

Meeting Notes from the CAC/TAG Meeting
January 17, 2007, 4:00 to 6:00pm
Pierce County Environmental Services Building,
Cascade Conference Room

1. Introductions – those present included: Eli Asher, Hans Berge, Bob Burkle, Scott Hansen, Tom Kantz, Russ Ladley, Tom Nelson, Tyler Patterson, Melissa Paulson, Lorin Reinelt, Al Schmauder, Dave Seabrook, Keith Underwood, Carl Ward

2. Updates and Information Sharing

- a. Puget Sound Partnership (PSP) Update – The PSP has distributed the proposed process for completing the 2020 action agenda by September 2008. It is a four phase process: (1) synthesize existing data, define a healthy Puget Sound, and identify the status and threats to Puget Sound's health; (2) conduct a gap analysis; (3) identify priorities, actions, and assignments; and (4) roll up and review draft action agenda and approve final.
- b. Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Program Manager – Joe Ryan has been named as the salmon recovery program manager and will lead the Puget Sound recovery region's efforts. He is expected to hire two salmon recovery watershed coordinators in the next month. Joe is a native of the Puyallup watershed.
- c. Proposed updates to SRFB Grant Application Cycle for 2008 – RCO/SRFB staff have proposed updates to the SRFB grant application cycle. Comments are due to RCO by Jan. 25. Some key changes include: (1) year-round science panel review availability; (2) preference for pre-application submittals in PRISM; (3) elimination of word file applications – all information will be entered in PRISM; it will be possible to generate a pdf file for CAC review; (4) streamlining of the evaluation proposal; and (5) schedule changes with applications due Sept. 8. Approximately \$20 million in funding is expected to be available for SRFB statewide in 2008. This would translate to \$600-700,000 for WRIA 10/12.

3. Update of the WRIA 10/12 Lead Entity Strategy

The CAC and TAG discussed the following items related to the strategy update (many of these topics were discussed at the TAG meeting on Jan. 16):

(1) Steelhead listing – Tom distributed some draft notes on steelhead, including information on (a) stocks and biology, (b) habitats and comparisons, (c) important areas for steelhead in WRIA 10/12, and (d) important project types. There was also some discussion about kelts and it was noted that they represent only 5% of the population in the Puyallup watershed. There was discussion about competition between coho and steelhead for rearing habitat. Dave asked whether we can run EDT for steelhead. Tom Kantz noted that we could add this to the 3-year list. Russ and Hans noted that primary research is probably the most important priority. Tom Nelson noted that Chambers Creek, from the mouth to Lake Steilacoom, is probably the highest priority habitat for both steelhead and Chinook.

(2) Priority Data Gaps – Some of the priority data gaps that have been identified are: (a) Smolt trapping – in priority order on the White River, South Prairie Creek and Chambers Creek. Cost is approximately \$150K/year for 8-month operation.

(b) Importance of the estuary as a component of the nearshore – this would improve our knowledge relative to salmonid productivity.

(c) Habitat types that are producing steelhead, including key rearing habitat – this includes both distribution of habitat, and habitat utilization by steelhead.

(3) Marine shoreline and nearshore priorities – Assessment from Nisqually delta to Pt. Defiance being done by South Sound Salmon Enhancement Group. We will excerpt from this assessment and describe important habitat types and impairments. The intent is to provide a list of projects or areas for prioritization. Restoration of Chambers Bay, Titlow Lagoon, and Solo Point are likely to be among candidate sites. We will also identify priorities in Commencement Bay and the Puyallup estuary.

(4) Regional projects – Focus will be on habitats in the nearshore that are priorities for rearing. There were concerns about equity between watersheds. It was suggested that we could organize a summit for WRIAs 10-15 to identify regional priorities, species of interest, equity (and what that means). It was noted that White River spring Chinook should be a South Sound regional priority. It was also noted that the Puyallup transition zone should be a priority. Tom Kantz will write up a draft approach for funding regional projects for discussion at the February 7 meeting.

(5) Hatchery and harvest management and monitoring/adaptive management were deferred until next meeting.

(6) Revised scoring system for CAC/TAG evaluation – it was decided that a group would convene before the next meeting (Keith, Dave, Ron, Lorin and Melissa) to develop a proposal for discussion at the February 7 meeting.

4. WRIA 12 Allocation or Potential Separate Lead Entity for WRIA 12

Melissa distributed a matrix showing three options for WRIA 12 funding, including: (1) maintain the status quo (competitive process), (2) Internal allocation to WRIA 12 (e.g., 10%), (3) pursue potential separate lead entity for WRIA 12. She explained each option and summarized the pros and cons. It was noted that over the past 8 rounds of funding, WRIA 12 has received about 10% of funding (\$1.3 M out of \$12.7M). There was considerable discussion about all three options. Russ noted it could also be allocated based on watershed size or flow. Dave noted that he prefers option 2. Al noted that we certainly don't need two processes. Dave suggested addressing it in the strategy and developing a scoring system that reflects the strategy. **The CAC decided to make a decision on which option to recommend at the February 7 meeting.**

5. Membership on the CAC/TAG for 2008 Funding Round - We discussed the need to expand the CAC in advance of the next funding round. We will need to advertise for additional members, so that they can be in place by April 2008.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:10pm

Next meeting will be February 7, 2008 at Pierce County ESB.