

**FORUM ON MONITORING
SALMON RECOVERY AND WATERSHED HEALTH
FINAL SUMMARY MINUTES**

DATE: June 16, 2010

PLACE: Natural Resources Building, Room 172

TIME: 9:00 a.m.

Olympia, Washington

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Ken Dzinbal	Recreation and Conservation Office
Lance Winecka	Regional Fish Enhancement Group Coalition
Terry Wright	NW Indian Fisheries Commission
Ginny Stern	Department of Health
Sara LaBorde	Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife
Jeff Breckel	Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board
Nathalie Hamel	Puget Sound Partnership
Steve Leider	Executive Coordinator GSRO
Bob Metzger	U.S. Forest Service
Bruce Crawford	NOAA Fisheries Services
Dick Wallace	Northwest Power and Conservation Council
Rob Duff	Department of Ecology
Paul Wagner	Department of Transportation
Carol Smith	Conservation Commission
Jim Cowles	Department of Agriculture

Meeting Called to Order at 9:05 by Chair Wilkerson

AGENDA review

Move to approve minutes. **Ginny Stern MOVED to approve minutes. Steve Leider SECONDED the motion.**

Quorum was determined. The forum briefly discussed Office of Financial Management's budget restrictions and the need to strategize for the upcoming year.

Ken made an amendment to re-label the agenda items, crossing out the numbers. Bruce Crawford, page two, second sentence – change from “salmon coming due” to “salmon ESUs are coming due” and page three replace “shouldn't monitor large wood” with “should monitor large wood”. Nathalie mentioned that members present, Rebecca Ponzio in attendance (please check). Also on page three Nathalie will be taking Bill Wilkerson's place, Bill needs to be replaced with Jim Cahill. Dick Wallace noted that on page three, the program cost is 40 percent, a number from Bonneville Power Administration, but the minutes are correct. Carol Smith noted that she attended the meeting but arrived. Also, Ken Dzinbal's titled needed to be changed to RCO.

Minutes APPROVED as amended.

Kaleen suggested a simplified format for the minutes. Forum supported the simplified minutes.

AGENDA Item #1 Natural Resources Reform Initiative

Rob Duff explained that he coordinates the fieldwork and monitoring workgroup. The workgroup hopes to use the Forum to provide oversight for deliverables and find efficiencies. The workgroup doesn't expect to find huge duplicative efforts, but there is always room for efficiencies. They are currently in the early stages; next steps include scoping the project to get all monitoring projects on one map. Kaleen noted that the workgroup's findings will be part of the discussion about the role of the Forum.

Terry would like to see more collaboration among all monitoring efforts and asked how the workgroup could engage counties and tribes. Sara LaBorde responded that the initial purpose of the workgroup was to establish what state agencies are doing.

AGENDA Item #2 State Agency Budget Instructions – Forum Role

Ken stated that the forum will decide today about the process for reviewing budget requests related to monitoring. Forum used to be fairly involved in providing feedback in where state budget proposals support the Monitoring Forum's objective.

Kaleen asked the state agencies to discuss monitoring elements of upcoming 2011-13 budget requests.

- Carol Smith responded that it is possible that the Conservation Commission will make a request.
- Paul Wagner noted that WSDOT is extending storm water monitoring.
- Sara LaBorde stated that the Department of Fish and Wildlife is not requesting funds for monitoring and are dealing with a \$10 million dollar cut.
- Kaleen Cottingham noted the request for the extension of the Forum on Monitoring.
- Nathalie Hamel from the Puget Sound Partnership noted requests for Puget Sound.
- Ginny Stern from the Department of Health explained that she needed to check on a shellfish request, but doesn't know of anything new.
- Jim Cowles from the Department of Agriculture mentioned possibility for new work in Eastern Washington
- Rob Duff noted the fee discussions for water quality permit fee, water quality permit fee; groundwater monitoring will be encompassed in Ecology's Water Quality department. Ecology requested funds from the National Estuary Program but have not received a decision package.
- Dick Wallace stated that the Northwest Power and Conservation Council is not requesting state funds.

Kaleen stated she would like to see another letter, similar to the one produced in 2009, from the Forum to the Governor

Carol asked about budgets due to RCO by July 1, 2010. Ken will formally request plans or intentions (a short paragraph) for new budget proposals about monitoring by State Agencies. Kaleen suggested the letter go out to agencies requesting a summary by July 1, and a more detailed budget update before the August meeting.

Ginny Stern asked about fees being different than budget requests. Fee generated funding is not in the same category as budget requests. Ken noted that last year the Forum didn't comment on fees.

Ken stated that along with the letter the Forum will ask agencies to identify a person to assist with the budget evaluation process. Historically the evaluation takes place outside of Forum meetings.

- list of proposals that relate to monitoring
- contact person
- requirements for agency

Nathalie Hamel, Rob Duff, Carol Smith, and Ken Dzinbal: volunteers for the subcommittee.

AGENDA Item #3 Forum Protocols

Ken Dzinbal presented the protocols and outlined criteria and implications for establishing protocols.

Steve Leider asked if current programs are not using adopted protocols, will the data be excluded from SOS and other reports? Ken responded that often the data can be translated, but if not then we should ask why they are not using the protocol. At that point the difference needs to be justified. Ken noted there should be a high bar for those asking not to use the standard protocols, but there are reasons why standard protocols might not be able to be used (ex. funding sources, mandates)

Terry Wright asked if data that does not meet the protocol but provides valuable information can still be used, for trend lines, etc. Ken responded that he would encourage those who don't meet the protocol with their current systems, to add the necessary elements to their current systems. Terry noted that there is an explicit line for what data will be included and what will not.

Dick Wallace noted that there is a gap between the "high bar" for methodology and the question of "how the fish are doing". Sara responded that they need to describe for each population, where the data comes from, and the levels of certainty. Dick responded that the Forum needs to say why there is not a simple fish abundance protocol rather than a summary. Sara responded that they can work on the language to reflect that there is not a single protocol. Bruce added that precision of data was questioned for the NOAA document. The trouble is finding the middle ground between precision and not providing an exhaustive list of protocols. Dick Wallace suggested noting the protocols for adult salmon abundance are still being developed, rather than providing an incomplete or inaccurate protocol.

The forum discussed and considered several options for the language around fish abundance and harvest protocols. Kaleen suggested saying there are a variety of protocols and as a result

the co-managers will provide estimates and work to minimize the number of, with a more detailed footnote.

Ken explained the remaining listed protocols. Kaleen suggested that before a vote is taken, Ken provide updated language for spawners and the protocols are accepted as a package. Kaleen also suggested circulating a draft list for public comment by the end of July, then adopting the final list at the next meeting. The Forum concurred with Kaleen's recommendation to approve an interim (draft) list now and provide time for public comment.

Rob Duff MOVED to adopt the tentative list of Monitoring Protocols for public comment with the intent to formally approve in August. Sara LaBorde SECONDED.

AGENDA Item #4 Future of the Forum

The current statute sunsets the Forum in June 2011. Without further action on the part of the legislature and/or Governor, this body will expire at that point. The Forum was created in 2004 by Executive Order 04-03, and created in statute in 2007 with a sunset date of June 30, 2015. The statute was amended in 2009 to add additional tasks and responsibilities and changing the sunset date to June 30, 2011.

Bruce Crawford provided a brief history on the establishment and actions of the Forum on Monitoring Salmon Recovery and Watershed Health. He sees a need for coordination of monitoring efforts, and suggested maybe there would be an option for cabinet level coordination. Dick Wallace noted the unique role and need for continued coordination. Rob Duff agreed on the need for coordination, and noted that the group may not need statutory support to continue the Forum's work. Kaleen stated that OFM's policy department needs more than a request for an extension, there must be specific tasks.

The Forum discussed projects that need to be addressed, potentially by the Forum.

Kaleen asked which agencies are willing to financially support continued monitoring coordination efforts. Ecology and other agencies offered support. Kaleen asked the Forum to look at funding sources, and recommended letters from agency Directors.

AGENDA Item #5 Puget Sound Stormwater Work Group

Karen Dinicola and Jim Simmons, of King County, provided an overview of the workgroup, what they've worked on and current projects, including a draft scientific framework, implementation plan, and key recommendations. There are cost concerns related to implementing the key recommendations. The group will continue to work on refining costs and study designs.

Carol Smith pointed out the Conservation Commission's support for the Stormwater Workgroup. The Forum praised the work of the workgroup noting the implications of what the workgroup has done for other parts of Washington.

Puget Sound Monitoring Program

Nathalie Hamel gave a presentation on the Puget Sound Partnership's (PSP) monitoring efforts in the Puget Sound. PSP is identifying and hope to have a list by the end of the year answering:

- What data they want?
- What data are being collected?
- Identifying data gaps needed to document the recovery of Puget Sound.

PSP is starting a launch committee, a precursor to a steering committee, in July 2010. The launch committee will solicit the help of other workgroups to tackle regional monitoring issues. Nathalie proposed that John Becker present the dashboard of indicators to the Forum. Next steps for the program are to finalize the launch committee and hold their first meeting in July, compile, manage, and analyze data for the indicators in August, commission additional work groups in September, hire a monitoring specialist and resolve questions of governance of the program.

Carol asked if the group's products will contribute more to the State of the Salmon (SOS) report or the Action Agenda. Nathalie responded that one is the status and trends piece of the SOS and provides information to help assess and improve the Action Agenda. Carol asked about the dashboard. Nathalie responded that the dashboard has 19 indicators; some were referenced in the State of the Sound. Steve Leider added that he's working to find the overlap between the indicators and the dozen dials. Rob Duff added that the indicators in the SOS are essentially High Level indicators.

Meeting adjourned 2:57 p.m.