

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

*DATE: January 25, 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 for Outdoor Recreation
Paul Ancich	Designee, Regional Fisheries Enhancement Group Advisory Board
Josh Baldi	Designee, Department of Ecology
Jeff Breckel	Designee, Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board
Jim Cowles	Designee, Department of Agriculture
Chris Drivdahl	Designee, Governor's Salmon Recovery Office
Bob Metzger	Designee, U.S. Forest Service
Craig Partridge	Designee, Department of Natural Resources
Ron Shultz	Designee, Puget Sound Action Team
Carol Smith	Designee, Conservation Commission
Terry Wright	Designee, Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission
Bob Wunderlich	Designee, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
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 Bill Ruckelshaus 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.

Co-Chair Ruckelshaus provided welcoming remarks highlighting the increasing interest in monitoring efforts.

APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER MINUTES

Co-Chair Jeff Koenings **MOVED** to approve the September 11, 2006 meeting minutes. Paul Ancich **SECONDED** the motion. Minutes **APPROVED**.

STATUS OF 2006 FORUM RECOMMENDATIONS IN GOVERNOR'S BUDGET

Steve Leider introduced this portion of the agenda by providing the Forum with

background on what has been happening with monitoring efforts since the last meeting and how the monitoring budget recommendation was developed.

Co-Chair Ruckelshaus asked Steve what the total amount was for the original request.

Steve reported that the final amount under improving monitoring was \$5.3 million, however the only portion included in the Governor's budget was \$1.76 million to WDFW for salmon abundance. He did not recall the total amount for the data management request.

Audience member Jim Cahill, Office of Financial Management (OFM), believes the total for data management was around \$3.5 million. None of these requests went forward.

The Forum continued to discuss the budget request and how it was developed.

Ron Shultz questioned if there are other ways to get the funding that the group agreed was important.

Jim Cahill came forward to discuss the budget decision-making process and priorities from the Governor's office. He would encourage the Forum to continue to look at ways to get the monitoring done in the most economical way possible. The group may want to resubmit a supplemental budget request. Jim encouraged the group to work with DNR on the remote sensing project. The data management portion could be more difficult to get funding for, but suggested the Forum propose a budget request for a pilot project and then show benefits to be able to build a better case for funding. The Governor did fund some things related to monitoring – the Conservation Commission's data project, water quality monitoring consortium for Puget Sound, eel grass monitoring for DNR, and DNR Forest Practice's study of impacts on wildlife.

Co-Chair Ruckelshaus suggested revisiting the Forum's original purpose and function to see if changes are needed.

Jim Cahill noted that the Forum was created through Executive Order and would need to work with the policy and budget office to reflect any changes to the original Order.

Co-Chair Koenings supports reworking the request for a supplemental budget since this data is needed for many things such as the State of the Salmon.

Co-Chair Ruckelshaus agreed that it needs to be pulled together in the most efficient way possible, especially to continue receiving federal funds.

Steve Leider suggested the steering committee continue to work with the budget request and come back with additional options for the Forum's review at the next meeting.

LOCAL-STATE WATER QUALITY AND AQUATIC HABITAT MONITORING COORDINATION

Kit Paulsen, City of Bellevue, and Melodie Selby, Department of Ecology, presented this agenda item. (See PowerPoint handout for more details.)

Kit talked about the Surface Water and Aquatic Habitat Monitoring Advisory Committee that was developed and reported that this group reached early consensus on the need for a coordinated regional monitoring effort in Puget Sound. The committee made its recommendations to Ecology.

Melodie reviewed the committee's recommendation –

- Start with PS basin
- Create new, coordinated structure
- Provide State “seed” money (\$800,000 is identified in the Governor’s budget)
- Involve broad range of stakeholders
- Ecology initially convene the effort
- Engage multi-party collaboration
- Integrate disciplines/programs
- Improve policy/management decisions
- Produce accessible, useful information
- Meet monitoring mandates
- Recognize unique interests/obligations
- Strengthen credibility, trust, and transparency
- Ensure flexibility to meet changing needs
- Be cost effective and efficient
- Rely on incentives for participation, funding
- Seek early successes

Co-Chair Ruckelshaus noted that everyone's goal is to coordinate in the most efficient manner necessary but sees many still wanting to keep their existing processes and systems. He would like to see coordinated standards and ways to work together better.

There is a more detailed report on-line at www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/swahm/docs/report.pdf.

Paul Ancich asked if the Forum could make a recommendation for a standardized set of data guidelines. One of the biggest problems he sees is that different groups want different standards.

There was agreement that data standards would be the ultimate goal for everyone but to get to that standard protocol has been, and continues to be, most difficult as everyone wants to have the standards be their standards.

Josh Baldi provided an overview of Ecology's thoughts on monitoring efforts and how this process has evolved.

Terry Wright noted that there are many groups working on this same issue. He believes this group (the Forum) needs to be the nexus in coordinating all these efforts.

Carol Smith talked about the steering committees that are in place through the Forum and she would encourage the steering committees be invigorated to help with all the technical aspects of coordinating the efforts.

MONITORING IN REGIONAL RECOVERY PLANS

Jeff Breckel, representing the Council of Regions, presented this agenda item. (See notebook memo for details.)

Jeff discussed the success of the regional organizations in developing monitoring plans to measure progress toward de-listing.

Jeff explained that the Council of Regions is seeking the assistance of the Forum as they continue to refine their monitoring plans and move toward implementation. The council is specifically seeking:

- Identification of key high-level indicators, tied to de-listing, that should be monitored across all regions;
- Identification of monitoring protocols for these indicators and expected data and reporting;
- Securing cooperation and assistance of state agencies in implementing the monitoring plans; and
- Development of a comprehensive state funding strategy for implementation of the monitoring plan.

The Forum discussed the regional planning needs and how to get success. They also talked about what is needed in a NOAA plan.

Steve Leider reviewed the information that we currently have and feels that we shouldn't be discouraged, although the information and standards need to be sharpened to answer the questions at the different levels. The framework is pretty much intact but some of the details need to be refined and added.

➤ **ACTION ITEM:** Co-Chair Ruckelshaus asked Steve to coordinate the subcommittee work and come back to the Forum with specific recommendations.

Bruce Crawford discussed the need for the Forum to work on a supplemental budget request and pilot project.

Bob Metzger talked about the need to put everything in context and how these efforts go together. He would like to see all the larger efforts put into language that everyone can understand.

2006 STATE OF SALMON REPORT

Chris Drivdahl, Governor's Salmon Recovery Office, presented this agenda item. (See notebook memo for details.)

Chris thanked WDFW staff who worked on the report and expressed her appreciation for their efforts. She also thanked Ken Dzinbal, Ecology, and Erik Neatherlin, WDFW, for their work on this project.

Chris pointed out some of the differences between the first State of Salmon Report (in 2000) and the current report. The first report's goal was to educate people on the issues and we are now able to explain what the problems are. A hydropower dial was added to the 2006 report, and we will need to revisit the water quantity indicator as this dial doesn't really tell the whole story. A real distinction between the reports is the level of detail – the 2004 report aimed at the regional level and 2006 report addresses major population group (MPG) and watershed levels.

Chris made several recommendations to the Forum.

Short-term recommendations (by July 2007):

- Ask Forum committees for reports/observations on what they think should be improved for next report.
- Review and validate/keep/reject recovery questions and indicators.
- Scales (do they want to stick with Watershed Watch?).
- Generally evaluate report content and size implications.
- Consult with regional recovery organizations.

Long-term recommendations (by November 2007):

- Evaluate data gaps and develop a strategy to fill them.
- Determine how to improve indicators and find out what are the highest priority needs.
- Production team members and Forum committee members need your support; they need to know they will have time to participate, and that this is a part of their current job.
- Set production schedule early and decide how much flexibility will be allowed for late material.

Co-Chair Ruckelshaus congratulated Chris on her work on the report and noted that it is the only document of its kind.

2007 FORUM DRAFT WORK PLAN AND CALENDAR

Steve Leider reviewed a preliminary draft 2007 work plan and additional items added through discussions at this meeting.

Added items:

- Need to get clarity on the Forum's role
- Supplemental budget request
- Subcommittee revitalization to work on data standards

General approval was given for the proposed 2007 schedule.

ADJOURN

Meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.



Bill Ruckelshaus, Co-Chair

Next Meeting: March 7, 2007
 Natural Resources Building, Olympia