

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

*DATE: December 3, 2008*

*TIME: 9:00 a.m.*

*PLACE: Natural Resources Building*

*Olympia, Washington*

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Bill Wilkerson	Chair, Forum on Monitoring Salmon Recovery and Watershed Health
Kaleen Cottingham	Director, Recreation and Conservation Office
Chris Drivdahl	Director, Governor's Salmon Recovery Office
Jim Cowles	Designee, Department of Agriculture
Ginny Stern	Designee, Department of Health
Bruce Crawford	Designee, NOAA Fisheries
Carol Smith	Designee, Conservation Commission
Josh Baldi	Designee, Department of Ecology
Tim Smith	Designee, Department of Fish and Wildlife
Jim Cahill	Designee, Puget Sound Partnership
Rob Wilson	Designee, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Bob Metzger	Designee, USFS Olympic National Forest
Jeff Breckel	Executive Director, Lower Columbia Salmon Recovery Board
Julie Morgan	Executive Director, Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board
Terry Wright	Designee, Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission
Kit Paulsen	Designee, City of Bellevue
Pete Schroeder	Designee, Lead Entity Advisory Group
Dick Wallace	Northwest Power and Conservation Council
Bob Nichols	Governors Executive Policy Office, Salmon Recovery Funding Board

IT IS INTENDED THAT THIS SUMMARY BE USED WITH THE NOTEBOOK PROVIDED IN ADVANCE OF THE MEETING.

A RECORDED TAPE IS RETAINED BY THE RECREATION AND CONSERVATION OFFICE AS THE FORMAL RECORD OF MEETING.

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 9:05 a.m.

Kaleen Cottingham noted that Chair Wilkerson is absent from the meeting due to illness. She invited Forum members and those in the audience to introduce themselves.

**Agenda Item #2: Approval of September Minutes**

Kit Paulson **MOVED** to pass the September Minutes. Terry Wright **SECONDED**. The Forum **APPROVED** the September 2008 minutes as presented.

**Agenda Item #3**

**Announce 2009 Salmon Conference**

Brian Abbott, RCO Salmon Section Manager, announced the 2009 Salmon Projects Conference taking place on April 15-16, 2009 at the Little Creek Conference Center. The planning committee is currently developing the conference agenda and gathering presenters.

Terry Wright asked Brian about the level of Monitoring that will be reported back from the projects at the Conference. Brian responded that Reach Scale Effectiveness monitoring and implementation monitoring (will be included. Kaleen added that Terry's question will be addressed this afternoon in the discussion of agenda item #8; Salmon Recovery Funding Board funded monitoring.

**Agenda Item #4: Northwest Power and Conservation Council's 2009 Fish and Wildlife Program: Adaptive Management Through Research, Monitoring and Evaluation**

Dick Wallace introduced the Northwest Power and Conservation Council's 2009 Fish and Wildlife Program. He presented with Tony Grover and Nancy Leonard of the NWPCC. Dick provided an overview of the NWPCC including the Fish and Wildlife Division, and Council duties.

Forum Discussion:

The Forum discussed how the NWPCC's work on High Level Indicators relates to similar work by the Northwest Environmental Information Sharing (NWEIS) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). NWPCC is working to merge the indicators.

Josh Baldi noted that the Chair asked the how the Forum can work with NWPCC and other agencies to accelerate what the Council is doing in the Columbia Basin. Bob Nichols recommended the Forum set a date for Council, NOAA, GSRO, and RCO to set a common set of numbers and language. Josh Baldi asked what the scope of the goals would be for creating common metrics within a year. Barry Thom responded that one year is a viable timeline. Bob clarified that he would like to see common indicators for fish recovery in the Puget Sound. Josh asked the Forum if the common indicators could be ready for discussion at the March 18, 2009 meeting. Ken Dzinbal was asked to coordinate between the Forum and the NWPCC. Tony recommended that Ken work with Nancy to get him connected to NWPCC.

**Agenda Item #5: Puget Sound Partnership Action Agenda and Science Plan**

Jim Cahill provided a brief overview of performance measures related to the Puget Sound Partnership's 2009-11 Biennial Science Work Plan.

Dr. Tim Quinn and Scott Redman of the Puget Sound Partnership provided an overview of key elements of the Biennial Work Plan. Tim explained that the Partnership has taken on the task of simplifying the current coordination of monitoring by using a new approach.

Forum Discussion:

Josh Baldi asked how the Monitoring Forum can be of assistance to the Partnership. Josh also asked about compliance monitoring. Jim answered that the agencies would be responsible for collecting the data. Bob Nichols asked how the Partnership's presentation relates to the NWPCC's presentation, how it connects to the Action Items, and how the Puget Sound piece ties into the larger basin. Tim Smith noted the absence of modeling in the previous plans by the Partnership, and noted that the Forum could use modeling as well. Bob wanted to remind the Forum to think about the basic funding questions from the appropriator's perspective. Dick Wallace noted that recovery needs to expand beyond SRFB projects, there are many factors, particularly in the urban Puget Sound. Josh suggested that Ken work with the Partnership, the Council, and NWEIS on behalf of the Forum to identify where efforts overlap. Brad Thompson asked the presenters how the Forum can assist with the Biennial science work plan. Scott Redman responded that agency

representatives could host topic work groups. Scott suggested reporting to the Forum which groupings the Partnership is working on, and then the Forum could create workgroups to assist. Josh noted that the actionable item is figuring out how to coordinate work plans.

#### **Agenda Item #6: Puget Sound Monitoring Consortium**

Karen Dinicola and Bruce Crawford provided a presentation about the work and proposed structure of the Puget Sound Monitoring Consortium. Bruce presented two proposed structures for the Consortium. The first model would be housed at the Partnership, and the second would be based in a private institute.

##### Forum Discussion:

Kaleen Cottingham asked who takes the lead on this decision. Bruce responded that the Puget Sound Partnership's Leadership Council makes the final decision.

The Forum discussed the benefits and challenges of the two proposed models. Jim Cahill would like the Consortium to work with the Department of Ecology and the Office of Financial Management to determine who manages the Monitoring Consortium's contract, so long as it remains in existence.

#### **Agenda Item #7: Ecology / Partnership Status and Trends Monitoring Update**

Bob Cusimano provided an update on Ecology's status and trends monitoring program.

Kaleen asked if Bob is working with nearshore or estuary data, since he only discussed stream reaches. Bob answered that Ecology is not working with estuary and nearshore environments. Bob explained the progress of the program to date, as well as the pathway forward and potential impediments to implementation. Kaleen noted that this was one of the budget requests that came forward to the Forum, and the Forum supported the request.

The Forum discussed Ecology's status and trends monitoring program playing a role in indicating watershed health. Ken explained that the design of the monitoring program is intended to provide data for indicating watershed health. The Forum concluded the conversation by noting that ultimately salmon abundance should be just one more index in a report on watershed health.

#### **Agenda Item #8: Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) Monitoring Strategy**

Ken Dzinbal and Jim Fox provided a presentation on the Salmon Recovery Funded Board's monitoring efforts. Ken explained the current distribution of SRFB funds totaling \$2,350,000. Monitoring is often viewed as a "3 legged stool":

- Effectiveness at the project or reach scale
- Effectiveness at watershed scale – IMW's
- Status and Trends in fish, water quality, and habitat.

Each type of monitoring addresses different questions related to salmon recovery. Ken also explained the SRFB's adaptive management model and management strategy.

##### Forum Discussion:

Bob Nichols asked about the role of oceans in monitoring salmon. Ken responded that some oceanic monitoring is being funded by the Bonneville Power Administration or is conducted through academic institutions. Bruce Crawford responded that the Department of Fish and Wildlife's "Fish

In/Fish Out” monitoring is important because it helps eliminate the ocean variables in the freshwater systems.

Bob also asked the Forum what constitutes watershed health. He suggested the Forum focus on that question, inventory who is doing what, and compare that to where we want to be. Then we can identify the gaps and delegate among the appropriate agencies. Dick Wallace contributed that the Forum needs to identify the bigger picture before delegating monitoring.

Jim Cahill noted that the SRFB should be focused on project effectiveness and implementation monitoring since the SRFB will be asked to increase their contribution to monitoring. Jim Fox added that we may need to commit to at least 10 years of monitoring and know the priorities, so when budget cuts arise, the Forum is not reevaluating the listed monitoring priorities. Kaleen asked what steps need to be taken before presenting this information to the SRFB meeting. Ken recommended the Forum meet prior to going to the SRFB. Bob Nichols also suggested meeting before going to the SRFB. Chris Drivdahl added that the group should use the Comprehensive Monitoring Strategy as an organizing mechanism.

**Agenda Item #9: How do we forge a statewide perspective on monitoring and related data management issues?**

Kaleen introduced the item to discuss how the Forum operates with other agencies, when interacting with the legislature and other policy making forums. Bob Metzger asked about federal participation in NWEIS. Barry Thom responded that the original goal of NWEIS was to get agency and tribal executives together, but now is at the deputy level. Barry noted that the Forum could help to coordinate with NWEIS and the Puget Sound Partnership. Kaleen asked how the Forum should keep each other informed during the legislative session, namely budget discussions on issues that relate to monitoring. She asked if the Forum should rely on Ken be the liaison among Forum members and involved agencies. Craig Partridge responded that at the state agency level, Ken being involved in the effort to coordinate natural resources issues would be most beneficial to the Forum.

**Agenda Item #10: Aligning Regional and Statewide Monitoring Priorities**

Jeff Breckel and Julie Morgan discussed a proposal for Salmon Recovery Regions to better align monitoring efforts between state agencies and regions. Bob Nichols suggested coordinating a task group before the March 2009 meeting to discuss the overarching salmon recovery story, and cover data gaps. Craig Partridge cautioned the Forum against going back for supplemental funding, it may harm agencies’ credibility.

**ADJOURN**

Meeting adjourned at 3:55 p.m.

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Bill Wilkerson, Chair

Next Meeting: March 18, 2009  
*Room 175 A & B, Natural Resources Building, Olympia*