU,

Organizational Bylaws,

Scope of Work for the Council and the Executive Committee,

List of potential Council members (names of individuals),

Recommendations on how to evaluate progress.

Process for Finalizing the SPS Local Implementing Organization Proposal:

The elected officials will review the revised proposal (based on the 7/29 meeting discussion) **before August 23rd.**

Any comments from the elected officials will be integrated into the proposal, which will be **finalized by Sept. 3rd.**

The final proposal will be forwarded to the Leadership Council for review 1-2 weeks before the **September 16-17** meeting.

An attempt will be made to schedule the next elected officials meeting before the September 16-17 Leadership Council meeting, if at all possible. However, if unable to schedule a meeting in that time, the proposal will continue to move forward with elected official approval by email to the September 16-17 Leadership Council meeting.