GOVERNOR'S FORUM ON MONITORING
SALMON RECOVERY AND WATERSHED HEALTH
SUMMARY MINUTES

DATE: March 9, 2007
TIME: 9:00 a.m.

PLACE: Natural Resources Bldg.
Olympia, Washington

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Bill Ruckelshaus, Co-Chair	Chair, Salmon Recovery Funding Board
Jeff Koenings, Co-Chair	Director, Department of Fish & Wildlife
Laura Johnson	Director, Office of the Interagency Committee
Josh Baldi	Designee, Department of Ecology
Kate Benkert	Designee, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Julie Morgan	Designee, Council of Regions
Jim Cowles	Designee, Department of Agriculture
Gretchen Hayslip	Designee, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (on phone)
Alan Christensen	Designee, U.S. Forest Service
Craig Partridge	Designee, Department of Natural Resources
Carol Smith	Designee, Conservation Commission
Ginny Stern	Designee, Department of Health
Steve Waste	Designee, Northwest Power and Conservation Council
Bruce Crawford	Staff, Office of the Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation
Steve Leider	Staff, Governor's Salmon Recovery Office

IT IS INTENDED THAT THIS SUMMARY BE USED WITH THE NOTEBOOK PROVIDED IN ADVANCE OF THE MEETING.
A RECORDED TAPE IS RETAINED BY IAC AS THE FORMAL RECORD OF MEETING.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Co-Chair Jeff Koenings opened the meeting of the Governor's Forum on Monitoring (Forum) at 9:05 a.m.

Introductions were made and the agenda was approved as presented.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Laura Johnson **MOVED** to approve the January 25, 2007 meeting minutes. Ginny Stern **SECONDED** the motion. Minutes **APPROVED.**

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Jim Fox, Office of the Interagency Committee (OIAC), gave an update on legislation affecting the Forum. These bills include:

- SSB5224 – This bill would:
  - Continue the Governor's Salmon Recovery Office (GSRO) that is due to sunset;
  - Abolish the Independent Science Panel (ISP);
  - Drop the word "Governor's" from the Forum title;

- Have the Governor appoint the Forum Chair;
- Add representatives from each of the regional salmon recovery organizations to the Forum;
- Change reporting to periodically instead of annually;
- Integrate budget requests by having the Forum review portions of agencies' budgets that address monitoring issues, prioritize them, and make recommendations to OFM;
- Make some of the elements of the State of Salmon report mandatory and some optional.

- 2SHB1374 and SSB5372 – These are Puget Sound Partnership Bills that have monitoring and performance measures, but do not mention the Forum at this time.
- 2SHB1656 – Creates Puget Sound research account.
- SSB5567 – Creates legislative task force called Salmon and Watershed Planning Integration Workgroup to review plans, projects, and structure for salmon recovery and watershed planning organizations.
- SB5257 - Name change for OIAC.

Co-Chair Bill Ruckelshaus discussed the Puget Sound Partnership bills and how they have changed through the legislative session. He is hoping that monitoring will be a big portion of this new organization and that it will be a positive action.

UPDATE ON FORUM MANDATES AND PROGRESS TO-DATE

Bruce Crawford provided a presentation on the Monitoring Forum's work to-date and what the mandates are for this group. (See handout of Bruce's PowerPoint presentation for further information.)

Bruce noted other possible work for the future including:

- Review results of 2007 legislation
- Continue to refine and improve monitoring framework document
- Continue to recommend and support single hydro-layer and integrated data sharing portal
- Clarify relationship to Puget Sound Partnership
- Adopt additional protocols for fish sampling and habitat evaluations
- Develop supplemental budget recommendations

The Forum discussed the need for data gathering and how to get the funding to do this. It was suggested to have the Salmon and Watershed Information Management Technical Advisory Committee (SWIMTAC) present for this issue.

Carol Smith provided an update on the effectiveness subcommittee. This group worked with SWIMTAC and some work has been done on data gathering.

Co-Chair Koenings discussed the possibility of having a workshop on this issue. The April 2005 workshop was very successful and another focused workshop may be helpful to get technical to policy level answers on the data issue. The Forum discussed the need to

have legislative, and especially Governor, support of this effort.

The Forum discussed how habitat data monitoring is key to overall success.

Co-Chair Ruckelshaus asked for a white paper on the need for this kind of data and what is currently being collected.

Bruce agreed that there needs to be a report on where our success has been and where we have information and where there are gaps.

Carol would like to look at something bigger than the data portal.

The group discussed sending a letter concerning budget needs for habitat monitoring. The letter needs to be very persuasive. Bruce and Co-Chair Koenings will work on drafting the letter.

FORUM SALMON RECOVERY AND WATERSHED HEALTH ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORK

Bruce Crawford provided an overview of the draft framework.

Bruce noted that using the suggested protocols from Utah, which are several of the standards Washington is currently using, we should be able to produce results that can be compared.

Ginny Stern suggested sharing this information so that we may be able to nudge others into using these protocols.

Julie Morgan, director of the Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board, talked about the process used in Upper Columbia (they used one of the suggested protocols.)

Kate Benkert asked if this would work for all different stream sizes. Bruce reported that this is for wadeable streams.

COLUMBIA BASIN FISH AND WILDLIFE AUTHORITY STATUS REPORT

Brian Lipscomb and Tom Iverson, Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Authority (CBFWA), provided this presentation.

Brian talked about the report on the Northwest Power and Conservation Council (NWPCC) fish and wildlife restoration plan for the Columbia Basin.

Tom discussed the data aspects of the information gathering. He showed how their web site at www.cbfwa.org/sotr is being used to link the data back to the source. They use IAC and OWEB project data for their web page.

Josh Baldi asked if they are going to include both status and trends information and more habitat data, as discussed earlier in the meeting.

Brian explained how this report is used for three different conversations – data management, high level indicators to identify problems, and the adaptive management planning process. Tom noted they plan to add more as they go along.

Steve Waste commended CBFWA for the work they have done on this web site. This is useful for finding gaps and who is paying for the work. As the NWPCC updates their 10-year plan, he hopes to use the high level indicators and CBFWA's work on this has shown the usefulness. He believes this is just the opening chapter.

Bruce discussed the need to work closely and coordinate with the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) and State of the Salmon report to make sure the information is the same so that Congress isn't seeing different data.

Bruce also talked about the lack of support for habitat funding in the past grant cycle where the projects went through CBFWA. He would like to know if they are going to support habitat monitoring in the Columbia basin.

Tom reported that the members support getting the habitat data and that they were not involved in the selection of projects to fund in the last grant cycle. He also noted that Bonneville wants the data but does not want to fund the need. Bonneville believes getting this data is up to the states and tribes, but that is not what the states and tribes believe. The data being gathered by the states and tribes is different from what Bonneville needs.

Steve Leider wondered if we are getting too many reports which may be confusing to people. It doesn't have to be that way as long as the audiences are clear and efforts are coordinated.

NEXT STEPS FOR THE FORUM

Co-Chair Jeff Koenings reviewed possible agenda items to address at the next meeting, including developing a data management workshop.

Josh asked about the future work plan, and whether the Forum will be approving the scope of the work and agreeing on what we want to accomplish in the year ahead.

Bruce noted that by the next meeting we would have knowledge of what's happened in the Legislature and with funding.

Steve Leider suggested reconvening the Forum subcommittees that worked on the State of Salmon Report.

Co-Chair Ruckelshaus talked about the need to have a communication strategy and plan that would tell us how to put these reports together and who the target audiences are.

Bruce would like to have Tetra Tech EC Inc. report at an upcoming meeting. They have come up with great data and now OWEB is using the same protocols so will be able to compare data from both states. He would also like to have a Joint OWEB/Monitoring/Forum meeting in the near future.

Steve Waste noted that NWPCC has an Independent Economic Advisory Board that is available to provide service to people in the region.

Next meeting agenda items:

- Review legislation results
- Clarify relationship to Puget Sound partnership
- Effectiveness monitoring subcommittee

ADJOURN

Meeting adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

Jeff Koenings, Co-Chair

Next Meeting: June 21, 2007